BRiCS Building Resilient Communities in Somalia

TERRA LEARNING EVENT · 4 NOVEMBER 2026

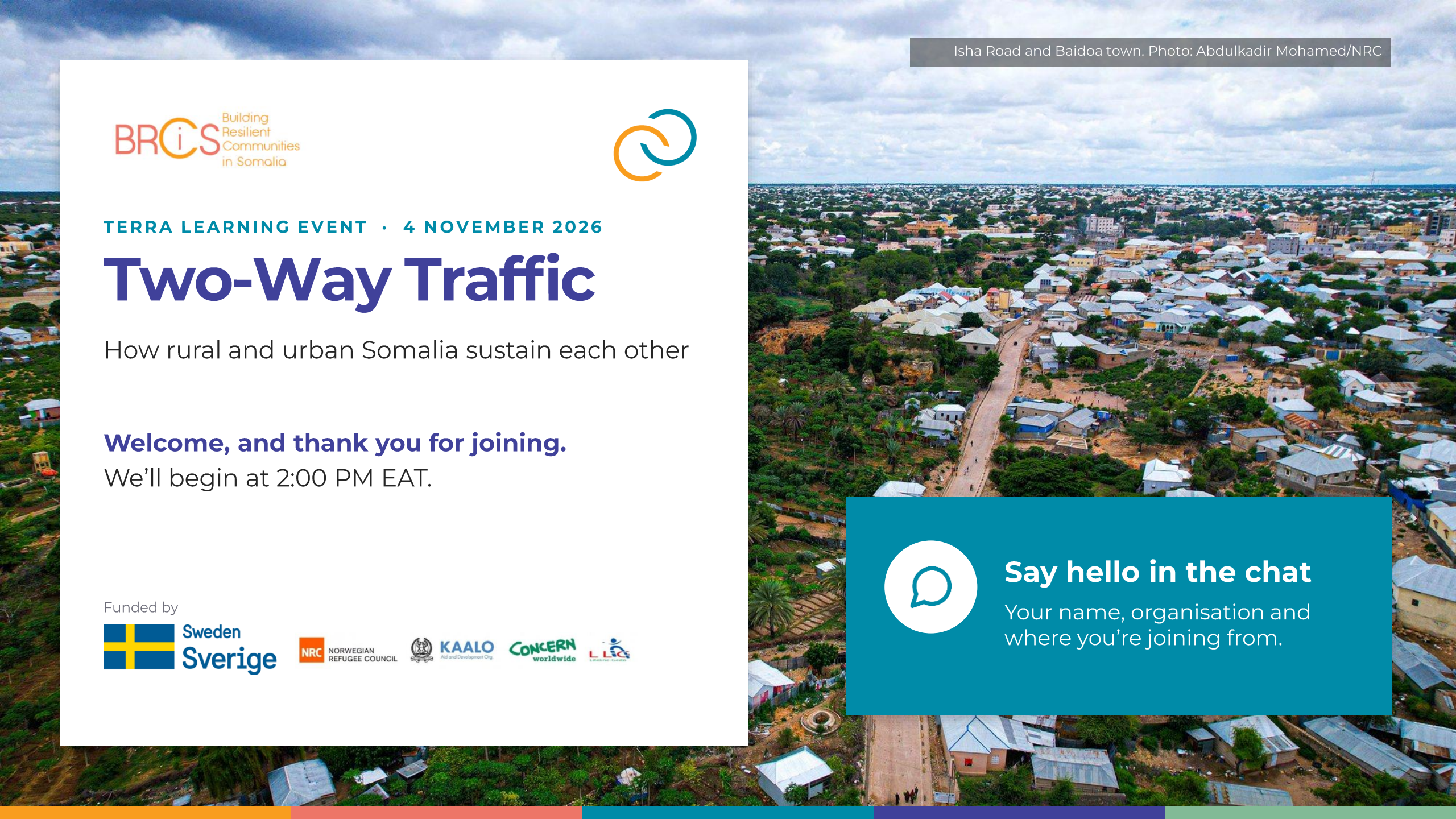
Two-Way Traffic

How rural and urban Somalia sustain each other

Welcome, and thank you for joining.
We'll begin at 2:00 PM EAT.

Funded by

Sweden Sverige · NRC Norwegian Refugee Council · KAALO Aid and Development Org. · Concern Worldwide · LLG Lifeline Group



Isha Road and Baidoa town. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

Say hello in the chat

Your name, organisation and where you're joining from.

Today's session

1) OPENING PLENARY

Welcome

Opening remarks
H.E. Hans Henric Lundquist, Swedish Ambassador to Somalia

TERRA: What it achieved
Perrine, BRCiS Chief of Party

Reflections from Sida
Cecilia Kleimert, Resilience Programme Manager, Embassy of Sweden

Choosing a breakout room

2) BREAKOUT ROOMS

Room 1: Isha Road, Baidoa
NRC

Room 2: Milk Chain, Galkacyo
KAALO

Room 3: Biogas, Bardhere
Concern and Lifeline Gedo

Each room: a short presentation from the member who ran the pilot, then discussion.

3) BACK IN PLENARY

What we heard in the rooms

Future programming
Isaiah Sciford

Questions and discussion

Thanks and close

Housekeeping


Microphones off unless speaking


Questions and comments in the chat


Slides and stories shared after the event



OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Hans Henric Lundquist

Ambassador of Sweden to Somalia

Water catchment reservoir, TERRA. Photo: Hamada Astaan Media



Safiya and Abshir head to Baidoa market. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2026

TERRA at a glance

Perrine Piton, BRCiS Chief of Party

SEK 60m

from the Swedish government, fully used by close-out

4

districts: Baidoa, Bardhere, Galkacyo and Jariban

1st

BRCiS project built around rural–urban links

THREE WAYS TERRA BUILT RESILIENCE

Regenerative food production
Farming, permagardens and land and water restoration

Rural–urban value chains
Producers, traders and buyers working together

Early warning, early action
Community alerts linked to fast, flexible funds

What TERRA delivered

Regenerative food production

1,319 food producers supported with training, inputs and extension

1,089 urban households trained in permagardening

166 ha of degraded land rehabilitated

16,900 people with safe water from 21 water sources

Rural–urban value chains

7 rural–urban trade expos, with 1,040 participants

840 food producers trained in business skills

19 Self-Help Groups with 380 members, 93% women

3 TERRA Fund pilots: today's breakout rooms

Early warning, early action

32 community early warning committees

2,148 households received water in the 2026 drought

653 households earned income through cash for work

2,365 households reached by 17 community-led small grants

TERRA exceeded its impact targets

Baseline (2024) to endline (2026), final evaluation

Households with acceptable diets

37.5% → 90.6%

Target: +30 points

Baardheere moved least: 68% → 73%

Average monthly income

USD 44 → 106

Target: +10% · Result: +140%

Galkacyo started from USD 6

Communities at medium resilience

1 → 10 of 15

Target: 50% · Result: 67%

Galkacyo stayed at Low

Positive rural–urban integration

77% → 84%

Target: medium rubric score

Baidoa fell from 72% to 68%



Sharifa Mohamed harvests limes. Photo: Hamada Astaan Media



REFLECTIONS FROM SIDA

Cecilia Kleimert

Resilience Program Manager, Embassy of Sweden

Galkacyo. Photo: Daud Muse/KAALO

Follow the prompt on your screen to select a breakout room.

ROOM 1



Room 1: Isha Road, Baidoa

Presented by NRC

Rebuilding 300 metres of road that cut 1,000 farmers off from market. Who should pay to keep it working?

ROOM 2



Room 2: Milk Chain, Galkacyo

Presented by KAALO

Cooperatives, motorcycles and cooling hubs that keep camel milk fresh from village to town.

ROOM 3



Room 3: Biogas, Bardhere

Presented by Concern and Lifeline Gedo

A pilot that worked until the drought, and what it teaches about testing new technology.

What to expect in your breakout:

10 min presentation from the BRCiS Member who ran the pilot

20 min facilitated discussion on the presentation

All breakouts recorded and shared with participants after the event.

Breakout presentations

Backup copies of the three room presentations. Members present from their own copies; use these only if a presenter can't share their screen.

ROOM 1: ISHA ROAD, BAIDOA

ROOM 2: MILK CHAIN, GALKACYO

ROOM 3: BIOGAS, BARDHERE





Isha Road before rehabilitation. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

BAIDOA · NRC

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

Rehabilitating Isha Road in Baidoa

How repairing 300 metres of road reconnected people, markets and services

THE PROBLEM

- Isha Road links about 1,000 farmers, a main source of Baidoa's vegetables and fruit, to the city's markets.
- A 300-metre section had been impassable to vehicles for years. The municipality had no budget to fix it.
- Runoff was eroding the area and threatening Isha Spring, Baidoa's main water source.

"Sometimes the road created delays that caused my produce to spoil before I reached the market."

— Abdiaziz Hassan Ali, farmer, Isha

Built to last: 300 metres of reinforced concrete

300 m Reinforced concrete road, 7 metres wide, built for heavy traffic

1.5% Slope with shallow drainage, carrying runoff away from the road and Isha Spring

1 m Concrete sidewalk, plus curb stones and a disability ramp requested by residents

Chosen and built with the community

The road was the top priority of Isha's Community Resilience Committee. NRC built it with Baidoa Municipality and the Ministry of Public Works, hiring local workers and buying from local suppliers.



1 Site preparation



Photos: NRC

2 Compacted base and crushed stone



3 Reinforced concrete



4 Finished surface and drainage

What the road carries now

Changes reported by farmers and traders after the road opened

10–15 min

Travel time to markets and services, down from 30 minutes to 2 hours

~10%

Post-harvest losses, down from about 25%

+45–60%

Increase in farmer incomes

1 → 4

Daily trips to market for trader Sokorey and her team during harvest

“It represents not only improved physical infrastructure but also increased resilience, stronger livelihoods, safer mobility, and better integration between rural and urban systems.”

— Hassan Moalim Ali, Director of the Land Department, Baidoa Municipality



Abdiaziz Hassan Ali now takes his produce from Isha to Baidoa market faster and in fewer trips. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

Would we do it again? Yes, with upkeep planned early

WHAT WAS HARD

- The road is designed to last 15–20 years, but only with maintenance, and the municipality has a large backlog and little budget.
- Technical issues and security risks during construction needed close coordination on site.
- Only 300 metres were rebuilt. Another 400 metres still separate Isha from the main road network.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Build for quality. Concrete cost more up front but needs less maintenance.
- Let the community set the priority, and hire and buy locally.
- Agree who maintains the road before construction starts.
- Check drainage after the first heavy rains, and track benefits for women and men separately.



WHAT'S NEXT

- Rebuild the next 400 metres to the main road
- Streetlights, speed bumps and culverts
- Consider Isha for a milk aggregation hub

"The project represents good value for money... The long-term social and economic benefits outweigh the initial investment."

— Bashir Hassan Daud, WASH and Shelter Engineer, NRC

Questions for the room

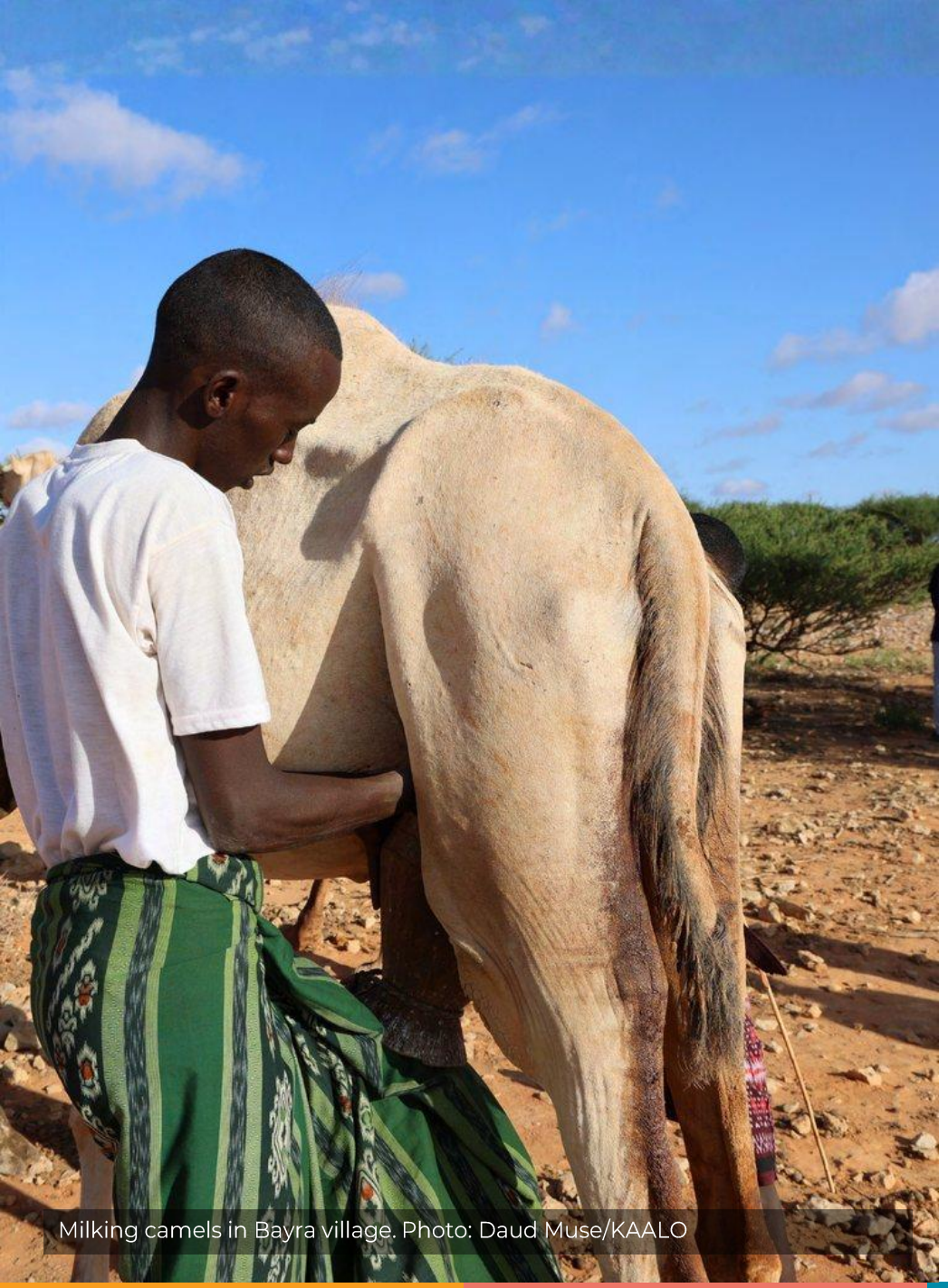
Draft questions for NRC to refine

1. A 300-metre gap cut 1,000 farmers off from market. How do we find small, high-return fixes like this in other districts?

2. Who should own and pay for upkeep: municipalities, communities or programmes like BRCiS? How do we agree that before we build?

3. Roads are rarely in resilience budgets. What would it take for donors and government to fund fixes like this as resilience investments?





Milking camels in Bayra village. Photo: Daud Muse/KAALO

GALKACYO · KAALO

KAALO
Aid and Development Org.

Strengthening the milk value chain in Galkacyo

How cooperatives keep camel milk fresh from village to town

THE PROBLEM

- Milk was carried for hours on foot in plastic containers, and much of it spoiled before it reached buyers.
- When milk spoiled, nobody agreed who should bear the loss, and disputes spread along the chain.
- In the rainy season, surplus milk had nowhere to go. Women traders were forced into distress sales.

“Sometimes I thought about stopping this business altogether… It felt like all my hard work was wasted.”

— Abdifitah Nadir Abdinur, camel owner, milk producer and trader

What we did: from camel to customer

KAALO worked with every link in the chain at the same time, so that no single weak link would spoil the milk.

Photos: Daud Muse/KAALO



AT THE SOURCE

Producers

3 cooperatives with 150 members, registered with the Ministry. Steel cans and hygiene training.



ON THE ROAD

Transporters

Shared motorcycles, run and maintained by the cooperatives.



STORAGE

Aggregation hubs

2 solar-powered cooling hubs in Bayra and Gobsho villages.



DISTRIBUTION

Traders

50-member trade association, business training and trade expos.



A BIGGER BUYER

Nomad Dairy

Linked to the cooperatives at a trade expo. Support for a milk processing building.



TO CUSTOMERS

Vendors

Milk jugs and solar fridges for women and youth traders.

The chain starts with the land. Camel milk depends on healthy rangelands. Alongside value chain work, KAALO and other BRCiS members are restoring rangelands to bring back pastoral livelihoods (see *The Original First Responder*).

Fresher milk, steadier incomes, fewer disputes

7–8 days

How long milk now keeps in the cooling system, according to sellers

200

Value chain actors trained in milk hygiene, handling and quality

3 + 1

Registered cooperatives plus a trade association, organising the chain

1

Corporate buyer, Nomad Dairy, now sourcing from the cooperatives

Price makers, not price takers. With better milk and storage, cooperatives could have raised prices. They chose not to, to keep milk affordable for families in town.

“The cooling system has reduced waste and helped reduce conflicts between camel milk producers and milk sellers.”

— Hawo Burhan Mohamed, milk seller, Gobsho



Photo: Daud Muse/KAALO

Would we do it again? Yes, and scale it up

WHAT WAS HARD

- Milk hygiene habits were hard to sustain, even after training and new equipment.
- Low literacy among women traders limited the use of business and record-keeping practices.
- Limited private-sector engagement held back new market links.
- Drought and herd movement cut milk supply during the pilot.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Invest in trust and shared institutions, not only in equipment.
- Train every link in the chain. Miss one, and the milk still spoils.
- Cooperatives need continued support from government and buyers.
- Simple tools like steel cans and solar cooling cut losses at low cost.



WHAT'S NEXT

- A cooling hub in Galkacyo town
- Links to credit and savings
- Processing into cheese and butter
- Extend the model to IDP settlements

"Trust and communication are key to sustainability."

— Abdirsaq Ali Mohamed, milk producer and cooperative member, Bayra

Questions for the room

1. Nomad Dairy wants more milk than the hubs can supply. How could private buyers co-invest in the next hubs and cold chain?

2. Drought moves herds away and cuts supply. How should cooperatives plan so they survive the dry season?

3. What should come next: a cooling hub in town, access to finance, or processing? Which would make the biggest difference?









Photos: Abdinasir Hassan/Concern

BARDHERE · CONCERN, LIFELINE GEDO

From waste to biogas to cleaner air in Bardhere

A pilot that proved the concept and exposed the constraints

THE PROBLEM

- Families spent USD 20–30 a month on firewood and charcoal, or hours each day collecting it.
- Cutting nearby trees for fuel meant walking further each day, exposing women and girls to risks and increasing deforestation.
- Kitchens filled with smoke, while livestock manure was unused, causing sanitation problems as soil fertility declined.

“As the primary cook, I was exposed to smoke every day, which often irritated my eyes, made me cough…”

— Abdiyo Maclin Abdi, Bulo-Adey

What we did: a circular system

IN

- Livestock manure
- Water
- Household food waste and crop residue

DIGESTER



Fixed-dome digester, run by a community committee

OUT



Clean cooking gas, piped to kitchens



Bio-slurry fertiliser for farms and permagardens

7 biogas digesters built over two years, in 4 villages. **96** households connected.

126 people trained in operation and maintenance (members of waste management committees, SHGs, farmer cooperatives)

2 awareness campaigns on deforestation and charcoal use before building

It worked, even during the drought

Survey of participating households, conducted during the drought

100%
used biogas to cook in the last week

97%
saw less smoke in the kitchen

97%
spent less on cooking fuel

81%
spent less time collecting firewood

93%
would recommend biogas to another household

100%
of farmers used bio-slurry as fertiliser

“Cooking became easier, cleaner, and more convenient… I spent less money on charcoal and firewood and no longer needed to spend as much time searching for fuel.”

— Abdiyo Maclin Abdi, Bulo-Adey



Photo: Abdinasir Hassan/Concern

Would we do it again? Yes, adapted for drought

WHAT WAS HARD

- Digesters need steady water and manure. In the drought both ran short, gas output fell and households went back to firewood.
- Biogas and gas cookers in general were new to Bardhere, so building trust and familiarity took sustained engagement.
- Expectations of continued payment affected sustainability.
- Some users reported headaches, burns or suspected leaks, though a minority.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Biogas works, but only with year-round water and organic material for feedstock.
- Test designs through both wet and dry seasons before scaling.
- Appropriate sizing of the biogas chambers is important ($12m^3$ vs $30m^3$).
- Regular technical support and safety training are essential.
- Clear community communication and expectations management builds ownership.



HOW WE'RE ADAPTING

- Natural regeneration and woodlots to restore tree cover
- Smaller digesters for households (cheaper and easier to fill)
- Larger digesters at market sites with fixed water points (PPP?)

"Prolonged drought conditions reduced livestock productivity and the availability of animal waste... The drought also reduced water availability, which the digesters need to produce gas... Eventually, the system stopped functioning effectively."

— Shamso, a project participant in Bardhere

Questions for the room

1. The pilot worked until the drought, then stalled. How should we judge a pilot that succeeds in normal years but stops working in a shock?

2. What should we test, and for how long, before deciding to scale a new technology?

3. How can this technology be adapted to be more affordable and replicable?



COLLECTIVE DEBRIEF: What this means for future programming

Isaiah Sciford, BRCiS Programme Manager



Isha Road, Baidoa. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

What we heard

From the people in the stories, and from today's rooms

ROOM 1: ISHA ROAD, BAIDOA

Abshir Abdullahi Burale, farmer in Isha, said:

"We are no longer isolated. We can access assistance, services, and markets more easily."

What did today's room say?

A few insights from the room's participants.

ROOM 2: MILK CHAIN, GALKACYO

Bashir Isse Jame, milk transporter in Gobsho, said:

"Our future milk business now looks more stable and promising, like a sunrise."

What did today's room say?

A few insights from the room's participants.

ROOM 3: BIOGAS, BARDHERE

Shamso Sheikh Ibrahim, biogas user in Bulo-Cesan, said:

"The shared management structure promotes teamwork, accountability, and mutual support."

What did today's room say?

A few insights from the room's participants.

What TERRA taught us

Five lessons that now shape how BRCiS designs programmes

Plan for movement

Moving between village and town is how families manage risk. Programmes should follow them, and stop counting it as dropout.

Small fixes can unlock whole systems

300 metres of road and two cooling hubs changed how entire value chains work.

Test through both seasons

Biogas worked until the drought. What scales depends on the worst year as much as the average one.

Put flexible money with communities

Community-led small grants moved faster in the drought than standard response.

Measure the connections

Tracking rural–urban links over time showed what holds places together and what pulls them apart.

Rural and urban Somalia work as one landscape. Our programmes need to as well.

Questions and discussion

If life moves back and forth, why don’t we?

Questions and comments are welcome in the chat or by raising your hand.



Photo: Daud Muse/KAALO



Baidoa. Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

Thank you for joining

Resilience travels both ways

Read the full case studies:

- Two-Way Traffic: how rural and urban Somalia sustain each other
- Rehabilitating Isha Road in Baidoa
- Strengthening the milk value chain in Galkacyo
- From waste to biogas to cleaner air in Bardhere

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