



**Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects  
Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus  
Half Year Report**

*Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.*

**Submission Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	DAREX003
<b>Project title</b>	Climate resilience, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland)
<b>Lead partner</b>	The Development Fund of Norway
<b>Partner(s)</b>	ADO, HAVOYOCO, KAALO and Amoud University
<b>Project leader</b>	Elin Cecilie Ranum
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1, 31 October 2023
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/">https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/</a>

**Outline of progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept):**

**Output 1: Two CSBs are established with all necessary equipment, training, and management structures, 3 existing CSBs are better equipped to deliver quality seeds**

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities:

- Training of 60 smallholder farmers (29 men and 31 women) on gender-sensitive seed security assessment (SSA) (Activity 1.1)
- Training of project staff on tools and methodologies for the SSA data collection and analysis (Activity 1.2). SSA analysis will be disseminated in Q4 of the FY 2023-24.
- Initiation of the process for constructing two new community seed banks (CSB) (Activity 1.4). DF and partners carried out a technical feasibility assessment and discussions with all relevant authorities and community members on the selected sites which resulted in a change of the originally selected sites into more feasible new sites within the same districts. DF and partners kicked-off the procurement process and are planning to implement the construction work in the second half of FY 2023-24
- Procurement process for a green-house for demonstration and multiplication of vegetable seeds, in line with the efforts to scale up and support existing CSBs (Activity 1.5)
- Training of 10 CSB Committee members in CUUN in seed handling using traditional mechanisms to ensure sustained seed quality (Activity 1.10)
- Support efforts to increased collaboration between Beer CSO and farming cooperatives, including the signing of a collaboration agreement with two cooperatives. Training of CSB committees in pest-management for seed treatment (Activity 1.14)

The delays in finalising the SSAs caused subsequent delays in some interconnected activities (1.8, 1.9, 1.11 and 1.13) as the implementation of these activities to a large extent depend on information from the SSA for making decisions regarding these activities. The change of

locations for the National Gene Bank and the new CSBs, as well as challenges related to water scarcity (see section 2 for more details) caused delays for these activities. It is expected that activities will be implemented in Q4 for the FY 2023-24.

**Output 2 Five CSBs (2 new and 3 existing) supported to sell their seeds in markets outside their local communities.**

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities during this reporting period:

- A seed market survey was conducted to find out the market opportunities for the CSBs in Hargeisa and Burao (Activity 2.1). Project staff were also trained in how to conduct market surveys.
- Awareness raising of 3,000 smallholder farmers on the availability of quality seeds in the project CSBs and the National Gene Bank (Activity 2.3). It is expected that an additional 10,000 farmers were reached through media campaigns.
- Existing CSBs Beer and Galoolay were supported to review their business plans for scalability and sustainability (Activity 2.5). In this reporting period the surplus sold was USD 1,338 the two CSBs.
- Support Galoolay CSB to exhibit their seed produce in the national seed fair organised by the Somaliland Ministry of Agricultural Development to widely communicate the work of the CSB (Activity 2.6)

There were delays in the implementation of activities 2.7 and 2.8. The main reason for this were the need for partners prioritising SSAs.

**Output 3. 2500 smallholder farmers have improved access to water for agriculture use**

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities during this reporting period:

- Construction of 110 water reservoirs benefitting 110 households with irrigation facilities for agricultural production (Activity 3.1).
- The project team engaged in thorough planning, including identification of technologies and methodologies, on how to build capacity of farmers on assessing water availability and assist farmers to develop seasonal planting plans based on the assessment (Activity 3.4). The implementation of this activity will start in Q3 of the FY 2023-24.

**Output 4. 2500 smallholder farmers have new agricultural skills and access to improved quality soil.**

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities during this reporting period:

- Training of 200 smallholder farmers in Cuun and Dulcadale on climate smart agricultural practices and pest management (Activity 4.1)
- The local capacity to conserve the drowning fertile soil and surface water is increased for 167 smallholder farmers (Activity 4.4).
- Construction of soil and water bund structures (18,150 m.) with the involvement of farmers (167) as a part of the efforts to construct holistic watershed management structures (Activity 4.6)

The support of the development of climate adaptation plans was postponed to Q3 of the FY as partners and local government prioritised the SSAs.

**Output 5. Capacity of public officials to draft, enact and operationalize seed policy in Somaliland and Puntland is strengthened.**

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities during this reporting period:

- Orientation and awareness raising of 21 policy-makers (Activity 5.1)
- Establishment of a platform comprising 4 CSOs to advocate for enactment and enforcement of seed policy (Activity 5.3). 3 additional CSOs are involved, however they are not participating actively in advocacy efforts.
- Support to 4 CSOs in the revision of the seed policy in Somaliland, including dialogue with the Ministry (Activity 5.4). The cabinet demanded further revision of the draft seed policy which as presented to the cabinet by the Minister of Agricultural Development.

**Other relevant information on progress:**

With reference to the useful and well-elaborated comments in the Darwin Extra Annual Report Review 2023, DF reports results on the following indicators. Verification documents will be provided in the annual report.

Indicator	Results
2.1 Detailed business plans, including plans for marketing and sales, developed, and implemented for 5 CSBs by 2023	2.1 Detailed business plans, including plans for marketing and sales, developed and implemented for 3 CSB by 30 September 2023.
2.2: Five CSBs have started selling their produce outside of local markets by 2023.	2.2: Two CSBs have started selling their produce outside of local markets by 30 September 2023.

DF and partners are considering some minor adjustments to the LFA, as well as the integration of some Darwin standard indicators. A possible LFA revision will be part of a Change Request that will be submitted in November/December 2023.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

**Scarce water availability:** Based on a hydrological survey conducted by relevant government authorities in 2023 in the area of the Beer CSB, it was noted a high degree of water salinity, potentially affecting water use for agriculture and livestock. As a result of this DF and partners are reconsidering plans to construct boreholes and instead assessing alternative solution for access to water. In one of the project areas (Galoolay), relevant authorities recommend support for maintenance and extension of existing boreholes rather than constructing a new borehole, as the existing boreholes will provide sufficient water to the CSB and surrounding HHs. when maintained and extended.

**As reported in the project's first year report, intensification of border conflicts** between Somaliland and Puntland, as well as the emergence of armed groups in these areas, has required more attention and shifted the Governments' priorities. This has affected progress on developing and approving seed policies.

**Insecurity affected routine monitoring process:** Insecurities delayed the physical monitoring to Puntland by both partners and DF. DF used other means of monitoring such as remote monitoring and coordination.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	
Change request reference if known:	

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)**  
**Actual spend:** ██████████

**4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?**  
**Yes**  **No**  Estimated underspend: ██████████ |

**4c. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

**If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

**NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.**

**Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

The underspending during the first half of the FY 2023-24 is to a large extent related to delays in the start-up of the construction of two new CSBs and the National Gene Bank. As elaborated above, the construction process has now started and we anticipate accelerated costs and spending during the second half of the FY. However, possible changes in the plan for the construction of boreholes may result in a shift of activities and possible underspending. We will follow this up with BCF and submit a change request in November/December 2023.

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with NIRAS through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report** by email to [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**