



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



**UK International  
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## Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

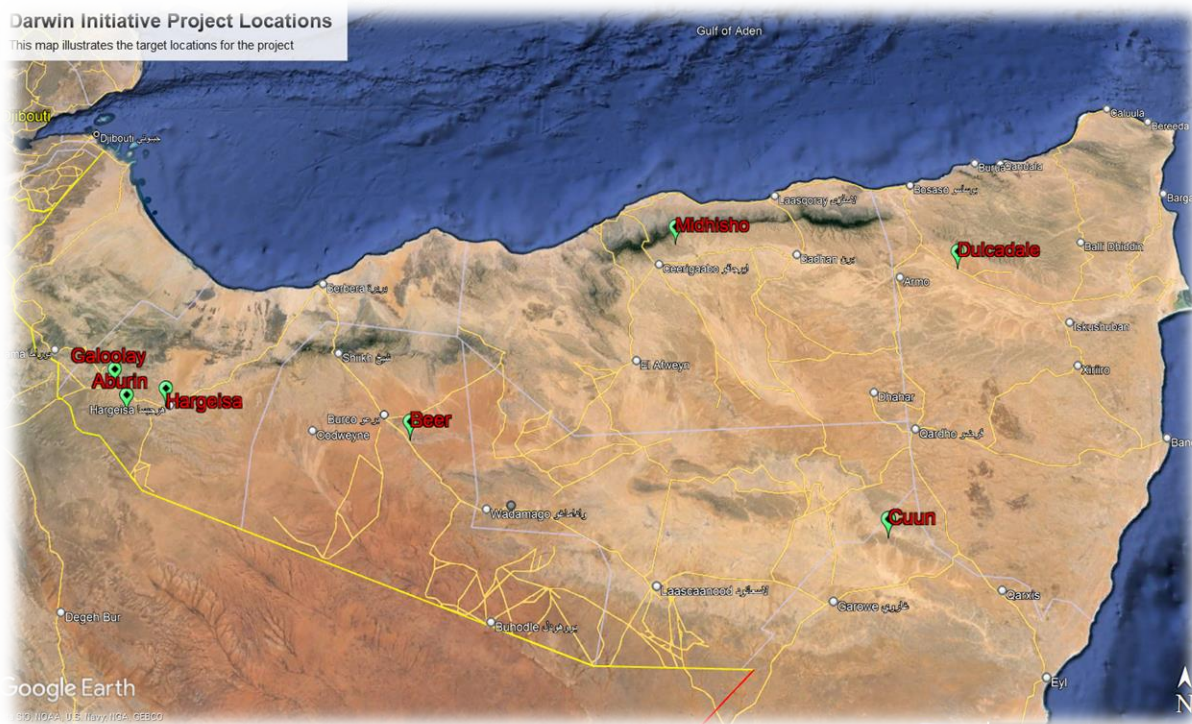
It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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### Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Extra
Project reference	DAREX003
Project title	Climate resilience, food, and livelihood security for agro pastoralists in Somalia
Country/ies	Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland)
Lead Organisation	The Development Fund of Norway
Project partner(s)	ADO, KAALO and Amoud University
Darwin Initiative grant value	£2,276,561.00
Start/end dates of project	1st April 2022 – 31st March 2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	(1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Elin Cecilie Ranum
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="#">Utviklingsfondet   Somalia</a> <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/utviklingsfondet/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/utviklingsfondet/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/">https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/</a>
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Map 1: Darwin Initiative Project Target Locations

## 1. Project summary

Contextualized assessments, including the IPC1 analyses (2024) and updates from OCHA and SWALIM, indicate that both Somaliland and Puntland continue to experience extensive degradation of natural resources, a severe decline in plant genetic diversity, and widespread deterioration of agricultural lands and pasture ecosystems. Decades of political instability, including the protracted civil conflicts, led to the displacement of populations, the abandonment of farms, and the collapse of critical agricultural institutions and extension services.

Key drivers of environmental degradation include unchecked livestock overgrazing, unsustainable farming practices, and the absence of effective rangeland management systems. Concurrently, intensified climate shocks such as erratic rainfall patterns, extended drought periods, flash floods, and increased incidence of crop pests and diseases have compounded the fragility of agriculture-based livelihoods. The cumulative impact of these factors has severely undermined food production systems, placing rural communities in both Somaliland and Puntland at heightened risk of acute food insecurity.

According to the most recent IPC report (February 2025), both regions predominantly fall between IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency), with localized populations at risk of sliding into Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine), particularly in drought-affected areas. Acute malnutrition levels remain critically high, and persistent food insecurity continues to escalate mortality rates while stalling economic development.

Additionally, policy and institutional frameworks addressing food security and natural resource management remain underdeveloped. In Somaliland, Puntland, and the wider Somali context, significant challenges exist that obstruct the development of a comprehensive strategy for seed security and the management of plant genetic resources. Specifically, there are critical gaps in the conservation, repatriation, and sustainable utilization of local seed varieties. National and regional seed banks remain under-resourced, with inadequate infrastructure for seed storage and conservation, further threatening the erosion of agrobiodiversity at a time when climate adaptation measures are urgently needed.

<sup>1</sup> FSNAU

A Seed Security Assessment report presented by DF and its partners in this financial year has been instrumental in identifying, collecting, and promoting the selection of resilient seed varieties at the community level. However, significant efforts are still needed to strengthen seed systems, restore degraded lands, and build community resilience.

This project prioritizes seed security enhancement and land rehabilitation interventions across five Agro-pastoral communities. It leveraged lessons learned from ended projects and engage key stakeholders including government line ministries, community-based organizations, and relevant policymakers to foster an enabling environment for sustainable agricultural recovery. The intervention sites will include Beer, Midhisho, and Galoolay villages across Togdheer, Sanaag, and Maroodi-jeex regions in Somaliland, and Dulcadale and Cuun villages located in the Bari and Nugaal regions of Puntland State of Somalia.

## 2. **Project stakeholders/ partners**

In reference to the last FY reporting period, DF serves as the lead agency, overseeing overall coordination and strategic management. Implementation activities are carried out by three local NGOs and one local university; each selected for their deep-rooted relationships and proven track record of working effectively within the targeted communities. The project builds upon longstanding collaborations among DF, its implementing partners, government bodies, and other key stakeholders, ensuring continuity and alignment with local priorities. Notably, all partners actively contributed to the co-creation and design of the current intervention, fostering strong ownership and cohesion across the project framework. (See *annex II for the partners monitoring report*.)

During the reporting period, DF and its partners continued robust advocacy efforts, promoting Community Seed Bank (CSB) services and the availability of quality seeds through engagement with government authorities and agricultural sector actors within the Food Security Cluster and Production Sector coordination platforms. A significant achievement during this period was the continued procurement of seeds by the Somaliland Ministry of Agricultural Development from the CSBs, a practice initiated in collaboration with international NGOs (INGOs). This procurement not only generates income for community seed banks but also enhances their operational sustainability and service delivery at the grassroots level.

Further supporting CSB visibility and engagement, DF and partners facilitated the participation of community seed banks in the 2023 World Food Day events held in both Puntland and Somaliland, showcasing local initiatives and promoting resilience-based agricultural practices. Additionally, DF provided updates to all project partners regarding Somalia's official accession to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). Although political and administrative separations persist between Somaliland, Puntland, and the Federal Government of Somalia, FAO continues efforts to foster dialogue and encourage collaboration among these entities on matters related to the Treaty and broader agrobiodiversity governance.

***Please note that the following session includes sensitive and confidential information which should be removed before the report is published.***

*As reported in the 2023-24 annual report and duly discussed with BCF, DF faced challenges with one of the local partners, HAVOYOCO, after suspicion of possible mismanagement of funds. HAVOYOCO decided to terminate the partnership with DF in April 2024, and the dispute over the partnership arrangement remains unsettled. The 2024 elections in Somaliland resulted in further delays in the process, however DF has established a dialogue with the new leadership in the Ministry of Planning and National Development. DF is currently awaiting feedback from BCF on the 2023-24 annual and expect to make the final arrangements of the handover of project sites when BCF has assessed the audit. The challenges with the partnership have caused delays in the implementation of activities in the area covered by HAVOYOCO. DF is in the process of including a new partner which will take over HAVOYOCO's role in the project.*

### 3. Project progress

#### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**Activity 1.3** Two knowledge-sharing workshops on Seed Security Assessment were held in Erigavo and Hargeisa, engaging 96 participants (76M and 20F) from government bodies, NGOs, farmer groups, and community organizations. Hosted by Amoud University and ADO partners, the sessions aimed to share findings, foster dialogue, and strengthen strategies to improve seed systems and agricultural resilience. *See annex I for photos and annex II for the workshop report.*

**Activity 1.5** During the reporting period, the Cuun and Beer Community Seed Banks were restocked to address drought-related depletion. For the Beer Seed Bank, 30 climate-resilient seed varieties from 20 key crops including Sorghum, Maize, Cowpea, Mung Bean, Sesame, and others (were provided. Additionally, 180 hermetic bags were distributed to improve seed storage by creating pest-resistant, airtight conditions. *See annex I for photos and annex II for seed restocking and hermetic bags report.*

**Activity 1.7** The project delivered a five-day training to 15 members of the Dulcadale Community Seed Bank Committee and local farmers in Puntland, along with 14 technical committee members from the Midhisho Community Seed Bank (5 women, 9 men) In Somaliland. Topics covered included seed selection, health, cleaning, registration, processing, storage, monitoring, regeneration, record-keeping, and packaging. Two government officials also participated. *See annex I for photos of training and annex ii for the training report.*

**Activity 1.8** The project held a workshop to develop two bylaws for the Midhisho and Dulcadale Community Seed Banks. One bylaw serves as a procedural framework for managing and overseeing the seed banks, while the other establishes regulations for asset management. Together, these bylaws provide a robust legal framework for the effective management of the Midhisho Community Seed Bank.

**Activity 1.9** The project organized a training for the management committees of Community Seed Banks (CSBs) in Dulcadale, Puntland, and Midhisho, Somaliland, aimed at developing internal control systems for seed production and improving CSB management. The training was attended by 65 participants, including 49 men and 16 women, from both locations. *See annex I for photos of training and annex ii for the training report.*

**Activity 1.10** The project delivered a three-day seed handling training to 31 members (8 women, 23 men) of the Dulcadale and Midhisho Community Seed Bank Committees. The training focused on improving skills in seed processing, cleaning, treatment, packaging, and storage to maintain quality and viability. *See annex I for photos of training and annex ii for the training report.*

**Activity 1.11** Amoud University, KAALO, and ADO introduced 30 new crop varieties to the Cuun and Beer Community Seed Banks, with several currently undergoing evaluation in varietal trial plots. *See annex I for photos of established trials and annex II for the design of trial.*

**Activity 1.12** During the reporting period, 19 crop varieties from 11 adaptation trials were established at the demonstration farms of the Cuun and Beer Community Seed Banks. The trials are currently in the growth phase and have not yet reached the harvest stage. *See annex I for photos of established trials and annex II for the design of trial.*

**Activity 1.13** During the reporting period, a pipeline was installed from a strategic shallow well to the Dulcadale demonstration farm, along with the construction of a 60 m<sup>3</sup> water storage tank. Additionally, 350 meters of water canals were built in Midhisho. In Beer, the community dam was upgraded with a 520-meter-long protective base (0.4 m wide, 0.3 m deep, and 0.2 m above ground), and 60W solar lights were installed to enhance visibility and security. *See annex I for photos (fig. 8.) of improved strategic shallow wells and water tank.*

**Activity 1.14** During the reporting period, the project held a three-day training workshop in Dulcadale for 50 local farmers (38 men and 12 women), focusing on pest and disease management in crop storage, with emphasis on community seed bank facilities. Additionally, 20 grain storage silos were distributed 10 to households in Beer village and 10 in Midhisho village. *See annex I for photos of training and annex ii for the training report.*

**Activity 2.2** The newly constructed seedbanks Midhisho and Dulcadale Community were equipped with office furniture, IT equipment, seed storage containers, and traditional threshers to support seed bank operations.

**Activity 2.3** Sixteen village-level extension workers (11 men, 5 women) from Beer, Cuun, and Dulcadale were trained on seed rights and access. They reached 760 farmers (303 men, 147 women) through awareness campaigns. *See annex I for photos of training and annex II for the training report.*

**Activity 2.4** A one-day workshop in Midhisho engaged 97 farmers (67 men, 30 women) from surrounding villages to strengthen linkages with the CSB and clarify seed borrowing procedures. *See annex I for photos of workshop and annex ii for the workshop report.*

**Activity 2.6** CSBs and partners participated in World Food Day 2024 events in Hargeisa and Garowe, organized by the respective Ministries of Agriculture.

**Activity 2.7** In this reporting period, two market campaigns were held by the Beer and Cuun Community Seed Banks in Puntland and Somaliland. The Seed Fair Exhibition meetings attracted 90 participants, including the Ministry of Agriculture, commercial and smallholder farmers, regional cooperatives, local NGOs (Nafis, SOYDAVO, and HAVOYOCO), and international organizations (Save the Children, SOS, and FAO). *See annex I for photos of the event and the report in the annex II.*

**Activity 2.8** Seed distribution system manual/guideline was developed to guide CSB operations in Somaliland and Puntland. *See annex II for the developed manual in Somali version.*

**Activity 3.1** in this reporting period, the project purchased and distributed 20 HDPE plastic black irrigation pipes (3 inches, 100 meters each) 5 in Cuun and 15 in Dulcadale, Puntland. In Somaliland, two gullies/water points were rehabilitated to improve water availability for irrigation in Midhisho farmers. *See annex I for the photos of distributed HDPEs.*

**Activity 3.2** A four-day training on rainwater conservation and usage was held for 160 farmers (87 men, 73 women) from Beer and Midhisho villages in Somaliland, and Cuun and Dulcadale villages in Puntland. *See annex I for photos of training and annex II for the training report.*

**Activity 3.3** 30 geo-plastic sheets (23 to men, 7 to women) was distributed in Beer and Midhisho. While only In Beer village, four shallow wells were installed, each with 100 meters of 4-inch HDPE pipe and solar-powered water pumps, along with four elevated metal water tanks and one new barkad. In Dulcadale and Cuun, 30 HDPE water tanks (5-barrel capacity) were distributed 20 in Dulcadale and 10 in Cuun. Additionally, three shallow wells in Dulcadale were rehabilitated with 3-inch, 100-meter HDPE pipes. The project also distributed 20 water storage bladders and supplied to 20 households in Dulcadale with elevated HDPE water tanks and 3-inch, 100-meter irrigation pipes. *See annex I for the photos of distributed HDPEs geomembrane.*

**Activity 4.1** A 12-day training was held for 298 smallholder farmers (174 women, 124 men) and 6 government extension officers in Beer and Midhisho villages, covering good agricultural practices, pest management, and climate-smart techniques. In Puntland, 300 farmers (150 from Cuun and 150 from Dulcadale, with 145 women and 155 men) also received training. *See annex I for photos of training and annex II for the training report.*

**Activity 4.2** The project sensitized 200 farmers from Dulcadale and Cuun on market information. In Somaliland, a campaign reached 296 smallholder farmers (136 men, 160 women), focusing

on market trends, pricing, mechanization, and links to community seed banks. *See annex I for photos of sensitization campaign.*

**Activity 4.3** A four-day Climate Adaptive Village (CAV) workshop in Beer Village, Togdheer, Somaliland, engaged 21 participants (11 men, 10 women) from various sectors. In Puntland, a similar workshop in Dulcadale brought together 30 participants (21 men, 9 women). The project also provided 11 water pump generators (2-inch, 100-meter capacity) to farmers in Dulcadale. *See annex I for photos of workshop and annex II for the workshop report.*

**Activity 4.4** A total of 9,900 linear meters of soil bunds were constructed in Beer Village on degraded lands to enhance land productivity and sustainability in the agro-pastoral sector. This activity benefited 90 casual workers, 30 supervisors, and 30 farmers who created soil bunds on their farms. Additionally, 400 gabions were installed in Midhisho to prevent land degradation and restore farming areas, benefiting 100 farms. *See annex I for photos of constructed soil bunds.*

**Activity 4.6** In this reporting period, a 100-meter rubble stone flood barrier and 200 gabion baskets were constructed in Dulcadale and Cuun.

**Activity 5.1** This year, the Somaliland Seed Policy was translated into Somali after cabinet review to enhance accessibility, while the previously translated Puntland Seed Policy was shared with communities and stakeholders for engagement and feedback. Both policies are now under review by the Somaliland and Puntland ministerial cabinets for final approval. *See annex II for the Somaliland seed policy both Somali and English Versions.*

**Activity 5.2** A one-day workshop established a Civil Society Organization (CSO) to advocate for the Puntland Seed Policy, involving key stakeholders such as farmers' associations, academic institutions, agro-dealers, NGOs, and UN agencies.

**Activity 5.3** the project engaged 190 smallholder farmers (116 men, 74 women) in Cuun and Caana-yasax on seed rights. In Somaliland, ADO conducted an awareness campaign for 220 participants (200 farmers, 20 policymakers) in Midhisho, Beer Village, and Burao. A workshop in Burao focused on seed policies and legal rights for 8 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and other key ministries.

**Activity 5.4** The Somaliland Seed Policy has been translated into the local language and is awaiting approval from the ministerial cabinet, pending the new government's prioritization of security and reforms. In Puntland, the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with KAALO, conducted a seven-day campaign in March 2025 across multiple locations to inform farmers and stakeholders about the draft seed policy and gather feedback. *See annex I for the photos of this activity as ref.*

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

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

Significant progress towards this output has been made. As referred to in the section above (progress in project activity implementation), the two new Community Seed Banks have been fully equipped with essential infrastructure and equipment. Training sessions on governance and technical CSB management have prepared CSB committee members (15 in Dulcadale and 14 in Midhisho) to take on the responsibilities for the management of the CSBs, supported by comprehensive bylaws that were developed to guide operational management and asset control. This has enabled the CSB to establish functional leadership and structured committee operations, and to undertake the technical oversight and control of the CSB functions. The technical functions will be supported by government institutions, which were also part of the

technical capacity building. Improvements on water infrastructures have ensured access to water for the CSB, which is crucial for the functioning of the CSBs. For the existing community seed banks, the project has strengthened their capacity to deliver quality seeds through improved water infrastructure, selective seed restocking from Somaliland's ecological zones, and capacity building in management and product promotion.

The capacity of two of the existing Community Seed Banks (CSBs) has been strengthened through mechanization support, improved water infrastructure (including the upgraded Beer Dam), selective seed restocking from Somaliland's ecological zones, and managerial support (capacity-building and product promotion) for CSB committees. Due to the ongoing case of possible mismanagement of funds, one of the existing community seedbanks was not supported and scaling up activities were not implemented.

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

Substantial progress has been achieved toward this output. As outlined in the previous section (progress in project activity implementation), several initiatives were implemented to enhance the operations and market participation of the five Community Seed Banks (CSBs). Building on progress under output 1 where new CSBs have been established, properly equipped and with governance structures in place, the project has started to support the new CSBs in the process of selling their seeds. A workshop in Midhisho engaged 97 farmers from surrounding villages, fostering stronger linkages with the CSB, and clarifying procedures for seed borrowing, essential for expanding farmer participation. Capacity building efforts included training sixteen village-level extension workers on seed rights and access, enabling them to reach and sensitize 760 farmers across Beer, Cuun, and Dulcadale, thereby strengthening community engagement with CSB activities. To enhance visibility and promote the CSBs' market presence, CSBs and partners participated in the World Food Day 2024 events in Hargeisa and Garowe, coordinated by the respective Ministries of Agriculture.

In line with the business plans developed in 2023. Beer and Cuun CSBs conducted market campaigns outside their local areas, participating in Seed Fair Exhibitions that engaged 90 stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, farmers, and development partners, thereby broadening their market exposure and paving the way for increased sales opportunities. A Seed Distribution System Manual was also developed to standardize and guide CSB operations in both Somaliland and Puntland, ensuring a more structured and professional approach to seed management and distribution. Collectively, these initiatives have strengthened the CSBs' operational capacity, enhanced their market visibility, and positioned them to achieve the 2025 target of selling their produce outside of local markets.

#### **Output 3. 2,500 smallholder farmers have improved access to water for agricultural use**

Notable progress has been made toward accomplishing this output. As highlighted in the previous section (progress in project activity implementation), a range of activities were successfully implemented to improve water access for agricultural use. Key interventions included the distribution of irrigation infrastructure, rehabilitation of water points, and the installation of solar-powered water systems, which collectively enhanced water availability for farming in targeted communities. Additionally, training on rainwater conservation was conducted, equipping farmers with the knowledge and skills to optimize water usage for agriculture. These efforts, alongside the distribution of water storage solutions and the rehabilitation of key water sources, have substantially strengthened water access and storage capabilities, contributing to improved agricultural productivity and resilience.

#### **Output 4. 2,500 smallholders have new agricultural skills and access to improved quality soil**

Considerable progress has been made toward achieving this output. Through targeted training sessions, a total of 1,342 individuals were trained across target locations. In 2022, 233 individuals, including 55 extension officers, were trained. In 2023, 450 smallholder farmers

participated, and in 2024, 598 smallholder farmers and 6 male extension officers were trained. These trainings equipped farmers and extension officers with essential knowledge on good agricultural practices, pest management, climate-smart techniques, and market information. These sessions have enhanced the capacity of farmers, enabling them to apply sustainable agricultural practices and improve productivity. Additionally, infrastructure improvements, such as the construction of soil bunds and the installation of gabions, have boosted land productivity and resilience in the affected areas. A total of 231 hectares of land were improved, with 83.5 hectares in 2022, 91 hectares in 2023, and 56.5 hectares in 2024. This year's target was not met partially due to HAVOYOCO's unimplemented soil and water conservation activities; these will be implemented next year with a new partner. The establishment of flood barriers and check dams further contributed to preventing land degradation, ensuring long-term sustainability. These combined efforts have resulted in improved agricultural skills, land management practices, and overall resilience for local farming communities.

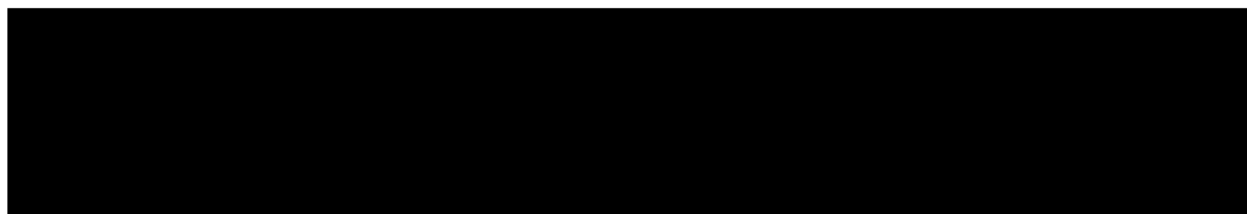
#### **Output 5. Capacity of public officials to draft, enact and operationalize seed policy in Somaliland and Puntland is strengthened**

The project has made continuously efforts to support the Somaliland and Puntland governments' in the drafting of their respective seed policies. An important part of these efforts is related to capacity building and awareness raising on seed rights, where a total of 798 smallholder farmers, including policymakers, benefiting from seed rights awareness and training activities across the target locations. This includes 398 stakeholders in 2024 and 400 stakeholders in 2023, with policymakers also engaged in these activities across the target locations. A focused workshop in Burao further educated Ministry representatives on seed legislation, ensuring that key public officials are equipped with the knowledge to draft, enact, and operationalize effective seed policies. Additionally, outreach efforts in Puntland, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and KAALO, have engaged multiple regions, soliciting feedback on the draft seed policy. The translation of the Somaliland Seed Policy into Somali has increased its accessibility, while the Puntland Seed Policy, already translated, has been shared with communities and stakeholders for feedback. Both policies are currently under review by the respective ministerial cabinets for final approval. In addition, a dedicated workshop helped establish a Civil Society Organization (CSO) to advocate for the Puntland Seed Policy, engaging various stakeholders such as farmers, academic institutions, NGOs, and UN agencies. This increases the ownership of the seed policies, which again is important for operationalisation of the policies.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

The project's outcomes are focused on enhancing agricultural production, promoting crop diversity, and generating income for agro-pastoralist households in five communities by improving access to high-quality, locally adapted seeds and facilitating enabling seed policies. Despite the challenges posed by severe drought in Somaliland and Puntland, significant progress has been made towards the outcome. Key achievements include the establishment and strengthening of Community Seed Banks (CSBs), the promotion of sustainable farming practices, and improvements in water access, soil management, and gender equality within the targeted communities. These efforts have led to increased community empowerment and policy advocacy, fostering long-term agricultural resilience. Additionally, the capacity of public officials to draft and implement seed policies has been enhanced through awareness campaigns and policy development in both Somaliland and Puntland. Based on the progress under each outcome indicator below it is expected that the achievement of the outcome is within reach. The outcome indicators are relevant; however, it may be difficult to demonstrate the project's concrete attribution to outcome indicator 0.1. The project interventions in the target locations made contributions at the district level, although the extent remains unclear. Given that IPC-based data is aggregated at the district level, conducting focused evaluations or surveys in the targeted locations will better capture the project's specific impact. This is something we will consider for the final reporting of the project. Please see means of verification for the lograme for evidence of outcome indicator progress.

**Outcome indicator 0.1. (a) % of people in crisis or worse (IPC phase 3,4,5) in post Deyr season in the targeted Districts. (b) % of people in minimal situation (IPC phase 1) in post Deyr season in targeted Districts.**



**Outcome Indicator 0.2. Somaliland and Puntland National Seed Policies are enacted and disseminated by 2027.**

The Somaliland Seed Policy has been translated into the local language and is now awaiting final approval from the ministerial cabinet. This milestone, alongside the ongoing awareness campaigns in Puntland conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with KAALO, marks significant progress in the development of a comprehensive national seed policy framework. These efforts, which include empowering nearly 400 farmers and policymakers through awareness-raising activities, are paving the way for the enactment and widespread dissemination of the policies. As these policies move toward final approval and enactment, they will strengthen seed governance, ensuring a more inclusive, accountable, and resilient seed sector in both areas.

**Outcome Indicator 0.3. The 2 new Community Seed Banks (CSBs) distribute in total 10 tonnes of seeds in 2027 and generate an economic surplus.**

The Midhisho and Dulcadale Community Seed Banks have strengthened their operational capacity through improved infrastructure, systems, and stakeholder engagement. These enhancements have fostered trust, increased participation, and clarified seed access procedures, ensuring more transparent and inclusive distribution. Awareness of seed rights has grown among smallholders, empowering them to advocate for equitable access. Strengthened linkages with government, NGOs, and the private sector, along with market outreach initiatives, have promoted collaboration. These efforts are positioning the seed banks to distribute 10 tonnes of seeds in 2027 while generating an economic surplus.

**Outcome Indicator 0.4. The 3 current CSBs combined increase the sales of surpluses from a total of USD 3,000 in 2021 to a total of USD 8,000 in 2027.**

The three existing Community Seed Banks (CSBs) have made continued progress in increasing revenue from seed sales, generating an additional \$670 USD this year,. This brings their total revenue to \$7,072.30 USD out of overall target of \$ 8000, reflecting steady growth from a baseline of \$3,000 USD in 2021, \$3,402.30 USD in 2023, and \$670 USD in 2024. This upward trend in surplus revenue highlights the CSBs' effective sales efforts and contributes to their financial sustainability and expanding market presence.

**Outcome Indicator 0.5. Number of varieties conserved in the 5 CSBs increases from 71 to 140 varieties (from 13 crop species) by 2027.**

This year, four Community Seed Banks (CSBs) expanded their seed varieties by introducing 30 new ones, bringing the total to 107 varieties to date. However, one CSB did not contribute any new varieties due to a lack of support this year. Collaborations with regional universities on Plant

Genetic Resources (PGRs) faced delays, primarily due to extended discussions, required certifications, and challenges related to regional conflicts.

**Outcome Indicator 0.6. (DI-A04) 40 technical committee members attending training in seed management (ref. indicator 1.3) are applying new capabilities acquired from the training 6 months after training.**

The training program significantly improved the capacity of 29 technical committee members in advanced seed production, conservation techniques, and seed security decision-making. The enhanced skills in seed selection, health maintenance, processing, and storage contributed to improved seed handling efficiency and led to increased seed sales, thereby supporting the sustainability and impact of the seed banks throughout the year (ref. Act 1.7).

**Outcome Indicator 0.7. (DI-B06) 6 Local Communities involved in the programme, with strengthened rights to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.**

As a result of targeted awareness efforts, 760 farmers from five local communities have strengthened their understanding of seed rights and access, leading to increased confidence in engaging with seed systems and advocating for equitable access to quality seeds. This growing awareness is contributing to more informed decision-making and active participation in seed governance at the community level.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

As stated in the grant proposal (Annex 2), a total of 17 assumptions were identified. These assumptions have been closely monitored throughout the reporting period and have largely remained valid. However, a few require additional attention, outlined below:

1. **Political Stability and Security:** In Somaliland, political tensions escalated mid-year due to the long-delayed presidential elections, which had reached a deadlock. Fortunately, mediation by clan elders led to an agreement between political parties, and elections were successfully held on 13 November 2024. The opposition won, and a peaceful transfer of power occurred in mid-December. During the deadlock, access to some project areas was restricted. In Puntland, armed conflict between government forces and a terrorist group in the Bari region where the new Dulcadale seedbank is located disrupted movement in the area. Despite this, project operations have continued with caution.
2. **Climate Resilience:** The project areas experienced extreme and prolonged drought the worst in over 40 years resulting in low seed production and water shortages that disrupted seed trials, testing, and multiplication at the Community Seed Banks (CSBs). In response, the project prioritized constructing and rehabilitating water structures and training communities in water conserving agricultural practices.

### **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction**

By 2027, the project aims to improve the ability of farming communities in Somaliland and Puntland to withstand climate change impacts and improve their access to food and stable livelihoods through improved agro-biodiversity.

The project has successfully improved the operations of existing community seed banks and contributed to safeguarding around 107 local and enhanced seed varieties, moving closer to the goal of conserving 140 varieties. This is a significant strengthening of plant genetic diversity in Somaliland and Puntland. These varieties are available for farmers through community seed banks or seed marketing, and hence increases the access to high quality seeds that are suitable for the local conditions. The seed policies under development for Puntland and Somaliland include sections on management of local seed systems, which will strengthen the sustainability of this achievement.

Simultaneously, the project has supported the restoration of degraded farmland through soil and water conservation practices, thereby improving the management of natural resources,

especially concerning water, soil, and forest preservation, while also aiding the protection and recovery of local biodiversity. Furthermore, the introduction of Climate Adapted Village (CAV) strategies is anticipated to enhance agricultural output and lessen pressure on natural environments.

Through the restoration of degraded farmlands, as well as the implementation of climate-smart water harvesting techniques and the development of local climate shock adaptation plans, this project is contributing to increased agricultural productivity, which again is expected to increase income and hence reduce poverty.

#### **4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

During this reporting period, has played a key role in policy development by developing, translating, and disseminating seed policy documents and facilitating civil society engagement in national policy processes, thereby promoting local-level contributions to global environmental commitments.

By increasing the number of varieties in the community seed banks has contributed to strengthening the diversity of plant genetic resources in Somaliland and Puntland, which is a direct contribution to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). During the reporting period, two new community seed banks have adequately equipped and have governance structures in place, which will enable the community seed banks to sustainably manage and conserve plant genetic resources being an important contribution to the articles 5 and 6 of the ITPGRFA (rer. Output 1.2 and annex II for evidence). Furthermore, the project has trained more farmers and government representatives on Farmers Rights, as well as involved a higher number in decision making on plant genetic resources (through CSB participation and policy dialogue), which contributes to the implementation of article 9 of the ITPGRFA. Somalia became a contracting party to the ITPGRFA in December 2023, and during the reporting period DF has shared information about the ITPGRFA to partners, farmers and other relevant stakeholders. Although the federal government of Somalia has not yet involved regional governments of Somaliland and Puntland in discussions on implementation of the ITPGRFA, the project has played an important role in preparing local stakeholders for preparation in such dialogue in the future.

In line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the project addressed climate adaptation priorities outlined in Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This was achieved through the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices, enhancements to water management systems, and the rehabilitation of degraded land using sustainable techniques—concurrently contributing to the goals of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The project also supported the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by fostering agrobiodiversity conservation in accordance with Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Although contribution to the UNCCD and CBD was not included in the application, recent developments within the two frameworks increase the relevance of the project to these frameworks. Moreover, the initiative supported progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 13, and 15 by enhancing food security, increasing resilience to climate impacts, and restoring ecosystems.

#### **5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction**

The project has made significant changes in addressing multidimensional poverty by enhancing livelihoods, strengthening food and water security, improving access to critical resources, and building local resilience against environmental and economic shocks for the target communities.

By scaling up and supporting Community Seed Banks (CSBs), the project has enabled smallholder farmers to consistently access diverse and high-quality seeds. This intervention has led to improved agricultural productivity, higher crop diversity, and increased household incomes,

directly reducing economic vulnerability. The CSBs also serve as hubs for exchanging indigenous knowledge, strengthening community cohesion and local innovation in farming systems.

In addition, investments in water infrastructure, including the installation of small-scale irrigation systems, shallow wells, and rainwater harvesting structures—have markedly improved access to sufficient water for consistent production.

The project's extensive capacity-building initiatives, training more than 1,300 smallholder farmers and government extension officers in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land management, have empowered local communities with the skills and knowledge needed to adapt to changing climatic conditions. These interventions foster long-term livelihood security, reduce dependency on food aid, and enhance adaptive capacity to climate risks.

Gender equity and social inclusion have been at the heart of project activities. Special efforts were made to include women, youth, and marginalized groups, ensuring they have equitable access to training, resources, and leadership opportunities within community structures. Empowering these groups not only advances gender equality but also contributes to more resilient and inclusive local economies.

Recognizing the importance of market access for poverty reduction, the project has supported the development of local seed markets and facilitated market linkages for farmers. Through these efforts, participants are increasingly engaging in income-generating activities beyond subsistence farming, diversifying household income streams and promoting rural entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, farmer rights awareness, seed policy establishment and advocacy campaigns have equipped communities with knowledge of their rights under national and international frameworks, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). Strengthening farmers' voices in seed governance processes enhances their social empowerment and ensures greater participation in policy-making spaces.

Beyond immediate income and food security benefits, the project contributes to long-term poverty reduction through the following pathways:

- Enhanced ecosystem services through land restoration and sustainable agriculture, securing natural resources critical to rural livelihoods.
- Improved governance and community-level decision-making through training in participatory management practices.
- Increased environmental awareness, fostering stewardship of biodiversity, which is vital for the resilience of agricultural systems and rural economies.

Collectively, the project has demonstrated a holistic approach to poverty reduction by tackling its economic, social, environmental, and empowerment dimensions closely aligning with the Darwin Initiative's emphasis on advancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development outcomes in low-income and vulnerable contexts.

## 6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

<b>GESI Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Put X where you think your project is on the scale</b>
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their	

	design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
<b>Empowering</b>	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	<b>X</b>
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

As noted in late Financial Year Report, the project is designed to promote gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) by ensuring that women, youth, and persons with disabilities are not only participants but also active agents in decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods and food security. The project takes a rights-based and context-sensitive approach by integrating the six core GESI principles: rights, practice, environment, roles and responsibilities, representation, and resources.

**Context and Design Integration:** From inception, the project assessed the legal and customary rights of women and marginalized groups regarding land, seed ownership, and resource access. Attention was given to sociocultural norms, beliefs, and practices that influence women's and marginalized groups' participation in agricultural decision-making. Recognizing the heightened vulnerability of these groups to environmental and economic stressors, activities were specifically tailored to strengthen their resilience to shocks.

Understanding the division of labor and the unequal burden of responsibilities, especially on women, the project designed flexible activities that accommodated women's schedules, particularly regarding household and caregiving duties. Moreover, special efforts were made to ensure representation by committing at least 40% women's participation across all community-level initiatives, including the leadership structures of Community Seed Banks (CSBs) and Local Adaptation Planning (LAP) processes.

**Implementation of Social Inclusion Strategies:** Active steps were taken to guarantee meaningful participation for all, considering intersecting identities such as gender, age, disability, and socio-economic status. Specific actions included:

- Collecting gender-disaggregated data across all key outcome and output indicators to track and report on women's and other marginalized groups' participation.
- Setting quantifiable targets for women's involvement in training, decision-making bodies, and project leadership roles, which are monitored through structured attendance records and user group databases.
- Ensuring that the Seed Security Assessments (SSA) and Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) processes addressed women's specific needs in managing Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs) and equipped them to influence both local and national climate adaptation strategies (LAP and NAP frameworks).

In recognition of entrenched social norms, the project engaged traditional leaders and community elders as critical partners in advocacy and community sensitization. This approach has proven highly effective in the Somali context for fostering broader community acceptance of gender equality principles.

**Inclusion of Youth and Persons with Disabilities:** The project also emphasized the active inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities. Specific measures were integrated into activity planning to remove physical, attitudinal, and communication barriers, ensuring their full engagement. This

approach reflects the project's commitment to an intersectional understanding of vulnerability and opportunity.

**Lessons Learned and Challenges:** Over the past 12 months, one key lesson has been the importance of continuous community engagement and flexible adaptation of strategies to accommodate local variations in attitudes towards GESI. While substantial progress has been made, challenges remain in achieving full gender parity, particularly in leadership roles. In response, the project has intensified targeted outreach and capacity-building activities for women leaders and youth representatives.

If gender equity targets are not fully met by project closure, additional strategies will focus on minimizing disparities, building institutional memory through community-based organizations, and strengthening local advocacy platforms for women's rights and social inclusion

## **7. Monitoring and evaluation**

The internal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the project incorporates robust systems and processes to track progress throughout the year. Two distinct approaches are employed: joint monitoring integrating both programme and financial oversight, and targeted programme-specific observations. Over the reporting period, quarterly monitoring missions have been carried out, including two joint missions and one focused exclusively on programme evaluation.

All interventions of DF, the interactive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system is a cornerstone of project assessment. This system includes a Systematic Results Framework and Registers that facilitate ongoing data collection relevant to project outcomes. DF maintains close collaboration with rural communities to strengthen their resilience and empower their active participation in local sustainable food systems. The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) highlights significant percentages of populations across various Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phases, stressing the urgency of addressing food insecurity. Independent and joint programme monitoring visits allow DF to assess progress, efficiency, and impacts while identifying deviations from targets. Surveys are conducted systematically to evaluate outputs and outcomes and inform corrective actions. Financial accountability is ensured through a "value for money" evaluation conducted by DF Finance and the Programme team, ensuring optimal use of project resources. Quarterly and ad-hoc review meetings with partners offer a platform for critical assessment of progress and achievements. Capacity-building initiatives have been undertaken to enhance partners' capabilities in reporting and data management, ensuring consistency and high-quality results. Yearly segregation of targets facilitates precise measurement and identification of deviations, supporting effective monitoring of progress. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods are employed to provide a comprehensive view of achievements. Beyond project partners, active collaboration with stakeholders ensures efficient execution of activities while fostering a shared approach to M&E responsibilities.

## **8. Lessons learnt**

- Training and awareness raising of farmers on rights and access to seeds became more effective after changing the approach from using partner staff for conducting the training to training of local extensionists so they could conduct training and awareness raising. This increased the reach of the training and awareness raising to also include wider communities.
- The project has contributed significantly to the development of seed policies, contributing with important provisions that safeguard farmers rights to seeds and support to local seed systems. Nevertheless, policy development is challenging and the inclusion of regulations for e.g. seed dealers have resulted in compliance requirements that were previously not included in the plans for seed marketing that will have to be

addressed. Furthermore, additional capacity building of governments will be required as to ensure effective law enforcement.

## 9. **Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

DF appreciates valuable feedback and recommendations from the review team on the 2023-24 annual report. DF has followed up the different actions points in the following way:

### 1. Clearer reporting in relation to baselines, targets and progress toward indicators:

Reporting on indicators in the logframe includes progress during the reporting period as well as cumulative results where relevant as to better show progress towards achievement of outputs and indicators. As baseline data is mainly set to 0, references to baseline data are not included.

### 2. Review viability of exit strategies relating to departure of HAVOYOCO:

DF has throughout the reporting period had a dialogue with BCF on this. DF has carefully assessed the viability of continued project activities in these areas and possible negative consequences for the project, and consider that the achievement of project activities is viable. However, there is still a risk that the CSB under HAVOYOCO may not be handed over to the project if outstanding payments are not effectuated. Assessments of potential partners that can take over the role of HAVOYOCO have been conducted but cannot be formalised until the case closed. DF has established dialogue with the newly elected authorities and have received positive signals.

### 3. Full review of logframe:

DF has carefully assessed the logic of indicators contributing to outputs and concluded that a revision of indicators was not necessary. Some targets have been revised.

### 4. Output reporting against output indicators:

This has been addressed in this annual report.

### 5. Clearer reference to evidence attribution:

This has been addressed in this annual report, where references to evidence are included under activity reporting and log frame reporting.

## 10. **Risk Management**

In line with the ongoing risk assessments, DF has actively monitored and addressed most of the emerging challenges. No new risks have emerged, however the project has faced the occurrence of some of the identified risks during the financial year.

- The recent elections in Somaliland led to changes in leadership within several project-affiliated line ministries. Although the core priorities of the project remained unchanged, these leadership transitions caused delays, particularly regarding the ministries' mutual contributions to the project. Notably, there was a slowdown in the maintenance and facilitation of the mediation process between DF and HAVOYOCO.
- The delayed onset of the Gu rainy season poses a significant risk to the timely multiplication of seeds, as smallholder farmers have been unable to commence planting as scheduled in early April 2025. Recognizing the potential impact on agricultural outputs, DF has encouraged farmers to plant opportunistically wherever minimal rainfall has occurred, despite the current insufficiency of rain. DF is also exploring supplementary strategies, including potential support for irrigation efforts and the promotion of drought-resistant seed varieties, to minimize disruption to the planting season and safeguard livelihoods.

- Potential mismanagement of funds continues to be a high risk with negative consequences for the project and beneficiaries if it occurs. DF has made further efforts to strengthen its financial monitoring system both to prevent the risk and to detect indications of financial mismanagement.

## 11. Scalability and durability

The success and long-term sustainability of the project depend on strengthening local ownership and capacity in managing Community Seed Banks (CSBs), thereby establishing a viable business model for the production and distribution of high-quality, locally adapted seeds. The project is strategically designed to achieve the following objectives:

Empower community members to independently manage CSBs beyond the project's lifespan, supported by the development of sound business plans to ensure financial sustainability. This includes expanding CSBs and engaging new farming communities in Somaliland and Puntland.

Collaborate with key stakeholders notably ministry of agriculture in project planning and implementation to build ownership and ensure continuity of project outcomes.

Raise awareness and enhance capacity in agrobiodiversity conservation at both community and government levels, supporting the preservation and use of diverse plant genetic resources.

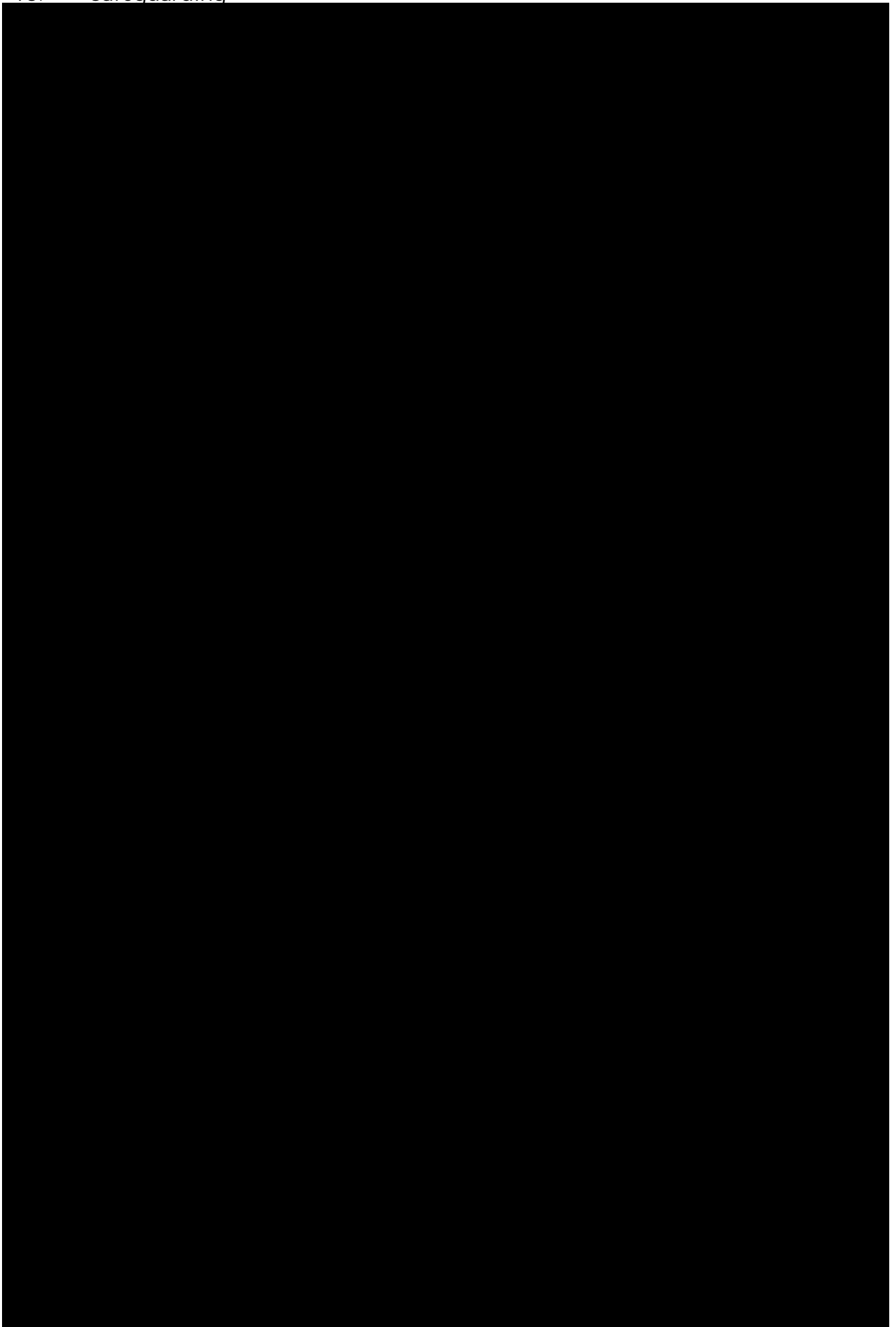
Promote the integration of farmers' rights into national seed policies to support the sustainable use and conservation of plant genetic resources, through active engagement with farmers, government bodies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Strengthen knowledge and practices in land and resource conservation, promoting scalable, climate-resilient techniques such as soil and water conservation measures and access to improved crop varieties to increase productivity and influence neighboring communities. Enhance the institutional capacity of the three project partners to ensure their continued engagement and leadership in project activities

## 12. Darwin Initiative identity

DF ensures the consistent visibility of the Darwin Initiative branding across all Education, Information, and Communication (EIC) materials linked to project activities. Project partners actively introduce the Darwin Initiative to key stakeholders, including government authorities, Community-Based Structure (CBS) representatives, farmers, and members of local communities. During trainings, project events, meetings, and campaigns, banners prominently display the Darwin Initiative and UK government funding logos. Additionally, billboards featuring program details alongside these logos are strategically placed to enhance public awareness. Distinct attribution between the Darwin Initiative-funded activities and DF's other interventions is carefully maintained in all donor reporting. In line with recommendations from the previous year, a documentary video was produced, showcasing project sites, success stories, and the overall program identity, thereby strengthening communication of program outcomes. DF also continues to regularly highlight achievements through its official website and social media channels

## 13. Safeguarding



#### 14. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>497,419</b>	<b>459,128.40</b>		

**Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Norad framework agreement
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

#### 15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

#### 16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Increased climate resilience, food, and livelihood security for agro pastoralists in Somaliland and Puntland</p>		
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Agricultural production, crop diversity and income generation for agro-pastoralist households in 5 communities are strengthened by improved access to locally adopted and high-quality seeds, facilitated by enabling seed policies.</p>		
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.1</b></p> <p>0.1 (a) % of people in crisis or worse (IPC phase 3,4,5) in post Deyr season in the targeted Districts</p> <p>(b) % of people in minimal situation (IPC phase 1) in post Deyr season in targeted Districts</p>	<p>In the post-Deyr 2024 season, the overall food security situation in the targeted districts has shown marginal improvement compared to the previous year. According to the latest IPC analysis from FSNAU and FEWS NET, the proportion of the population facing Crisis or worse food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher) declined slightly from <b>20–22%</b> in 2023 to approximately <b>17–20%</b> in early 2025. This improvement is attributed to relatively favourable rainfall during the Gu and Deyr seasons and continued, though scaled-down, humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>Conversely, the share of the population in Minimal food insecurity (IPC Phase 1) has increased from <b>38–40% in 2023 to around 42–45% in 2024</b>. This modest recovery suggests improved livelihood conditions for some households, particularly in areas where agricultural inputs and seasonal rainfall supported productive activities.</p> <p>However, the food security environment remains precarious. Below-average rainfall in parts of the Deyr season (October–December 2024) affected crop production, particularly in agropastoral zones. Localized flooding, especially in lowland areas, along with persistent issues of market inaccessibility, livestock diseases, and regional insecurity, continue to disrupt livelihood systems and limit household recovery.</p>	

<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p><b>Indicator 0.2.</b> Somaliland and Puntland National Seed Policies are enacted and disseminated by 2027</p>	<p>The Somaliland Seed Policy has been translated into the local language and is now awaiting final approval from the ministerial cabinet. This milestone, alongside the awareness campaigns in Puntland conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with KAALO, represents significant progress in developing a comprehensive national seed policy framework. These actions are paving the way for the enactment and widespread dissemination of the policies.</p>	<p>Submission of this policy to the cabinet for final review and approval, with simultaneous planning for the dissemination process.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 0.3.</b> The 2 new Community Seed Banks (CSBs) distribute in total 10 tonnes of seeds in 2027 and generate an economic surplus</p>	<p>The operational capacity of the Midhisho and Dulcadale Community Seed Banks has been significantly strengthened through improved infrastructure, systems, and stakeholder engagement. These enhancements have led to more efficient seed management, increased community trust, and clearer, more inclusive seed access procedures. Expanded awareness of seed rights among smallholders, along with strengthened linkages with government, NGOs, and the private sector, has fostered multi-stakeholder collaboration.</p>	<p>In the next period, strengthened CSBs in Midhisho and Dulcadale will distribute quality seeds to smallholders, and boosting seed security. Efforts will focus on scaling distribution, expanding market linkages, and reinforcing sustainability through capacity-building and stakeholder engagement.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 0.4.</b> The 3 current CSBs combined increase the sales of surpluses from a total of USD 3,000 in 2021 to a total of USD 8,000 in 2027.</p>	<p>This year, all three existing CSBs have continued to achieve seed sales, generating an additional \$670 USD in revenue. This brings their total revenue to \$7,072.30 USD out of overall target of \$ 8000, reflecting steady growth from a baseline of \$3,000 USD in 2021, \$3,402.30 USD in 2023, and \$670 USD in 2024</p>	<p>Building on this year's seeds sales, key actions for the next period will focus on scaling up seed and produce sales, with the goal of reaching the \$8,000 revenue target.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 0.5.</b> Number of varieties conserved in the 5 CSBs increases from 71 to 140 varieties (from 13 crop species) by 2027.</p>	<p>This year, four Community Seed Banks (CSBs) expanded their seed varieties by introducing 30 new ones, bringing the total to 107 varieties to date. The remaining CSB did not contribute any new seed varieties, as it was not supported this year.</p>	<p>In the next period, efforts will focus on continuing collaborations and formalizing agreements with regional universities and seed centers to acquire additional seed varieties and Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs). Additionally, supporting the remaining CSB will contribute to achieving the target of 140 new seed varieties.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 0.6.</b> (DI-A04) 40 technical committee members attending training in seed management (ref. indicator 1.3) are applying new capabilities acquired from the training 6 months after training.</p>	<p>A total of 53 technical committees were trained between 2023 and 2024, with 24 in 2023 and 29 in 2024, exceeding the target by 13 members. The training enhanced members' skills in advanced seed production, conservation, and seed security</p>	<p>In the upcoming period, similar training sessions will be provided to the technical committee members who were unable to attend the seed management</p>

	decision-making, leading to improved seed selection, health maintenance, processing, and storage.	training this year, with the goal of meeting the predetermined targets.
<b>Indicator 0.7.</b> (DI-B06) 6 Local Communities involved in the programme, with strengthened rights to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	During the reporting period, 5 local communities have been involved in the programme, being below target as the last community was taken out of the project after the location of the national gene bank was moved to the premisses of the Ministry of Agriculture. Through targeted awareness and training efforts, 760 farmers from five local communities have gained a deeper understanding of seed rights and access. This has enhanced their confidence in engaging with seed systems and advocating for equitable access to quality seeds, leading to more informed decision-making and active participation in seed governance at the community level.	Continue implementing similar awareness and training activities to further strengthen farmers' understanding of seed rights and access, fostering greater community engagement and participation in seed governance.
<b>Indicator 0.8.</b> (DI-A03) 18 local/national organisations with capacity and capabilities improved as result of the project*	The project has enhanced the capacities of six local organizations/partners through formal training and workshops. These activities covered topics such as budgeting, planning, and reporting, as well as quarterly review workshops. Sessions on the national seed policy, code of conduct, anti-corruption measures, and procurement processes were also conducted. Additionally, regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms were put in place to provide ongoing support and ensure continuous improvement in project activities.	
<b>Output 1 Two CSBs are established with all necessary equipment, training, and management structures, 3 existing CSBs are better equipped to deliver quality seeds</b>		
<b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Two CSBs constructed and equipped with seed cleaning machines, airtight containers, weighing scales, drying ovens, fridges, hygrometer, Zeolite beads, electric fans (solar driven), seed germinators and storage facilities by 2025.	The Midhisho and Dulcadale Community Seed Banks have been fully equipped with the necessary infrastructure and equipment, including office furniture, IT tools, traditional threshers, and modern seed storage and processing facilities, enabling enhanced seed preservation and distribution capacity.	
<b>Indicator 1.2:</b> The CSB management committees are functional, with regular meetings, bylaws, and elected leadership by 2027.	The CSB management committees are functional, holding regular meetings with elected leadership in place. Following a five-day governance training for committee members, two comprehensive bylaws were developed to guide operational management and asset control. These actions have established structured committee operations, strengthening the governance and functionality of the CSBs.	

<b>Indicator 1.3:</b> 40 technical committee members trained for 5 days in crop and seed selections, seed health and cleaning, registration of seeds, seed processing and storage, seed monitoring, seed regeneration and recording of seeds (management) by 2026. **	Twenty-nine committee members participated in an intensive five-day technical training, focusing on seed health, processing, monitoring, and documentation. Two government officials also joined, enhancing institutional capacity. The training improved their understanding of advanced seed production and conservation techniques.	Continue delivering similar training sessions to the remaining technical committees from the CSBs to meet the targets set for the upcoming period.
<b>Indicator 1.4:</b> Eight water infrastructures constructed and rehabilitated at community CSBs by 2027. (3 in 2023, 2 in 2024 and 3 in 2025)	3 water infrastructures were constructed and rehabilitated in 2024-25, leading to a total of 6 water infrastructure since the start of the project (3 in 202, in line with the overall target.	
<b>Output 2. Five CSBs (2 new, 3 existing) supported to sell their seeds in markets outside their local communities</b>		
<b>Indicator 2.1.</b> Detailed business plans, including plans for marketing and sales, developed and implemented for 5 CSBs by 2025	The business plans for two CBSs that were developed in 2023 has been implementd in 2024-25.	For the next period, key actions include developing business plans for the remaining CSBs to strengthen sales strategies, boost revenue generation, ensure sustainability, expand market access, and enhance community resilience. It is also expected that the third existing CSB will be reintegrated in the project in 2025.
<b>Indicator 2.2:</b> Five CSBs have started selling their produce outside of local markets by 2025.	The three existing CSBs effectively sold surplus seeds and produce to a diverse range of customers, including those outside the local markets.	The existing CSBs focus on expanding their presence in local markets and communities, aiming to increase sales in the next period. New CSBs enhance their production and begin selling their products beyond local markets, thereby creating pathways for broader market access and achieving the set sales targets.
<b>Output 3. 2,500 smallholder farmers have improved access to water for agricultural use</b>		
<b>Indicator 3.1.</b> 225 water infrastructures constructed or rehabilitated for irrigation in the targeted 5 communities and 1 community in the NSB by 2027 (96 in 2022, 110 in 2023 and 19 in 2024.)	Between 2022 and 2024, a total of 312 water infrastructures were constructed, rehabilitated, or distributed, including earth dams, shallow wells, water canals, water retention gullies, HDPE geomembrane plastic sheets, water tanks, and gallbladders. Specifically, 96 infrastructures were completed in 2022, 128 in 2023, and 88 in 2024.	

<b>Output 4. 2,500 smallholders have new agricultural skills and access to improved quality soil</b>		
<b>Indicator 4.1:</b> 2,500 (1,750 men and 750 women) smallholder farmers and 55 government extension officers trained for 12 days in good agricultural practices and climate smart agricultural practices to improve seed quality/reduce postharvest losses by 2026**	Between 2022 and 2024, a total of 1,342 individuals were trained across target locations. In 2022, 233 individuals (69.5% male, 30.5% female), including 55 extension officers (69% male, 31% female), were trained. In 2023, 450 smallholder farmers (42% male, 58% female) participated. In 2024, 598 smallholder farmers (53.3% female, 46.7% male) and 6 male extension officers were trained.	In the next period, expand GAP and climate-smart agriculture training to additional farmers and government extension officers, improving seed quality and reducing postharvest losses, thereby achieving the 2026 targets.
<b>Indicator 4.2.</b> 500 hectares of land improved through establishment of soil and water conservation structures by 2026. (82 in 2022, 91 in 2023, 180 in 2024, 100 in 2025 and 47 in 2026).	A total of 231 hectares of land were improved across target locations through the construction of soil bunds and the installation of gabions and a check dam—83.5 hectares in 2022, 91 hectares in 2023, and 56.5 hectares in 2024.	To make up for the partner's non-implementation this year, efforts will continue in the next period to improve additional hectares through soil and land management structures, ensuring target achievement and enhancing erosion control, land productivity, and resilience to climate-related challenges.
<b>Output 5. Capacity of public officials to draft, enact and operationalize seed policy in Somaliland and Puntland is strengthened</b>		
<b>Indicator 5.1:</b> Puntland Seed Policy is translated to local language (Somali) by 2023	The Puntland Seed Policy was translated into Somali in 2023. However, the draft of the Somaliland National Seed Policy, which has been submitted to the ministerial cabinet for review, underwent Somali translation subsequent to this review.	
<b>Indicator 5.2:</b> 60 policy makers trained on seed policy and farmers rights by 2024.**	20 policymakers participated in targeted awareness sessions, enhancing their understanding of seed legislation and supporting informed policy development in Somaliland.	Maintain efforts to engage policymakers to strengthen seed laws and regulations in line with national and international standards, supporting progress toward Indicator 5.2.
<b>Indicator 5.3:</b> Somaliland and Puntland Seed policies, passed and disseminated by 2027.	The Somaliland Seed Policy, reviewed by the cabinet, has been translated into the local language and is currently awaiting further approval from the ministerial cabinet, subject to the new government's prioritization of security and reforms. In Puntland, the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with KAALO, conducted awareness campaigns across multiple locations to inform farmers and stakeholders about the draft seed policy and gather feedback.	Continue finalizing the policy by submitting it to the cabinet for final review and approval. In parallel, develop a detailed plan for its dissemination, enactment, and enforcement to ensure effective implementation, supporting the progress of Indicator 5.3.

<p><b>Indicator 5.4.</b> 2,500 smallholder farmers' knowledge on Rights to seeds enhanced by 2027.** (650 in 2023, 400 in 2024 and 1450 in 2025).</p>	<p>A total of 798 smallholder farmers benefited from seed rights awareness and training activities across the target locations, with 398 farmers in 2024 and 400 farmers in 2023.</p>	<p>Continue implementing awareness programs on seed rights in target communities to promote farmers' access to high-quality seeds at affordable prices, working towards the achievement of Indicator 5.4.</p>
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## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> Increased climate resilience, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somaliland and Puntland.			
<b>Outcome:</b> Agricultural production, crop diversity and income generation for agro-pastoralist households in 5 communities are strengthened by improved access to locally adopted and high-quality seeds, facilitated by enabling seed policies.	0.1 (a) % of people in crisis or worse (IPC phase 3,4,5) in post Deyr season in the targeted Districts (b) % of people in minimal situation (IPC phase 1) in post Deyr season in targeted Districts  0.2 Somaliland and Puntland National Seed Policies are enacted and disseminated by 2027  0.3 The 2 new Community Seed Banks (CSBs) distribute in total 10 tonnes of seeds in 2027 and generate an economic surplus  0.4 The 3 current CSBs combined increase the sales of surpluses from a total of USD 3,000 in 2021 to a total of USD 8,000 in 2027.  0.5 Number of varieties conserved in the 5 CSBs increases from 71 to 140 varieties (from 13 crop species) by 2027.  0.6 (DI-A04) 40 technical committee members attending training in seed management (ref. indicator 1.3) are applying new capabilities acquired from the training 6 months after training.	0.1 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification online database and Food consumption score card (Indicator 0.1)  0.2 Project Monitoring Reports (Indicator 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5)  0.3 Seed policies in Somaliland and Puntland (indicator 0.2)  0.4 CSB business plans and registers (indicator 0.3 and 0.4)  0.5 Seed bank biodiversity Registers (indicator 0.5)  0.6 Most Significant Change stories and/or Focus Group Discussions with smallholder farmers	<i>The proposed national seed policy and related regulatory framework is enacted and implemented in an effective and timely manner:</i> Political will and commitment to enact and operationalise the national seed policy in the two regions - including establishment of the National Seed Bank - is critical to goal achievement. Sustainable seed production by smallholder farmers and seed security overall depends on a conducive policy environment, a clear legal framework for the operation of CSBs, and efficient regulation by public authorities. Ineffective operationalisation of the seed policy could threaten commercial viability by delaying or <i>The proposed national seed policy and related regulatory framework is enacted and implemented in an effective and timely manner:</i> Political will and commitment to enact and operationalise the national seed policy in the two regions - including establishment of the National Seed Bank - is critical to goal achievement. Sustainable seed production by smallholder farmers and seed

	<p>0.7 (DI-B06) 6 Local Communities involved in the programme, with strengthened rights to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture</p> <p>0.8 (DI-A03) 18 local/national organisations with capacity and capabilities improved as result of the project*</p>		<p>security overall depends on a conducive policy environment, a clear legal framework for the operation of CSBs, and efficient regulation by public authorities. Ineffective operationalisation of the seed policy could threaten commercial viability by delaying or disrupting value-chain development and marketing channels. Project areas do not experience sustained and extreme weather events and cc-related shocks, or serious and long-lasting outbreaks of crop disease. Political calm and security prevail in Somaliland and Puntland. The continuing conflict situation in Ethiopia does not “spill over” with negative implications for cross-border trade, market conditions, and farm-gate prices. Adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are minimised and mitigated by national authorities and local communities. Exchange rates fluctuation is within acceptable range and supports delivery with planned budget. Adequate capacity of DF partners to effectively implement and deliver planned results according to schedule and within the budgetary frame.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>1. Two CSBs are established with all necessary equipment, training, and management structures, 3 existing CSBs are better equipped to deliver quality seeds</p>	<p>1.1 Two CSBs constructed and equipped with seed cleaning machines, airtight containers, weighing scales, drying ovens, fridges, hygrometer, Zeolite beads, electric fans (solar driven), seed</p>	<p>1.1 Activity database (indicator 1.1,1.3,1.4)</p> <p>1.2 Project registers (indicator 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4)</p>	<p>1.1 Strong ownership and effective participation by local communities, traditional leadership and other key stakeholders.</p>

	<p>germinators and storage facilities by 2025.</p> <p>1.2 The CSB management committees are functional, with regular meetings, bylaws, and elected leadership by 2027.</p> <p>1.3 40 technical committee members trained for 5 days in crop and seed selections, seed health and cleaning, registration of seeds, seed processing and storage, seed monitoring, seed regeneration and recording of seeds (management) by 2026. **</p> <p>1.4 Eight water infrastructures constructed and rehabilitated at community CSBs by 2027. (3 in 2023, 2 in 2024, and 3 in 2025)</p>	<p>1.3 Participants' register (indicator 1.2 and 1.3)</p> <p>1.4 FGD with smallholder farmers (all indicators under output 1)</p>	<p>1.2 Willingness of local communities to respect gender equality and adequately support inclusion of women – including in decision-making roles – in programme activities.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Five CSBs (2 new, 3 existing) supported to sell their seeds in markets outside their local communities</p>	<p>2.1 Detailed business plans, including plans for marketing and sales, developed and implemented for 5 CSBs by 2025.</p> <p>2.2 Five CSBs have started selling their produce outside of local markets by 2025.</p>	<p>2.1 Business plans (indicator 2.1)</p> <p>2.2 Activity database (indicator 2.1)</p> <p>2.3 Project register (indicator 2.2)</p> <p>2.4 Seed bank registers (indicator 2.2)</p>	<p>2.1 Strong ownership and effective participation by communities, traditional leadership and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>2.2 Active participation of women.</p> <p>2.3 Effective and timely access to relevant markets.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> 2,500 smallholder farmers have improved access to water for agricultural use</p>	<p>3.1 225 water infrastructures constructed or rehabilitated for irrigation in the targeted 5 communities and 1 community in the NSB by 2027 (96 in 2022, 110 in 2023 and 19 in 2024.)</p>	<p>3.1 Project register updated quarterly</p> <p>3.2 Field measurements and project register updated quarterly</p>	<p>3.1 Strong community ownership supports effective delivery of results. Communities facilitate active participation of women in all aspects of training.</p>

			3.2 Adequate support from the NSB facilitates effective delivery.
<b>4.</b> 2,500 smallholders have new agricultural skills and access to improved quality soil	<p>4.1 2,500 (1,750 men and 750 women) smallholder farmers and 55 government extension officers trained for 12 days in good agricultural practices and climate smart agricultural practices to improve seed quality/reduce postharvest losses by 2026**</p> <p>4.2 500 hectares of land improved through establishment of soil and water conservation structures by 2026. (82 in 2022, 91 in 2023, 180 in 2024, 100 in 2025 and 47 in 2026).</p>	<p>4.1 Activity database (indicator 4.1 and 4.2)</p> <p>4.2 Training report (indicator 4.1)</p> <p>4.2 Participants register (indicator 4.1)</p> <p>4.3 Field measurements and project register updated quarterly (indicator 4.2)</p> <p>4.3 Monitoring report, photos (indicator 4.1 and 4.2)</p>	<p>4.1 Communities facilitate active participation of women in all aspects of training.</p> <p>4.2 Public officials facilitate selection and active participation of relevant extension officers.</p> <p>4.3 Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes is promoted through a concurrent emphasis on resilient, sustainable and productive agricultural systems, including pastoral and agro-pastoral systems.</p>
<b>5.</b> Capacity of public officials to draft, enact and operationalize seed policy in Somaliland and Puntland is strengthened	<p>5.1 Puntland Seed Policy is translated to local language (Somali) by 2023</p> <p>5.2 60 policy makers trained on seed policy and farmers rights by 2024.**</p> <p>5.3 Somaliland and Puntland Seed policies, passed and disseminated by 2027.</p> <p>5.4 2,500 smallholder farmers' knowledge on Rights to seeds enhanced by 2027.** (650 in 2023, 400 in 2024, and 1450 in 2025)</p>	<p>5.1 Activity database (indicator 5.1 and 5.5)</p> <p>5.2 Project register updated quarterly (indicator 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4)</p> <p>5.2 Meeting reports from policy dialogues, key informant interviews (indicator 5.2)</p> <p>5.3 National Seed Policy (indicator 5.4)</p>	<p>5.1 Sufficient buy-in from policy makers is secured. Relevant officials (i.e. decision-makers) are selected and participate actively, and successfully complete, training.</p>

## **Activities**

### **Output 1**

- 1.1. Provide training on gender-sensitive seed security assessment (SSA) to 3 local partners.
- 1.2. Conduct Seed Security Assessment (SSA) in 3 communities with local communities and other local actors.
- 1.3. Hold SSA knowledge sharing workshop targeting 2 government agencies, 6 NGOs, 11 INGOs, 22 farmer groups and cooperatives, 6 women and youth associations, 12 local committees, 6 academic institutes engaged in SSA knowledge sharing and dissemination.
- 1.4. Construct 2 new CSBs (one in DulcadalePuntland and one in Midhisho in Somaliland), and equip them with seed cleaning machines, airtight containers, weighing scales, drying ovens, fridges, hygrometer, Zeolite beads, electric fans (solar driven) and seed germinators. (Locations are changed as informed in the half-year report for 2023-24.)
- 1.5. Scaling up and supporting 3 existing CSBs (2 in Somaliland and 1 in Puntland).
- 1.6. Scaling up the existing National Community Gene Bank CSB (NCSB) in Somaliland, e.g. construction of seed storage facility, procurement of seed processing and cleaning machine, seed moisture measurement machines, seed scaling machines, seed treatment and planter machines.
- 1.7. Train 40 technical committee members for 5 days in crop and seed selections, seed health and cleaning, registration of seeds, seed processing and storage, seed monitoring, seed regeneration, recording of seeds (management) and packaging.
- 1.8. Provide technical support to CSBs and NSB to operate machinery and equipment.
- 1.9. Work with CSB management committees to develop internal control systems on seed production and provide training to strengthen CSB management.
- 1.10. Provide seed handling, and development trainings for CSB Management Committees and Government extensionists
- 1.11. Collect Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs) in Somaliland and Puntland and obtain adaptable PGRs from regional gene banks based on needs pinpointed in the SSAs.
- 1.12. Conduct adaptation tests and participatory varietal selection trials of new varieties.
- 1.13. Construct and rehabilitate water infrastructures at community CSBs and the NSB: 2 boreholes in Galoley and Beer, extension of pipes and water tank in Cuun, 500m of water canal in Midhisho, 1 new strategic shallow well in Dulcadale and upgrading of water dam at the NSB. (Locations changed as informed in the half-year report for 2023-24.)
- 1.14. Pilot other initiatives to improve seed availability, access and quality based on priorities/opportunities identified in the SSAs.

### **Output 2**

- 2.1. Conduct market survey to confirm business opportunities.
- 2.2. Support CSBs and NSB with packaging and branding of seeds.
- 2.3. Raise awareness of 2500 (1750 men and 750 women) smallholder farmers on the availability of quality seeds in the CSBs and NSB.
- 2.4. Promoting linkages between the small holder farmers and CSBs Management Committee to enable small holder farmers to borrow seeds.
- 2.5. Develop and support the implementation of business plans, including a sales and marketing strategy, to generate income for the new 2 CSBs and existing 3 CSBs and NSB.
- 2.6. Attendance at annual seed fairs and exhibitions.
- 2.7. Marketing campaigns of CSB seeds through local media outlets, dialogues, and social gatherings.
- 2.8. Direct marketing to potential customers, including government and aid agencies.
- 2.9. Establish and/or access a distribution system.

**Output 3**

- 3.1. Construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructures for irrigation in the targeted 5 communities and 1 community in the National CSB: rehabilitation of 12 shallow wells and distribution of 12 plastic pipes for farm irrigation in Dulcadale, Cuun and Beer, extension of 500m water canal in Midhisho and distribution of 200 LDPEO plastic sheets in Galoley and Abuurin. (Locations changed as informed in the half-year report for 2023-24.)
- 3.2. Build the capacity of the 750 smallholder farmers on rainwater conservation and usage.
- 3.3. Provide 225 smallholder farmers with household level water storage facilities to irrigate home gardens.
- 3.4. Build the capacity of 50 smallholder farmers on assessing water availability and assist them to draw proper seasonal planting plans based on the forecasted onset of rainfall.

**Output 4**

- 4.1. Provide trainings to 2500 (1750 men and 750 women) smallholder farmers and 55 government extension officers for 12 days in good agricultural practices, pests management and climate smart agricultural practices to strengthen seed quality and reduce postharvest losses.
- 4.2. Sensitize 2500 smallholder farmers with market information.
- 4.3. Support the development and implementation of 5 climate adaptation action plans with communities and local government/partners.
- 4.4. Enhance the capacity of 5 communities on soil and water conservation through training and awareness raising.
- 4.5. Conduct participatory mapping and assessment to develop community soil and water conservation plans.
- 4.6. Construct 500 hectares of holistic watershed management structures.

**Output 5**

- 5.1. Translate Puntland Seed Policy to Local language (Somali)
- 5.2. Support CSOs to lead advocacy initiatives on enactment of seed policy.
- 5.3. Sensitize 2500 (1750 men and 750 women) smallholder farmers and 60 policymakers on farmers rights to seed.
- 5.4. Orient 60 policymakers (government officials and parliamentarians) on enactment and enforcement of seed policy (Puntland and Somaliland).
- 5.5. Disseminate Somaliland Puntland Seed Policies to Somaliland and Puntland Region and District.

## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	X
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	No updates of the risk register
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Partners have submitted individual reports, but are not named as contributors
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
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