

Building Resilient Communities in Somalia

PHASE 2



Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) is a humanitarian consortium that holistically supports Somali communities in developing their resilience to shocks and their ability to move out of poverty.

Since the consortium's creation in 2013, it has evolved to meet emerging needs quickly, establishing systems and partnerships that centre on communities and adapt to the changing context. Committed to a bottom-up model of decision-making, BRCiS thinks beyond emergency response packages, but maintains a strong focus on those that are most vulnerable and marginalized. BRCiS Members leverage integrated programming models, flexible multi-year funding streams, community structures, and the expertise and resources of local and international organizations to generate systemic change and transformational resilience gains.

OUR DONORS



OUR MEMBERS



PROGRAMME DETAILS

Name of project	Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS)
Name of lead organisation	<p>Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)</p> <p>Mohamed Abdi- Country Director -Somalia NRC Office– Villa Ayan, Along Airport Road-Mogadishu, Somalia</p> <p>In partnership with Consortium Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Action Against Hunger (Action Contre La Faim, ACF) <input type="checkbox"/> Concern Worldwide <input type="checkbox"/> Cesvi Fondazione Onlus (Cesvi) <input type="checkbox"/> International Rescue Committee (IRC) <input type="checkbox"/> Kaalo <input type="checkbox"/> GREDO <input type="checkbox"/> Save the Children International (SCI)
Project cost	GBP 60,648,733
Programme goal	Men, women and children in vulnerable communities are more resilient to shocks
Programme area	Somalia: Banadir, Bay, Galgaduud, Lower Juba, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bakool, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool, Sanaag, Bari and Awdal Regions
Total number of beneficiaries	2,321,011 individuals (estimation based on the number of people reached with sustainable access to water)
Project duration	<p>Start date: 1 September 2018</p> <p>End date: 30 March 2022</p>
Status of report	The final report covers the period 1 September 2018 to 30 March 2022.
Lead contact	<p>Perrine Piton – BRCiS Chief of Party</p> <p>NRC Office – Off James Gichuru Road, El Molo Drive Lavington Green</p> <p>perrine.piton@nrc.no</p>

FOREWORD

FROM THE FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia continues to intensify in severity and frequency as a result of climate change and environmental degradation, aggravated by conflict and global food prices. Today, the challenge for too many Somalis is not just how to recover from a shock but how to cope with an unrelenting series of increasingly extreme shocks. In 2011, 260,000 Somalis died from famine. This year, following four consecutive failed rains 300,000 people are at forecasted to be at risk of the same fate with 2.2 million people teetering on the edge.

Through our partnership with the BRCiS Consortium, we are investing in efforts to support communities to prepare for, mitigate and recover from the impact of climate extremes. The Consortium has developed innovative and effective strategies for supporting sustainable natural methods for managing key resources, building social and financial assets to support livelihoods, and delivering key health and nutrition services. In Gedo for example, farmers are reporting that thanks to water investment and agriculture training, they are able to farm and sell vegetables and improve their income. "The project provided us with methods and technologies to help with that. It has had a lot of impact on our farming abilities. Many people who would have moved because of the drought stayed because of the project," claimed a community leader in the village of Bandar. The impact of this work means that the Consortium members are trusted by local communities and authorities in the areas that they work and has allowed the Consortium to quickly scale up and respond to current emerging drought induced needs.

For the UK, the BRCiS Consortium is an excellent example of how to combine longer term resilience work with anticipatory action and emergency response. The Consortium's impact and ongoing success means that what started as a new partnership just between FCDO and the newly formed BRCiS has evolved, and they have mobilised support from a broader range of donors in support of both their emergency and longer-term resilience efforts.

The UK will remain committed to working with Somali communities to build their resilience and live through the devastating impacts of climate crises that will continue to impact Somalia. And the BRCiS Consortium organisations and their staff will continue to forge ahead and one of the leading actors proving that's its possible!

We are committed to continuing to support Somalis and thank BRCiS for their valuable contributions to this cause.

DAMON BRISTOW
Director of Development
FCDO

FOREWORD

FROM THE NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

There are facts of life for Somalia's humanitarian sector.

Humanitarian funding is decreasing, whether it be fatigue, competing crises, or other factors. Needs remain high – the highest they have been in several years. While there are early signs of emerging political stability, a potential lapse back into a political crisis remains an improvement on outright conflict.

Environmental and climatic-linked disasters will worsen, with more and stronger floods and droughts. The only path out of the cycle of humanitarian emergencies in Somalia is resilience.

The question is not should we build resilience, but how?

Given the scale and complexity of the context, it comes as no surprise that a perfect answer is illusive. But, I believe the efforts of the BRCiS Consortium and partners are a significant success, and I cannot think of an entity that could do better, drawing on experience, collaboration, willingness to try new things, and drive. This success fundamentally relies on the willingness of the BRCiS donors – and particularly UKaid – to support these efforts through flexible and adaptive donorship.

Beyond the obvious real benefits to people, there are a number of areas where BRCiS has demonstrated unique success.

Firstly, the BRCiS Consortium works with local leaders and communities to understand and manage the risks that lead to disasters, so they can put in place collective strategies to avoid the most irreversible damages. Throughout the current drought response this has allowed faster and tailored responses, often utilizing the unique social capital and connections established via BRCiS, which have saved lives. Laanle, near Guriel, normally hosts about 2,000 people, of which almost all had to displace during previous droughts. In 2022, following solar-powered water system investment via BRCiS and UKaid, Laanle is hosting 3,000 drought displaced agro-pastoralists, and providing low-cost water to 7,500 people in neighbouring communities.

Secondly, the nature of the Consortium has brought out the best of both healthy competition, and collaboration. For example, working together to tweak water trucking design by letting communities lead procurement has increased emergency water response efficiency, BRCiS members are reaching 83 percent more people than via the standard approach. Innovation challenges led to an exciting woman empowerment venture – the Bondhere Saving Groups hub in Mogadishu, a one stop shop for financial

inclusion, entrepreneurship and networking. Duplication and lack of coordination are a pointless scourge of our industry, reducing the direct support we provide to those in need, with no real excuse. The Consortium's efforts to avoid this are a practical step to help us all do better.

Finally, crisis modification, allowing flexibility and speed within existing activities, helping where and when required, to maintain gains made via resilience.

There is no doubt BRCiS and those it serves have been through many difficult times – floods, drought, locusts, Covid-19 and continuing conflict. At times, the Consortium truly has been between a shock and a hard place. And, should Somalia's political process prove more challenging than hoped, that our efforts have focused on strengthening communities, and their ability to selflead development, means that work will not have been in vain. We must break Somalia's cycle of humanitarian need. We have no other option if we are to move forward – the climate crisis makes this an unquestionable reality – and this cycle will not end without dedicated efforts to build resilient communities.

To our donors, for supporting bold approaches and collaboration, to our Consortium partners, for tirelessly working to collaborate and innovate together, to the communities and people we serve, for your resilience and enduring determination: mahadsanid.

MOHAMED ABDI

Country Director

NRC Somalia

FOREWORD

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

Today, Somalia faces a humanitarian catastrophe, even as many questions are raised about the effectiveness of resilience programs. It is worth noting that resilience programmes are effective - we have seen the wonders it does for communities. The UKaid funded BRCiS Consortium has had many wins that are very precious for all those that benefited from it.

Severely malnourished young children whose lives were saved by stabilization centers and outpatient therapeutic programmes. Impoverished young women and men, some of whom live with disabilities, but now manage their own successful businesses. Community animal health workers lead private veterinary clinics and serve pastoralists at subsidized rates throughout the year. Families led by elderly people and children living on their own received monthly cash through safety net programmes for two years and were able to their food needs, honor their debts and build their social capital. Mothers who can monitor and understand the health and nutrition of their children before they become sick. Thousands of households and their livestock benefiting from sustainable water sources during this unprecedented drought, when most water sources are drying up.

These hundreds of thousands of different people, across a diverse land and environment, pro-actively turned their lives thanks to some of the opportunities proposed by the project. The Consortium's success is immense. The reality is that Somalia's crises cannot be solved by humanitarian aid alone. But projects that are participatory, with integrated, adaptive resilience approaches can make a lasting difference for communities and help them lift themselves out of the shock cycle.

YASMIN SHEIKH

Resilience Programme Manager

IRC Somalia

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ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger (Action Contre La Faim)
CAP	Community action plan
CHW	Community health worker
CRC	Community resilience committee
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EWEA	Early warning early action
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
IYCF	Infant and young child feeding
MBP	Market-based programming
MPCA	Multi-purpose cash assistance
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NRM	natural resource management
P-FIM	People-First Impact Method
PWDA	Puntland Water Development Agency
RTRM	Real-time risk monitoring
SCI	Save the Children International
TOC	Theory of Change
VSLA	Village savings and loan association
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thirty years of protracted conflict, disasters, and environmental degradation in Somalia have led to massive displacement, high vulnerability to natural hazards, and poor to no primary services and infrastructures in many areas. After a famine in 2011 that caused an estimated 260,000 deaths, many communities are still struggling to recover. The BRCiS Consortium was created in 2013 to prevent such mass suffering in the future. Toward this end, BRCiS interventions balance short-term humanitarian aid with efforts to increase resilience and lift people out of poverty in the longer term.

By supporting investments in community leadership and social capital, early warning and action, livelihoods and basic services, BRCiS provides the foundation for disaster risk reduction (DRR), anticipatory action and economic empowerment. The second phase of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) support to the Consortium targeted 423 communities across 34 districts for nearly four years.¹ Between September 2018 and March 2022, the BRCiS Consortium implemented one of the most adaptive and integrated resilience projects ever designed in Somalia. While the country experienced several shocks and stresses, the project worked to achieve five key outcomes by working hand-in-hand with participant communities. This report outlines the impact of BRCiS interventions and demonstrates the human experience of the impacted communities through five immersive narratives based on interviews and data.

¹ First phase of the programme from 1 October 2013 to 13 December 2017 targeted 245,476 individuals.

Programme outcomes and accomplishments

The overall programme outcome is to improve target groups' ability to resist and recover from cyclical shocks and stresses such as those caused by conflict, environmental and economic crises. The current drought impacting Somalia, which has seen four below or failed rainy seasons is the most severe shock experienced by communities during the BRCiS 2 implementation period. In addition to water scarcity, multiple failed harvests and excess livestock deaths have led to increased food insecurity across the region. This drought situation, combined with re-direction of FCDO-funded BRCiS resources to respond to this wide-spread shock, required a revised design for the endline evaluation for BRCiS.

After broad discussions between BRCiS, MESH and FCDO, it was agreed to employ a mixed method project evaluation endline survey; MESH quantitative survey which would capture 4 measures of resilience (food consumption score, reduced coping strategy index, ability to cover basic needs and confidence in support networks), and BRCiS Consortium led qualitative survey to provide a deep dive into the drought impact, response and coping strategies employed by communities in selected BRCiS locations. The below are the harmonized main findings from both MESH and BRCiS Consortium conducted project evaluations. BRCiS respondent households experienced an average of 2.1 shocks between the baseline and midline and 3.9 shocks over the course of the programme. The most reported shocks by both participant and area communities were wide-spread drought, locust infestation and increased food price shocks. Unemployment or lack of jobs and household illness, and the COVID-19 pandemic were the next most reported shocks.

There was an initial increase in resilience among BRCiS households, reflected in the midline findings, but the prolonged drought subsequently caused a decline in the retained measures of resilience. By endline, there was some evidence of the influence of specific shocks on this decline in resilience, and some limited evidence on the duration of their effect.

Findings from the midline survey showed an increase in resilience and progress on key outcome indicators, such as access to water during the dry season, food security, self-reported recovery from shocks, reduced negative coping strategies, social capital and collective action, as well as participants' ability to recover from health-related shocks. Multiple drivers were observed to influence the resilience capacity (RCI) increases between the baseline and midline, specifically access to basic services, assets and social safety-net drivers.



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However, by the endline, there were no clear differences between participant and area communities for the 4 proxy indicators of resilience: food consumption score (FCS), reduced coping strategy index (rCSI), ability to cover basic needs, and household confidence in support networks to recover from shocks. There were also no differences in resilience observed between male and female-headed households, although aspects of social capital for female-headed households appeared to be more stable as the drought impact developed.

Although a reduction in resilience was observed at endline due to the ongoing drought in Somalia, there is some evidence that BRCiS activities contributed to mitigating this reduction. For instance, BRCiS interventions have made real impacts on increasing access to and management of water through construction of wells, boreholes, and other water infrastructures, as well as the improvement of existing facilities, have sustained and improved the ability of many households in BRCiS communities to access water during the current drought.

Despite the harshness of the conditions, there is evidence from the qualitative evaluation that cash assistance provided by BRCiS has made an impact in sustaining affected households and replacing a portion of their income. Loans from BRCiS supported VLSAs have also allowed community members to make large investments such as starting business or building homes. Other livelihood programmes such as agriculture and livestock assistance have also had a positive impact on the ability of households to maintain their livelihoods during shocks, although the length and scope of the current drought is stressing this resilience.

Evaluation participants discussed cash assistance triggered by crisis modifier programming helping them respond to a wide range of different shocks. This included using the money to buy water or food, for healthcare related expenses, for education related expenses, to buy fodder for livestock, or to purchase agricultural inputs. According to many of the respondents, the main benefit of the cash transfers was that it directly replaced other income sources and it could be used for multiple purposes. During the current drought BRCiS communities seem to have experienced a net increase in population due to migration. While a direct link to BRCiS activities is hard to establish, it is most likely that the improved conditions in BRCiS communities relative to other drought affected areas is driving at least some of the observed migration. Respondents in multiple communities included in this evaluation directly referenced improved access to water or other BRCiS activities when discussing IDPs moving to their area. Additionally, respondents reported minimal migration out of BRCiS communities, even during acute shocks impacting the community.



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However, by the end of the project and the endline data collection in July 2022, Somalia was going through a historically severe drought. 4 rain seasons had failed, generating disastrous consequences on rain dependant value chains, such as agriculture and livestock. The lack of income, low availability of water and food, compounded the social economic impact of Covid 19, and the impact of crops and pasture of the locus invasions which occurred in 2019 and 2020. The impact of global inflation of staples, fuel and other commodities which came into play after the beginning of the Ukrainian war in January 2022, further deteriorated terms of trades in the country.

By the end of BRCiS 2, communities were going through a general crisis, with a severe impact on all the aspects of their lives, including their health, access to food and water, income, leading thousands of people into desperate coping strategies, including forced displacement, and increasing both mortality and morbidity, specifically for women and children.

As a result, the endline shows a degradation of most of the proxy indicators which were used to approximate the project's impact³. For example, Average Food Consumption Scores (FCS) showed reductions over time from an average of 45 points (s.d. 30) at baseline, similar levels at midline and then a reduction to 26 points (s.d. 22) at endline⁴. Another example is the Reduced Coping Strategy Index which is a score between 0 and 56 with higher scores reflecting households needing to apply more coping strategies. For the purposes of the final evaluation, the score has been reversed so that higher scores are positive, i.e. a higher rCSI for households means fewer coping strategies being applied. For this index, average scores were 42 points (s.d. 10) at baseline and midline, reducing to 39 points (s.d. 12) at the endline.

This clear trends indicate that in spite of communities and BRCiS best efforts, the extent and intensity of the crisis has a direct impact on communities coping strategies and food security. Some of the information collected through the BRCiS qualitative final evaluation points to the fact that in spite of this impact, some of the communities resilience capacities are withstanding the shock, particularly in terms of social capital, as communities are hosting displaced people that have left their villages.



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“The saving groups have done a lot for us, even aside job creation. Apart from our regular contributions, we also have special contribution (savings) for helping the community, especially fire victims and parents whose children are ill or have died. We also use that fund to help the poor and needy members of our group²”

2 07-2022, BRCiS 2 Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting, Key Informant in Hudur

3 The adaptations to the evaluation methodology at endline, necessitated by the drought, greatly reduced the ability of the evaluation to adequately answer the evaluation questions. These adaptations included a reduced sample size, different implementation of the TANGO survey (a shortened call-centre survey instead of the full face-to-face survey), and the use of single proxy indicators, despite their inadequacy for measuring resilience in complex operating contexts.

4 2022-09 Somalia MESH SHARP BRCiS Final Evaluation

Outcome 1: BRCiS operates collaboratively and effectively, identifies innovative programme approaches and ways of working and utilises learning to improve programme design and implementation.

Empowering a more inclusive leadership at community level is a central building block of the BRCiS approach as the project objectives is ultimately for communities to be better equipped to anticipate, prepare for and recover for shocks using their own coordination structures and resources. In pursuit of this outcome, the Consortium implemented the innovative People-First Impact Method (P-FIM) to community participation to engage local actors. It worked continuously to build the capacity and empower local organisations and community structures. It established 194 community resilience committees (CRCs), of which 62% have at least one woman in a leadership position. Through this community engagement, communities contributed over 1.6 million GBP to co-fund project activities, with emphasis on market and water infrastructure.



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Outcome 2: Target communities are better able to anticipate, prepare for, respond early to and withstand the negative impacts of shocks.

The project targeted very vulnerable communities across the country. These communities are both very exposed and very sensitive to shocks. To enable them to take a leading role in their resilience journeys, they must increase their understanding of what leads to disasters in their locations and how to anticipate and mitigate these events. In addition, the project needed to be able to support participant and neighbouring communities from the worst impact of shocks so that they could continue investing in their future, utilising the resilience project. Towards this goal, the Consortium established a Real-Time Risk Monitoring (RTRM) system, to inform its Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA) framework. The RTRM system aided in raising alerts about evolving situations in communities throughout the project implementation period, which allowed the prioritisation of most in-need locations for initiating early action and also advocating for more response. The Consortium trained 2,870 people on DRR, natural resource management (NRM) and EWEA to ensure an appropriate local response. Additionally, it supported 3,048 households with long-term safety net programmes and 477,589 people with emergency food assistance and shock-responsive multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and unconditional cash transfers through local early action or early response phases.

Outcome 3: Somali communities have protected assets and diversified productive livelihoods that improve resilience to shocks.

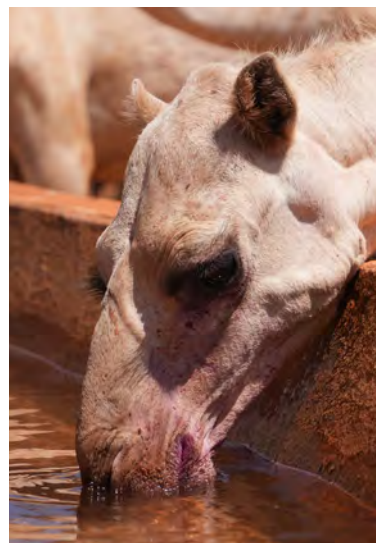
In a context of intense vulnerabilities, means of subsistence are often scarce and not sustainable; income is minimal and does not allow for savings for shocks, or investments. Stabilising income of the poorest and supporting economic initiatives through capacities building, investments grants and support to structures creates a conducive environment for communities to manage and help themselves during shocks.

In total, the Consortium implemented 807 livelihood interventions, including the provision of training, grants and inputs. Of the business training recipients, 68% reported increased income six months after the training. Additionally, 97% of beneficiaries who started businesses with BRCiS support reported that their business was still operational 12 months after receiving start-up grants. It should be emphasised that these findings were reported in the middle of a drought, highlighting the capacity of households being more resilient in the face of shocks. As part of shifting its practices towards market-based programming (MBP), the Consortium conducted eight MBP pilot intervention with 31 business partners, directly benefiting 3,220 people. These interventions also highlight value for money as, by targeting the system, businesses and communities are able to interact in the long run, so the reach goes far beyond those directly targeted. Additionally, 4,123 households were enrolled in savings groups, with more than 40% of the groups having an average of at least USD 50 capital savings per member by the end of the project in spite of the harsh drought conditions.

Outcome 4: Communities and local stakeholders have the capacity to mitigate the impacts of future shocks through effective NRM, community integration into local governance and reinforcement of strong social cohesion.

While some of the shocks which most often impact Somali communities are climatic, part of the solution can also be found in natural capital. By improving ecosystem management, there is potential to reduce the impact of shocks as well as so create conditions conducive to thriving livelihoods. Holistic water systems are particularly important to this objective.

The Consortium reached a total of 43,984 households with water supply infrastructure for productive use, including multiple-use water services and rainwater harvesting systems. It also supported 26,736 households through agricultural development activities such as training, input provision, riverbank repair, land clearance and land rehabilitation. Over 1,205 hectares of degraded rangelands and agricultural land benefitted from rehabilitation and conservation measures.



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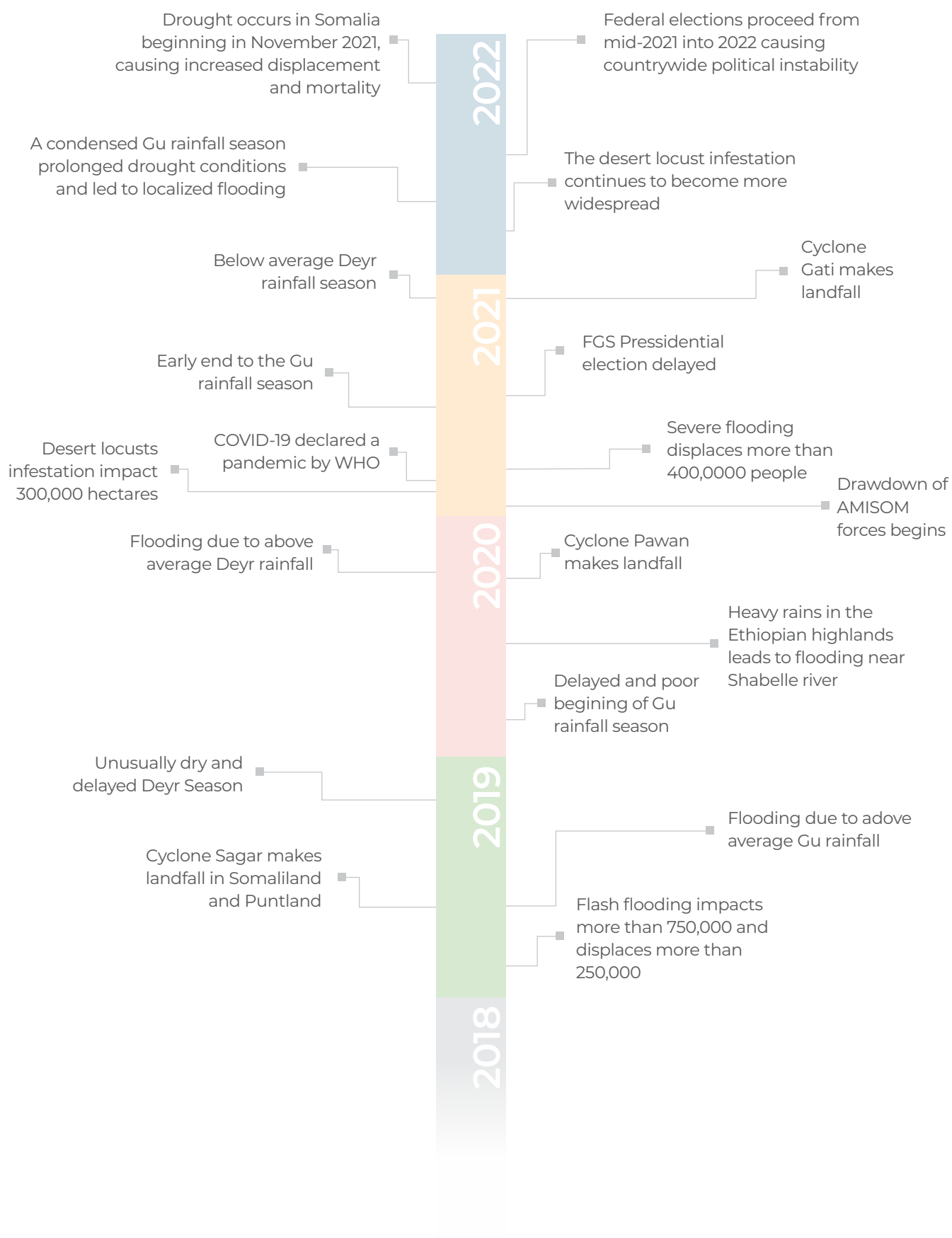
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Outcome 5: The local population has an improved nutritional status through access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and nutrition services, and awareness of good health, nutrition and hygiene practices.

Basic services, including health and nutrition, are poorly distributed and exclude a large part of the rural population. In addition, harmful social norms and poor health and hygiene behaviour heavily weigh on health outcomes, particularly for children and mothers. Enhancing families' capacities to understand, and monitor their own health and that of their children, as well as to access critical services is essential for them to reduce the impact of shocks and well as increase their capacities to absorb them.

The Consortium implemented 548 health and nutrition interventions, including small components of rehabilitation and construction of health facilities. Community education on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) was also a key component, implemented at both household level and at various health facilities. In addition, the Consortium constructed water infrastructure such as wells and boreholes for household use. A total of 2,024,218 people gained access to at least 15 litres of safe drinking water per day from protected water sources all year round, and the average time necessary to retrieve the water in rural communities decreased by 31 minutes between the baseline and midline surveys. The programme trained 1,300 individuals on community-based nutrition surveillance and 711 community health workers (CHWs) on IYCF and maternal nutrition. Throughout the project period, Consortium Members have been able to support full recovery of 78,643 children who were severely malnourished and 153,546 children who were moderately malnourished, all under five years of age. Similarly, 347,405 individuals have been reached through nutrition-specific indicators, and 1,173,444 people benefitted from sustainable access to health services through Consortium activities.

Programme timeline



Lessons and recommendations

Resilience projects are uniquely positioned to support localisation, develop local leadership, skills and systems over time. Where the Consortium has entrusted decision-making to the actors on the ground to work with local institutions and foster a spirit of partnership and collaboration is where most sustainable and scalable ideas have sparked.

Recommendations: accelerate the process of localising the Consortium through an area-based approach, working with partners from the private sector, the Government and civil society.

Community-led resilience can reduce humanitarian needs and transform local dynamics in the long term.

The first one or two years of the project focused on establishing a relationship of trust, followed by building social capital and community structures, while stabilising income and increasing financial capacities. In years 3 and 4, the community structures became pillars of resilience expanding outside their roles to plan, mobilise and catalyse communities efforts in their own ways, therefore reducing the needs for desperate coping strategies and reducing humanitarian needs in the short term. In addition, by including marginalised populations (i.e., women, youth, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities) in consultation and governance mechanisms, the project influences communities' leadership toward more inclusive practices. It also empowers marginalised groups to speak up, a transformational process in itself for communities in which social norms regarding exclusion are very deep rooted.

By the fourth year of the project, more opportunities emerged with the potential for systemic transformation through replication, linkage to private sector or innovative governance systems.

Recommendations: For those communities that have been able to build solid resilience foundations with support from the project, future investments will focus on strengthening the sustainability of the gains by working on the scale and depth of change. To durably reduce the need for humanitarian assistance, communities can more directly pilot the project and take leadership in some specific areas, including early warning, early action and Disaster Risk Management, for example through the use of small grants for community groups. BRCiS also recommends building on the existing structures and relationship to encourage replication for other groups and communities.



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Stable water systems are vital for strengthening community resilience. Water security is pivotal to the resilience of rural communities in Somalia. It is a vital enabler for livelihoods, health and wellbeing outcomes. The project had a significant impact in facilitating greater access to water for vulnerable groups. In some locations, the infrastructure built through the BRCiS is playing a life-saving role since the drought harshened. However, the impact of climate change, management capacity gaps and power dynamics mean that there is room for improvement in terms of sustainability and inclusion.

Recommendations: BRCiS projects should build on the Consortium unique positioning and relationship with communities and local municipalities to adopt a watershed approach to water and natural resources management. By focusing on sustainability and innovation, there are opportunities to work closely with communities, private sector and local governments to contribute to shock-proofing water systems and other natural resources for the benefit of vulnerable groups.



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Investing in local early warning systems enables targeted anticipatory action and effective early response.

The Consortium's EWEA System has filled the gap in granular and timely information for triggering crisis modifying action while empowering communities with a scientific approach to risk-monitoring and action mobilisation. For example, the 2019 deyr season flooding was the worst seen in recent history, impacting over half a million and displacing 370,000 people across southern and central Somalia. In Beledweyn specifically, BRCiS communities were hard hit, with infrastructure and farms completely submerged by the floods. A successful response was mounted within 5 days of the onset of the floods, a testament to the function early action system. Findings after the response show that 87% of the HHs targeted had been greatly affected by the floods, and 9% had been moderately affected, demonstrating that even within short timelines, partners were able to target accurately. By the end of the response, after three months, people had recovered their pre-crisis food security levels.



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Recommendations: the Early Warning Early Action framework has a number of growth areas on which to focus through subsequent projects: casting a wider net to include more communities, including in hard to reach areas; strengthening the role of local actors, through community grants or other mechanisms to resource local systems as first responders; enhance collaboration mechanisms with other early warning systems; increase the response capacity of the crisis modifier

Climate change adaptation needs to be closely interwoven with resilience-building strategies.

The intensification of land and water use, climate shocks and weak environmental governance is consistently undermining the sustainability of livelihoods reliant on the natural world. Understanding and managing climate risks, and designing with those in mind is core to resilience-building endeavours.

Recommendations: BRCiS has the adequate platform to design and promote locally-led adaptation best practices. The Consortium should focus additional resources on farming, agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones, which are very vulnerable to climate risks. By capacitating and empowering communities to understand, analyse and adapt to climate change, the Consortium can reach sustainable and equitable adaptation strategies and contribute to the knowledge base for nature-based solutions and other adaptations in Somalia. .

Layering and integrating diverse livelihood options provides a pathway to financial inclusion, income stabilisation and economic growth. Somalia's heavy dependence on the natural environment to support livelihoods based on agriculture and livestock puts communities at risk of losing their income streams when environmental shocks occur. When household incomes are stabilised, strengthened and diversified, not only does that household withstand the impacts of shocks better, but they are better capacitated to support their networks and community in times of shock.

Recommendations: the Consortium should continue integrating, layering and sequencing the project interventions at a micro-level to ensure the reduction of irreversible coping strategies and the most critical impacts of disasters (morbidity, mortality and loss of livelihood assets).

Private sector engagement and MBP can help reach scale and sustainability. Moving to a partnership model in which humanitarian organisations collaborate with the private sector and other institutions on what they each do best to create long-term resilience gains is an important challenge for resilience projects. It is also a progressive move towards localisation of the response by empowering local actors and markets.

Recommendations: the Consortium should continue looking for opportunities to work through and with private sector, as well as continuously documenting and learning from the process. One of the main lessons in this respect is that market actors should be engaged from the early stages of project design so as to understand incentives and red-lines on both sides. It may also require for some of the procurement processes to be adjusted to achieve more agility.

Basic services are a necessary stepping stone for building resilience and reducing poverty. The limited quantity and quality of health and sanitation services significantly contributes to poverty, shock exposure and sensitivity. A BRCiS analysis of shock recovery data shows that the project had a positive impact on participants' ability to recover from health-related shocks. Improving capacities to understand, monitor, and respond to health issues at both family and community levels appears to enable better decision making in the face of shocks.

Recommendations: The Consortium needs to continue community-level investment in health, hygiene and sanitation to contribute to local understanding of and response to health shocks. It should also develop indicators to better capture impacts in future evaluations. Specifically, future projects should continue investments in behaviour change and demand creation layered with risks surveillance and management capacities at both community and facility levels.

“ One key lesson I have learnt is that, as a father, it also my responsibility to take care of the health and development of my child. This is something most men in our community are not aware of and the reason I think why this project has succeeded.”

Mohamed ~ 56 year-old, member of a father-to-father nutrition group supported by BRCiS in Baidoa (Gredo)

BRCiS as a consortium has an adaptation and innovation accelerating power. During the last two years of the current BRCiS cycle, the Consortium observed a significant increase in the rapidity of uptake of recommendations stemming from the various technical groups. This capacity to accelerate change throughout a large group of organisations is unique. With its unique data wealth accumulated through community engagement and measurement systems, BRCiS has a game-changing advantage in terms of managing knowledge -for resilience-building. In fact, findings from several surveys indicate that the inequalities of access to timely and reliable information and knowledge content are reducing the capacities of vulnerable groups, market actors and people in positions of leadership to build resilience systems.

Recommendations: the Consortium's vast footprint and strong knowledge production practices give BRCiS a significant advantage as a transferor of knowledge and information. Exploiting this advantage could mean contributing to building systems that reach many people with content that strengthens their capacities to manage and adapt to change.



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INTRODUCTION

The Consortium implemented the SHARP – BRCiS 2 project in 34 districts across all Federal Member States of Somalia. Its overarching objective was to support and accompany vulnerable communities in Somalia on their pathways to resilience through a nutrition-sensitive, integrated and adaptive approach. BRCiS 2 is the second iteration of the first multi-year resilience funding by FCDO in Somalia. As such, it is an iterative project, with learnings derived from the first phase and community-designed plans reviewed annually to adapt and adjust to learning, challenges and opportunities. It is a purposefully adaptive resilience-building programming that relies heavily on a community participation and concentrates on three primary implementation streams:

- Integrated community action plans (CAPs)
- A focus on shock responsiveness to protect resilience gains against recurrent shocks
- Enhanced learning within a collaborating, learning and adapting framework

BRCiS Operational Footprint



Figure 2. Map of the districts in which BRCiS operates.

Programme approach

Integrated community action plans

BRCiS has invested significantly in ensuring that programming is driven by the communities and responsive to changes in the context and that underlying causes hindering resilience are addressed. The Consortium designed the project based on an area approach with two levels of community implication: participant communities and area communities.

Participant communities were selected as a cluster of geographically close communities during the inception phase; they are at the core of the programming. Area communities are communities located in the direct vicinity of the participant communities; while they are not benefitting from the full scope of project interventions, they are part of the catchment area for some activities and particularly benefit from basic services and early action. Participant communities are fully engaged in the design of contingency plans and CAPs for their communities, thanks to specific community structures and groups that are supported and empowered throughout the project's lifetime.

The contingency plans include community-led early action and crisis modifier-funded interventions that are actioned based on the BRCiS EWEA System. On their side, the CAPs focus activities that are designed to address long-term vulnerabilities, including DRR, financial inclusion and livelihood, access to water, and more. Like the contingency plans, CAPs target specific shocks and changes identified through the P-FIM approach and include interventions across all project outcomes to fit the specific context. In addition to the interventions prioritised through community participation processes, the project mainstreamed the delivery of health and nutrition specific and sensitive interventions, which aimed at improving health and nutrition outcomes for mothers and children.

Indeed, Somalia's wide-spread malnutrition rates are plaguing the country's development. The poor health status of children and mothers is recurrently coming in the way of their capacities to manage covariate and idiosyncratic shocks. In addition to the nutrition specific interventions, BRCiS adopted a nutrition lens across its programming to address this underlying vulnerability. While all BRCiS communities were extensively engaged on the questions of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) through community campaigns, father to father and mother to mother groups, BRCiS also encouraged Members to work across sectors to



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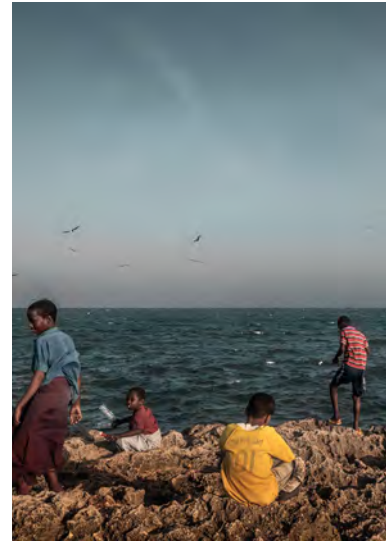
provide families with opportunities to improve their understanding and capacity to manage child and mother nutrition. This resulted in taking women voices into account when planning and delivering water access interventions; promoting women leadership in community decisions; engaging farmers on the diversification of vegetables crops and encourage kitchen gardens; working with pastoralists on protecting household milking animals during shocks, etc.

BRCiS' success in developing meaningful and reliable relationships with communities cannot be underestimated; it has given the programme a distinctive advantage in preparedness, planning and response. In concrete terms, BRCiS has been able to elicit an unparalleled response from its communities for mobilisation, sensitisation and the delivery of support during emergencies. As highlighted by the Consortium Management Unit monitoring data, female representation and leadership in CRCs directly contributed to stronger social cohesion within BRCiS participant communities. Community ownership was also evidenced, with communities contributing approximately 4% of the value of project activities — close to GBP 2.5 million.

Focus on shock responsiveness to protect resilience gains against recurrent shocks by sequencing interventions

A continuum of interventions is necessary to support the communities of Somalia on their resilience-building journey. In contrast with the traditional emergency–recovery–development continuum, the continuum of interventions acknowledges that some early response and emergency interventions will be required alongside the intervention addressing root causes of vulnerabilities; that is, they are not mutually exclusive. With tailored layering and sequencing of interventions, BRCiS 2 strived to maximise the impact of donor funding and consistently protect the communities' resilience gains. Thanks to its community structures and its EWEA System, BRCiS has been at the forefront of adaptive programming, responding to crises in coordination with local authorities and communities.

To inform operational decisions around the timely activation of early action activities, BRCiS piloted an early warning data collection system starting in October 2020 to collect monthly information on key shocks and stresses. A dashboard⁵ was developed in August 2020 to then visualise the data. Relatedly, a user survey conducted with BRCiS' early warning focal points showed that the indicators collected were utilised in several ways, including to activate early action or provide evidence-based insights when Members were working together with communities and local authorities to advocate additional donor funding.



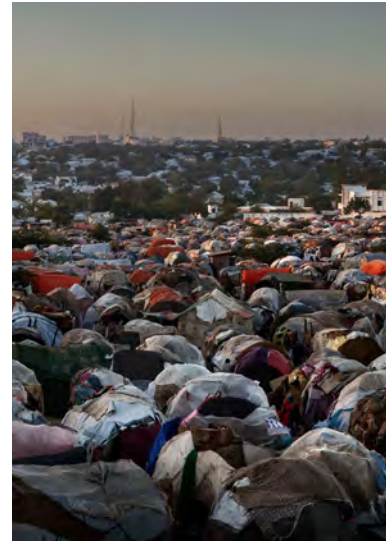
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⁵ Available at https://brcis.shinyapps.io/EWEA_dashboard/

Enhanced learning within a collaborating, learning and adapting framework

Whereas replication is often an issue for agencies that follow strict guidelines, the participatory knowledge production structures set up by the Consortium Management Unit have created a learning and adapting environment in which BRCiS Members are more confident in adopting practices that have been tried and tested by other Members. In addition, through its Challenge Fund, BRCiS has been tackling the innovation hurdle with more intention than other projects. The Consortium setting is an ideal space to strike the right balance between collaboration and competition, which is necessary to stimulate fail-fast/learn-fast processes.

The positioning and reputation of the Consortium in the humanitarian, resilience and development landscape in Somalia offer it a chance to influence the humanitarian and development sector by taking the lead on some specific agendas, such as EWEA, community participation and ownership, and DRR. In its eighth year of constant learning, the Consortium has evolved to meet emerging needs quickly, putting in place systems and partnerships that centre on the communities while being adaptable and responsive to the changing context.



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Members and Partners

BRCiS – Building Resilience Communities in Somalia - is a consortium of eight national and international organizations which was created in 2013. Consortium Members work together to leverage integrated programming models, flexible multi-year funding streams, community participation and ownership structures, and the expertise and resources of local and international agencies. More than 550 communities have participated in BRCiS resilience projects and the Consortium has implemented over 240 million USD of funded activities since 2013. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is the Consortium lead agency, and a humanitarian, non-governmental organization that protects the rights of people affected by displacement. NRC is a resilience leader in Somalia where it has been operational in Somalia since 2004. It hosts the Consortium Management Unit.

- Action Against Hunger (ACF-USA) is a global humanitarian organization with in-country, regional and global level technical expertise in supporting social cohesion and economic inclusion through integration of conflict sensitive approaches in addressing underlying causes of conflict. ACF has field-based coordination structures, a long and extensive presence with strong community trust and acceptance in the target areas since 2003.
- Cesvi is an Italian NGO, present in Somalia since 2006, with extensive experience in supporting vulnerable communities with livelihood diversification, economic inclusion, health, nutrition, inclusive growth, built on decent jobs and sustainable livelihood for everyone.
- Concern Worldwide is a humanitarian NGO dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries. Concern had been operational in Somalia since 1986. Concern is one of the earliest international organizations to develop a partnership model in Somalia and has a network of five local partners across the country.
- GREDO is a national NGO with strong operational and financial systems that has worked in South West State in Somalia for the last 3 decades, with presence across 12 districts. GREDO possesses a strong credibility and established a reputation among communities and in all its areas of operations.
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war or disaster. The International Rescue Committee has been working in Somalia since 2006, providing essential services to conflict and disaster affected communities. The IRC has been operational in Somalia (Mudug, Galgadud, Nugal and Banadir regions) implementing interventions in the areas of livelihood, Governance, GBV, WASH and health reaching out to people affected by conflict and drought.
- KAALO Aid and Development (KAALO) is a national, non-profit, humanitarian and development organization, headquartered in Garowe, Puntland in Somalia. The organization was established in October 1991, after the collapse of the Somali central government. The organization has been operational for the last 31 years with a successful record in implementing more than 200 programs and projects in both the emergency and the development sector in 9 regions of Puntland. Thematically, KAALO's main sectors include, WASH, food security and livelihoods, resilience building, nutrition, protection, and good governance and democracy.
- Save the Children is the world's largest independent child rights organization, underpinned by a vision in a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Save the Children has been operational in Somalia for over 60 years, delivering life-saving humanitarian services to children and promoting the delivery of basic services through longer-term development programmes. SCI have presence in 16 out of 18 regions of Somalia and work closely with the Government and support policy makers and communities across Somalia to enact policies and systems that build resilience.

OUTCOME 1: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The first outcome of the BRCiS project lays the foundation for working through the existing community structures, to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations are the forefront of programming throughout the remainder of the existing outcomes. This is done through working collaboratively and effectively, identifying innovative programme approaches and ways of working, and utilising learning to improve programme design and implementation. Sub-outcomes are as follows:

- Outcome 1.1: Local stakeholders actively influence and contribute to the programme.
- Outcome 1.2: BRCiS staff replace under-performing interventions with new innovative and higher-impact programming in a harmonised way.

The first outcome of the BRCiS project lays the foundation for working through the existing community structures, to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations are the forefront of programming throughout the remainder of the existing outcomes. BRCiS bases its model on the community-led approach to programming. By communicating their needs and priorities, communities enable project teams to initiate undertakings that build long-term community resilience. The Consortium has established several types of committees in these communities to address local response to crisis and strengthen economic resilience, focusing on recruiting traditional community leaders, as well as people from marginalised groups to lead them. In total, the Consortium implemented 154 interventions to strengthen local leadership and foster collective action, directly targeting over 2,600 households.

Outcome	Total Target (individuals)	Total reach
Outcome 1	181	194
Output Indicator	Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
1.1.1. % of programme costs matched by other actors including Community Contribution	5%	3%
1.1.2. # of documented programme activity changes linked to formal community plan revisions	32	54
1.1.3. % of committees (CRC) who have at least one woman in a leadership position (chairman, secretary, treasurer)	80%	80%
1.1.4 # of Community Resilience Committees established and functional in BRCiS target locations	181	194
1.2.1. # of changes in activity portfolio per year (includes new, shifted and adapted activities) with documented change as a result of VfM indicators/data.	16	16
1.2.3. # of case studies developed that demonstrate VFM, learning, adaptivity and innovativeness that are shared externally	20	22

Of the committees established by the Consortium, the Community Resilience Committees (CRCs) act as a nucleus for establishing volunteer committees and associations that represent community members in decision-making. The lifespan of the programme has seen the establishment of 194 CRCs and has worked to ensure that members of marginalised populations — including women, people with disabilities and marginalised clans - are included in decision making roles. Ensuring adequate representation of these groups also reduces the risk of conflict by meeting the needs of all and preventing imbalanced decision-making at the community level.

Survey data collected between July 2019 and February 2020 further illustrates an upward trend in community participation. A 10% increase was reported by participant communities when asked if their community supported their needs. Additionally, a phone survey conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation for the Somalia Humanitarian, Health and Resilience Programmes of FCDO, which assessed over 750 CRC members, provided strong evidence for strengthened female representation and leadership in the CRCs. The assessments highlighted that more than half (55%) of the positions were occupied by female representatives holding a variety of positions, from purely members of the CRCs, to leadership positions such as chairlady, treasurer, and secretary. This finding is also confirmed by programmatic records collected by BRCiS.

Through CRCs, the project stimulates and strengthens social capital — the social resources that people rely on to make a living and weather hardship. Marginalised people who gain representation in community committees gain connections that they can draw on in times of need. The community as a whole also connects horizontally through committee activities and vertically through the committees' cooperation with overarching government structures. the sources for this is not provided.... I don't know if it's midline, baseline, seasonal surveys... DO you have an idea? Evaluation surveys found that the percentage of households reporting that their community supports their needs rose by 14% after programme implementation.

In addition to CRCs, the Consortium promotes community structures by supporting CHWs, community health workers, early warning committees, water committees and business associations such as village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). The CRCs are also in charge of ensuring sustainability by mobilising community contributions. Communities have contributed over 3% of project activities from their own pockets. This contributes to their ownership of the project results and to the sustainability of the impact as community members want to protect their own investments by managing and maintaining infrastructure and systems.



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Finally, one of the project impact, which is likely at least partially attributable to this outcome are the significant social capital gains. Before BRCiS2, nearly one-quarter of community members said they had no one to turn to for help, and were unwilling to help others. After two years, these figures had reduced by half. All bonding, bridging and linking social capitals have progressed almost for all men and women in the communities targeted by the project. However, testament to the project gender approach, bonding capital has progressed faster for women in participant communities as illustrated in figure 1. There is no evidence to attribute this progress to one or other specific interventions. The best assumption at this stage is that it is a combination of the different interventions targeting men and women and facilitating leadership of both groups that enable social capital to progress.

P-FIM

Since 2018, the BRCiS Consortium has used P-FIM to foster two-way dialogue with communities. P-FIM puts people at the centre by engaging communities on two simple questions: 1) What important changes do you observe in your community? and 2) What do you think that you can do about it? To encourage flowing discussion, the questions are asked to small groups of peers — farmers, community leaders, young girls, people with disabilities etc. — that tend to share perspectives, giving them a safe space to share their concerns and hopes.


P-FIM builds mutual respect and trust with and among communities by starting with people, their abilities, knowledge, challenges and innovations. It establishes a true understanding of the context from the community perspective and from there determines how agencies can add value. BRCiS employs P-FIM to guide programming at all levels of engagement and hand decision-making back to the communities it serves. This process involves training local staff embedded in the local context and moving the focus away from apparent needs to instead focus on what is important to the people in the community.



69
BRCiS STAFF
TRAINED IN P-FIM



16
WOMEN
TRAINED



53
MEN
TRAINED

Resilience projects are uniquely positioned to support localisation

Where community ownership of the project is the strongest is where the Consortium has observed the most progress in terms of resilience and self-reliance. Similarly, where the Consortium has entrusted decision-making to the actors on the ground to work with local institutions and foster a spirit of partnership and collaboration is where most sustainable and scalable ideas have sparked. The unique positioning of resilience actors allows them to use approaches such as experiential learning, horizontal management and influence.

Community-led resilience can reduce humanitarian needs in the long run

Behind the package of interventions, through community-led resilience-building projects, BRiCS Members view vulnerabilities and capacities of the crisis-affected populations as part of a complex and dynamic system rather than as independent variables. Through inclusive and ambitious participation methods, the Consortium nurtures a bottom-up vision for a different society with more inclusive community leadership and integrated markets. These changes empower all members of the community to grow their absorptive and adaptive capacities in preparation for future independent action.

Transformation is slow-paced but should nevertheless be the goal

During the first one to two years of programming, there is a relationship-building process during which a tri-partite governance system is born and nurtured. This trust paves the way to the creation of project-specific and inclusive CRCs. The CRCs then gain the trust of the community, allowing additional structures to emerge throughout the community, which build social capital and create solidarity. These groups can include savings groups, producer groups, mother-to-mother and father-to-father support groups, EWEA groups etc. With the right engagement, some of these groups become pillars of resilience in their communities, expanding outside of their natural roles in times of crisis.

This expansion typically occurs during years 3 and 4 of the resilience project, but it might be a longer process depending on initial community cohesion level and shocks. At this stage, new programming opportunities emerge to work with the communities on more ambitious projects that have the potential to change the community in the long term: water management investments, markets and livelihood-related projects or other infrastructure. By the end of a four-year project, it is essential to check in with communities and review their specific capacities. This process provides the opportunity to recalibrate the partnership and identify those communities that might be ready to take a more proactive role in project coordination and leadership. Therefore, most communities have a chance to start experimenting transformational resilience in the second half of an eight-year cycle.

OUTCOME 2:

EWEA AND SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SAFETY NETS

The second programme outcome comprises the enhanced ability of target communities to anticipate, prepare for and respond early and withstand the negative impacts of shocks. The sub-outcomes are as follows:

- Outcome 2.1: Early warning in BRCiS target areas triggers early action against impending shocks and early response to sudden shocks.
- Outcome 2.2: Safety nets support households through crisis and contribute to long-term resilience.

In Somalia — a country where conditions vary widely over time and from place to place — humanitarian organisations must constantly adapt their interventions to meet evolving needs. Constant flexibility is vital for effectively addressing poverty and the disastrous effects of climate change amid political upheaval and violent conflict. BRCiS addresses this challenge by implementing early warning mechanisms to monitor changes in conditions and alert the Consortium to impending shocks. Responding to the alerts provided by these mechanisms, project implementors in collaboration with community leaders adapt their implementation of anticipatory or early response measures.

Persistent, repeating shocks such as drought, floods, locust infestations and political unrest erode the economic and environmental security of vulnerable populations, often trapping them in poverty. For example, recurrent drought has reduced the availability of water and grazeable pastureland, contributing to the failure of livestock grazing systems. Such failure forces owners to sell their livestock at low prices, reducing household income and assets that might have served as productive capital.

During BRCiS 2, the Consortium established a EWEA System with a dashboard for identifying and reporting shocks. Community leaders submitted 765 early warning reports on a monthly basis from all BRCiS-supported districts in the dashboard to ignite joint action

in preparing communities for impending shocks once a district was red-flagged. The Consortium also trained 1,622 people on DRR, NRM and EWEA, ensuring they know how to identify and respond to shocks. With these skills, when communities learn of the onset of an event such as drought, they can prepare by storing water and food and getting their children life-saving vaccines.

Through this Outcome, the Consortium also supported 3,048 households in local communities through long-term safety net programmes, with USD 20 given out to vulnerable households every month for a period of 24 months. These social safety nets were also shock-responsive in nature as, during various shocks, the amount was increased to USD 40 for a short period (two to three months). The CRCs were responsible for identifying the beneficiary households. Results from evaluation of the safety net pilot indicate that significant changes were observed in household income and expenditures and participating households prioritised using their cash assistance on food and water over other needs. Overall, the evidence on shock exposure, recovery, and food security suggests that 1) exposure to shocks has increased, 2) the programme has had a very positive, measurable impact on participating households' ability to withstand and recover from shocks, and 3) the food security outcomes of participating households has improved steadily since the programme began.

Furthermore, another 477,589 people received emergency MPCA and 647,934 people received water assistance through shock-responsive MPCA, which comprised of temporary transfers that commenced when the EWEA committee identified an impending shock. The Consortium worked to harmonise the targeting process to adopt the Somali Cash Consortium targeting approach and learnings from the Centre for Humanitarian Change. It also strengthened the internal processes whereby Consortium Members use area targeting and household

deduplication to avoid overlap. To reduce the risk of conflict and streamline community engagement on cash transfers, communities that had individuals already receiving longer-term social safety nets did not receive a horizontal scale-up for a short period of time if a shock impacts that community. Safety net beneficiaries also received a vertical scale-up during crises through the crisis modifier, therefore benefitting from USD 60 transfers instead of 20 for limited periods of time (up to 6 months). According to the various PDMs that were conducted and to the safety nets evaluation report, households used the cash for various purposes, but with eight out of ten on average reported using the transfers to meet basic needs in general, and four out of ten to improve their access to food and four out of ten to reduce or prevent debt.

Outcome	Total Target (individuals)	Total reach
Outcome 2	991,974	1,146,859
Output Indicator	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
2.1.1 # of communities where, early action was triggered 10 days after early warning	N/A	89
2.1.2.# of early warning reports submitted by Members in the EWEA dashboard and informed by CRCs and community-based information	862	765
2.1.3 # of people reached through emergency food assistance (in-kind, cash, vouchers), and multi-purpose cash	396,804	477,589
2.1.4 # of people receiving emergency WASH Assistance (sanitation, water trucking)	573,834	647,934
2.3.1 Percentage change in the proportion of safety net HHs reporting to be able to fully recover (same as or better off) from future shock	>15%	20%
2.3.2. # of vulnerable HH in BRCiS participant communities accessing safety nets (# of HH reached through social safety nets)	3,048	3,048

Targeting safety net households in different communities from MPCA has ensured that there is no conflict with the different transfer values. The percentage of households that reported being able to recover from shocks increased by 38% in participant communities. Similarly, there was a 7% increase in the share of participant community households showing confidence that they will be able to cope with severe shocks in the future without relying on emergency assistance.



Investing in local early warning system enables targeted anticipatory action and effective early response

While Somalia has a rich early warning environment, with more than one expert institution and several tools and processes, there is still a lack of granular and timely information for triggering crisis modifying action. The Real-Time Risk-monitoring and Early Action System established by BRCiS in its target communities has made it possible to fill this gap while empowering the communities with a scientific approach to risk-monitoring and action mobilisation. Thanks to actionable information, communities and partners have delivered countless small-scale anticipatory responses throughout the past four years as well as scaled up targeted early action when needs surged.

OUTCOME 3: ECONOMIC INCLUSION

In addition to supporting DRR and anticipatory action, BRCiS interventions empower communities economically. Outcome 3 outlines BRCiS' vision for sustainable livelihoods: Somali communities (including youth, women and vulnerable groups) have protected assets and diversified productive livelihoods that improve resilience to shocks. The sub-outcomes are as follows:

- Outcome 3.1: The BRCiS programme uses, strengthens and develops markets, including identified key value chains.
- Outcome 3.2: Diversified livelihood options and alternatives are created for the most vulnerable members of the communities.
- Outcome 3.3: Households have access to credit and savings to invest in income-generating activities and serve as a cushion during future shocks.

Outcome 3 interventions aimed to empower BRCiS communities economically. As Somalia is prone to a wide range of shocks that often have impact livelihood capacities, vulnerable people are often forced to engage in negative coping strategies. For example, only 45% of area communities reported being able to provide two or three meals per day to their children during shocks. This percentage was significantly higher in participant communities at 62%.

This area of intervention provided a foundation for economic growth by allowing community members to focus on generating diverse income and amassing savings. BRCiS helped stabilise and diversify income streams by providing vocational training, grants and inputs for a range of streams, reaching 5,883 households and targeting specifically women headed households, as well as people with disabilities. Such diversification meant that a family that starts selling more varieties of produce or adds livestock production to crop cultivation is more likely to avoid the most severe effects of a crisis. With increased, diversified and stabilised incomes, people are less likely to be in debt and better able to save. By forming savings groups, including VSLAs and self-help groups, communities could build more wealth than individuals alone. As all members contributed to a shared pool of money, they were able to make larger investments and collaborate as a community. A total of 4,123 households enrolled in these savings groups. Loans and savings from these institutions support various investments and projects for the communities as well as for individuals, helping strengthen the community's ability to mitigate the effects of crises.

“ I dug a shallow well on my farm using the money I received from the village savings and loans association. Now, I earn my livelihood from my farm. Initially, I was drawing water to irrigate the farm from the well using my bare hands. I received additional money from the VSLA and I bought a small generator for the pump.⁶ ”

⁶ 07-2022 BRCiS Qualitative Endline – Consilient Consulting



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Outcome	Total Target (individuals)	Total reach
Outcome 3	61,488	62,517
Output Indicator	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
3.1.1 # of business partnerships established	32	52
3.2.1 % of business trainings participants that have increased income related to the BRCiS programme support 6 months after completion of training	70%	70%
3.2.2 % of beneficiary business start-ups still in business 12 months after receiving start-up grants	70%	92%
3.2.3 # of Households reached through business grants, vocational trainings or IGAs	5736	5,883
3.3.1 % of VSLA/SHG members taking on loan within first year of membership	50%	26% (for Y4)
3.3.2. % Default rate for VSLA/SHG loans on a quarterly basis	<15%	7%
3.3.3. % of programme started VSLAs/SHGs with an average of at least \$50 capital-savings per member	30% (Target reduced due to drought situation and the trends assessed in loan capital available)	41%
3.3.4. # of households enrolled in a saving group (VSLA, SHG, other)	3,187	4,123

Below is a summary of the range of interventions and activities that the BRCiS Consortium is implementing to enhance economic inclusion.

Table 1. An overview of the BRCiS livelihoods interventions.

Livelihoods overview (includes agriculture reported under outcome 4)		
Context	■ Exposure to shocks directly impacts livelihoods	
	■ Harsh dry seasons cause a dependency on rainy seasons for survival	
	■ Reliance on agriculture and livestock is a core part of the economy	
Interventions (not mutually exclusive)	Stabilising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Safety nets ■ Financial literacy ■ Savings groups ■ Access to agricultural inputs ■ Livestock protection ■ Provision of fodder ■ Access to water 	Growing and diversifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Skills-building ■ Business grants ■ Federating savings groups ■ Access to formal financial services ■ Value addition in agriculture ■ Farmer cooperatives ■ Farmer field schools ■ Access to water, including irrigation systems ■ Fodder production
Crosscutting themes	■ Social capital and cohesion: group dynamics, social funds, inter-community commerce	
	■ Market infrastructure: markets, access roads, storage, water	
	■ NRM: riverbank repair, tree planting, earthworks	
	■ Systems thinking and market-based approaches for sustainability	

Market being such an important part of systems resilience, BRCiS has started pivoting towards market based programming (MBP) and market system development since 2019. A team of MBP consultants from KasmaDev and the Canopy Lab worked with technical staff from the eight Consortium Members to implement pilots focused on extending agriculture distribution networks to improve access to inputs and offtake markets through pull strategies. Many of them have also incorporated critical push strategies such as vouchers to ensure that beneficiaries can benefit from improved market access. The table below details the eight pilots conducted with a total of 31 business partnerships and impacting 460 farmers and their families.



Table 2. An overview of the MBP pilots.

Implementer	Focus	Partners	Beneficiaries	
NRC	Honey input access and market linkages	2 input dealers	50 honey producers	
SCI	Vegetable input access	4 input suppliers	150 farmers	
ACF	Honey input access and market linkages	2 input dealers and 3 honey buyers	50 honey producers	
Kaalo	Vegetable input access	1 wholesaler and 1 input supplier	50 farmers	
Cesvi	Vegetable input access	3 input dealers	50 farmers	
Concern Worldwide	Vegetable input access	2 input dealers	20 farmers	
IRC	Animal health input access	1 wholesaler and 10 community animal health worker	100 livestock owners	
GREDO	Honey input access and market linkages	1 wholesaler and 1 input dealer	40 honey producers	

Thanks to this capacity building exercise, the Consortium developed an additional programming component to mitigate the impact of the drought on rural and urban markets in Somalia, which was implemented under the umbrella of the BRCiS 2 project between December 2021 and March 2022. Thanks to this unique experience – a market drought resilience response layered on a long-term community led resilience project – BRCiS was able to support vulnerable market actors as well as to include them in their communities' drought mitigation strategies. Indeed, market actors are also affected by shocks and as service providers to the people we serve, need to be part of the solution. The extent to which the programming uses the markets, however, depends on the capacity of the individuals, groups, and companies as well as the context. In addition, creating linkages between wholesalers, retailers and consumers is work intensive but can save money in the long run. It both reduces the cost of delivery of services, as well as strengthening and creating resilience in local markets to provide them.



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Text box 4. Lessons relating to Outcome 3

Layering and integrating diverse livelihood options provides a pathway to financial inclusion, income stabilisation and economic growth

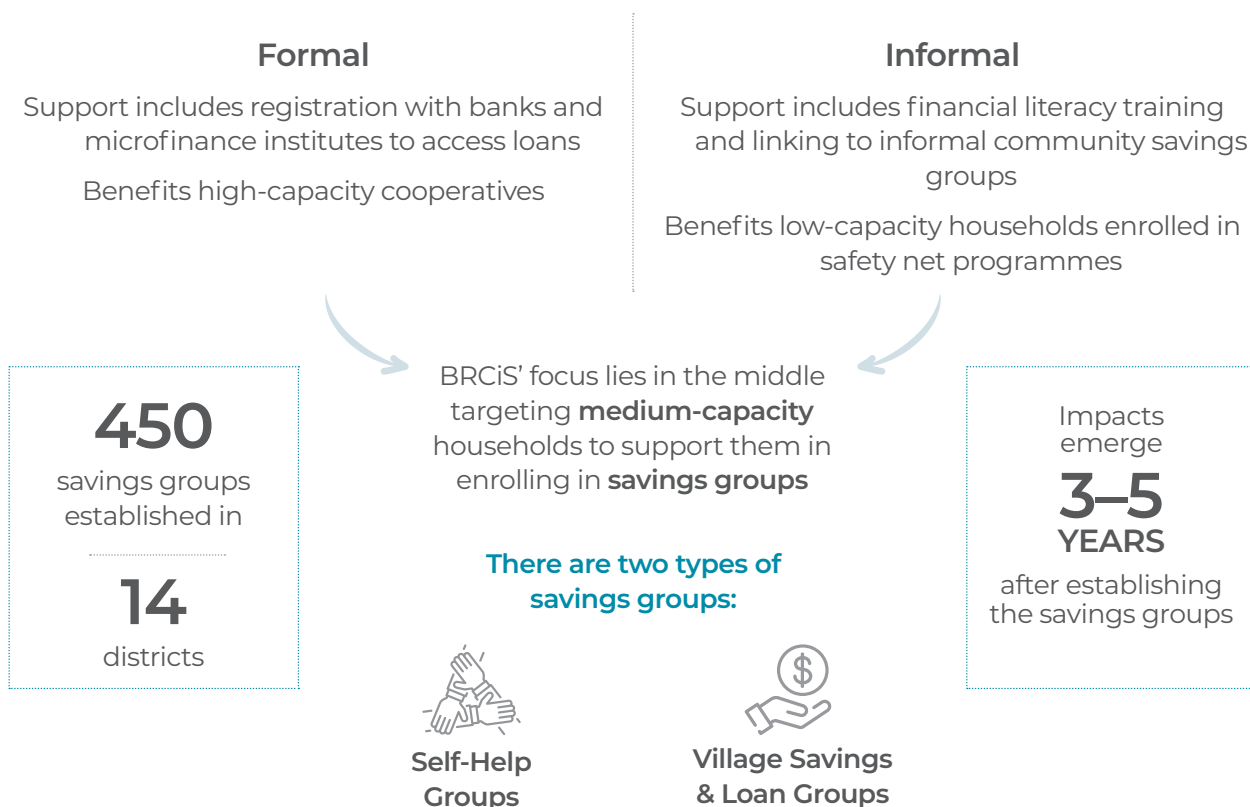
Somalia's heavy dependence on the natural environment to support livelihoods based on agriculture and livestock puts communities at risk of losing their income streams when environmental shocks occur. Layering livelihoods options helps communities ensure stability in the face of inevitable fluctuations. BRCiS has gained a sound understanding of which interventions have the highest impact against each shock and livelihood context. Integrating, layering and sequencing the interventions at a micro level ensures the reduction of irreversible coping strategies and the most critical impacts of disasters — morbidity, mortality and loss of livelihood assets. Safety nets and savings groups have also played a role supporting the most vulnerable groups in the communities during shocks and contributing to their financial inclusion.

Private sector engagement and market programming help reach scale and sustainability

Somalia's businesses are its main asset for resilience. Moving to a partnership model in which humanitarian organisations collaborate with the private sector on what they each do best to create long-term resilience gains is an important challenge for resilience projects. Borrowing approaches from MBP and strengthening markets so they contribute to reducing the severity of humanitarian needs in vulnerable communities has the potential to bring resilience programming to a different scale of depth and sustainability. It also requires a very different type of dialogue with market actors — one in which they are interested in different projects from the start and can shape the design of the collaboration and partnership.

FACTSHEET: ACCESS TO FINANCE

Access to finance is a cross-cutting theme integrated into the programme. BRiS uses layered approaches to ensure long-term access to financial services, providing different solutions depending on the capacity of each target population.



The two group types use different strategies, but both seek to:

Grant access to community-led finance



Members make contributions to a shared pool of money during periodic group meetings and then distribute it in the form of loans.

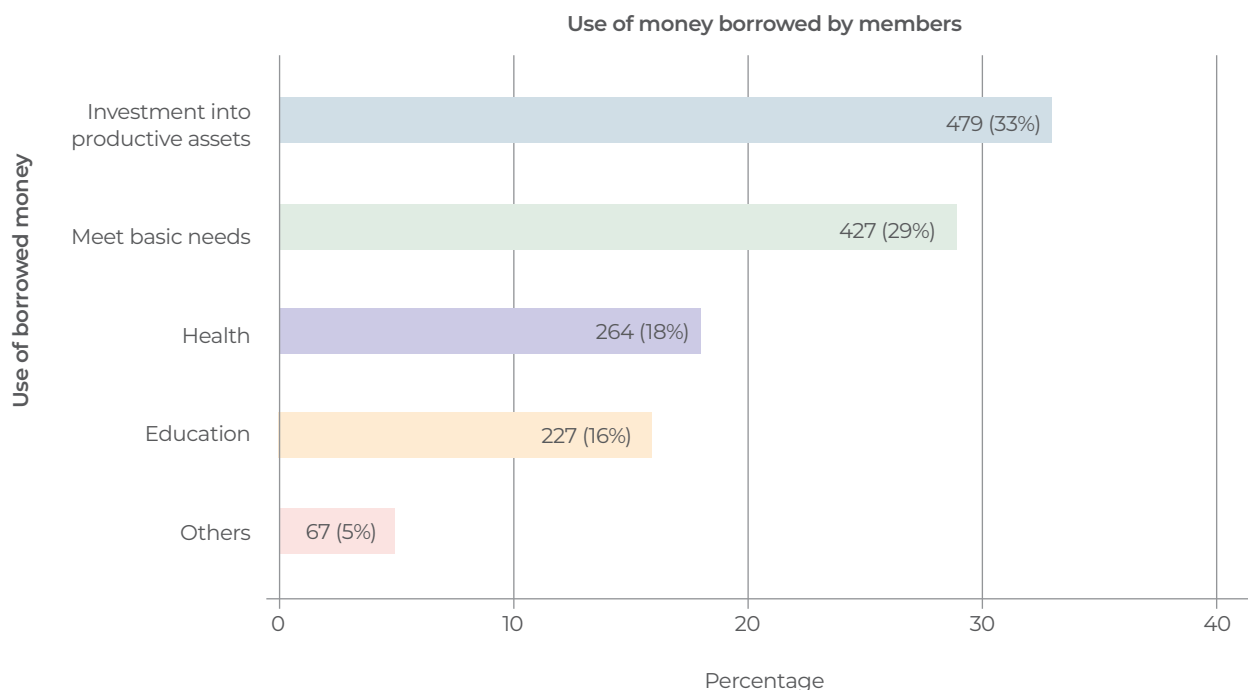
USD 77

Stimulate investments



Members use the loans given to invest in productive assets and human capital.

SEE CHART ON NEXT PAGE



Source: BRCiS Savings Group Round 2 - Dec 2021

Boost
community
representation



The groups interact with community representatives to influence local decision-making.

64%

Encourage
community
cooperation



The groups not only provide financial assistance to members but also the community as a whole.

41%

Enhance
female
empowerment



The majority of the groups are primarily female, providing women with greater opportunities to contribute to community decision-making.

83%

Savings group progression timeline:



OUTCOME 4: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO WATER

Ecosystem degradation and human malpractice either related to traditional livelihoods or to other aspects of human lives are one of the key underlying factors that erode communities resilience capacities. Through outcome 4 the project aimed at supporting communities developing better approaches to manage water and soil, as well as to improve their technical capacities for agriculture and livestock, so as to enable more profitable and sustainable rural livelihoods. Effective management of natural resources, community integration into local governance and strong social cohesion are central to shock resilience. Among other, the outcome includes activities relating to water for productive use, agricultural development activities, including cultivation and livestock and Disaster Risk Reduction interventions and natural resource management.

Sustainable management of water and other natural resources – natural capital - is the foundation for traditional livelihoods of rural communities. However, access to water is a significant challenge in Somalia. On average, four out of ten households reported having access to irrigation water in a normal year, but only two out of ten had access during drought. During long dry spells and droughts, people are driven into stress migration out of their communities and some never turn back to their livelihoods. BRCiS worked to address the two components of water access: short-term human access for tasks such as drinking, bathing and cooking and long-term productive access for agriculture and infrastructure such as dams. The programme supported 43,984 households with water supply infrastructure for productive use, including multiple-use water services and rainwater harvesting systems. It also supported 26,736 small-holder farmers through agricultural development activities such as training, input provision, riverbank repair, land clearance and rehabilitation. In addition to water related services, BRCiS has facilitated veterinary services for livestock. This has included the direct provision of these services as well as training community members in the treatment of livestock. Approximately 53% of the project participants in these initiatives were women.

These activities helped maintain other resources that impact food production and livelihoods. A vital factor of water for productive use in the long term is the public component, as everyone in the community must share the infrastructure. This public use requires a level of coordination among the members of the community and with the Government, with strategic planning playing a key role in creating sustainable, long-term access for all. However, coordination is often challenging among the various entities, including water companies, survey companies, ministries,

“ Water pans were established in our area to collect and store runoff rainwater from the fields. The water collected in the water pans can be used by both the people and the livestock. We have learned to store rainwater in our water storage containers at home such as water tanks, buckets and so on.⁷ ”

“ The agricultural support to farmers has had a huge impact because it generates produce as well as fodder for livestock. The livestock then produces milk, and the milk is sold. Farmers also produce vegetables and fodder which are sold thus it benefits the larger community members in addition to the farmers. Agriculture support has had a huge impact.⁸ ”

6 07-2022 BRCiS Qualitative Endline – Consilient Consulting

7 07/2022, BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting

community committees, private sector investors and NGOs. While the Federal Government of Somalia does have designated policy and management systems on water strategies, they are not always effective in rural, isolated settings. To encourage cooperative work in these areas, BRCiS formed committees from local community members and trained them on the facilitation of community development discussions.

Significant community contributions are reported under this outcome, highlighting the value attached by communities to investment in market infrastructure, productive water infrastructure and agricultural and natural resources. These contributions are in the form of monetary contributions, provision of land, and the provision of labour. For agriculture (mostly market infrastructure), 13% of the total expenditure came from community contributions. Similarly, 10% of the expenditure towards productive water assets was funded by the communities. Both are significantly above the 3% contribution for the entire project.

“In the past, sick animals would either die or have to be brought into town, travelling for almost two days. There were very few people who knew how to treat animals. Now many people are trained to treat animals. This project was beneficial to the livestock herders. Now, in every village there is about two people who know animal treatment, and no one is forced to bring an animal to the town.”⁹

Outcome 4	548,345	497,280
Output Indicator	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
4.1.1. # of HH reached with access to water supply infrastructure for productive use (irrigation, livestock, and other livelihoods) including Multiple-Use Water Services and rainwater harvesting systems.	55,735	43,984
4.1.2. # of HH reached through agricultural development activities (training, inputs, riverbank repair, land clearance and rehabilitation)	22,231	26,736
4.1.3 # of households at reduced flood risk due to construction of new or enhanced defences	2,900	3,070
4.1.4. # of people trained in DRR/NRM/Early warning activities	2,583	2,870
4.1.5 # of hectares of degraded rangelands and agricultural land covered by rehabilitation and conservation measures (reforestation, soil conservation infrastructure, etc.)	730	1,205

⁹ 07/2022, BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting, key informant in Hudur

Text box 4. Lessons relating to Outcome 3

Water access is vital for ensuring resilience as it contributes to livelihoods, health and wellbeing.

Climate change adaptation needs to be closely interwoven with resilience-building strategies. The intensification of land use, climate change and weak environmental governance is consistently undermining the sustainability of livelihoods that are reliant on the natural world for their balance. Understanding and managing climate risk is core to resilience-building endeavours. Climate change means that communities, institutions and market actors not only have to consider the shocks at hand but must also project scenarios in which the severity and frequency of shocks are enhanced. Planners, therefore, must be more attentive to solutions and innovations that are forward-thinking, rather than resorting to practices that are not sustainable.

Stable water systems are vital for strengthening community resilience

Water access is vital for ensuring resilience as it contributes to livelihoods, health and wellbeing. Increasing access to water had significant and consistent positive impacts, but access remains limited, particularly as a severe drought has exhausted some of the surface water catchments. The Consortium needs to be creative and work closely with the private sector and local governments to contribute to shock proofing water systems and other resources for the benefit of vulnerable groups.





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IDMC CASE STUDY 1: GREDO¹⁰

Bandar and Bulu Adey are two villages which benefited from interventions from Concern Worldwide, one of the consortium members. In both villages, the local implementing partner Lifeline Gedo strengthened the riverbank to reduce the risk of flooding, built a mini solar-powered water treatment unit, installed a solar irrigation system for small-scale farmers, provided capacity building on farming techniques for small-scale farmers, constructed fodder storage and distributed fodder, constructed soil bunds to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, set up and supported saving groups, and provided multi-purpose cash assistance.

Impact

To assess the impact of the project's activities on the risk of displacement, IDMC conducted six key informant interviews in both Bandar and Bulu Adey with community leaders, livestock owners, farmers, and business owners, including both men and women. To better understand the impact of the intervention on displacement risk in Bandar and Bulu Adey, six key informant interviews were also conducted in both Bulu Asharaf and Sarinley, two villages which had not yet benefited from any interventions.

¹⁰ From the IDMC Good Practices Repository: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/good-practice?id=38>

Lifeline Gedo's activities in Bandar and Bulo Adey have had a particularly positive impact on access to water. A farmer in Bandar noted that the construction of canals, water storage, and irrigation channels "helped not only save the river water which used to go to waste, but also gave a supply of clean water to drink and farm with". Meanwhile, the solar-powered water pumps, as well as facilitating access to water, prevent farmers from having to spend money on fuel: "each farmer is now able to water his crops without breaking his pockets", said a farmer in Bulo Adey. Finally, the water pumps have had the considerable added benefit of protecting community members from crocodiles: "We used to bring back water with buckets and fend off crocodiles with rocks but now we do not have to do that anymore", said one key informant in Bulo Adey. Another had lost her sister in a crocodile attack. Improved access to water, therefore, has remedied a major protection issue.

The key approach builds the capacities of market actors around the poor, so that communities where BRCiS works benefit by having services and products impacting on their ability to mitigate the shocks of drought or famine, as they occur.

Another major positive impact of the project concerned access to fodder. Lifeline Gedo provided support to farmers to cultivate and store fodder for livestock to increase their resilience to droughts. "For myself as a livestock owner, the grass fodder was the most impactful thing because my livestock could survive," shared a key informant in Bulo Adey. "I think the grass fodder made a lot of things easier for us since it grows in a very short amount of time and we can store it for our livestock for a long time, which increases their chances of surviving during droughts." Given the severity of the drought, Lifeline Gedo also distributed locally produced fodder to vulnerable livestock owners as a crisis modifier. "When the droughts were at their worst Lifeline Gedo gave us some grass fodder which we relied heavily on to feed our livestock," a farmer in Bandar recalled.

Beyond the production of fodder, the project also contributed to improved farming practices and better yields. "We were able to farm onions and other vegetables, sold those and got money

back," shared a farmer in Bulo Adey. "They provided us with methods and technologies to help with that, they have also given us a lot of seminars. This project has had a lot of impact on our farming abilities."

Finally, the cash assistance has made it easier for vulnerable households to meet their basic needs. "I have been getting cash support every three months which I used to buy rations and supplies for my family," said one key informant in Bulo Adey. "This has helped relieve the pressure from me a bit." The self-help cash saving scheme has had a similar effect. "I have a small stall where I sell some candies and snacks," explained a business owner in Bulo Adey. "When I sell some of those I use the profits to add to the savings and later on, extract some of those savings in the group for my business growth or personal use."

The projects' positive impacts have contributed to reducing the risk of displacement. This is particularly apparent when examining the situation in Bulo Adey and Bandar compared to that in Bulo Ashraf and Sarinlay, where no intervention has yet taken place.

In Bulo Ashraf, key informants estimate that at least forty households have been displaced by the drought, including eight families who were displaced not long before data collection took place. "They left because there was no water and the dry periods that did not seem to end," shared a livestock owner in Bulo Ashraf. Many of those displaced have reportedly moved to Kenya and Ethiopia, with others seeking shelter in Somalia's IDP camps. Worryingly, some have reportedly been unable to move due to lack of resources, leaving them particularly vulnerable to rising levels of food insecurity in the absence of humanitarian assistance.

The situation is similar in Sarinlay, where up to one hundred households are estimated to have been displaced in the past two years, including thirty to forty families who were displaced in the first half of 2022. "They left because the drought killed all their cattle and their crops as well, so their chance of surviving was better if they left," explained a key informant in the village. "They could not find anything to drink, much less farm or give to their cattle," another added. Reportedly, some have started to come back following recent rains.

Due to the severity of the drought, there have also been some recent displacement in Bulo Adey and Bandar - a community leader in Bulo Adey estimates that three households left in the first half of the year. However, key informants felt that more people would have been displaced if it hadn't been for the project, and some noted that they themselves were able to stay only thanks to the activities implemented by Lifeline Gedo. "Many people who would have moved, stayed because of this project," claimed a community leader in Bandar. This was the case for two women interviewed in Bandar: "we were about to leave, but then we received the support and we remained in the village and I made a business with the money I was given," one said. Another shared a similar experience: "Because of the drought we could not find fodder from the farms for our livestock to eat. [...] At first I wanted to move away but when I got the free fodder, the cash assistance and many other benefits I decided to stay and now I am not moving anywhere."

As a result of the project, there are reports of people returning to Bandar and Bulo Adey – and more are said to be arriving from other parts of the country. "In recent times I have not noticed people leaving," said a livestock owner in Bulo Adey. "I have noticed people moving in due to the conditions of the village getting better."

Innovation

The project has combined activities aimed at enhancing communities' resilience to drought with activities seeking to protect and restore ecosystems to mitigate risks, including the strengthening of riverbanks and the construction of soil bunds. These latter activities have contributed to reducing the risk of flooding, preventing soil erosion, and maximising the use of water for agriculture by limiting runoff; sustainability has been enhanced through education on land restoration to limit the risk of future degradation. The holistic nature of this comprehensive package of activities has contributed to the success of the project: "We were taught how to store river water, how to create barriers that would strengthen the river banks so that it would not flood our farms, and at the same time they gave us business skills that help us sell our crops and know their value. There

was also the creation of fodder and storage," said a farmer in Bulo Adey. "All of these things combined really helped us."

Lessons Learned

One of the key strengths of the project has been its bottom-up approach. Activities were designed in consultation with community members, thereby ensuring their immediate priorities are met. This had included "better methods to obtain water without the risk of being attacked by crocodiles", according to a community leader in Bulo Abey.

"Nothing is done without asking us. The proposal comes from us first, and the implementor acts on our advice," said a community leader in Bandar. "For example, the other day we requested specific onion seeds from Yemen [...]. They brought them on our request."

Another core strength of the project was its focus on crisis modification response, recommended as part of the drought management framework developed by the consortium. This flexible allocation of resources makes it possible to intervene early in the face of shocks through 'crisis modifiers'. In Bulo Adey, for example, the distribution of fodder during the drought contributed to limiting loss of livestock.

A final lesson learned is the positive knock-on effect interventions can have on neighbouring villages. In Bulo Ashraf, key informants noted having received support from Bulo Adey. "Nearby areas where agencies have provided assistance, such as Bulo Adey village, have helped us with fodder," one said. Despite support from neighbouring villages, however, the lack of dedicated assistance contributes to further displacement. "People have migrated due to prolonged drought to reach areas where aid agencies operate," the same key informant added.

OUTCOME 5: HEALTH, HYGIENE AND NUTRITION

The final programme outcome works to improve the nutritional status of community members through access to WASH, health and nutrition services and practices awareness. The sub-outcomes are as follows:

- **Outcome 5.1:** Households have access to a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and hygiene.
- **Outcome 5.2:** Parents and caregivers demonstrate knowledge and implementation of good child feeding practices, hygiene and infant care.
- **Outcome 5.3:** Detection and related action takes place for children under five years old and people living with disabilities with acute malnutrition
- **Outcome 5.4:** Improved health-seeking behaviour in IYCF and maternal nutrition.
- **Outcome 5.5:** Access to timely treatment of common illnesses is present for participant and area communities.

This outcome focused on health and nutrition. It also links back to accessing and managing safe water for human consumption.

Outcome 5 saw the Consortium reach 4,221,706 individuals overall, focusing mainly on the provision of treatment for common ailments and malnutrition, as well as maternal and child health services. This was done through the support of 18 fixed health centres/maternal child clinics and 27 BRCiS mobile sites in 18 districts.

These facilities were resourced with medical supplies and nutrition commodities that were procured by ACF as the lead of the supply chain. Throughout the project's lifetime, the Consortium was able to procure medical supplies worth GBP 4,000,000 to reach vulnerable communities and has supplemented the nutrition pipeline through a partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as donations from This Bar Saves Life and Al-Thani Foundation. These partnerships were critical in maintaining a healthy supply chain to reach sick and malnourished children during various shocks. In addition, some health facilities were rehabilitated or equipped to support service delivery.

“Disease and sickness do happen; however, it has not impacted [our community] yet. There has been a lot of awareness regarding cleanliness, how to properly dispose of the trash, cook in a clean place, and how to store the food in a good proper manner, all of these things have been taught to the community.”¹¹



¹¹ 07-2022, BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting, Key Informant in Dinsoor

In conjunction with health and nutrition, the Consortium also worked to construct water infrastructure, such as wells and boreholes, specifically for household use. A total of 2,024,218 individuals gained access to at least 15 litres of safe drinking water per day from protected water sources all year round. By midline, the average time necessary to fetch water in rural communities had decreased by 31 minutes. Unfortunately, by the endline in July 2022, Somalia is undergoing a historic drought. The time to fetch water is 106 minutes as some water sources are exhausting and more people are using the same water sources. Of the water sources available to the communities, 70% have management systems such as water management committees in place that remained functional at the end of the project.

The project also improved access to quality essential public health services by supporting Community Health Workers (CHWs) and the health facilities in which they worked. CHW improved health and nutrition behaviour of caregivers by educating parents on identification of malnutrition and its potential causes. They also provided information and simple tools, such as measuring tapes that families used to monitor children's nutritional status, and encourage self-referral if they identify the child as malnourished. Other tools such as water vouchers and hygiene kits help people obtain sufficient clean water and hygiene supplies to avoid illnesses and combat the spread of COVID-19 when shocks occur

Overall, the BRCiS programme trained 1,300 individuals on community-based nutrition surveillance and 711 CHWs on IYCF and maternal nutrition. As a result, 78,643 children under five years of age were treated and recovered from severe acute malnutrition. Similarly, 153,546 children under five with moderate acute malnutrition recovered following treatment provided by the programme. A total of 347,405 individuals, both children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers, also benefitted from nutrition-specific interventions, which included treatment for acute malnutrition and targeted counselling of caregivers of children under 24 months. A total of 1,173,444 people benefitted from sustainable access to health services through the Consortium activities. These were primarily reached through outpatient services at both fixed and mobile sites, as well as antenatal clinics for pregnant mothers.

“ During the previous, drought there was a cholera outbreak, however now [during the current drought] we received cholera medicine from NRC. Also, in the previous drought our children did not have nutrition support but now our children get nutrition support.¹² ”

12 07-2022, BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting

Outcome	Total target (individuals)	Total reach
Outcome 5	3 796,842	4,221,706
Output Indicator	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
5.1.1 # of people who gained sustained access to at least 15 L/p/d of safe water from protected water sources all year round	2,079,518	2,024,218
5.1.2. Decrease in the average time that it takes to fetch water in rural areas	<60 min	106 minutes
5.1.3. % of constructed or rehabilitated protected water sources for domestic purposes with a system in place for the management and maintenance of fa07-2022, BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting cilities, including PPP model as appropriate, that remain functional.	70%	84%
5.2.1.% of parents/caregivers who know at least 3 critical moments for handwashing	5 %-point increase from baseline which stood at 39.06%	64% (Midline data, as the simplified drought endline did not cover this indicator)
5.2.2. % of mothers who have and use soap or ash to wash hands at critical points	5 %-point increase from baseline that stood at 42.00%	55% (Midline data, as the simplified drought endline did not cover this indicator)
5.2.3. % of children aged 6-23 months given at least 4 food groups (minimum dietary diversity)	5 %-point increase from baseline that stood at 3.5%	25.90%
5.3.1. # of SAM under five children recovered	62,581	78,643
5.3.2. # of MAM under five children recovered	126,524	153,546
5.3.3. # of individuals trained on community-based nutrition surveillance/ EWEA	1,315	1,300
5.4.1.# of community health workers trained on infant and young child nutrition and maternal nutrition (IYCF and MIYCN)	706	711
5.4.2. # of individuals reached with IYCF promotion messages	385,527	568,718
5.4.3. # of groups established to organize nutrition promotion support activities (MtMSG, Mother led MUAC, father support groups)	465	625

5.4.4. % of mothers prioritizing health centre as the first line of seeking treatment	5 %-point increase from baseline which stood at 45.79%	79%
5.4.5. # of households supported with improved access to long term sanitation and vector control measures	15,919	15,130
5.4.6. # of children under 5, PLW reached through nutrition specific indicators	358,499	347,405
5.5.1 % of health and nutrition centres supported by BRCiS intervention not experiencing stock out of essential health and nutrition supplies	90%	100%
5.5.3. # of people benefitting from sustainable access to health services	860,544	1,173,444



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For WASH interventions, the Consortium's programming reached 365,700 people with emergency WASH assistance, including sanitation measures and water trucking. The activities had mixed impacts on male- and female-headed households, with impacts being more significant for female-headed households for the use of valid handwashing techniques as well as for access to water for productive reasons during normal seasons. However, the impact on female-headed households was lower than on male-headed households for latrine usage and proper disposal of children's faeces. A possible explanation is that female-headed households had higher values for these indicators at baseline, meaning that there was less room for improvement.

Basic services are a necessary steppingstone for resilience-building and reducing poverty

The limited quantity and quality of health and sanitation services significantly contributes to poverty, shock exposure and sensitivity. BRCiS' analysis of shock recovery data shows that the project had a positive impact on participants' ability to recover from health-related shocks. However, the current health and nutrition indicators do not accurately capture the impact. The Consortium needs to continue community-level investment on health, hygiene and sanitation to contribute to local agency to understand and respond to health shocks. It should also develop indicators to better capture impacts in future evaluations.

BRCiS as a Consortium has an adaptation- and innovation-accelerating power

During the last two years of the current BRCiS cycle, the Consortium observed a significant increase in the rapidity of uptake of recommendations stemming from the various technical groups. After a testing phase by two Members, the mother-led mid-upper arm circumference screening, an empowering practice of monitoring malnutrition at community level, has been adopted by all Members in less than a year. This capacity to accelerate change throughout a large group of organisations is unique. In a dynamic environment, the humanitarian delivery model and its slow pace of change and adoption of innovation constantly questions the Consortium's legitimacy to offer assistance.



IDMC CASE STUDY 2: Galgadud¹²

Laanle and Dhagaxdher, two villages in Galgadud, benefited from the construction of new water infrastructure:

In Laanle, the implementing partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), drilled a borehole, equipped the water source with a solar pump system installation, built a 50m³ concrete elevated tank and two animal troughs, and set up a pipeline extension and water point.

In Dhagaxdher, the community had already mobilised resources and drilled a borehole, then requested support with the infrastructure. NRC installed a solar powered pumping system and constructed a 100m³ concrete water tank – although the project budget only covered the cost of a 50m³ water tank, the community raised funds to enable the construction of a larger tank. NRC also installed the main distribution pipeline that connects water to the settlement.

Impact

To assess the impact of the project's activities on the risk of displacement, IDMC conducted six key informant interviews in each village with community leaders, male and female livestock owners, male and female farmers, and business owners.

¹² From the IDMC Good Practices Repository: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/good-practice?id=37>

In both Laanle and Dhagaxdher, new water infrastructure had a strong positive impact on the wellbeing of communities. “We get clean water from this project,” summarised a pastoralist in Dhagaxdher, “our lives improved, the farms are cultivated, our livestock get water.” Project beneficiaries in Laanle shared similar perspectives. “I would like to live in Laanle for the rest of my life”, a farmer said. “In the past we used to fetch water from a distance and it cost us a lot of money, now we have free water in our house with a tap.”

Improved access to water has had a direct impact on the risk of displacement in both villages. “In the past we used to move to distant areas during droughts, but now it is vice versa and people in the other areas move to us,” explained a key informant in Laanle. “Whenever there was a drought people used to go,” agreed a farmer. “No one has moved since this project was implemented.” Likewise, in Dhagaxdher, key informants reported a substantial decrease in displacement as a result of the project. “I believe that no one would remain in this village if this well was not constructed,” one said. “Now ten percent of the people left the village. [...] I think if this project was not implemented all the people would move away.”

“This water well has changed the life of this village. There was a time when we used to bring water by camels, and it took four nights for the camels to come back with water [...] This water well has mitigated the effects of the drought.” – key informant in Laanle



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Innovation

BRCiS' approach is to ensure communities play a key role before, during, and after the establishment of any infrastructure. Engaging communities through community action plans ensures that their priority needs are met, and promotes community ownership for the facilities, thereby enhancing sustainability. The water infrastructure is handed over to the community upon completion. During the handover, the community signs documents committing to maintaining the infrastructure, done in presence of government authorities. The community selects a Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) committee that is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the community-owned facilities. Amongst the members of the WES committees are the water operators. Training of water supply infrastructure operators on preventive maintenance is done in collaboration with the government technical staff. The government staff also commits to undertaking periodic monitoring of the water supply systems.

Community ownership was key to the success of this project, according to key informants. “This project would not be successful if our voices hadn’t been heard”, noted a livestock owner in Laanle. “In a place where advice is not taken, nothing works.”

Beyond the specific interventions in Laanle and Dhagaxdher, another key innovative aspect of the project was the willingness to provide un-earmarked funds for early action as a crisis modifier. “If you are trying to do community led resilience in a very fragile context you need to have flexibility to respond to shocks along the way,” project staff noted. These un-earmarked funds provided implementers with the capacity to deliver rapidly ahead or in response to shocks, and reduce the risk of displacement in beneficiary communities.

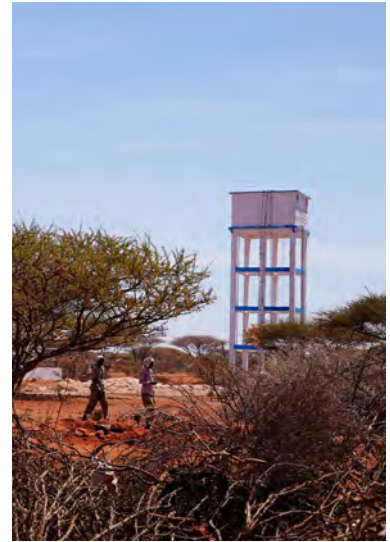
Lessons Learned

The construction of new water infrastructure acted as a pull factor; in both Laanle and Dhagaxdher, key informants report high numbers of new arrivals. In Dhagaxdher in particular, this is creating additional pressure on water resources: according to key informants, as a result of the current drought, there is insufficient water to cater for the needs of both residents and new arrivals, resulting in new displacements.

“In this current drought there are people who left to other locations due to the water shortage. [...] the water of the well was enough for the people, livestock and for cultivation in previous days, but now the capacity of the solar system and the pump is not enough. This is happening right now and every week people are leaving to other places.” – Key informant in Dhagaxdher

Project staff noted that the pull factor effect generated by the new water infrastructure is unavoidable given limited national mobilisation and low levels of humanitarian response funding: “the water provided by boreholes is the only water available in these large swathes of land.”

In the face of additional demand, communities have devised systems to limit tensions over access to water. In Dhagaxdher, the community has set up a new rotation: “a time allocated for the tankers, a time allocated for the livestock, a time for households and a time for farmers.”



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LOOKING FORWARD AND EMBRACING CHANGE

As Somalia is hit by one of its harshest recorded drought period and continues to rebuild those political and economic systems that have deteriorated due to 30 years of instability, resilience projects such as BRCiS need to look forward into how to best support communities and local markets to build their resilience to shocks. Looking ahead, increased urbanisation and rural-urban migration, climatic extremes and continued uncertainty around the security situation — will continue affecting the needs and opportunities in Somalia.

Final evaluation show that valuable gains in terms of resilience absorptive, adaptive and even transformative capacities were obtained. However, while Somalia is going through an exceptional climatic event, these capacities are being eroded. Contribution from various projects, including continuous IRF funding is providing some much needed and life saving assistance to those most in need, as well as preserving some of the much needed resources and capacities developed through the BRCiS 2 project.

BRCiS believes in that in shock prone contexts such as Somalia, humanitarian resilience programming should continue focusing on offering long term solutions to those most exposed to risks. Remote rural locations tend to experience the highest severity of shocks during drought, flooding, locust invasions as well as being heavily impacted by ecosystem degradation and economic stresses. BRCiS will enhance its focus on rural areas, particularly those for which data shows that the capacity-building process is less advanced, and that are often underserved by other projects.



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“ I have never experienced such a drought before. In 2017 animals suffered due to dry pasture but for the forty years I have been in this village, I have never seen salty water. Crops do not grow with salty water, the trees we planted are unable to grow. If we plant one kilogram of seeds, only a quarter might germinate.” ¹⁴

“ The agricultural support to farmers has had a huge impact because it generates produce as well as fodder for livestock. The livestock then produces milk, and the milk is sold. Farmers also produce vegetables and fodder which are sold thus it benefits the larger community members in addition to the farmers. Agriculture support has had a huge impact.” ¹⁵

¹⁴ 07-2022 BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Male FGD respondent in Kismayo, FGD-001, Consilient

¹⁵ 07-2022 BRCiS Qualitative Endline, Consilient Consulting

Natural capital is foundational to these areas where livelihoods and other services depend heavily on the ecosystems. Through a watershed approach, communities can work with and restore their ecosystem so that they can better face the current and upcoming climatic conditions. Sustainable management of water as a resource needs to be at the centre of inclusive area action plans. Financial inclusion, livelihood strengthening, and diversifying opportunities should directly connect or derive from the opportunities generated or improved by the ecosystem services and supported by linkages to the markets. This interconnected approach which tackles simultaneously natural, social, and economic capitals, has potential to reach transformative results, even in the context of climate change and to create the enabling condition for the poorest and most excluded communities of Somalia to become part of their countries development.

“ BRCiS helped us with seeds and proper storage of hay and seeds. ... but currently, despite the skills and experience we have, the drought has overwhelmed us. This can be attributed to the drought that has lasted so long.”¹⁵



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Factsheet:

Linking to the National Development Plan

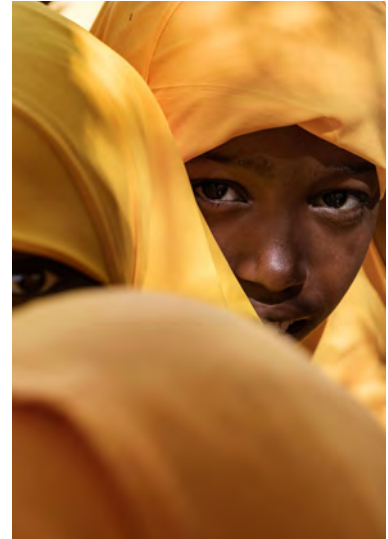
The National Development Plan (NDP) of the Federal Government of Somalia provides the nation with a path towards economic growth and poverty reduction during 2020–2024. The NDP centres around four pillars of development, and the BRCiS Consortium supports each of these pillars with a range of activities discussed further in this report.

NDP PILLAR 1 INCLUSIVE POLITICS



Project accomplishments in community participation, structures inclusion and transformation include:

1. 195 CRCs established and functional in the target locations
2. 80% of CRCs have at least one woman in a leadership position OR number of women in leadership positions in the project-led groups
3. 14 percentage point increase (from 21% in baseline to 35% in midline) in proportion of households who report that their community supports their needs
4. 25% of households practised joint decision-making
5. 77% of constructed water facilities are easily accessible to people with disabilities
6. 61% of the water infrastructures are managed by Water management committees (WMCs)
7. 17 percentage point increase (from 15% in baseline to 32% in the midline) in proportion of households with some/ significant influence on decision-making in the community
8. 11 percentage point increase (from 9% in baseline to 20 % in midline) in proportion of households that have worked with others in the community to do something for the benefit of the community.



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NDP PILLAR 2 IMPROVED SECURITY



Project accomplishments in early warning and anticipatory action for reducing conflict- and crisis-related insecurities include:

1. 11,794,374 GBP total amount of cash assistance provided for crisis prevention and response
2. 68 EWEA committees formed
3. 1,557 people trained on DRR/NRM/Early warning
4. Creation of a community-based EWEA System – 765 early warning reports submitted in the EWEA dashboard
5. 98,807 people reached with COVID-19 community sensitisation and communications messages.
6. 711 CHWs provided with capacity building on nutrition monitoring and surveillance



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NDP PILLAR 3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Project accomplishments in alleviating poverty by encouraging economic resilience and diversification include:

1. 12 value chain assessments conducted
2. 26,736 farmers and livestock owners reached through agricultural dev. activities (training, inputs, riverbank repair, land clearance and rehabilitation).
3. 43,984 households were reached with access to water supply infrastructure for productive use (irrigation, livestock and other livelihoods)
4. 1200 hectares of degraded rangelands and ag. land rehabilitated and conserved
5. 5,883 households received business or vocational training and received business grants
6. ~70% of business training participants increased their income after completing training
7. Median monthly income increase of USD 40 (from 60 to 100)
8. 4,123 households were enrolled in savings group/ self-help groups to provide access finance, empower women, and generate savings and loans as a buffer against small shocks
9. 3/10 households reported a decrease in debt after receiving ag. inputs. (Ag. inputs survey)
10. 61% of beneficiaries reported a decrease in debt after the IGA survey support.



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NDP PILLAR 4 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Project accomplishments for alleviating poverty by improving access to basic public services for WASH and nutrition include:

1. 2,024,218 people benefitted from improved access to water and sanitation
2. 78,643 children recovered from SAM after their treatment
3. 153,546 recovered from MAM
4. 1,300 individuals were trained on community-based nutrition surveillance
5. 568,718 people were reached with IYCF promotion messages
6. 1,173,444 people benefitted from access to health services
7. 28 health facilities supported to deliver health and nutrition services.
8. MPCAs and shock responsive safety nets: 477,589 people reached through emergency food assistance (in-kind, cash, vouchers), and multi-purpose cash and 3,048 vulnerable households benefitted from 24 months of safety net transfers.
9. 647,934 people were reached through emergency WASH assistance during shocks.



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Resilient
Communities
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