



Message from CEO
Dr. Mohamed Osman,
PhD



Message from
Programs Director
Yussuf Maalim



From Drought to
Prosperity:
Transforming Livestock
Farming in Puntland
Through Fodder
Production



Empowered Women
Leads to Thriving
Communities: How the
RISE Project
Transformed Lives



Cultivating Resilience: The Inside Story of Sadar's RISE Project





Table of Content

Message from the CEO	2
Message from the Programs Director	3
Project Overview: RISE Initiative	4
Sadar Thematic and Practice Areas	5
Key Project Achievements (at a Glance)	6-9
Thematic Impact Features	10-17
Everyday Transformations in Pictures	18-19
Innovation Spotlight	20
CEO's Vision 2030	21
Community Resilience Scorecard	22
Gender Analysis Snapshot	23
Knowledge Products and Learning	24
Media Monitoring and Strategic Communication Insights	25
Testimonials from Our Partners	26-27
RISE National Closure Workshop	28-36
Sustainability & What's Next	37
Sponsored Events & Partnerships	38
Acknowledgement of Partners	39
The Road Ahead	40
Photo Gallery	41-42

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

DR. MOHAMED OSMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SADAR DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE INSTITUTE



"RISE was not just a project — it was a promise fulfilled, a blueprint for community-led resilience, and a stepping stone to a new development era for Somalia."

As I reflect on the RISE journey, it is difficult not to feel a profound sense of purpose and possibility. This was not just another humanitarian intervention. It was a carefully designed, community-centered resilience movement that gave voice and agency to people long relegated to the margins of development.

We launched RISE at a time of crisis. Somalia, like much of the Horn of Africa, was gripped by compounding shocks — drought, inflation, food insecurity, displacement. But amid this uncertainty, Sadar Institute, backed by the unwavering support of IFAD and local government partners, stepped in with a solution that was not reactionary, but strategic.

We didn't simply deliver seeds, tools, or livestock — we invested in systems: in cooperatives, in knowledge transfer, in local planning, and in social cohesion. We worked with farmers to not just grow more, but to grow differently. We walked with women who didn't just receive goats — they built businesses. We listened to youth who didn't just need training — they demanded opportunity. RISE was grounded in their aspirations, not just their needs.

At its heart, this initiative was about shifting the balance of power back to the community. Through our work, over 5,000 households were reached, dozens of cooperatives were revived or established, and new models in fodder production, mechanized farming, and small-scale fisheries were successfully piloted. It was a project of numbers — yes — but more importantly, it was a project of dignity. As CEO of Sadar Institute, I am immensely proud of what our team accomplished — from our field officers to our MEAL specialists, our gender advisors to our technical leads.

The tireless dedication and humility with which they served is a reminder that impact does not come from top-down planning, but from proximity, partnership, and purpose.

I am also deeply grateful to our partners — especially IFAD — whose flexible funding, policy leadership, and trust in local systems allowed us to innovate, adapt, and deliver. RISE was a testament to what is possible when global institutions respect and empower local actors. But the end of RISE is not the end of the story. In fact, it is just the beginning of a much larger vision — one we are calling Vision 2030.

This is our roadmap to scale what worked under RISE into a nationally relevant, policy-backed framework for building resilience in fragile and climate-vulnerable contexts. It includes:

- A stronger focus on localized extension systems
- Deeper investments in climate-smart infrastructure
- Policy advocacy for inclusive market development
- And a bold commitment to youth and women as economic actors and leaders.

This magazine captures that transition. It is not only a showcase of impact — it is a call to action. A call for continued collaboration, smarter investments, and local leadership. The future we want for Somalia — and for all fragile states — must be built from the ground up, with communities in the driver's seat.

To all who walked this journey with us — I thank you. To those ready to walk the next phase — we welcome you.

Let's keep building, learning, and rising — together.

Warm regards,
Dr. Mohamed Osman, Ph.D
Chief Executive Officer
Sadar Development and Resilience Institute

MESSAGE FROM PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

YUSSUF MAALIM, SADAR DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE INSTITUTE



As I reflect on the journey of the RISE (Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies) Project, I am filled with a profound sense of pride and gratitude. What began as an urgent response to a complex crisis has evolved into a story of resilience, partnership, and transformation across rural Somalia.

RISE was launched at a time when Somalia was facing not only the lingering effects of climate-induced shocks and displacement, but also the global disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine. These circumstances placed immense strain on food systems, rural livelihoods, and fragile economies.

Yet, through strategic support from IFAD under the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI), and with the backing of dedicated partners, we were able to respond swiftly and meaningfully.

Over the course of two years, the project made remarkable strides—reaching over 16,120 households across five Federal Member States.

This impact was not only wide but inclusive: 56% of the beneficiaries were women, and 26% were youth, reaffirming our commitment to empowering those most often left behind.

We provided smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists with critical tools to weather the storm—solar-powered irrigation systems, quality agricultural inputs, improved post-harvest practices, and robust training to build capacity and self-reliance.

Every intervention was designed with a clear goal: to support Somalia's National Development Plan by enhancing food security, boosting agricultural resilience, and protecting rural livelihoods.

But RISE is more than a project. It is a collective achievement. Our success was made possible by the collaborative spirit of government institutions, development partners, and most importantly, the communities themselves.

I am especially inspired by the farmers who embraced new methods, the women who took charge of household decisions and savings groups, and the youth who now see a future in farming and agri-business.

At our National Closure Workshop, I emphasized that the story of RISE is just the beginning. The insights we've gained, the systems we've strengthened, and the relationships we've built must now be carried forward. We've proven that with the right support, rural communities in Somalia are not only capable of recovering—but of thriving.

To the field teams who worked tirelessly in often difficult conditions, to our partners who shared our vision, and to the communities who welcomed us with trust—thank you. The achievements highlighted in this magazine are yours. Let them remind us all of what's possible when we respond to crisis with unity, determination, and compassion.

Let's continue rising—together



Overview of Sadar's Evolution

Founding Years:

Established in 2013, the Resilience Learning Academy emerged as a pioneering initiative, affiliated with esteemed academic institutions such as Amoud University in Somaliland, East Africa University in Puntland, and Benadir University in Mogadishu. At its core, the academy aimed to serve as a hub for multidisciplinary research, learning, and capacity development, with a particular focus on resilience building in the face of daunting socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Transformation and Expansion:

Building upon its early successes, the academy underwent a transformative journey, culminating in its rebranding as Sadar Development and Resilience Institute in 2015. This pivotal moment marked a significant shift in Sadar's trajectory, signaling its evolution into a comprehensive research and learning institute dedicated to addressing a broad spectrum of development issues.

Key Milestones & Achievements:

Over the years, Sadar has achieved numerous milestones and garnered recognition for its impactful contributions to the region. From pioneering research initiatives to innovative capacity building programs, Sadar has left an indelible mark on the development landscape.

Some key milestones include:

Establishment of offices in strategic locations across Somalia, including Mogadishu, Hargeisa, and all federal member states, ensuring widespread reach and impact.

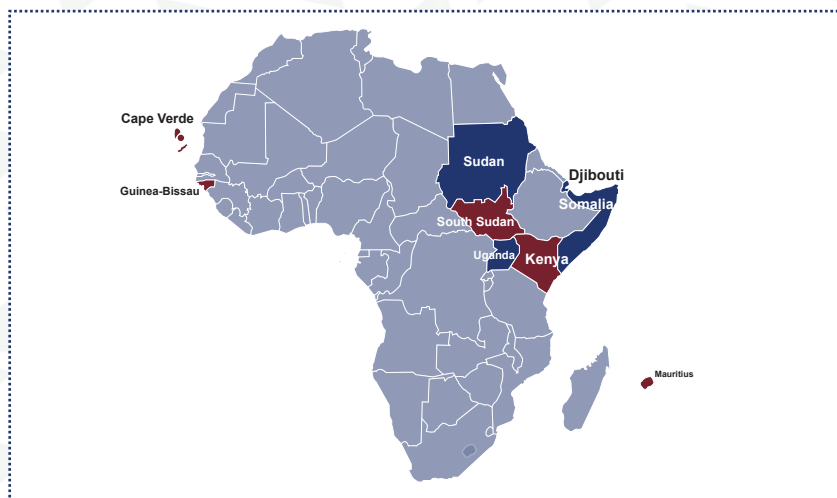
Expansion of regional collaborative programs in neighboring countries such as Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen, fostering cross border cooperation and knowledge exchange. Development of robust partnerships with government institutions, donors, civil society organizations,

and the private sector, facilitating synergistic efforts towards shared development goals. Implementation of impactful projects in critical areas such as environment and agriculture, health systems, education, peace, governance, and climate resilience, leading to tangible improvements in livelihoods and well-being.

Transformative Moments:

Throughout its journey, Sadar has encountered transformative moments that have shaped its identity and direction. Whether it's overcoming challenges, seizing opportunities, or adapting to evolving contexts, Sadar has demonstrated resilience, innovation, and determination at every turn.

These transformative moments serve as testament to Sadar's unwavering commitment to driving positive change and resilience-building in Somalia and the Horn of Africa region.



In the past five to seven years, Sadar, in association with donors, government agencies, & international organizations including the World Bank, IFAD, USAID, EU, DFID, Gates Foundation, UN, and INGOs, has undertaken extensive field monitoring, verification, research, and technical assessments.

These efforts covered over 3000 community sites spread across Somalia. Sadar boasts a team of 52 full-time research faculty and staff, supported by over 200 trained Somali speaking research assistants who have unparalleled access to all areas in Somali.



Sadar Thematic and Practice Areas

Health Systems:



Initiatives in this area focus on improving healthcare delivery, strengthening health infrastructure, and enhancing access to quality healthcare services. Topics of interest include healthcare financing, healthcare workforce development, health information systems, and the integration of traditional and modern medical practices.

Emergency Response and Humanitarian Action:



Activities in this area aim to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery mechanisms for natural disasters, conflicts, and other humanitarian crises. Key focus areas include disaster risk reduction, humanitarian logistics, emergency medical care, and psychosocial support for affected populations.

Social Services and Economic Resilience:



This area encompasses efforts to enhance social protection programs, poverty alleviation strategies, and economic empowerment initiatives aimed at vulnerable populations. Topics include social safety nets, livelihood diversification, microfinance, and community-based development approaches.

Democracy, Stabilization, and Governance:



Efforts in this area explore governance structures, political processes, and mechanisms for promoting democracy, peace, and stability. Topics include electoral systems, rule of law, human rights, decentralization, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Peace and Security:



Activities in this area aim to analyze conflict dynamics, promote peacebuilding efforts, and strengthen security sector governance. Topics include conflict analysis, peace negotiations, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), and community policing strategies.

Gender Equality and Empowerment:



This area focuses on addressing gender disparities and promoting women's empowerment across various sectors. Topics include gender mainstreaming, women's rights, gender-based violence prevention, and women's economic empowerment initiatives.

Education, Quality Learning, and Higher Education:



This area encompasses efforts on education policy, curriculum development, and pedagogical approaches aimed at improving learning outcomes and promoting lifelong learning opportunities. Topics include inclusive education, teacher training, education technology, and access to higher education.

Public Financial Management:



Activities in this area focus on enhancing fiscal transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public financial management systems. Topics include budgetary processes, revenue mobilization, public expenditure analysis, and anti-corruption measures.

Infrastructure Development:



This area explores infrastructure planning, financing, and development to support sustainable economic growth and social development. Topics include transportation infrastructure, urban development, water and sanitation infrastructure, and renewable energy infrastructure projects.



THE RESPONSE INITIATIVE FOR SOMALIA EMERGENCIES (RISE) PROJECT

Building Resilience & Empowering Communities in Somalia

What is RISE?

The Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) Project is IFAD funded Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) to minimize the impact of crisis—such as economic shocks and food insecurity by strengthening agriculture, water access, and livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Somalia.

Project scope & Duration

- ✓ Implemented by: SADAR Institute
- 💰 Funded by: CRI- IFAD
- 📍 Regions Covered: Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest & Jubaland states.
- 📅 Duration: November 2022 - December 2024

Why It Matters



Somalia faces economic instability, water shortages, and food insecurity due to conflict, climate change, and global crises.



RISE introduced climate-smart agriculture, modern irrigation systems, and economic support to strengthen resilience.



The project directly impacted farmers, women entrepreneurs, fisherfolk, and students, providing access to sustainable livelihoods.



Invest in the future of Somalia—support youth-led innovation and resilience!

Strategic Partnerships & Collaboration

Who We Worked With:



Somali Government Agencies – Ensuring alignment with national development goals.



Private Sector Partners – Supporting market access and microfinance.



Community Organizations – Engaging local farmers, women's groups, and cooperatives.

Sustainability & Next Steps:



Scaling up solar-powered irrigation to reach more small-scale farmers.



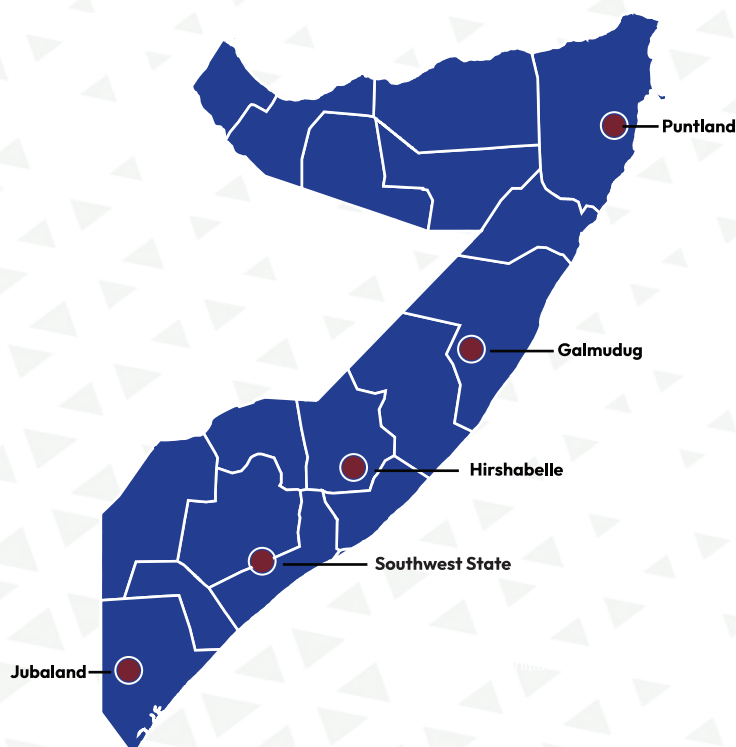
Expanding financial literacy programs for women entrepreneurs.



Strengthening climate resilience strategies in agriculture.

Final Message:

"The RISE Project has empowered across Somalia with sustainable solutions for food security, water access, and economic stability. Continued investment in these communities will drive long-term resilience and prosperity."





Project Achievements in Numbers

	Indicator	Before Project	After Project	% Change
	Household Income Stability	Low	82.8% Improved	82.8%
	Asset Ownership	Limited	80.3% Improved	80.3%
	Food Security /Nutrition	Inconsistent	83.8% Improved	83.8%
	Women's Decision -Making Power	Low	73% Improved	73%
	School Enrollment in Target Areas	50 Students	193 Students	+286%
	Milk Production (liters/goat/day)	1.2L	2.8L	+133%
	Fishing Community Monthly Income	\$100	\$183	82.8%
	Households Gaining Access to Water	0	250+	Improved

Key Rise Project Achievements

	Agricultural Equipment Distribution – 12,000 plastic crates, 17 tractors, 325 walking tractors, and 34 sheller threshers were provided.
	Enhanced Agricultural Productivity – The equipment improved farming efficiency and increased food production.
	Food Security & Community Resilience – The initiative strengthened food security and community resilience.
	Support for Fishing Cooperatives – Four fishing cooperatives in Hobyo and Kismayo received essential fishing tools.
	Fishing Equipment Provided – Cooler boxes, fishing nets, ropes, and twines were distributed to support fishing activities.
	Improved Livelihoods – The project boosted incomes and economic stability for farmers and fishers.
	Sustainable Economic Impact – Long-term sustainability was promoted in agriculture and fisheries sectors.

RISE IMPACT

Monitoring Components



Process monitoring (tracking the use of inputs and resources) and context monitoring (situation monitoring).



Beneficiary monitoring (track the overall perceptions of direct beneficiaries) through post-distribution monitoring.



Knowledge products.



Beneficiary feedback, evaluation (Base/Endline).

Goal

Minimize impacts of the Ukraine war on livelihoods, resilience, and food security of IFAD's target group.



Indicator Performance

Percentage of households reporting the following was maintained or improved:



% reporting production was maintained or increased after CRI

81.2 %



% reporting sales were maintained or increased after CRI

84 %



% reporting tot. income was maintained or increased after CRI

82.8 %



% reporting no. of meals were maintained or increased after CRI

68.9%



% reporting food security was maintained or improved after CRI

83.8%



% reporting the no. of assets was maintained or increased after CRI

80.3%



RISING ABOVE CRISIS: 5 UNIQUE WAYS THE RISE PROJECT TRANSFORMED RURAL SOMALIA

Since its launch, the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) has made remarkable strides in empowering smallholder farmers, building climate resilience, and boosting food security across Somalia. What makes RISE truly stand out, however, is how it turned crisis into opportunity.

Here are five standout ways RISE made a difference:



Water That Works For Farms and Families

Water access is life. RISE took a bold, dual-pronged approach: irrigation for productivity and safe water for households. From solar-powered systems to innovative infrastructure, communities now have better tools to face droughts and water scarcity. A significant percentage of households confirmed improved access to water for both agriculture and domestic use.



Putting Women in the Driver's Seat

RISE championed women's empowerment as a central pillar of its mission. From decision-making at home to leadership in the field, women were not just beneficiaries—they became change agents. Women's empowerment was tracked with its own index, highlighting gains in agency, participation, and control over resources.

RISE



Farming Through the Storms

Even amidst global shocks like the Ukraine war, RISE ensured that rural farmers didn't just survive—they thrived. By delivering vital agricultural inputs, small ruminants, and post-harvest technologies, the project kept the wheels of local food systems turning when the world slowed down.

Over 80% of households reported stable or improved access to farming inputs, markets, and technologies.



Voices That Matter: Listening, Learning, Improving

RISE didn't just deliver services, it stayed tuned in. With real-time monitoring, post-distribution checks, and community feedback loops, the project remained agile, adapting to the evolving needs of its beneficiaries.

Process, context, and beneficiary monitoring created a living project model that evolved with the people it served.



Resilience, Redefined

Rather than treat emergencies as setbacks, RISE used them as springboards. By building climate-smart agriculture, promoting innovative technologies, and supporting local value chains, the project laid the foundation for long-term growth—even under pressure.

FROM DROUGHT TO PROSPERITY: TRANSFORMING LIVESTOCK FARMING IN PUNTLAND THROUGH FODDER PRODUCTION



Farm workers harvesting fodder in El-Buuh location in Puntland regional state. With support from Sadar Institute, farmers are reaping huge benefits from fodder farming.

"Before, I never thought about fodder farming. We used to take our animals to graze in the open, and they often suffered during droughts. Now, with access to homegrown fodder, our livestock have a stable food source. Their weight has improved, they produce more milk, and we no longer have to migrate in search of pasture." Mukhtar Omar Ahmed, Head of Galdora Cooperative.

In Somalia, where conflict and harsh, unpredictable climatic conditions have disrupted agro-pastoralist livelihoods for decades, a quiet agricultural revolution is taking shape.

Millions of displaced communities live in camps set up for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) across the Horn of Africa, as recurrent droughts continue to erode any hope of returning to normal life.

However, in El-Buuh town, located in the Sanaag region of Puntland, farmers are pioneering an innovative solution—growing and harvesting nutritious fodder to sustain their livestock year-round.

Through the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) project, implemented by Sadar Development Institute in partnership with IFAD and the Somali government, local farmers have been empowered to cultivate fodder, ushering in a new era of resilience and self-sufficiency.

A Lifeline for Farmers and Pastoralists

For years, farmers and livestock herders in El-Buuh, like many across Somalia, faced immense challenges—limited pasture, unreliable rainfall, and declining livestock productivity. However, with the introduction of fodder farming, the tide is turning.

"Before receiving support from Sadar Development Institute, I had no knowledge of growing fodder," says Fatuma Ahmed Hussein, a member of the Galdora Cooperative.

"Our livestock suffered during droughts, and we often lost animals in large numbers. But now, with the ability to grow and store fodder, we are securing food for our animals and ensuring their survival."



Mukhtar Omar Ahmed, Head of Galdora Cooperative, supervising his farm.

Through the project, farmers received training, high-quality seeds, and irrigation support, enabling them to cultivate nutrient-rich fodder. This innovation has dramatically improved livestock health and productivity.

Boosting Livestock Productivity

Fodder cultivation has proven to be a game-changer for local herders. Hiirad Abdi, another beneficiary, highlights the drastic improvement in livestock health since adopting the new feeding methods.

"Previously, our animals were weak, and milk production was low. Now, with the fodder we grow, our goats are healthier, producing more milk, and we are even selling the surplus," he explains.

This transformation is not limited to a few farmers. Across El-Buuh, those who have practiced fodder farming for two years report significant increases in livestock weight, milk yield, and breeding rates—leading to higher household incomes and better nutrition for families.

Economic and Social Impact

Beyond food security, fodder production has created new economic opportunities for farmers. Many, like Mohamud Ahmed Nur, have expanded their farming businesses. "This project has changed our lives. We no longer depend on expensive animal feed from distant markets. Instead, we produce our own fodder and even sell to others. Our income has grown, and our families are better off," he shares.

Women Leading the Way in Fodder Farming

This innovative practice has also empowered women—who are often the backbone of Somali rural communities—to take on a more active economic role. Fatuma Ahmed Hussein highlights how fodder farming has provided financial independence for women. "I can now contribute to my family's income and support my children's education.

Farming is not just for men—we, too, have a role in securing a better future," she says proudly.

Sustainability and Future Aspirations

Looking ahead, farmers like Mukhtar Omar Ahmed, head of the Galdora Cooperative, envision even greater progress.



Fatuma Ahmed Hussein, a farmer and a member of Galdora cooperative, in her farm inspecting her fodder

"We now understand the power of modern livestock farming. With continued support, we aim to expand our farms, improve irrigation, and reach more markets," he states. However, he emphasizes the need for further investment in farming equipment and water access to ensure the long-term sustainability of their success.

A Model for Resilience and Growth

The success of fodder production in Puntland is a testament to the power of sustainable development and the transformative impact of Sadar's resilience interventions. By combining innovation, training, and local ownership, the project has turned a once-struggling region into a model of resilience, productivity, and hope for agro-pastoralist communities across Somalia.

WATER FOR GROWTH: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE IN PUNTLAND



Dry, hot and arid landscape characterises the vast Bari region of Puntland state in Somalia. Water scarcity is common here, and residents are used to walking long distances in search of the critical commodity. However, an extraordinary transformation is taking place at the heart of Puntland's Buur-Salah town. The Rajo School—aptly named Hope in Somali—has become a beacon of change for students, their families, and the surrounding community, all thanks to a life-changing initiative by Sadar Development Institute, funded by IFAD under the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE)



For years, students at Rajo School struggled with one basic yet fundamental problem—a lack of water. They often had to abandon their lessons to search for water, a daily reality that put their education and well-being at risk. "Before this project, we had no access to sufficient water," recalls Saadiq Mohamud Yussuf, the school's headteacher. "During breaks, students would sometimes leave school to fetch water from nearby neighbourhoods, and some would even miss classes because there was no water to drink, wash their hands, or use in the latrines."

This situation changed when the school received a solar-powered water system, a newly dug well, and a thriving school garden. These investments have revolutionised the learning environment, ensuring a steady and reliable water supply for drinking, sanitation, and agricultural use.

"Now, every student has enough water for drinking, washing, and even showering when needed," says the headteacher. "This project has provided more than just water; it has given these children dignity, comfort, and security." For Maida Abdulfatah Hanshi, a student in grade 8, the change is life-altering. "Alhamdulillah, today we have enough water," she says with a smile.



"Before, we sometimes had to leave class to fetch water, which meant missing lessons. Sometimes children would even fall into waterholes while trying to collect water. Now, we have water at school for everything—we drink, we wash, and it is even used to cook our meals."

The availability of water has also extended beyond the school, benefiting the surrounding community. Households that once struggled with water shortages now have access to clean piped water, easing the daily burden of fetching water from faraway sources.

A Garden of Growth and Nourishment

Perhaps one of the most inspiring aspects of the transformation at Rajo School is the flourishing school garden. Once barren land, the school compound now boasts rows of fresh vegetables and fruit trees—onions, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, mangoes, limes, and more.

"The garden has changed everything," says the headteacher. "It not only improves the school's environment but also directly supports our feeding program. Before, students sometimes went hungry because there wasn't enough food. Now, they receive nutritious meals supplemented with fresh produce from our garden."

For students, the garden is more than just a source of food—it is a classroom. Abdullahi Saa'id Aden, a 16-year-old student, explains how it has impacted their learning experience. "The garden has beautified our school. Before, we had no shade and had to study in the scorching sun, but now we have trees where we can sit and prepare for exams in comfort. We have also learned about farming and how to grow different crops."



The garden not only feeds the students but has also become a source of income for the school. Excess produce is sold in the market, and the revenue generated contributes to teachers' salaries and school maintenance. "This garden is more than just plants; it is a long-term investment in our school's future," the headteacher proudly states.

A Ripple Effect of Change

Since the water and garden projects were implemented, Rajo School has experienced a surge in enrolment. "Before, we had only about 50 students," says Saadiq Mohamud Yussuf. "Now, we have 193 students. The news of the water and feeding program spread quickly, and many parents who couldn't previously afford to send their children to school have now enrolled them here."

The project has become a model for other schools and communities in the region. The students, once forced to choose between education and survival, now thrive in an environment that nurtures both. "This school is a lifeline for many of us," says Maida, reflecting on how her education has been secured. "We no longer have to miss class or put ourselves in danger looking for water. We have everything we need here—water, food, and education."

With the success of the water and garden project, the community now hopes for further investments, particularly in healthcare. "We are incredibly grateful for this initiative," says the headteacher. "But the people in this settlement still lack basic health services. Since water and food security have improved, the next priority should be a healthcare facility."

This story of transformation at Rajo School is a testament to the power of sustainable solutions in changing lives. It demonstrates how access to water, combined with smart agricultural practices, can uplift entire communities, improve education, and create lasting hope for the future.

As the school's name suggests, Rajo is more than just a name—it is a promise of a brighter tomorrow.

EMPOWERED WOMEN LEADS TO THRIVING COMMUNITIES: HOW THE RISE PROJECT TRANSFORMED LIVES



Following decades of brutal conflict, the ongoing impact of climate crises, and deep-seated cultural barriers, women in Somalia have often been sidelined in leadership and development roles. Traditional gender norms have historically restricted their participation in decision-making and economic activities, reinforcing the idea that leadership and financial independence are primarily male domains.

In the political sphere, women's representation in government and leadership remains disproportionately low, leading to their perspectives being largely absent from key policies that shape economic development and public welfare.

However, despite these challenges, Somali women continue to defy the odds. An estimated 30-40% of households are currently led by women, with numbers increasing amid recurring crises. This shift highlights the resilience and adaptability of Somali women, who consistently rise to the occasion when adversity strikes.

Recognizing the need to support women's leadership, economic empowerment, and social development, Sadar Institute launched one of its most impactful initiatives to date: Resilience in the Somalia Education Sector (RISE) Project. Through a holistic approach that integrates financial independence, education, health services, leadership training, and social support, the project has empowered women across various sectors—fishing, farming, and trade—enabling them to rewrite their narratives and secure a brighter future. Here are some powerful testimonials from women whose lives have been transformed by the RISE Project.

Casting a Wider Net: Women in the Fishing Industry

For Fatuma Magalow Abdi, chairperson of the Hibo Fish Cooperative in Kismayo, fishing was once a male-dominated industry. Limited access to resources forced her and other women to rely on intermediaries to bring their fish to market, leaving them with little control over pricing and profits. But the RISE Project changed everything.

Through vocational training, financial literacy programs, and the provision of essential fishing equipment—including motorized boats, cold storage, and safety gear—Fatuma and her cooperative members have taken control of their trade.



"Before, we depended on others to bring our fish to market, and they dictated the prices. Now, we control our own supply chain. We fish, process, and sell independently. This has changed our lives completely," she shares.



Beyond economic empowerment, the RISE Project has fostered women's leadership in the fishing industry. Fatuma and her peers are no longer just workers; they are decision-makers shaping the future of their trade.

Harvesting Hope: Women in Agriculture



In Puntland's arid lands, Hawa Mohamud Abdi faced significant challenges due to outdated irrigation methods that wasted water and limited her farming capacity. However, when the RISE Project introduced modern irrigation technology, everything changed.

"The drip irrigation system conserves water and ensures a steady yield. Before, I only grew leafy greens—now, I cultivate fruits, grains, and even rice," Hawa explains. By incorporating climate-smart farming techniques and financial training, the project has not only increased agricultural productivity but has also enhanced women's economic independence. Female farmers now have access to markets, financial resources, and business skills to scale their operations sustainably.

For Faadumo Ahmed Hussein, a farmer in El-Buh, the introduction of greenhouse technology revived her crops and provided a stable income. The project also established mentorship programs and social support networks, connecting women with experienced farmers and legal advisors, ensuring their success in agribusiness. **Milking Opportunities: Women in Livestock Farming.**

Livestock farming is another avenue where the RISE Project has transformed women's lives. By providing high-quality dairy goats and training in advanced livestock management, women like Faadumo Ahmed Hussein have seen remarkable improvements in their dairy production.

"The goats we received produce more milk than the ones we had before. The extra milk provides essential nutrition for our children and an additional source of income for our families," she notes.



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Beyond increasing milk production, the project has enhanced access to veterinary services, ensuring livestock health and sustainability. Additionally, training in financial literacy and cooperative management has enabled women to participate in community decision-making and economic planning. Educating for a Sustainable Future

The RISE Project acknowledges that education is the foundation of empowerment. In Bursaalah, a young student, Maïdo Abdulfatah Hanshi, has witnessed firsthand how access to clean water and improved school infrastructure can transform education.

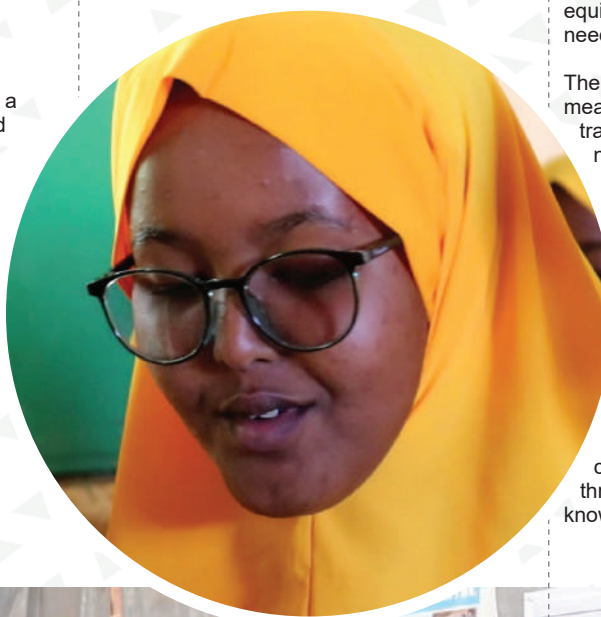


"Before, we had to leave school to fetch water, often missing classes. Now, we have a steady supply of clean water and even a school garden where we grow vegetables," she says.

By improving literacy rates and expanding educational opportunities for women and girls, the RISE Project is laying the groundwork for future leaders, professionals, and entrepreneurs. Scholarships, vocational training, and leadership workshops are equipping young women with the skills they need to pursue diverse career paths.

The success of the RISE Project is not just measured in statistics—it is reflected in the transformed lives of Somali women who are now shaping their own destinies. From fishing villages to farmlands, from classrooms to community centres, these empowered women are redefining societal norms, driving economic growth, and fostering resilient communities.

With continued investment in women's empowerment, Somalia is not just supporting individual success stories—it is securing a stronger, more prosperous future for generations to come. When women rise, communities thrive, and the impact of their leadership knows no bounds.



TURNING THE TIDE-THE INSPIRING STORY OF KISMAYO'S FISHING COMMUNITY



Breaking the Net of Poverty: How Kismayo's Fishers Are Charting a New Course

For decades, the fishing communities of Kismayo struggled against the odds—outdated equipment, unpredictable weather, and a fragile market. The sea, once their greatest asset, became a relentless challenge. However, thanks to the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE), these resilient fishermen and women have found renewed hope.

From Scarcity to Stability

"Before this project, fishing was a gamble. We had no proper storage, no modern equipment, and our fish would often spoil before reaching the market. Now, everything has changed."

Forty-year-old Aden Mohamed Ibrahim, chairman of the Kiamboni Fishermen Cooperative, recalls the difficult days when their income was barely enough to sustain their families.

Through funding from IFAD, the RISE project, implemented by Sadar Development Institute, equipped the fishing cooperatives in Kismayo with modern engines, fishing nets, cold storage facilities, and safety gear. This has not only boosted fish production but also eliminated wastage, allowing fishermen to bring fresh fish to local markets and beyond. "Previously, I had to dry my fish and sell it to neighboring countries. Now, I can sell fresh fish in local markets. The difference in income is life-changing—my children no longer face school fee issues, and our household is financially secure."

His cooperative, consisting of 21 members, operates on a rotation system, ensuring that everyone gets a chance to work and benefit from the equipment.



Women Leading the Blue Economy

Women are among the notable beneficiaries of RISE Project and are leading in the Blue Economy Sector in Kismayo. It is a new dawn for women in the fishing industry in Kismayo. Although women were not traditionally considered active players in the sector, some trailblazers are changing the narrative.

Among the fishing community's unsung heroes is Fatuma Magan Nur Abdi, a veteran fisherwoman who has worked in the industry for over 13 years. For Fatuma, the introduction of boats, freezers, and processing equipment has transformed her life.

"Before, I was forced to work under middlemen. I had no choice but to sell my catch at whatever price they dictated. Now, I have my own boat, my own storage, and my own market access. I decide my future!"

Members of the fishing cooperatives in Kismayo during a consultation meeting. This newfound independence has led to economic empowerment for women in Kismayo, allowing them to break free from financial dependence and invest in their businesses.

Another trailblazer for women is 30-year-old Fardowsa Jeylani Mohamed, a treasurer at Hibo Fish Cooperative, who shares a similar story. She started her journey by salting fish for resellers, but today, she runs her own fish restaurant.

"We used to only process fish with salt because we couldn't store it. Now, we have refrigeration and proper facilities. Instead of waiting for people to bring fish to me, I buy it myself and cook fresh meals for customers." Her cooperative saved small monthly contributions until they could open their own fish restaurant, offering employment opportunities for other community members.

A Future Beyond Survival

Beyond daily sustenance, these fishermen and women are dreaming big. Many, like Fatuma, are looking towards international exports, aiming to supply high-quality tuna fish to global markets.

"If we can get faster boats and better storage, we can sell our fish to buyers outside Somalia. That is my dream." With household incomes increasing by 82.8%, asset ownership rising by 80.3%, and women's empowerment at 73%, across various sectors in Somalia, the RISE project has not only uplifted individual lives but also revived Kismayo's fishing economy. However, these communities know that growth is an ongoing journey. They hope for larger cold storage facilities, more efficient fishing vessels, and expanded market access to further enhance their trade.

"Fishing is not just a job. It is our way of life. With the right support, we can rebuild our communities, educate our children, and take Somalia's fishing industry to new heights." – Aden Mohamed Ibrahim.

As the sun sets over the shores of Kismayo, these resilient fishermen and women are no longer just battling the waves; they are riding the tide of opportunity, growth, and prosperity.



RISE WAS A GIFT FROM GOD”: HOW THE RISE PROJECT TRANSFORMED ABSHIR’S FAMILY FARM



In the golden light of late afternoon, under the unrelenting sun of Ufeyn in Puntland, 63-year-old Abshir Mohamud Artan walks slowly between rows of thriving crops. His weathered hands brush against green leaves, his eyes scanning every corner of the land he has nurtured for nearly a quarter-century. For Abshir, this farm is more than a livelihood — it's a legacy of grit, resilience, and unwavering hope. A father of 12 and the chairman of a local farming cooperative, Abshir has spent most of his life tethered to the soil. Through unforgiving droughts, price shocks, and dwindling yields, he remained committed not just to his family's survival, but to mentoring others in the only trade he has ever known. "Farming has always been my life," he says. "But it hasn't always been easy."

For more than two decades, Abshir battled relentless challenges — harsh weather, inconsistent access to water, and soaring fuel costs. Before support arrived, his only option for irrigation was using fuel-powered generators. "Water was always the hardest part," he recalls. "In just three and a half months, I'd spend more than a thousand dollars on fuel. It was unbearable."

Then came a global crisis — the war in Ukraine — which sent fuel prices skyrocketing. "A single litre cost \$24 at one point," Abshir says, shaking his head. "We were at the brink. That's when the RISE project came in. And honestly, it felt like a gift from God."

Implemented by the Sadar Institute, the RISE (Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies) project arrived like rainfall after a drought. It brought with it a lifeline: solar-powered irrigation systems that drastically cut energy costs. No more reliance on expensive fuel. No more sleepless nights worrying about the next diesel delivery. "With solar, the water flows freely," Abshir smiles. "Now we produce more and spend far less. We've even expanded the farm."

But the impact of RISE didn't stop at solar panels. The project also provided high-quality, disease-resistant seeds — and that, according to Abshir, changed everything. "Before, our seeds were weak. Crops would wither or catch diseases," he says. "Now, we're planting tomatoes, eggplants, watermelons — and they're thriving. No pests, no blights. Just healthy, vibrant produce."

This agricultural rebirth has brought new life to Abshir's household. Farming is no longer a gamble — it's the backbone of his family's wellbeing. "The farm pays for school fees, it feeds us, it helps in emergencies," he explains. "It's our first and only source of income."

His children, once at risk of dropping out of school due to financial hardship, now attend regularly. Meals are more consistent, savings have become possible, and even the by-products of farming — like fodder — generate income. "We sell bags of grass for three to four dollars each."

A single harvest gives us up to 70 bags," he says. "It's a huge help."

And yet, Abshir remains grounded. "The support we've received has been transformational," he says. "But we still need more — more seeds, fertilizers, livestock. Not every farm has solar yet. We can't afford to leave anyone behind."

As the leader of more than 70 farmers in the Samasugul area, Abshir is more than a beneficiary — he is a beacon. A symbol of what's possible when development meets determination. His deep connection to the land, once tested by scarcity, is now flourishing with purpose.

"I didn't know much about farming at first," he reflects. "But over time, with guidance and support, I've learned to trust the land. It gives back when you care for it. And now, with RISE, it truly thrives."

As the sun begins to set and the fields glow with golden promise, Abshir's story becomes more than just a personal journey. It becomes a testament — to perseverance, to progress, and to the quiet power of a well-placed seed in the hands of a determined farmer.

FROM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTH: FATUMA'S JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND RESILIENCE IN ELBUR REGION, PUNTLAND



Standing proudly in her flourishing garden, her hands brushing against the vibrant leaves of plants that once seemed impossible to grow, she can't help but smile. Just a few years ago, her land was barren, her goats produced little milk, and every day was a battle against drought and despair. But now, 35-year-old Fatuma Ahmed Hussein, a leading female farmer in Puntland, is a true testament to how the Response Initiative for Somalia's Emergencies (RISE) Project has changed the lives of farmers in Somalia. She has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the last two years since joining the farmers' cooperative in the Elbuh region of Puntland. "The challenges I faced as a farmer were numerous before receiving support," she said, adding that "pests were eating the crops, and the wind was causing damage, which harmed the plants."

Fatuma's story is one of relentless struggle. In 2019, she started a small farm in Elbuh, a remote region in Puntland, a semi-autonomous area located in northeastern Somalia, where the land is harsh and resources are scarce.

However, in 2022, hope arrived in the form of the RISE project, an initiative by the Sadar Institute designed to support farmers and pastoralists in Somalia's most vulnerable regions. Fatuma was among the beneficiaries who received critical resources—greenhouses, drought-resistant seeds, and high-quality livestock.

"The moment we got the greenhouse, everything changed," she says, her eyes lighting up. "Our vegetables grew healthier, our goats produced more milk, and suddenly, we had enough to eat and even sell at the market."

The impact went beyond survival. Fatuma's goats, bred through the project, became the pride of her village. "These goats are different—they give more milk, they're stronger, and they survive even in the dry season," she explains. "Before, our children were weak. Now, they drink clean, nutritious milk, and I can see the difference in their health."

Her farm became a beacon of inspiration. Neighbors who once doubted her now come to learn from her techniques. "People see my success and ask, 'How did you do it?' I tell them: with patience, hard work, and a little help."

Her journey is far from over. She dreams of expanding her farm, training other women, and ensuring her children never know the hunger she once faced. "This project didn't just give me tools—it gave me confidence," she says. "Now, I believe that no matter how hard life gets, there is always a way forward."

Her message to other struggling farmers is simple yet powerful: "Don't lose heart. Keep planting, keep fighting. If I can rise from nothing, so can you."

The RISE project, funded by IFAD, has touched thousands of lives across Somalia. By empowering farmers and pastoralists with knowledge and resources, the Sadar Institute isn't just changing individual lives—it's rebuilding communities, one harvest at a time.

As the sun sets over Elbuh, Fatuma looks at her thriving farm with quiet pride. The land that once symbolized struggle now stands as a testament to resilience—and the unshakable hope that even in the harshest conditions, life can flourish.

Her parting shot: "I encourage farmers not to give up if they face setbacks. They should strive to achieve their goal of establishing farms, endure any challenges, and work towards achieving their dreams to improve their lives and communities," she says.



STEERING RESILIENCE: BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE RISE PROJECT'S LOCAL IMPACT

ISMAIL KHALIF, RISE WATER ENGINEER



While the fruits of the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) Project are visible in green school gardens, full water tanks, and busy marketplaces, the unseen force behind this transformation lies in the hands of dedicated local coordinators. One such person is Ismail Khalif, a seasoned advisor at SADAR Development Institute, who has been instrumental in shaping the water resource and irrigation strategy that underpins the RISE initiative.

"My role as a technical advisor on water resources and irrigation integration is not just about infrastructure. It's about understanding people, livelihoods, and how to connect those to sustainable solutions," says Ismail. The genesis of the RISE Project can be traced back to the ripple effects of a global conflict — the war in Ukraine.

While thousands of kilometres away, its impact was deeply felt in Somalia. "Many Somali farmers could no longer afford to produce or market their crops due to the economic downturn triggered by the Ukraine war.

We saw rising food insecurity and an urgent need to support local production," Ismail explains. This urgency gave birth to a project design that zeroed in on Somalia's most vulnerable: low-income cooperative farmers who lacked the means to keep their agricultural livelihoods alive.

From the Ground Up: Community-Centered Planning

According to Ismail, the project started by listening. "We conducted need assessments in close coordination with local authorities, focusing on the cooperatives hit hardest by food supply disruptions. From Ufeyn to Baadweyn and Bursaalalah, we identified farmer groups facing extreme difficulties — especially those burdened by the high cost of diesel-powered water pumping," he shares.

It was more than identifying need — it was about providing tailored solutions. "Some cooperatives were spending up to \$20,000 a year on fuel just to irrigate their farms. That's not sustainable. We replaced that with solar-powered systems and drip irrigation, and redirected their savings toward buying spare parts and maintaining their systems," he adds.

The obstacles were steep. From a lack of modern irrigation systems to limited technical know-how among farmers, each step of the project required patience, innovation, and close coordination. "The biggest challenge was shifting from traditional fuel-based methods to sustainable energy. But once farmers saw the long-term savings and increased production, they were convinced," says Ismail.

One of the key lessons from the project was resource prioritization. "We taught farmers to focus on crops that require less water, grow fast, and have a high market value.

That way, they could get a better return from limited resources," he explains. Tangible Results in the Market and the Soil The results speak for themselves. Supported cooperatives now supply vegetables consistently to major markets in Galkacyo and Bosaso, helping to ease regional food shortages. "These farmers are no longer just surviving — they're competing. They're meeting demand during peak seasons, and they're proud to be feeding their communities," he says proudly. Moreover, the knowledge imparted to farmers — from managing irrigation equipment to market timing — has laid the foundation for long-term resilience. "The combination of solar energy, smart irrigation, improved seeds, and training has created a full-circle model of sustainability," he notes.

A Vision Beyond Today

For Ismail, coordinating the RISE Project was more than a job — it was a mission. "This project showed us that with the right mix of innovation and community engagement, even the most remote and vulnerable communities can rise — literally — to meet their challenges," he concludes.

As the RISE Project comes to a close, the legacy it leaves behind is not just in infrastructure or food production. It is etched into the lives of farmers who now farm with dignity, plan with confidence, and dream with purpose — all because someone like Ismail stood beside them, helping them water not just their land, but their hope

BEYOND NUMBERS: EVERYDAY TRANSFORMATIONS IN PICTURES



BEYOND NUMBERS: EVERYDAY TRANSFORMATIONS IN PICTURES



INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT



Smart Tools, Smarter Farming

The RISE project catalyzed a wave of innovation at the grassroots level, introducing tools and practices that transformed how smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and fishing communities operated. These innovations were not just technological — they were systems innovations, creating linkages across value chains and opening doors to sustainability.



Walking Tractors:

118 walking tractors were distributed to cooperatives, introducing labor-saving mechanization that enabled women and men to expand cultivation, reduce costs, and increase yields. Farmers reported cultivating 2–3x more land thanks to these machines, which also reduced soil compaction and long-term environmental degradation.



Threshers/Shellers:

Manual post-harvest processing was replaced with machines that reduced grain loss, saved time, and ensured cleaner, uncontaminated produce. What once took three days of labor was now done in hours.



Agrovet Linkages:

Through strategic partnerships with certified seed and veterinary input suppliers, rural areas previously cut off from markets now had access to affordable, high-quality inputs.



Fodder Tree Leaf Meals & Rangeland Cubes:

Innovative livestock feed solutions — such as protein-rich forage legumes and rangeland cubes — offered viable options to bridge feed gaps during dry seasons.



Cold Storage in Fisheries:

The concept of solar-powered cold storage in Hobyo was introduced to reduce spoilage and stabilize fish supply in remote coastal markets, particularly empowering women vendors. Together, these innovations are not only solving today's problems — they are equipping communities for tomorrow's climate and market realities.



CEO'S VISION 2030 STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FROM DR. MOHAMED OSMAN



† Strategic Direction Post-RISE

Sadar Institute enters its next chapter with renewed focus, informed by hard-earned lessons and inspired by what is possible when development is rooted in resilience. Post-RISE, we are committed to evolving from project-based implementation toward a systems-strengthening model that supports long-term, locally-owned development.

Our strategic direction will emphasize:

- **Integrated Livelihood Systems:** Moving beyond sectoral silos by strengthening the interlinkages between crop farming, livestock, and fisheries in a climate-smart ecosystem.
- **Community-Led Market Systems Development (MSD):** Investing in cooperatives, micro-enterprises, and youth- and women-led innovations to drive inclusive economic recovery.
- **Localization of Humanitarian-Development Nexus:** Empowering local actors to lead in planning, delivery, and monitoring of crisis response and recovery.
- **Evidence-Based Decision Making:** Institutionalizing real-time learning, adaptive management, and applied research across all programming.

We will also work to mainstream sustainability — whether through green infrastructure, renewable energy for agro-processing, or financial inclusion that unlocks credit and insurance for the rural poor.

🎯 Focus Areas for Future Programming

To actualize our Vision 2030, we will scale our impact across five core programming pillars:

1. Food Systems & Climate Resilience

- Scale agroecological practices, water-smart infrastructure, and regenerative rangeland management.

2. Women & Youth Economic Empowerment

- Promote digital and financial inclusion; support scalable enterprises and innovation hubs.

3. Policy Influence & Systems Strengthening

- Co-create policy reforms that enhance public investment in rural resilience.

4. Crisis Preparedness & Risk Financing

- Build anticipatory action systems, market-shock response plans, and climate-linked insurance.

5. Data & Knowledge Systems

- Expand our learning agenda with applied research, dashboards, and open-access knowledge products.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE SCORECARD



A visual summary of performance and reach across the RISE project:

Intervention Area	Output Achieved	% Target Met
Total Households Reached	5,020	100.4%
Production Implements Distributed	3,000 Units	100%
Seeds & Fertilizer Kits	3,000 Sets	100%
Small Ruminants Provided	3,535 Animals	100%
Threshers/ Shellers Delivered	4 Pieces	100%
Perception Survey Participants	357 HHs	-
Learning Sessions Held	18	-



This data reflects a robust alignment between planned outcomes and achieved results, further validating RISE’s effectiveness and the learning mechanisms behind its implementation

GENDER ANALYSIS SNAPSHOT

Building Resilience with Women at the Core

The RISE project's gender-responsive approach was a critical enabler of its success. From targeting to training, women were not just beneficiaries — they were agents of change in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

Key Gender Milestones:



93%

of small ruminant restocking beneficiaries were women, increasing household livestock assets and enabling business startups.



46%

of women used income from livestock to launch small enterprises, enhancing their economic independence.



Women were prioritized in seed distribution sites and supported with safer, time-saving tools like walking tractors, reducing physical strain and exposure.



In fisheries, women were recognized as the largest entrepreneurial group, yet still excluded from decision-making. RISE identified this gap and called for inclusion in cooperatives and capacity-building efforts.

Recommendations for Gender Equity:

- Promote financial inclusion through women-friendly credit and savings products.
- Support women-led cooperatives and ensure participation in steering committees.
- Embed gender metrics in all program reporting and M&E frameworks.
- Gender was not an add-on — it was integrated into the DNA of RISE, delivering inclusive resilience.



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND LEARNING



What We Learned, What We Built

As part of its commitment to adaptive learning and impact-driven implementation, the RISE project integrated a comprehensive knowledge management process. Through perception surveys, stakeholder consultations, and 18 dedicated learning sessions across Puntland, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug, key lessons and insights were documented.

Over 357 households were surveyed, and thematic learning was extracted across core interventions: seed distribution, mechanization, post-harvest technologies, small ruminant restocking, fodder production, and fisheries.

The following key insights emerged:



Community-Based Targeting Prevents Conflict: Involving grassroots groups and village development committees ensured smooth, transparent beneficiary selection.



Mechanization Transformed Cultivation: Walking tractors enabled expansion of farmed land and saved time, labor, and resources — especially benefiting women farmers.



Post-Harvest Tech Reduced Losses: Grain shellers reduced spoilage and contamination, saving time and increasing incomes across cooperatives.



Livestock Boosted Resilience: 93% of restocking beneficiaries were women; many launched small businesses using livestock proceeds.



Fishing Sector Needs Inclusive Growth: Women remain excluded from decision-making despite being the largest group of entrepreneurs in fisheries.



MEDIA MONITORING & PUBLIC VISIBILITY OF THE RISE PROJECT

As part of documenting the impact of the RISE Project, a strategic media monitoring effort was conducted to assess how RISE messages and success stories were reflected across Somali broadcast and online platforms. This analysis, modeled on high-level media tracking frameworks, provides a clear view of how the RISE narrative resonated with communities and influenced public discourse.

Radio & Television Coverage

RISE-related themes — from cooperative farming and women's livestock entrepreneurship to youth-led fisheries and climate-smart irrigation — were prominently featured on regional and national Somali media.

Coverage at a Glance:

 29 radio programs aired across 12 regional FM stations (including Radio Beledweyne, Jowhar FM, Garowe FM), generating over 550 minutes of broadcast time focused on RISE impact stories.

 12 television segments aired on SNTV, Somali Cable, Dalsan TV, and Galmudug TV, with a combined 284 minutes of dedicated coverage showcasing field visits, success stories, and closure events.

Key themes included:

"Restocking Hope": Women receiving goats and launching businesses

"Green Revival": Solar-powered irrigation transforming dry lands

"Fisheries Reimagined": Hobyoyouth and women in new fishing cooperatives

"The broadcast coverage humanized the data — it brought to life the dignity, resilience, and results of RISE in a way reports alone could not."
— Sunshine Media Communications Team

Social Media Reach & Digital Engagement

- Curated RISE content reached an estimated 852,000 people organically through Facebook, Twitter (X), and YouTube.
- A campaign under the hashtag #RISEForResilience showcased 10+ human stories and generated over 3,400 direct interactions.
- Short video clips from the closure workshop and interviews with farmers were widely shared and republished by media pages.

Media Insights for Future Programming

From the media monitoring data, several actionable insights emerged for future communication efforts:

1. Broadcast Media Remains Key

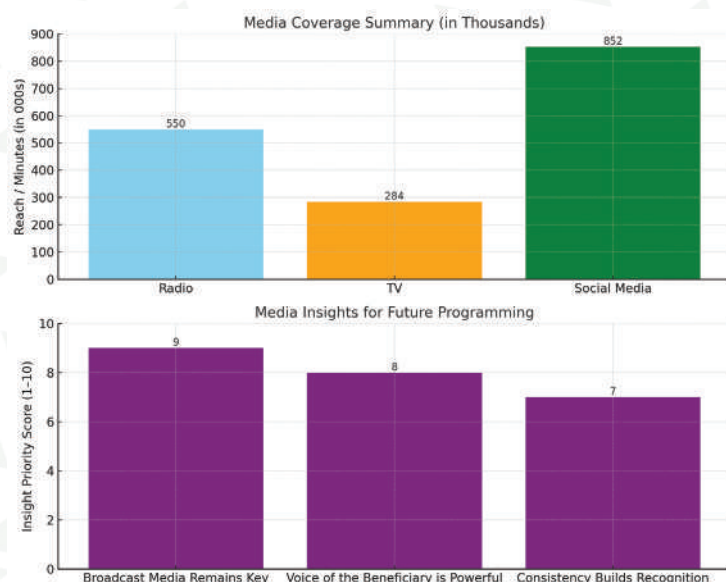
Radio and regional TV are still the most trusted and consumed platforms among rural populations — especially women and elders.

2. Voice of the Beneficiary is Powerful

Segments featuring direct testimony from farmers, women, and youth consistently performed better than institutional announcements.

3. Consistency Builds Recognition

Regular media engagement during all phases — from kickoff to closeout — helped anchor RISE in public memory.



PICTORIAL QUOTES



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"Our work is not merely about theories and concepts; it is about real-world solutions that uplift lives, empower communities, and safeguard our planet for future generations."

– Dr. Mohamed Osman, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, Sadar Development and Resilience Institute

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"Together, let us harness the power of knowledge, compassion, and action to build a world where resilience is not merely a response to crises but a way of life."

- Yusuf Maalim, Programs Director, Sadar Development and Resilience Institute.

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Previously, the school had only 50 students. After the project was implemented, enrolment increased to 193 students.

- Saadiq Mohamud Yussuf, Headmaster of Rajo School, Puntland

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Goats that feed on fodder differ from other breeds by producing more clean milk, being more resilient, and staying strong and healthy during the dry season when other livestock struggle. They also excel in breeding and milk production.

- Fadumo Ahmed Hussein, Cooperative Member, Puntland – Galdora

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"I received three goats from the project, and as of now, I have six. In addition, I sold some of the goats. Today, my family relies on them for milk. This project has changed my life."

- Farah Mohamed, Chairman, Qardho Farmers' Association

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The project's objectives have been achieved, as shown by the success of cooperatives like Ufeyn, Baadweyn, and Buursalax. Within three months of receiving resources, support, and training, they boosted production and expanded sales to larger markets like Bosaso and Galkacyo.

- Ismail Khalif, Advisor on water resources, SADAR Development Institute

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PICTORIAL QUOTES



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We used to borrow money or sell livestock to afford seeds. Now, we receive quality seeds that ensure a better harvest.

- Abdi Ibrahim Hassan, Farmer

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Modern irrigation has transformed our farming. We no longer struggle with water shortages.

- Abdirizack Aden Jama, Farmer, Bacadweyn, Puntland

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"The fruits we have harvested are an essential part of our daily meals. As farmers, this has greatly improved the health of our children due to the nutrition we get from the variety of fruits grown on our farms. We no longer rely solely on meat, as was the norm before the RISE Project."

- Abdullahi Muse
Farmer, Bacadweyn District

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Farming has its ups and downs, but the support we received has given us hope and motivation to continue.

- Abdullahi Omar Maalim, Farmer, Hirshabelle

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The support we received brought significant changes. Before installing the drip irrigation system, labor costs were higher, and we relied on expensive fuel. Now, using solar power from 8 AM to 4 PM, our fuel expenses have dropped, with fuel only used at night when needed.

- Hawo Mohamud Abdi, Female Farmer, Ba'adwein, Puntland.

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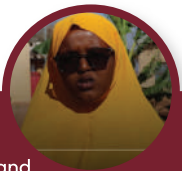


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Initially I had no business like a restaurant and I sold seasoned fish from home. With the support we received, we pooled resources, each contributing \$30 monthly, and opened a restaurant.

- Fardowsa Jeylani Mohamed, Female Fish Trader & Cashier, Hibo Fish Group, Kismayo

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For the first time, our school has enough water, protecting us from the risk of falling into wells and missing classes due to water shortages. With many taps available, there is no lack of water, which is also used for watering the garden and cooking.

- Maida Abdifitah Haashi, Rajo Primary School, Bur-Saalah, Puntland

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CULTIVATING RESILIENCE: CELEBRATING THE RISE PROJECT'S TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT IN RURAL SOMALIA



On a warm February morning in Mogadishu, voices from across Somalia's countryside converged at the RISE National Closure Workshop—each voice carrying stories of struggle, growth, and determination.

Organized by the SADAR Development and Resilience Institute and supported by IFAD, the workshop marked the end of the 24-month Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) project—a lifeline for over 16,120 households, more than half of them led by women. But this gathering wasn't an ending. It was a powerful beginning.

"We used to wait for rain with empty hands. Today, I hold a shovel, seeds, and knowledge—and that changes everything."- Hawa Ali, a farmer and mother of five from Beledweyne.

From Scarcity to Self-Sufficiency

Implemented across five Federal Member States—Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland—the RISE Project brought tangible solutions to chronic problems: drought, poor yields, and market inaccessibility.

Through walking tractors, solar-powered irrigation systems, drip kits, and training programs, communities began rewriting their own futures. "The drip irrigation didn't just save water—it saved my farm, my dignity. My children now eat from our land, not handouts." — Fadumo Warsame, a female cooperative leader from Galkacyo

In Kismayo and Hobyo, where fishing once meant uncertain earnings, RISE delivered cooler boxes, nets, and better access to markets. In Baidoa and Dinsoor, goats and feed turned pastoralist hardship into renewed livelihoods.

Women at the Frontlines of Resilience

Perhaps the most resounding outcome of the project was the empowerment of women and youth—traditionally sidelined in agricultural leadership. Not anymore. "Before RISE, I had never spoken in a meeting. Now I lead one."-Zahra Hussein, youth advocate and training participant, Adado.

Participants shared how women were not only farming but forming cooperatives, managing irrigation systems, and even leading school gardens. The ripple effect reached the next generation too—with students learning sustainability through hands-on gardening projects in places like Bursalah.

Facing Harsh Realities—And Pushing Forward

Of course, the journey wasn't without hardship. Participants were open about the persistent challenges: infrastructure gaps, security risks, and climate volatility. One pastoralist from Baidoa expressed a hard truth: "A solar pump is useless when the wells run dry. We need deeper solutions—literally."

Participants called for long-term planning and deeper boreholes, rainwater harvesting systems, and climate-adaptive designs to meet the unpredictable future.

Vision for the Future: Expand, Empower, Endure

With 90% of attendees urging for expansion, the appetite for scaling up was clear. From mobile platforms to microfinance, from mentorship programs to local spare parts supply chains—participants came armed with ideas and urgency. "If we want real change, we must fund dreams—not just tools. Give women access to credit, and we'll grow businesses that feed Somalia."- Khadija Noor, agro-entrepreneur, Southwest State
There was a collective call for government ownership, local capacity building, and continued donor coordination to avoid duplication and ensure lasting results.

RISE May End—But the Momentum Won't

The RISE Project has done more than provide tools. It shifted mindsets. It built confidence. It reminded communities that resilience isn't gifted—it's grown. - "RISE didn't just bring water to my farm—it brought hope to my soul."- Mariam Abdirahman, widow and head-of-household, Jubaland.

As participants left the workshop, they weren't just leaving a conference room—they were walking into a future shaped by their own hands. The seeds of change have been planted. Now, with care, support, and collaboration, they will continue to grow.



NATIONAL CLOSURE WORKSHOP

for Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies
(RISE Project)

Date: 16th February 2025

Venue: Jazeera Palace Hotel, Mogadishu, Somalia



1- Introduction and Project Overview

On February 16, 2024, the SADAR Development and Resilience Institute convened the RISE National Closure Workshop, marking the successful completion of the 24-month Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) Project, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI). The RISE Project was designed to enhance food security, build resilience, and create sustainable livelihoods for rural smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists across Somalia. Over the course of two years, the project directly benefited 16,120 households—with 56% of beneficiaries being women and 26% youth—across five Federal Member States (FMSs): Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland.

The closure workshop brought together 40 key stakeholders, including agro-pastoralist representatives from all five Federal Member States, IFAD officials, and SADAR Institute representatives, to reflect on project achievements, share key lessons, and discuss the sustainability of interventions. The workshop served as a platform to highlight the project's impact on agricultural productivity, access to water infrastructure, and market linkages, while also addressing strategies for long-term resilience in Somalia's rural communities.

The RISE Project was implemented with a community-driven, participatory approach, ensuring that interventions were tailored to the needs of vulnerable smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and pastoralist groups. Key interventions included the distribution of agricultural inputs such as walking tractors, grain shellers, seeds, and fertilizers, as well as livelihood support through the provision of breeding goats and animal feed. Additionally, the project enhanced access to water by installing solar-powered irrigation systems, rehabilitating shallow wells, and introducing drip irrigation technology to optimize water usage. In coastal regions, the project supported fishing communities in Hobyo and Kismayo by providing fishing gear, cooler boxes, and improved market access mechanisms.

With a strong emphasis on climate-smart agriculture, post-harvest management, and market access, the RISE Project played a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of climate shocks, economic instability, and food crises in Somalia. The workshop concluded with a call for continued investment and policy support to ensure the sustainability of project gains and long-term resilience of rural communities in the country.

2- Project Location and Implementation Strategy

The original project locations included Qardho and North Galkacyo districts in Puntland, Beledweyne and Jowhar districts in Hirshabelle, and Adado and Hobyo districts in Galmudug. These regions were selected based on their vulnerability to food insecurity and the potential for agricultural development. As the project scaled up, additional districts were included: Baidoa, Dinsoor, Wajid, and Burhakaba in Southwest State; Kismayo and Luuq in Jubaland; and Abudwak in Galmudug.

The project was structured around three key components. The first component, Agricultural Productivity and Food Supply Chains, aimed to support smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk by distributing agricultural inputs such as walking tractors, grain shellers, seeds, fertilizers, and farm tools. Beneficiaries received training on climate-smart agriculture, post-



harvest loss reduction, and market access. For pastoralist communities in Abudwak, Baidoa, Dinsoor, and Luuq, the project distributed small ruminants (breeding goats) and animal feed to enhance their resilience. Additionally, in Hobyo (Galmudug) and Kismayo (Jubaland), fishing communities benefited from the provision of cooler boxes, fishing nets, and ropes to improve their livelihoods.

The second component, Water Infrastructure and Irrigation Development, was instrumental in addressing the water scarcity challenges faced by smallholder farmers. A solar-powered irrigation system was installed in Qoqane, Beledweyne (Hirshabelle State), benefiting 200 hectares of farmland. Additionally, multipurpose solar-powered shallow wells were rehabilitated in Bursalah (Puntland), Bacadweyne (Galmudug), and Ufeyn (Puntland), while drip irrigation systems were installed to optimize water use. Elevated water tanks were also constructed to provide reliable water supply for domestic and agricultural use.

The third component focused on School Gardens and Community Empowerment. The project supported Rajo Primary and Rajo Secondary Schools in Bursalah, Galkacyo (Puntland), by rehabilitating school water infrastructure, installing solar-powered water systems, and establishing drip irrigation for school gardens. These interventions contributed to improving food security and nutritional awareness within school communities. Training programs were also conducted for school boards and local communities to ensure sustainable management of the newly installed infrastructure.

The implementation of the RISE Project was guided by a community-driven, participatory approach to maximize effectiveness and sustainability. The strategy focused on collaboration, technical expertise, and leveraging existing structures for efficient service delivery.

3- Objectives of the Workshop

The RISE National Closure Workshop served as a forum to assess achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) Project, implemented by the SADAR Development and Resilience Institute and funded by IFAD under the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI). The project, which focused on enhancing food security, strengthening climate resilience, and improving rural livelihoods. The workshop had the following objectives:

1. **Review Project Achievements and Impact**
The workshop provided an opportunity to assess the key accomplishments of the RISE Project, focusing on its role in enhancing food security, increasing agricultural productivity, and strengthening climate resilience. Discussions highlighted how solar-powered irrigation systems, improved water infrastructure, and access to agricultural inputs contributed to livelihood improvements for small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk.
2. **Discuss Challenges Encountered During Implementation**
Participants examined barriers faced throughout the project's implementation, including logistical constraints, security risks, climate-related disruptions, and delays in infrastructure development. The workshop allowed for a transparent discussion on lessons learned and the best ways to overcome similar challenges in future initiatives.



3. Identify Strategies for Sustainability and Potential Scalability

A core focus of the workshop was to develop strategies to sustain and expand the project's successful interventions. Discussions centered on ensuring long-term community ownership, integrating climate-resilient agricultural practices, and linking project interventions with national policies to create lasting impact. The potential for scaling up successful models to other regions was also explored.

4. Strengthen Stakeholder Collaboration and Policy Recommendations

The workshop facilitated dialogue between project beneficiaries, Sadar Staff and representative from IFAD. Policy recommendations were discussed, particularly in agriculture, water resource management, and climate adaptation, ensuring that the project's successes are institutionalized and built upon in future resilience programs.

4- Welcome and Opening Remarks

The RISE National Closure Workshop commenced with an opening address was delivered by the SADAR Development and Resilience Institute, by Yussuf Maalim, the Project director, setting the tone for the discussions ahead. He highlighted the objectives, achievements, and significance of the Response Initiative for Somalia Emergencies (RISE) Project, which was funded by IFAD under the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI). The address emphasized the project's strong alignment with Somalia's National Development Plan (NDP) and the country's broader efforts to strengthen food security, enhance agricultural resilience, and support rural livelihoods.

The remarks underscored the unwavering commitment throughout the two-year project to addressing the challenges faced by smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralist communities across five Federal Member States. The project successfully reached 16,120 households, of which 56% were women and 26% youth, ensuring that marginalized groups were prioritized in resilience-building efforts. Through targeted interventions, such as solar-powered irrigation, distribution of agricultural inputs, post-harvest management support, and capacity-building initiatives, RISE contributed significantly to improving food security and livelihood sustainability in rural Somalia.

The opening address also acknowledged the critical role played by key stakeholders, including government institutions, development partners, and local communities, in ensuring the successful implementation of the project. A call was made for continued collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and policy support to sustain and scale the gains achieved under RISE.

Participants were encouraged to engage actively in discussions throughout the workshop, sharing their experiences, challenges, and insights to help shape the future of agricultural resilience and rural development in Somalia. The remarks concluded with a note of appreciation for the dedication, hard work, and collective efforts that contributed to the success of the RISE Project, setting the stage for meaningful deliberations on sustaining and expanding its impact.



5- Workshop Presentation and Reactions

The RISE National Closure Workshop provided valuable insights into the impact, challenges, and future scalability of the project, based on participants' feedback. Discussions revolved around project effectiveness, sustainability, stakeholder collaboration, challenges faced, and recommendations for future interventions. Below is a detailed analysis of how participants responded to each area:

1. Project Effectiveness and Impact

Agricultural Productivity

The majority of participants (82%) reported increased crop yields, attributing this to access to quality seeds, fertilizers, and solar-powered irrigation systems. The introduction of drip irrigation kits was particularly beneficial in improving water efficiency. A female farmer from Galkacyo shared her experience, stating, "The drip irrigation kits reduced water waste and doubled my vegetable harvest."

Market Access

While 65% of participants acknowledged improved market linkages, 30% highlighted persistent challenges related to transportation costs and exploitation by middlemen. These issues continue to hinder farmers from maximizing their profits, indicating the need for improved transport networks and direct market access initiatives.

Gender Inclusion

The project successfully benefited women and youth, particularly through training programs and access to inputs. However, cultural barriers were noted as a limiting factor in their participation in leadership roles within cooperatives and agricultural groups. Participants recommended more targeted mentorship programs to empower women and youth in decision-making spaces.

2. Sustainability of Interventions

Infrastructure Maintenance

One of the primary concerns raised was the long-term maintenance of solar-powered irrigation systems. A cooperative leader emphasized, "We need spare parts and technical support," underlining the need for post-project support mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of water infrastructure.

Training Gaps

Only 40% of beneficiaries felt adequately trained in managing project-provided equipment. Several participants requested refresher courses and manuals in local languages, suggesting that capacity-building efforts need to be more comprehensive and continuous beyond initial training sessions.



Sustaining Community Structures

Some community-driven efforts proved successful, particularly in Adado and Beledweyne, where farmer cooperatives continued distributing inputs beyond the project period. However, limited financial resources hindered their ability to expand, indicating the need for micro-financing or cooperative grant support to sustain local structures.

3. Stakeholder Collaboration

Government Involvement

Feedback on government engagement was mixed. Local authorities in Puntland actively supported the project, whereas other regions reported minimal government involvement. Participants stressed the need for stronger governmental ownership to ensure continuity and scale-up of interventions.

Donor Coordination

There were calls for stronger collaboration between IFAD, NGOs, and local governments to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the long-term impact of similar projects. Improved donor coordination would streamline resources and ensure more efficient implementation.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Climate Shocks

Despite rehabilitated wells and solar pumps, water shortages remained a challenge due to recurring droughts. A pastoralist noted, "Solar pumps are useless if groundwater dries up." This highlighted the need for climate-adaptive water management strategies, such as rainwater harvesting and deeper boreholes.

Security and Logistics

Conflict zones and poor road infrastructure led to delays in input delivery, disrupting farming schedules. Participants recommended stronger contingency planning for logistics in fragile regions.

Sustainability Concerns

There was uncertainty about how beneficiaries would sustain progress post project. Requests were made to extend interventions to additional regions and provide post-project support in the form of coaching, mentorship, and long-6

5. Scalability and Future Recommendations

Technology Integration

There was high demand for mobile-based market platforms to connect farmers directly with buyers, reducing middlemen exploitation. Additionally, participants emphasized the need for affordable renewable energy solutions to power irrigation systems.



Policy Advocacy

Participants called on IFAD and other stakeholders to advocate for subsidies on agricultural inputs and insurance schemes to protect farmers from climate-related risks.

Expanding Project Reach

An overwhelming 90% of participants supported scaling up the RISE Project to additional communities, especially in Jubaland and Southwest State, where food insecurity remains a significant challenge.

Strengthening Financial Sustainability

Participants proposed establishing micro-financing mechanisms or cooperative-based credit systems to support smallholder farmers in expanding their businesses.

Enhancing Partnerships

Improved collaboration between government entities, development partners, and the private sector was identified as a key strategy for ensuring long-term impact.

Improving Monitoring and Documentation

The need for a long-term tracking system to assess project impact beyond completion was emphasized. Participants suggested developing a structured M&E framework to measure progress over time.

Scalability Strategies

Participants recommended advocating for government co-funding of agricultural subsidies and infrastructure improvements to ensure sustained progress. Additionally, replicating RISE in drought-prone regions with tailored water management solutions was strongly encouraged.

Gender and Youth Inclusion

There was a call for specialized training programs for youth and women, incorporating mentorship and leadership development components to enhance their participation in decision-making roles.



6- Conclusion and Next Steps

The RISE Project has achieved substantial progress in enhancing food security, agricultural resilience, and economic empowerment among Somali smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk. Through solar-powered irrigation, enhanced market access, and targeted capacity-building efforts, the project successfully benefited 16,120 households across five Federal Member States. The RISE National Closure Workshop provided a crucial platform for stakeholders to assess project impact, identify challenges, and strategize for long-term sustainability. While climate volatility, logistical barriers, and infrastructure maintenance remain concerns, the workshop reaffirmed the importance of collaboration, local ownership, and policy support to sustain the project's gains.

The next steps for the RISE Project focus on sustaining its gains, expanding its reach, strengthening financial sustainability, enhancing stakeholder collaboration, and promoting gender and youth empowerment. To ensure long-term impact, efforts will be made to strengthen community-based structures such as farmer cooperatives, provide refresher training programs, and establish technical support systems for solar-powered irrigation infrastructure. With 90% of participants supporting expansion, the project aims to scale up to regions like Jubaland and Southwest State, leveraging government co-funding and donor partnerships to replicate interventions in drought-prone areas. Financial sustainability will be reinforced through micro-financing initiatives, mobile-based market platforms, and policy advocacy for subsidies and climate risk insurance for farmers. Improved stakeholder collaboration will ensure better coordination between IFAD, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector partners, while enhanced data collection frameworks will facilitate long-term impact assessment. To foster gender and youth empowerment, specialized training, mentorship, and leadership development programs will be expanded, alongside policy efforts to increase women's participation in cooperative leadership and decision-making. These steps will solidify the project's legacy and drive sustainable agricultural development in Somalia.

SUSTAINABILITY & WHAT'S NEXT

With the successful implementation of the RISE Project across Hirshabelle, Galmudug, and Puntland, the path forward is now defined by a critical question: How do we sustain and scale what worked? This section outlines Sadar's post-RISE transition plan, scale-up ambitions, and policy recommendations to embed resilience in Somalia's long-term development landscape.

Transition Plan Post-RISE

RISE was intentionally designed with sustainability in mind. As the project concludes, Sadar Institute is actively guiding a structured transition to ensure that its impact outlives the program lifecycle.

Key Elements of the Transition Plan:

- **Institutional Handover to Local Authorities:** Technical manuals, beneficiary databases, and cooperative guidelines are being formally transferred to relevant ministries and regional institutions.
- **Community Ownership Mechanisms:** Cooperatives are being equipped with by-laws, maintenance funds, and revenue models (e.g. tractor hire fees, fodder sales) to maintain self-sufficiency.
- **Knowledge Dissemination:** Lessons, success stories, and learning products are being shared with stakeholders to inform future programming by governments and NGOs.
- **Post-Project Support Channels:** Local champions, extension agents, and VDCs (village development committees) are being trained to continue delivering technical advice to communities.

Proposed Scale-Up Models

To ensure that the gains of RISE are not only preserved but also expanded, Sadar has developed scalable models for replication across other Somali regions and similar fragile contexts.

1. The Climate-Resilient Agro-Cooperative Model

Empowering local groups to manage assets, markets, and production cycles — supported by public-private linkages and seed capital.

2. Fisheries & Cold Chain Infrastructure Model

Expanding coastal livelihoods through market hubs, inclusive fishing cooperatives, and solar-powered cold storage units in underserved ports like Hobyo and Adale.

3. Rangeland & Livestock Resilience Model

Scaling fodder seed production, range reseeding, and protein-based feed blocks, coupled with animal health campaigns.

4. Mechanization-as-a-Service (MaaS)

Replicating the walking tractor model where farmer groups lease equipment to peers, creating sustainable income and increased land use.

These models are modular, adaptable, and ready for partnership with donors, private investors, and local governments.

Policy Recommendations for Government & Partners

Based on implementation evidence and field research, Sadar recommends the following actions to institutionalize resilience-building:

1. Formalize Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

Enable regular coordination between civil society, regional governments, and private actors for inclusive planning and accountability.

2. Invest in Resilience Infrastructure

Allocate public financing for feeder roads, irrigation schemes, seed labs, and renewable energy that support long-term food systems.

3. Expand Risk Transfer Systems

Promote the use of agriculture insurance, weather-based early warning systems, and shock-responsive safety nets for rural producers.

4. Embed Gender & Youth Inclusion in Policy

Ensure cooperative laws, financial access frameworks, and training programs explicitly prioritize women and youth participation.

5. Support Localized Extension Systems

Shift resources from top-down training to community-based advisory models led by trained para-vets, agri-extensionists, and peer educators.

"Sustainability is not an afterthought — it's the outcome of good design, local ownership, and policy alignment."

— Dr. Mohamed Osman, CEO, Sadar Institute





Events and Programs Sponsored by Sadar

Sadar's Commitment to Giving Back and Generous Sponsorship:

Sadar Development and Resilience Institute is deeply committed to giving back to the community and supporting initiatives that foster resilience, promote sustainable development, and empower individuals and communities. As part of our corporate social responsibility efforts, Sadar actively seeks opportunities to invest in programs, projects, and events that create meaningful impact and contribute to the well-being of society.

Through our generous sponsorship and support, Sadar strives to:

- Foster community engagement and participation in development activities. Empower local organizations and grassroots initiatives to drive positive change.
- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with like-minded organizations and institutions.
- Amplify the voices of marginalized and vulnerable communities, ensuring their inclusion and representation in decision-making processes.
- Promote innovation, creativity, and excellence in research, education, and advocacy.

Sadar's sponsorship extends to a diverse range of initiatives, including conferences, workshops, capacity-building programs, research projects, and community development activities. By investing in these initiatives, Sadar aims to catalyze transformative change, build resilience, and contribute to the collective effort towards sustainable development in Somalia and beyond.

Key events sponsored by Sadar:

2022 UNFCCC COP 27: Somalia Delegation Participation in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt:

Sadar generously sponsored the participation of the Somalia delegation in the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.



By supporting Somalia's representation at this important international forum, Sadar demonstrated its commitment to addressing climate change and promoting global cooperation on environmental issues.

2023-East Africa DAD Foundation Conference on State-Building in Somalia, Mogadishu:

Sadar provided generous sponsorship for the East Africa DAD Foundation Conference on State-Building in Somalia, held in Mogadishu. This conference brought together stakeholders from across the region to discuss strategies for promoting peace, stability, and governance in Somalia. Through its sponsorship, Sadar facilitated dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among key actors working towards state-building and development in Somalia.

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2023 - Publication of the East Africa DAD Foundation Conference Book Proceedings:

Following the successful conference on state-building in Somalia, Sadar generously sponsored the publication of the conference book proceedings. This publication captured the insights, recommendations, and best practices shared during the conference, ensuring that valuable knowledge and experiences were documented and made accessible to a wider audience. Sadar's sponsorship of the publication demonstrated its commitment to knowledge dissemination and capacity-building in the region.

2023 - UNFCCC COP 28: UPEACE & Partners' Participation in the Faith Pavilion, Dubai:

Sadar extended its generous sponsorship to support the participation of the University for Peace (UPEACE) and its partners in the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC, held in Dubai.



Specifically, Sadar sponsored UPEACE and its partners' involvement in the Faith Pavilion, where they showcased the role of faith-based organizations in addressing climate change and promoting environmental stewardship. Through its sponsorship, Sadar contributed to raising awareness and mobilizing action on climate change at the global level.

Expanding Partnership for the African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative with Partnership for Change:

In alignment with its commitment to environmental sustainability and community resilience, Sadar expanded its partnership with Partnership for Change to support the African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative.



This initiative aims to combat desertification, land degradation, and climate change in the Sahel-Saharan region by promoting sustainable land management practices and ecosystem restoration.

Through its sponsorship, Sadar contributed to the implementation of transformative projects that enhance environmental resilience and improve livelihoods in communities affected by desertification.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTNERS

Gratitude to Our Allies in Building Resilience

The RISE Project could not have achieved its far-reaching success without the steadfast collaboration and trust of our partners. From funding to implementation, technical guidance to field support — every institution listed here played a vital role in delivering real change to Somali communities.

We extend our deepest appreciation to:



For funding and vision that shaped RISE as a model of emergency response and long-term recovery.



Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Federal Level)

For policy alignment, national coordination, and high-level oversight that ensured the RISE Project was fully integrated within Somalia's resilience and recovery agenda. The Federal Ministry provided the enabling environment, technical policy frameworks, and institutional guidance that shaped RISE's design and execution across all implementing states.



Hirshabelle State of Somalia Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

For outstanding support in facilitating on-ground implementation across Jowhar and Beledweyne. Hirshabelle's Ministry of Agriculture played a critical role in community targeting, mobilization of cooperatives, and deployment of agricultural extension agents who made resilient farming possible under RISE.



Puntland State of Somalia Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

For championing climate-smart agriculture in Qardho and Garowe through hands-on leadership, field-level guidance, and coordination of community-based range-land and fodder programs. Puntland's team also helped scale mechanization through cooperative engagement.



Galmudug State of Somalia Ministry of Livestock, Forestry, and Range

For technical leadership and strategic coordination in coastal and inland areas of Hobyo and Adado. The Galmudug ministry provided essential support in fisheries revitalization, small livestock restocking, and facilitating inclusive access to veterinary services.

Village Development Committees (VDCs) & Cooperatives

For leading the local implementation and ensuring community voice, ownership, and transparency.



Including Sunshine Media for storytelling, media coverage, and visibility; and multiple field-level facilitators and monitoring teams who made learning and adaptation possible.

"RISE was not delivered to communities — it was built with them. And none of that would have been possible without our partners."

— **Sadar Institute.**

THE ROAD AHEAD

Call to Action: Join Sadar's Next Chapter

As the RISE Project comes to a close, the journey of resilience continues. The lessons, models, and partnerships built through this initiative have laid the foundation for a bold new chapter — Sadar Vision 2030.

We now invite:

• Donors and Funding Agencies

To invest in our next generation of scalable resilience models: community-led climate adaptation, women/youth economic hubs, and digital extension systems.

• Government Partners

To co-create enabling policy environments and scale our proven models through public systems.

• NGOs and Development Agencies

To replicate best practices in localization, learning, and market systems development.

• Private Sector Actors

To join us in strengthening rural economies through agri-finance, off-grid energy, and cooperative-based service delivery.

"Resilience is not a project. It is a commitment — to people, systems, and the future. Join us in building that future, together."

— Dr. Mohamed Osman, CEO

To learn more or partner with us, contact: Sadar@sadarinstitute.org | www.sadarinstitute.org





Sadar Institute Exclusive Gallery





Sadar Institute Exclusive Gallery





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