



DEMAC

DIASPORA
EMERGENCY ACTION
& COORDINATION

DIASPORA
HUMANITARIAN
ENGAGEMENT IN
SOMALIA
REAL-TIME REVIEW



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



IOM
UN MIGRATION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The DEMAC and Consilient research teams give thanks to the members of the Somali diaspora communities across the world, together with the representatives of local organizations, institutional humanitarian actors, government actors, and experts who supported this Real-Time Review (RTR), providing information and sharing their time, knowledge, and experience.

This report was made possible through support provided by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, under the joint project, “Enhancing Diasporas’ Operations and Coordination in Humanitarian Assistance for increased impact within a Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance – Phase III.” The project is a collaboration between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and DEMAC. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, IOM or DEMAC.

This Real-Time Review was conducted between July and November 2023 by Consilient research team Hannah Marcus, Mohamed Amin Abdirahman, Abdulkadir Ahmed Mohamed and Mubarik Abdillahi.

Published in January 2024.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AGDA	Armed Groups and de facto Authorities
CISU	Danish Civil Society in Development
DERF	Danish Emergency Relief Fund
DEMAC	Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination
DO	Diaspora Organization
DoDA	Somali Department of Diaspora Affairs
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GSD	Global Somali Diaspora
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IHA	Institutional Humanitarian Actor
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KHARDO	Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization
KI	Key Informant
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RTR	Real-Time Review
SSPDO	Southern Somalia's Peace and Development Organization
SSRADO	Somali Society Relief Development & Advocacy Organization
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	3
Acronyms and abbreviations	4
Executive Summary	6
Background	6
Methodology	7
Findings	7
1. Introduction	10
2. Methodology	14
3. Somali Diaspora Humanitarian Response	18
3.1 Review of Somali DOs' Mapping	18
3.2 Diaspora Responses in Beledweyne and Jubaland	20
3.3 How Diaspora Organizations Operate	29
3.4 How Diaspora Organizations Coordinate with Other Actors	34
3.5 Diaspora Organizations Strengths and Challenges	38
4. Conclusions and Recommendations	45
Annex I: Full List of KIs	49
Annex II: Somali Diaspora Organizations' Mapping	52

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Somalia has suffered from recurrent shocks and crises for the past decades, with climate disasters, conflict, and other intersecting drivers contributing to continuous humanitarian needs. These challenges are compounded by access constraints that impose barriers to reaching some of the most vulnerable populations with life-saving assistance. Past research has suggested that the Somali diaspora play a critical role in responding to humanitarian emergencies across the country, often emerging as first responders while filling key gaps in the sector. However, the specific operational modalities employed by diaspora organizations (DOs) and their strengths and challenges as humanitarian actors remain poorly documented and underexplored.

This real-time review (RTR) of the Somali diaspora response to humanitarian crises was designed to respond to this knowledge gap. Two recent crises in Somalia provide cases for the RTR's focus on diaspora's humanitarian responses: the Gu rainy season floods in Beledweyne during spring 2023 and the increased conflict between the Somali government and Armed Groups and de facto Authorities (AGDAs) in Jubaland between August 2022 to August 2023. The findings and recommendations from the RTR are intended to contribute to improved collaboration and coordination between and among diaspora and other actors, and to an overall strengthened humanitarian response in Somalia.

Methodology

A total of 86 Somali diaspora organizations with headquarters spanning 13 countries were mapped through diverse online search platforms and consultation with diaspora members and organizations. The mapping of DOs shed light on their diversity as well as key similarities in aspects such as fluctuating activity levels, use of crowdfunding and diaspora donations for fundraising, and multi-sectoral focus across humanitarian and development activities.

Beyond the DO mapping, further insights for the RTR were obtained from qualitative interviews with 23 key informants including seven representatives of six DOs which responded to one or both of the crises under review, three district-level stakeholders (two Somali NGO Consortium district sub-office representatives and two local NGOs), six national-level stakeholders (two Somali diaspora organization representatives, two institutional humanitarian actors, two national government offices), and six representatives of communities receiving diaspora support.

Findings

In the assessment of humanitarian responses to crises in both Beledweyne and Jubaland, the RTR found examples where DOs' wide Somali networks and close connections to affected communities enabled them to meet key humanitarian needs and access hard-to-reach populations. The Beledweyne response was found to be overall more formalized and integrated into the broader humanitarian ecosystem, due to better visibility of the response towards local, institutional, and government actors. In Jubaland, the DOs' response remained mostly unknown to other humanitarian actors although it was of great support to affected communities. In both responses, there were gaps in documentation and coordination with institutional humanitarian actors, further corroborating previously identified trends that DOs often work in a relatively informal, behind-the-scenes manner.

The results of the RTR add to a growing evidence base that diaspora actors play a critical role in Somalia's humanitarian response. Some of the major DO strengths identified include skills in fundraising through crowdfunding mechanisms, capacity to rapidly mobilize financial, technical and human resources to reach affected populations at the onset of an emergency, and strong embeddedness with local partners, staff and volunteers. These local connections translate into myriad benefits including capacities to access hard-to-reach populations, understand local contexts

and clan dynamics, gain community trust, mediate clan disputes, and recruit and coordinate vast networks of volunteers for on-the-ground project implementation.

In addition to identifying strengths and contributions, the RTR also sheds light on key challenges that DOs face, such as a lack of access to international funds, gaps in understanding and coordination between DOs and institutional humanitarian actors, and a lack of recognition and credibility from institutional donors due to perceived shortcomings in accountability.



1. INTRODUCTION

Somalia has suffered from recurrent shocks and crises for the past decades. Drivers such as climate change, conflict, terrorism, sociopolitical instability, fragile institutions, and weak governance, have repeatedly converged to produce high rates of food insecurity, poverty, disease, displacement, and suffering¹.

During 2023, several regions in Somalia have faced increasing humanitarian needs due to shocks such as floods, droughts, and conflict. According to OCHA, in July 2023, at least 50% of the population was believed to need humanitarian assistance, including 6.6 million people facing acute food insecurity². Despite the severity of multiple overlapping crises and the heavy humanitarian needs, humanitarian actors have struggled to fully address these needs due to challenges such as limited resources and humanitarian access.

Somalis have become among the most dispersed migrant groups worldwide, with more than 10% of the population (approximately two million) living outside the country.³ Figure 1 depicts their distribution across top countries of residence.⁴

Over time, Somali diaspora communities have come to play a crucial role in providing in-country aid, responding to humanitarian emergencies, and supporting long-term development efforts as highlighted in a previous report published by DEMAC in 2021.⁵ Despite their importance, there is little research and documentation of the specific operational modalities employed by Somali diaspora organizations (DOs) and their strengths and challenges. This RTR aims to address this knowledge gap by documenting how diaspora organizations respond to crises in Somalia and identifying their strengths and challenges as humanitarian actors.

¹ Halabo, T. T., & Berisso, T. (2022). Conflict Dynamics Behind the state failure and the challenges to peacebuilding: The case of Somalia. *Eastern Africa Social Science Research Review*, 38(1), 107-125. <https://doi.org/10.1353/eas.2022.0004>

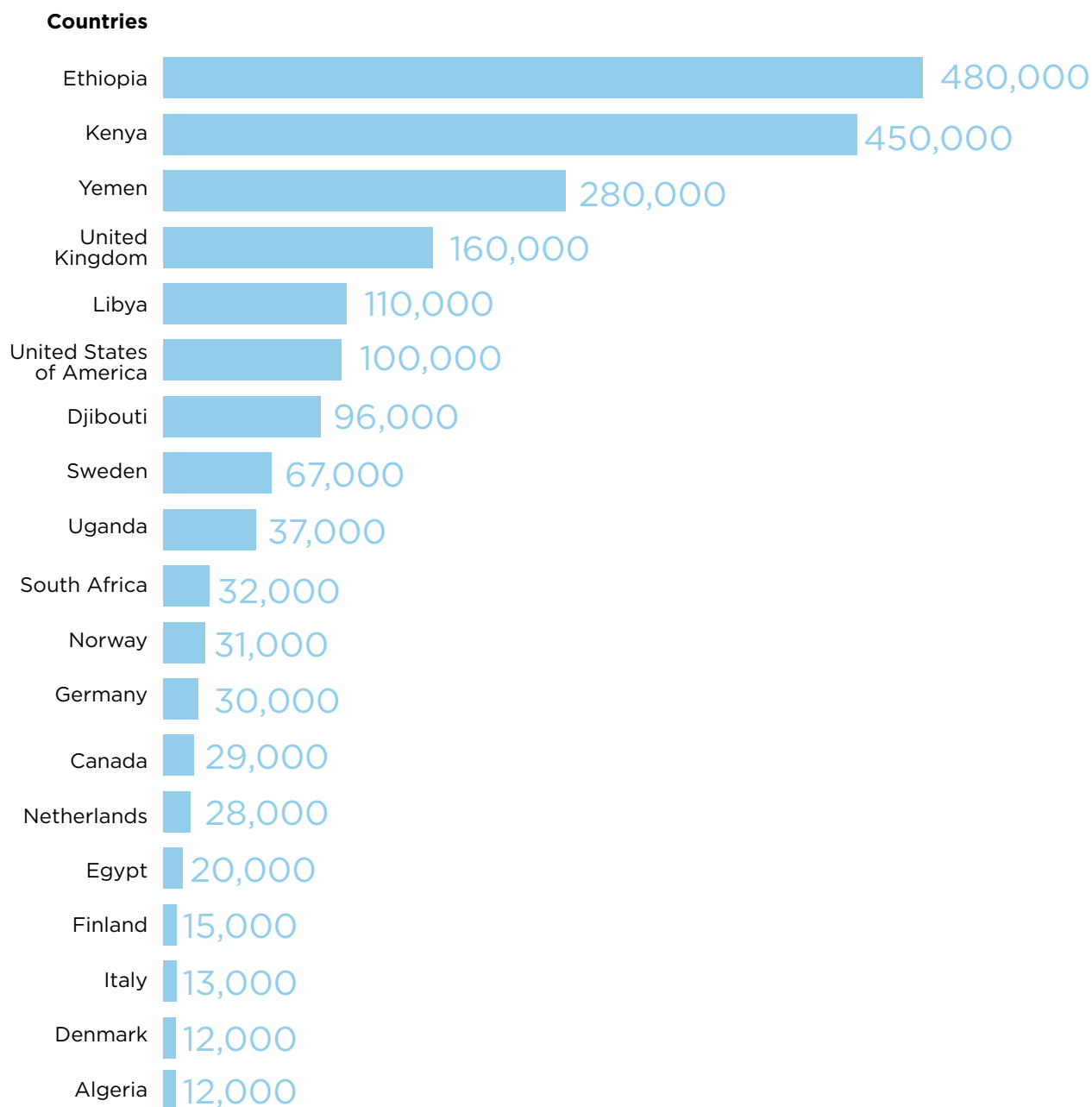
² OCHA. (July 2023). Somalia: The Cost of Inaction. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-cost-inaction-july-2023>

³ DRC | Professional. (2023). Diaspora Programme: Somali Diaspora. Retrieved from <https://pro.drc.ngo/what-we-do/civil-society-engagement/diaspora-programme/somali-diaspora/>

⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2019). *International Migrant Stock 2019* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019).

⁵ DEMAC. (2021). *Diaspora organizations and their humanitarian response in Somalia*. Retrieved from <https://demac.eu-west01.umbraco.io/media/arlnhwpl/demac-report-somalia-final-rz-digital.pdf>

Figure 1: Estimated Somali Diaspora Population by Country
(Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2019)



A specific focus is placed on diaspora organizations' capacity and modalities for responding to needs of hard-to-reach populations. The findings and recommendations from the RTR are intended to contribute to improved collaboration and coordination between and among diaspora and other actors, and to an overall strengthened humanitarian response.

Two recent crises in Somalia provide cases for the RTR's analysis of diaspora's response to humanitarian needs: the Gu rainy season floods in Beledweyne during spring 2023 and its aftermath the increased conflict between the Somali government and Armed Groups and de facto Authorities (AGDAs) in Jubaland during August 2022 to August 2023. Somalia's 2023 Gu rainy season which spanned from March to June was associated with unprecedented rainfall relative to recent years, triggering the banks of the Shabelle river to burst and driving flash and riverine floods across several regions of the country.

By June 6, at least 468,000 people in Somalia were affected by the floods, with 247,000 displaced, according to humanitarian partners and authorities.⁶ About 85% of those displaced by the floods were in Beledweyne and surrounding areas of Hiran.⁵

In Jubaland, changes in the conflict between AGDAs and the Somali government has led to a steep increase in levels of displacement and conflict-related civilian casualties since August 2022.⁷ An evolving landscape of territorial control, coupled with inter- and intra-clan-based conflict drives regular mobility and displacement in the region. Notably, the Gedo region in the Jubaland is consistently reported to have among the highest levels of conflict-related displacement in Somalia, with nearly 20% of its population displaced because of the conflict as of November 18, 2023.⁸ It is expected that the conflict and its humanitarian toll will remain severe in the foreseeable future. The RTR focused on the diaspora's response across all parts of Jubaland, given every region has been affected by the conflict to varying degrees.

⁶ OCHA. (June 2023). Somalia: 2023 Flash and Riverine Floods Situation Report No. 2 (as of 6 June 2023). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2023-flash-and-riverine-floods-situation-report-no-2-6-june-2023>

⁷ ACLED. (April 2023). Somalia: Counter-Insurgency Operation Gains Regional Support in Phase Two as al-Shabaab Attacks and Political Differences Persist - Situation Update | April 2023. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-counter-insurgency-operation-gains-regional-support-phase-two-al-shabaab-attacks-and-political-differences-persist-situation-update-april-2023>

⁸ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nov 25, 2023. DTM Somalia — Emergency Trend Tracking Report — (Nov 12 — Nov 18, 2023). IOM, Somalia.



2. METHODOLOGY

The RTR employed a primarily qualitative methodology which involved mapping DOs operating across Somalia and conducting a series of key informant interviews (KIIs). KIIs were conducted with 23 key informants including seven representatives from six DOs that responded to one or both crises under review, four district level stakeholders (two Somali NGO Consortium district sub-office representatives and two local NGOs implementing activities with DOs in Jubaland and Beledweyne), six national level stakeholders (two Somali diaspora, two institutional humanitarian actors, two national government offices), and six representatives of communities receiving diaspora support in both locations. A full KIIs list is provided in Annex I.

To obtain an overview of the breadth and scope of Somali diaspora initiatives in the humanitarian sector and enable identification of key informants, Somali DOs operating across the country were mapped first via DEMAC's existing network of diaspora organizations. Additional organizations were identified through online search, social media platforms, and snowballing. Information collected via the mapping varied depending on availability but included key DO characteristics such as typology, headquarter location, focus regions, sectors of intervention, implementation modalities, partners, and funding sources.

As the RTR intended to capture real-time and recent DO responses to humanitarian crises in Somalia, the 2023 Gu rainy season floods in Beledweyne and the conflict-driven humanitarian situation in Jubaland were selected as case studies of recent shocks, to review the Somali diaspora's emergency responses. Within these crises an analysis was done of DO responses to humanitarian needs of hard-to-reach populations, specifically those who reside in territories controlled, partially controlled, or surrounded by AGDAs —whom humanitarian actors face challenges in accessing.

DOs in Beledweyne were selected for interviews if they conducted humanitarian activities in anticipation of or in response to the 2023 Gu rainy season floods, while DOs in Jubaland were selected for interviews if they provided humanitarian aid in any area of Jubaland since the intensification of the conflict from August 2022 until the end of the research in 2023. Recognizing the long history of humanitarian needs in Jubaland, selected Jubaland DOs were asked about their activities prior to August 2022 as well.

Throughout the RTR, documented responses included those in support of populations or communities and implemented by diaspora organizations, as opposed to support targeting individuals or households by diaspora individuals, private companies, or religious institutions. While the RTR was primarily focused on humanitarian needs and responses, diaspora actors themselves tended to have a broad and fluid definition of humanitarian response. The research therefore encompasses a broader range of activities spanning across institutional definitions of humanitarian, stabilization, and development programming. Institutional humanitarian actors⁹ are defined in this report as largely international humanitarian actors including i.e. INGOs, UN agencies, and donor governments.

The limited sample size of the research, due to time and resource constraints, means that the RTR does not provide an exhaustive review of the diaspora's humanitarian responses in Somalia or in the two specific cases. Furthermore, in-depth information on the profiles and operations of mapped DOs could only be obtained from those whose details were publicly available online or whose representatives responded to requests for more information by the research team. Moreover, the DOs identified through the online mapping were mostly based in Europe and North America implying that associated details obtained are likely not representative of the full humanitarian response landscape of DOs in Somalia.

⁹ Note that while having implemented humanitarian activities since August 2022 was a criterion for DO selection, interviewed DOs were still asked about their responses to humanitarian needs in Jubaland across a broad period, including (but not limited to) the period between August 2022 and August 2023).

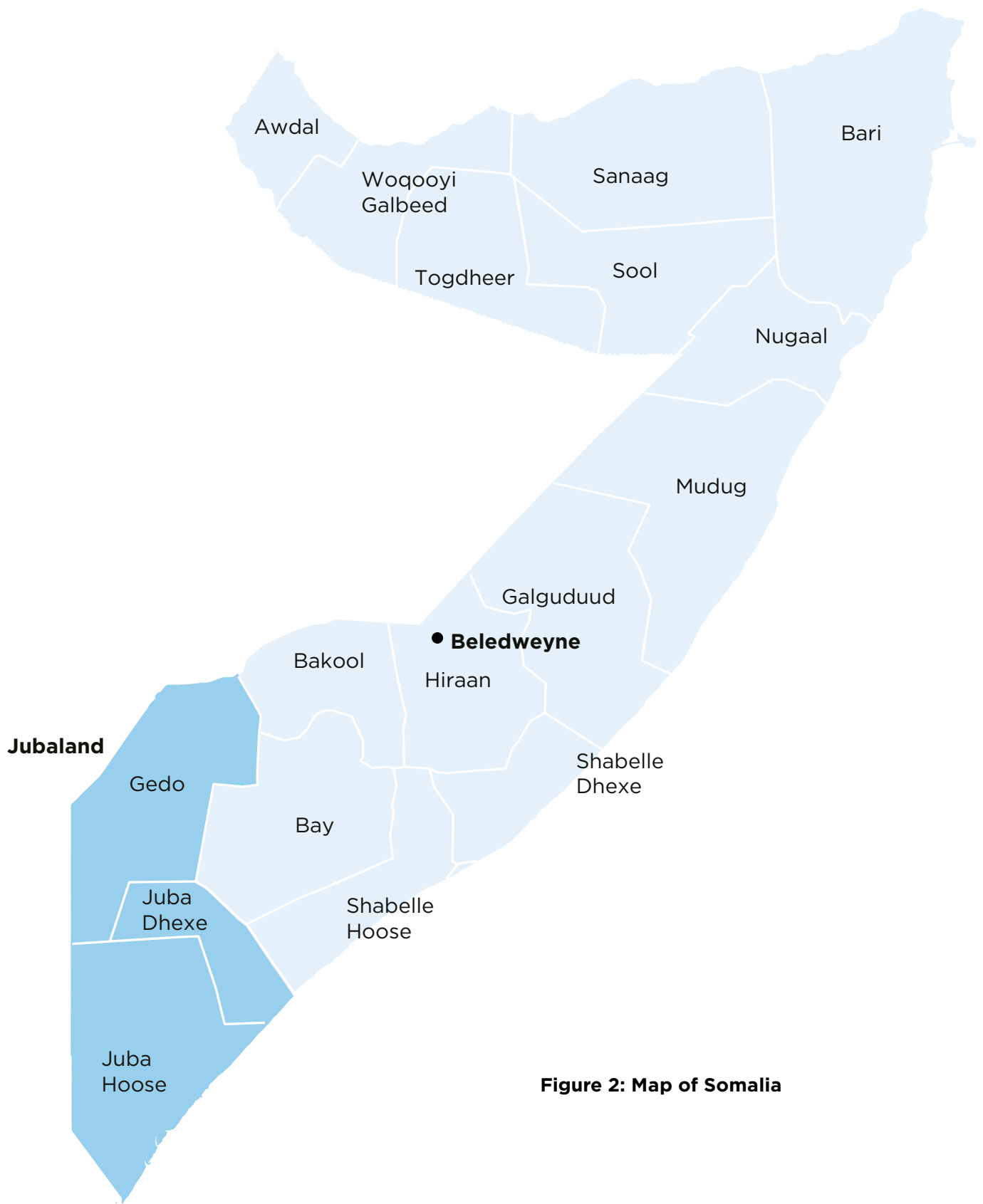


Figure 2: Map of Somalia

3. SOMALI DIASPORA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

3.1 Review of Somali DOs' Mapping

A total of 86 DOs were identified through the mapping, 53 of which were confirmed to be active through either direct communication or indication of recent (i.e., 2023) social media activity.¹⁰ These included 64 DOs registered internationally (i.e., outside Somalia), 18 DOs registered locally (i.e., in Somalia), and four DOs comprised of loose networks of volunteers with a less formal structure and no official registration. Headquarter locations spanned a total of 13 countries. The location of registration was considered as the location of the organization's headquarters, even if sub-offices existed in other locations. Both internationally and locally registered organizations were categorized as diaspora organizations if they were led by members of the Somali diaspora.

Of the 86 mapped DOs, seven organizations across all categories were labeled as "diaspora networks" for their role in coordinating or facilitating connections as an umbrella for diaspora organizations.

Among the 86 mapped DOs, the primary areas of intervention were education, advocacy, health, food security, and cash support. Nonetheless, the overwhelming trend was that most DOs work across sectors (i.e., in a multisectoral manner. DOs' primary implementation modalities involved direct engagement through on-the-ground staff and volunteers, or through collaboration with community-based organizations, as depicted in Figure 3. Financial support stems mainly from crowdfunding initiatives and contributions provided by diaspora members through memberships and religious charitable donations such as *zakat* as illustrated in Figure 4.

¹⁰ The full list of Somali DOs mapped is in Annex II.

Figure 3: Main implementation modality for mapped DOs frequency

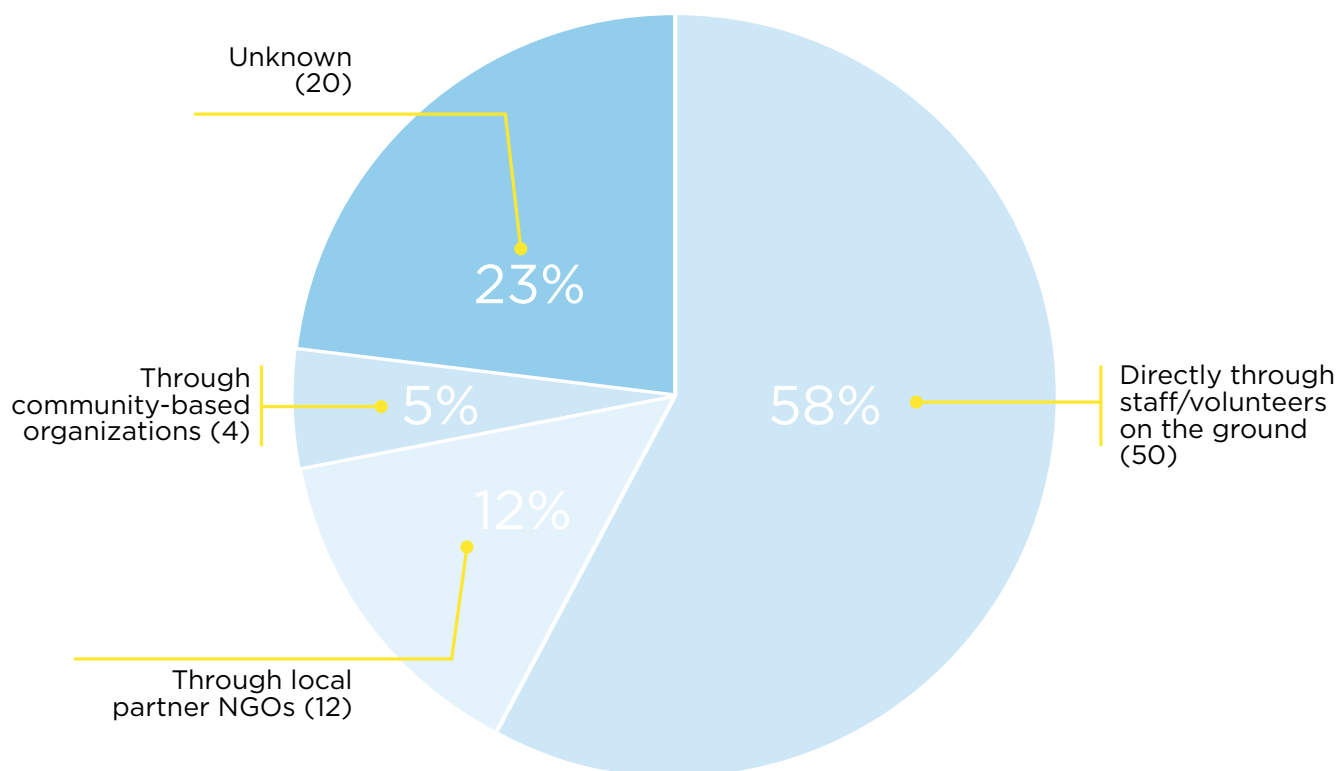
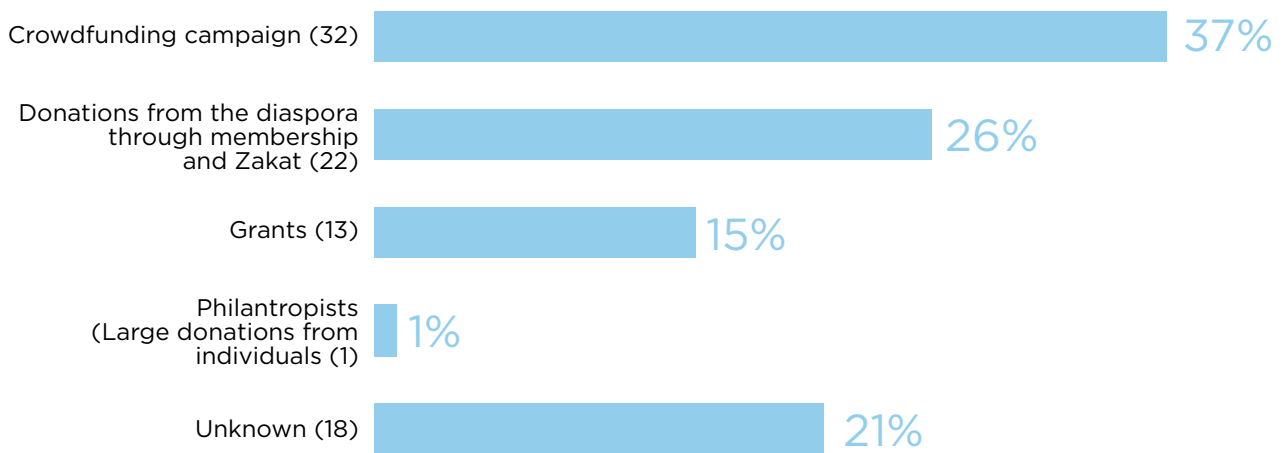


Figure 4: Primary funding source for mapped DOs frequency



3.2 Diaspora Responses in Beledweyne and Jubaland

Flooding in Beledweyne

A total of four DOs were interviewed about their 2023 flood responses in Beledweyne. These included:

- Southern Somalia's Peace and Development Organization (SSPDO), a Somali DO founded in 2007 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Talo Aid, a diaspora-led Somali organization founded in 2004 by a group of Somali based in Germany.
- Somali Society Relief Development & Advocacy Organization (SSRDAO), a Somali DO founded in 2019 and based in Norrköping, Sweden.
- Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization (KAHRDO), a Somali organization founded in 2013 by Somali members of the diaspora in Europe and North America.

The DOs interviewed on their 2023 Beledweyne flood response shared information about diverse activities conducted between March and June 2023. Diaspora responses often focused heavily or exclusively on the provision of emergency supplies or cash and included multiple activities such as food assistance (four DOs), medication distribution (three DOs), temporary shelter provision (two DOs), provision of drinking water (two DOs), cash distribution (one DO), and early warning activities followed by IDP movement tracking in collaboration with the local government (one DO).

Examples of specific responses included projects which mobilized youth volunteers to deliver several truckloads of food rations, medications, and emergency supplies to Beledweyne from both Puntland and Galmudug following the floods. Another DO demonstrated a service-oriented response beyond the exclusive provision of supplies and included early warning and evacuation activities in addition to IDP movement tracking in collaboration with the local government.

The operational approaches varied among the interviewed DOs. Locally registered DOs often had their complete teams on the ground to oversee implementation. In contrast, some internationally registered organizations hired local staff to implement projects under the supervision of their international headquarters. Other internationally registered organizations collaborated with local organizations to facilitate the implementation of their activities. These diverse approaches to implementation mirror the broader structures of DOs. Regardless of the operational approach used, diaspora's rapport with affected communities was seen as essential in facilitating a two-way stream of communication that enabled rapid identification of and responsiveness to local needs in real time. While most of the funds that the interviewed DOs reported raising for their flood response activities came directly from the diaspora, one received funds through the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF) in partnership with a local NGO.

Despite the several DO initiatives documented in response to the 2023 Gu rainy season floods in Beledweyne, KIs (including national- and district-level stakeholders and DOs themselves) suggested that the 2023 response overall paled in comparison to the flood responses of prior years. All three interviewed IDP representatives expressed that the response of both the diaspora and institutional humanitarian actors was insufficient in relation to the community's needs. It was suggested that this may be due to the global economic situation, inflation, and donor fatigue as climate change drives more frequent flooding in the region. Still, IDPs were overall aware of the diaspora's role and particularly their provision of funds. One IDP representative commented on how diaspora channeled donations through local organizations and government offices, while another two IDP representatives mentioned the diaspora's collaborations with Hormuud Telecom and Dahabshiil Bank in the distribution of funds to those affected by the floods.



Conflict in Jubaland

Acquiring data on the humanitarian activities of the diaspora in Jubaland was challenging overall, primarily due to the precarious security environment and the resulting discretion related to DOs activities. Nonetheless, insights into the response were provided by local community representatives and district-level stakeholders who shared information on the overall diaspora response to humanitarian needs in the region. Four DOs were also interviewed on their humanitarian activities in Jubaland. These included:

- Somali Society Relief Development & Advocacy Organization (SSRDAO), a Somali DO founded in 2019 and based in Norrköping, Sweden.
- Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization (KAHRDO), a Somali organization founded in 2013 by Somali members of the diaspora in Europe and North America.
- Ibado East Africa Charity Foundation, an Ohio, United States based DO founded in 2021 by a member of the Somali diaspora.
- Al-Rahmah Foundation is a Somali-based charity organization founded by Somali members of the diaspora from various countries

The four DOs interviewed reported both humanitarian and development activities conducted across multiple sectors prior to and after the intensification of the conflict in August 2022. The activities captured included food aid (three DOs), water aid (three DOs), construction of water infrastructure (three DOs), advocacy and information sharing (two DOs), disaster risk reduction activities (one DO), conflict monitoring and analysis (one DO), interclan conflict mediation (one DO), good governance and democracy building (one DO), bridge construction (one DO), school construction (one DO), and livelihood building for farmers and fishermen (one DO). Activities spanned all three regions of Jubaland (Lower Juba, Middle Juba, and Gedo region).

The activities of the interviewed DOs in Jubaland differed from those in Beledweyne. In Jubaland, their efforts were predominantly centered on investments in infrastructure, particularly in the education, health, and WASH sectors. A few examples of emergency responses were given such as provision of water and food aid.

For example, one DO funded the installation of water pumping motors for farmers and invested approximately USD 400,000 in the construction of a bridge. Funds for these interventions came from a total budget of close to USD one million that had been raised exclusively through diaspora and local Somali contributions for humanitarian and development purposes.

Another DO raised funds for, led, and coordinated the construction of a water well and educational center in Afmadow (Lower Juba) via local contractors. Another one constructed a large water storage tank in a community outside of Kismayo.

In Jubaland, locally based DO staff were also found to assist government actors with routine conflict monitoring and provide advisory services to institutional humanitarian actors on the local operational context. Given the fragile security environment in Jubaland, DOs particularly emphasized the importance of their networks when identifying trustworthy local counterparts to whom they delegate on-the-ground activities. These networks also support the mobilization of large networks of local volunteers to support project implementation.

Overall, the RTR found that DOs responding in Jubaland accessed funds almost exclusively from the diaspora and relied heavily on volunteers, largely due to challenges securing funding from institutional donors. The RTR also identified lower levels of awareness among district and national level stakeholders of the diaspora's role in Jubaland relative to Beledweyne.

This trend did not apply, however, to the interviewed community representatives, who expressed that the diaspora played an important and highly observable role in their lives, both in providing emergency aid and contributing towards the development of their communities (e.g., through building hospitals and schools).

“The diaspora finds out our needs when we contact them. They are our brothers and relatives who lived here previously, and they know where we live and how we live and when we have problems. So, they are always aware and know of us. The diaspora has made a huge difference compared to other organizations such as NGOs and others.” (Jubaland community representatives)

This discrepancy in awareness of diasporas' responses suggests that they contribute notably to humanitarian response in Jubaland but that initiatives may be less publicly shared and reported, possibly due to the risky operational context. Figure 5 below offers a comparative snapshot of DO activities in response to needs in Beledweyne and Jubaland.

Figure 5: Summary of Beledweyne and Jubaland Responses of Diaspora Organizations

Beledweyne Flood Response	Jubaland Conflict Response
Some coordination and partnerships with other humanitarian actors.	Minimal coordination and partnerships with other humanitarian actors.
Some communication with other humanitarian actors around areas of operation to coordinate and avoid overlap.	Minimal communication with other humanitarian actors to coordinate and avoid overlap.
Higher visibility of diaspora organizations' responses to other humanitarian actors and local government representatives but lower recognition from community representative in comparison to UN and INGO-led responses.	Lower visibility of diaspora organizations' responses to other humanitarian actors and local government representatives but higher recognition from community representative.
DOs' response primarily focus on emergency relief.	DOs' response primarily focused on longer term infrastructure development.



3.3 How Diaspora Organizations Operate

The review of diaspora organizations' humanitarian responses in Beledweyne and Jubaland contributed to findings about how they operate, both in regard to the specific crises but also more generally when responding to other crises in Somalia.

Implementation Modalities

The RTR found that DOs worked closely with local, on-the-ground contacts and networks, while leveraging their understanding and embeddedness in the clan system to navigate access constraints and tap into local knowledge. While both locally and internationally registered DOs demonstrated heavy levels of local embeddedness, locally registered DOs displayed a notable ability to rapidly mobilize large groups of volunteers to support implementation of activities. Some DOs managed to implement various initiatives across Jubaland, others managed youth volunteer-led relocation activities for flood evacuees and delivery of emergency supplies to flood victims.

Another clear trend was the sporadic nature of DO activities evidenced by fluctuating DO activity levels on social media platforms where DOs become temporarily inactive. DOs' level of activities tend to wax and wane, with peaks and dips corresponding to sociopolitical and economic circumstances. For most DOs, activities are generally ongoing to some degree, even if activity levels peak intermittently.

Role of Diaspora within DOs

Overall, across locations and categories of DOs, it was found that the roles of diaspora members within DOs vary and evolve with the changing needs of on-the-ground partners or staff. Common roles for diaspora within their organizations include but are not limited to; leading fundraising activities, conducting donor research and writing grant applications, managing finances and staff recruitment, overseeing implementation, networking and building partnerships with other actors, engaging in advocacy and awareness raising, and leading strategy development by serving on governance boards.

Several KIs emphasized that the versatile skills of educated diaspora members are essential to the success of DOs in terms of both organizational development and capacity to respond to humanitarian and development needs. Indeed, many DOs were also founded by educated diaspora such as the organization founded by 300 Somali diaspora members in Denmark with backgrounds in agriculture, engineering, veterinary fields, and others. One DO representative referenced the role of a diaspora physician who provided support in developing better epidemiological methods for monitoring and evaluation of the DO's malaria, HIV, and nutrition programs.

Funding

Findings from the RTR shed light on extensive fundraising activities of the diaspora. Common fundraising modalities included crowdfunding campaigns organized by DOs and individual-level donations collected by DOs as charity or organizational membership fees from the diaspora. Besides using these funds to finance their activities, DOs were also found to distribute them as cash transfers to clan or religious leaders for distribution at the village or clan level, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. When it comes to fundraising campaigns, DOs frequently utilize WhatsApp and social media channels after being alerted by local contacts of a humanitarian emergency. These mechanisms allow funds to be mobilized rapidly, after which locally based staff can immediately be deployed to, for example provide water trucking, emergency shelter, and food aid. In addition to DOs' efficient fundraising mechanisms, some KIs also attributed DOs' rapid ability to mobilize resources to their lower bureaucracy relative to institutional humanitarian organizations. It was also suggested that the lessened bureaucracy helps reduce administrative and overhead costs, allowing DOs to deliver aid at a lower cost. A lack of data makes it difficult to quantify the funds generated through these less visible mechanisms, but data on funds raised by three DOs interviewed provide suggestive evidence of the large amount of funding that DOs mobilize.

Across these three organizations more than USD 1.1 million was raised for specific responses entirely through diaspora contributions in 2022. In the case of one the DOs, funds were raised through two successive WhatsApp fundraising campaigns, the first generating about USD 54,000 to support the evacuation and relocation of families from flood-affected districts to safe areas, and the second generating an additional USD 48,000 to purchase shelters and household items for relocated families. In many cases, DOs collect these funds from Somali diaspora across several countries, but the most notable contributions for internationally registered DOs tend to come from the diaspora within the countries where they are registered. Additionally, among both mapped and interviewed DOs, internationally registered ones were more likely to receive longer term funding from government entities, specifically those in their countries of registration. Only a few interviewed DOs (both locally and internationally registered) had managed to secure grants for one-off projects from international donors or through formal partnerships with institutional actors. However, in all cases where non-diaspora funds were secured, it was the diaspora which led the proposal development process, grant writing, and application submission, highlighting their notable skill contributions in this area.

Hard-to-reach access and selection of target groups

When accessing hard-to-reach populations, DOs were found to work heavily through clan and religious leaders to gain direct or indirect humanitarian access. One DO, for example, shared that its gender-based violence (GBV) project managed to transfer USD 64/ household to fund hospital visits for a total of 78 GBV victims in a district under AGDAs' control. They achieved this by mobilizing clan leaders to collect and share mobile phone numbers with the DO's team, after which cash was sent via mobile money transfers. In Jubaland, meanwhile, another DO reached populations under AGDAs control by entrusting known community leaders, clan elders, and local shop owners to conduct activities (i.e., distribute cash or rations of food or supplies) in areas that outside actors could not access. Worth noting, however, is the fact that only DOs registered in Somalia have previously reached communities under partial or full AGDAs control,

suggesting they may have added advantages or capacities when utilizing the mechanisms described to reach these communities. This does not come without risks as highlighted by some DOs who reported violent encounters with AGDAs. To access and track mobile populations, it was found that DOs rely heavily upon routine communications with IDPs to track their movements, distribute relevant information, and ensure continuity of aid. One DO, for example, specifically collected data on IDP movements during their flood response to provide updated information to the local government and support aid (re-)registration efforts. Similarly, another one tracked ongoing IDP movements in Jubaland and informed relevant agencies and government authorities. Beyond this, they sent staff to sites following new IDP arrivals to advocate for land sharing by the host community.

When it came to the selection of target groups for emergency response, DOs stated that they applied conventional vulnerability criteria used by humanitarian actors (e.g., age, gender, disability status, etc.) to target populations with the greatest needs. Most emergency response activities reviewed through the RTR were implemented using funds pooled across a diverse Somali diaspora base, allowing for a broader targeting of populations. One example was from 2022, when 30 DOs from various backgrounds pooled funds to respond to droughts in the South-West State and Gedo regions. While the RTR also sought to understand if and how DOs target minority clans, no examples of this were found.

In the case of longer-term development projects such as schools, hospitals, and well construction projects, activities were often implemented in the communities from which the implementing or leading diaspora organization originated. Reasons for this ranged from a desire to support the diaspora's communities of origin to issues of access and ownership linked to clan which play a role in influencing where DOs can work, particularly in infrastructure development. National-level stakeholders also confirmed the above, and they and community representatives alike perceived this as a problematic aspect of humanitarian and development responses implemented by DOs.



3.4 How Diaspora Organizations Coordinate with Other Actors

Coordination Between DOs

When it comes to coordination between DOs, KIIs showed that DOs are effective at rapidly sharing information among themselves via their pre-existing networks. Across both the Jubaland and Beledweyne responses, several examples demonstrated the ability of DOs to coordinate and raise funds from diaspora internationally. Throughout the research one network was identified that aimed to support coordination between diaspora at a global level; Global Somali Diaspora (GSD) provides a platform aiming to unite Somalis around the globe to pool resources and share knowledge, across development and humanitarian responses.

“Our method of communicating is through a vast network. We have people from all over the world with different connections to different locations in Somalia, which facilitates a lot of the work we carry out. Different time zones made it challenging to meet but we compromised and coordinated with one another to deliver aid through our partners on the ground in Somalia.”
(GSD representative)

Despite strengths in information sharing and the existence of such coordination initiatives, many KIIs still found that inter-DO coordination can and should be further strengthened. Some weaknesses emphasized included the lack of streamlined initiatives which can lead to duplication of activities and the need for channels to pool diaspora donations across multiple countries.

Coordination with Government Actors

Some DOs were able to effectively collaborate with local authorities in Somalia, mainly for purposes of obtaining permission to operate in certain areas, gaining stakeholder buy-in and support for their activities, and sharing information for government advisory purposes. Interviewed government actors shared that efforts are underway to develop a framework for women diaspora engagement. Additionally, the Somali Department of Diaspora Affairs (DoDA) is collaborating with a diverse coalition of diaspora groups to develop Somali foreign policy legislation through a more joint, participatory process. DoDA also reported having conversations with several diaspora members to consolidate current needs and priorities as a precondition to developing a more focused strategy for diaspora engagement. Additionally, interviewed DOs generally expressed interest in increasing their collaborations with government actors, in some cases explicitly highlighting them as essential stakeholders/partners.

Coordination with Local Civil Society Organizations and Communities

Two local NGOs reported communicating with the diaspora to identify activities for the purpose of preventing overlap, and to directly connect family members abroad to community members they had lost contact with but wanted to send aid or remittances to. One of the DOs responding to the floods in Beledweyne had partnered with the same local NGO to implement five different projects.

An overarching theme across the RTR was that DOs collaborate and coordinate closely with local, on-the-ground contacts. These can include community committees, local NGOs, religious leaders, and clan elders, among others, which often provide critical assistance in operations including information collection, needs identification, aid delivery, community mobilization, project implementation, and management of services contracted to the private sector (e.g., for construction services or supply procurement). One DO with management based outside of Somalia, for example, mobilized local teams of volunteer staff to provide people with aid comprised of food rations, plastic containers for water, mosquito nets, and medicine, among other items. This practice applies to both locally and internationally registered DOs, as even organizations based in-country often still delegate activities to local actors in remote implementation settings while management teams are based in urban offices.

Coordination with Institutional Humanitarian Actors

Coordination with institutional humanitarian actors was generally framed as a challenge by both DOs and national-level stakeholders. Government and institutional humanitarian actors at the national level emphasized the difficulties in coordinating with the diaspora, citing reasons such as fragmentation of activities, and a lack of organization and documentation of which diaspora actors are doing what, where, and when. DOs also highlighted challenges connecting with institutional actors due to a lack of knowledge of the coordination platforms they use or of where to find virtually advertised partnership tenders.

“We tried to track diaspora contributions and direct our cluster partners to target areas with less diaspora support. However, it was hard to get information on the diaspora contributions as they did not attend the formal cluster meetings, so we mainly relied on word of mouth to determine who got diaspora support.” (IHA representative in Somalia)

Few partnerships with institutional humanitarian actors such as international NGOs and UN institutions were identified among the interviewed DOs in Jubaland. Still, several locally registered DO representatives in Jubaland noted regularly engaging with institutional humanitarian actors (e.g., international NGOs, UN institutions) as “expert” advisors/consultants on the local context.

In the case of Beledweyne, more examples of collaboration with institutional humanitarian actors emerged, particularly for DOs with more formal structures. This may be because they conducted activities in a more visible manner relative to DOs in Jubaland, making it easier for such “networking” to occur. For example, one DO collaborated with the African Union Climate Forecast Team when conducting early warning activities in the leadup to the floods.



3.5 Diaspora Organizations' Strengths and Challenges

3.5.1 Strengths

Commitment

The RTR found that the Somali diaspora generally have a strong commitment to address both humanitarian and development needs in the country. Key examples come from DOs' demonstrated willingness to take risks when accessing hard-to-reach areas, extensive fundraising efforts and contributions, and willingness to work on a volunteer basis. In their responses, DOs are driven by the evolving priorities of the communities with whom they are closely engaged. They therefore tend to work in a multi-sectoral manner and respond across humanitarian and development needs. The case of Jubaland where community representatives emphasized the close connections to and support of diaspora offers evidence of the diaspora's important role, despite being less visible to other humanitarian actors. This exemplifies how diaspora can and do consistently support communities in contexts with extensive humanitarian needs and fewer formal responses in the region. Concerning the Somali diaspora's contributions at large, the following quote is illustrative:

“We believe without diaspora aid the country wouldn't be where it is today. There are many things which this country lost after the civil war, and it was with the aid of the diaspora community that we were able to get things back. Sectors like education, health, development, emergency aid, and even technical skills are things we received from diaspora communities.”
(National level stakeholders)

Rapid Response

The RTR found that DOs have a strong capacity to mobilize resources and rapidly reach affected communities, even before other actors. In the case of the 2023 Beledweyne flood response, some KIs specifically highlighted diaspora actors as being the first responders. For example, one DO began early warning and assisted evacuation activities well before Beledweyne received peak global attention. Having fewer bureaucratic constraints relative to institutional humanitarian actors seems to contribute to DOs' rapid responsiveness and their ability to mobilize resources efficiently. Another organization launched a fundraising campaign through its WhatsApp and social media channels immediately after being alerted by local contacts of a humanitarian emergency. Within days, funds may reach the affected area, with local staff mobilized to provide water trucking, emergency shelter, and food aid, among other relief.

Effective Fundraising

With their ability to collaborate with an expansive, committed, and highly interconnected network of Somalis living abroad, many DOs use diverse crowdsourcing mechanisms and platforms to raise vast amounts of funds to respond to humanitarian needs in Somalia. This is exemplified by the total USD 1.1 million cited previously and raised by just three DOs interviewed for this RTR. Relative to local organizations, they also have the added advantage of being able to access government funds in their countries of registration (e.g., one of the DO receives most funds through CISU which is funded by the Danish government). A sense of ownership and trust, given they are Somali led, was also cited as a motivation for diaspora around the world to donate to Somali DOs as opposed to institutional humanitarian actors.

Capacity Development and Skill Transfer

The RTR also shed light on the usefulness of the diaspora's technical expertise and language skills in grant writing, networking, and partnership building. In all cases where DOs had received international funding or been awarded formal grants from donors, it was the diaspora which led the proposal development process, grant writing, and application submission. Some KIs stated that expert inputs from Somali professionals abroad may also increase the overall rigor of project designs, and this can improve their donor image. It was also found that diaspora actors have been key to forming global connections and institutional partnerships critical to scaling the work of DOs. Importantly, there were also examples where diaspora expertise was passed down to locals. This was the case for one of the DOs, where the leadership initially consisted entirely of diaspora members and who over time gradually shifted to being predominantly composed of local Somalis.

Local Embeddedness

DOs have vast on-the-ground contact networks, understanding and embeddedness in the clan system, and close ties with local community representatives, clan leaders, and religious actors. These local connections give DOs an ability to navigate complex clan dynamics, mobilize volunteers, appoint local focal points, and negotiate access to otherwise unreachable areas. Alongside other examples, this was demonstrated by one of the DOs' capacities to access areas under AGDAs control by working with local clan leaders and shop owners to distribute aid. This is particularly important in the context of Somalia where complex dynamics and decades of crises make local understanding key to delivering effective humanitarian aid. The RTR also found evidence that local embeddedness increases DOs' accountability and rapid responsiveness to communities' needs as it enables regular communication with beneficiaries to ensure effective feedback loops.

Accessing and Tracking Hard-to-Reach and Highly Mobile Populations

The RTR found concrete evidence of DOs leveraging local connections to access hard-to-reach areas. Previously discussed examples are illustrative of how DOs can work through clan leaders to reach communities under AGDAs control, either directly or indirectly. When working in contexts characterized by heavy displacement and mobility, DOs were also found to have skills in tracking IDP movements given their deep understanding of the evolving on-the-ground dynamics. While institutional humanitarian actors play an important role in IDP movement tracking, the previously discussed examples demonstrate a unique capacity by locally registered DOs to do so in highly complex mobility environments.



3.5.2 Challenges

Lack of Diverse Funding and Resources to Scale and Sustain Interventions

A major challenge emphasized by KIs was the lack of institutional funding DOs receive. While the mapping identified some examples of DOs that receive funds from institutional actors, they emphasized challenges obtaining these funds and most DOs still rely exclusively on diaspora contributions. The ability to fundraise directly from the diaspora enables quick mobilization in response to specific needs but it does not usually allow for activities to be carried out at the scale or consistency that international donor funding would. This often limits the DOs' ability to plan longer-term, sustainable humanitarian interventions, retain staff, or invest in organizational development initiatives. Scarcity of funds was especially highlighted as a challenge by DOs in Jubaland whose only donors were from the diaspora community.

Insights from KIs suggest that funding challenges may be attributed to several factors including lack of visibility and awareness of DOs' response among international donors, donor skepticism regarding DOs' credibility and accountability, lack of integration in the cluster system through which many UN funds are channeled, and lack of capacity to compete with larger or better funded organizations in competitive grant applications. Overall, the desire to achieve more unity in their work through streamlining fundraising and response planning was shared by many diaspora actors interviewed.

Perceptions on accountability and impartiality

The RTR found that DOs are often seen by institutional actors as biased in their selection of target groups and lacking processes for ensuring impartiality and accountability. Concerns of clan bias were noted by institutional as well as government and community actors, stemming from the lack of clarity around DOs' beneficiary selection processes. However, DOs themselves asserted adherence to humanitarian principles, including impartiality, and no concrete examples of clan-based targeting in humanitarian activities were found through the interviews conducted for this RTR. For some development-focused infrastructure projects, notably in Jubaland, localities were selected based on the origin of the diaspora who fundraised for or led the project.

Regarding accountability, some national-level stakeholders claimed that DOs pass funds across lengthy chains of intermediaries without clear monitoring, prevention of aid diversion, nor documentation of how funds are used. However, DOs themselves provided examples of monitoring and reporting processes that take place via calls and WhatsApp and several organizations from the mapping have published annual financial reports on their websites.

This RTR did not conduct a comprehensive assessment on DOs' processes, strengths, and weaknesses for ensuring impartiality and accountability which hinders definitive conclusions. While it is likely that some DOs have weaknesses in these areas, the RTR also found examples where DOs ensured impartiality and accountability via mechanisms that institutional actors' do not recognize or are not familiar with. These alternative and flexible ways of working can be a double-sided coin in that they are linked to the local embeddedness that is one of diasporas' key strengths, but can reinforce potentially harmful practices or disconnect from institutional humanitarian actors. Despite this ambiguity, a clear finding is that the lack of trust and understanding between institutional actors and diaspora actors, poses challenges for collaboration and partnership.

Gaps in Coordination and Understanding Between Diaspora and Institutional Humanitarian Actors

Finally, the RTR revealed that there is a lack of coordination between DOs and the formal humanitarian sector, with key findings being that few DOs engage in the cluster system and there are currently no official arrangements or operational frameworks for the diaspora to engage with OCHA or the national level Somali NGO Consortium. According to some national and district level stakeholders, this can lead to overlap and duplication of activities. In the perspective of national level stakeholders, DOs' lack of formality and structure in comparison to institutional humanitarian actors remains a major barrier to sector coordination.

Another challenge in fostering engagement and coordination between institutional humanitarian actors and diaspora organizations lies in their different operational approaches and a mutual lack of familiarity with each other's working methods. This may stem from various factors. DOs may struggle to document and report their responses due to limited capacity or resources, hindering widespread sharing through standard humanitarian channels. Additionally, there is a mutual lack of knowledge between DOs and institutional actors on how and where to share information, contributing to a communication gap and hindering potential coordination. Despite the barriers identified, national level stakeholders were receptive to working with DOs if these issues could be addressed.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The RTR of the Somali diaspora response to humanitarian crises, with a focus on the spring 2023 flooding in Beledweyne and the conflict in Jubaland, sheds light on the role of the diaspora in Somalia's humanitarian response. Considering both the strengths and challenges faced by Somalia diaspora actors, the following recommendations are provided to leverage DOs' value as humanitarian responders while addressing barriers to their involvement and coordination in the humanitarian sector:

Recommendations for DOs:

- Routinely document, publicize, and disseminate information about activities on DO websites and social media pages to ensure awareness and understanding of DO's work to institutional actors, other diaspora, and local partners.
- Participate in existing diaspora-led coordination platforms and establish new platforms where needed (e.g., sector- or location-specific ones) to enhance dialogue, advocacy, and knowledge sharing between Somali DOs and to collectively strengthen DOs' participation in humanitarian response coordination meetings with IHAs and local actors.
- Explore further opportunities for pooling funds across regional or global diaspora networks to streamline fundraising and create financial opportunities to scale humanitarian activities.
- Collectively review processes and practices for beneficiary selection, to ensure that they are aligned with humanitarian principles and do not inadvertently exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities or cause harm. When good practices are identified, document, and share these with other DOs and communicate them to institutional humanitarian actors to counter negative perceptions. When relevant, collaborate within the diaspora and with local and institutional humanitarian actors to improve approaches for reaching those most in need.

Recommendations for institutional humanitarian actors:

- Dedicate funding and human resources to strengthen the capacity of DOs through, for example, providing organizational development support, technical assistance, or mentorship via flexible modalities based on DOs' needs and requests.
- To harness DOs' capacities as humanitarian partners, establish, make use of, and pilot existing operational frameworks for engagement with the diaspora, such as the Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance.¹¹
- Invite and reduce barriers for diaspora actors to access coordination mechanisms with local and institutional actors (i.e., cluster meetings) for example by providing financial support in covering costs related to staff time, logistics, etc. to increase coordination and information sharing with diaspora responders.
- Partner with DOs to harness their expertise as transnational actors with knowledge from both international and local contexts. Partnerships could take the form of providing directing funding to DOs to maximize their unique responses or enlisting DOs' advisory services as experts of local contexts in hard-to-reach areas, and/or settings with notably complex clan dynamics, recognizing the unique pool of knowledge they have.

¹¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2023. Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance. IOM. <https://www.idiaspora.org/en/learn/resources/project-materials/framework-diaspora-engagement-humanitarian-assistance>

Recommendations for DEMAC, IOM, and other diaspora support partners:

- Provide capacity development and technical support tailored to DOs' self-expressed needs to support and strengthen their role as humanitarian responders on topics such as accountability (including monitoring and reporting), fundraising, and humanitarian principles.
- Support and facilitate coordination and collaboration among DOs. This can be achieved by supporting already existing initiatives or by supporting the establishment of online platforms for regular DO coordination, convening in-person meetings, and supporting DOs to navigate operational constraints for coordination. Key areas where coordination can be strengthened are joint fundraising, project planning, operational response and knowledge sharing.
- Support DOs operating across Somalia in establishing unified leadership that can represent the diaspora at relevant forums and interface with institutional humanitarian actors, OCHA, and stakeholders. Efforts should be made to ensure minority clan representation in diaspora leadership, including within the membership of DoDA's recently established Diaspora Council.
- Support and facilitate dedicated forums for engagement, networking, coordination and partnership-building between DOs and institutional humanitarian actors. These can include conferences, meetings, and sector-specific technical workshops where relevant actors can come together to build trust and understanding of each other's work, whilst identifying further opportunities for collaboration.
- Continue to systematically monitor, document, and promote the activities and initiatives of diaspora actors to further advance ongoing progress towards increasing the Somali diaspora's visibility and attracting greater interest from donors, partners, and sector stakeholders who have yet to harness the full benefits of diaspora engagement.

By adopting these recommendations, essential progress can be made in harnessing the full power of the diaspora to contribute towards Somalia's humanitarian sector.



ANNEX I

INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Key Informant Profile/Organization	Key Informant Category
Southern Somalia's Peace and Development Organization (SSPDO), headquarters: Denmark	<i>DO representatives (Beledweyne flood response)</i>
TALO Aid, headquarters: Germany	<i>DO representatives (Beledweyne flood response)</i>
Somali Society Relief Development and Advocacy Organization (SSRDAO), headquarters: Somalia	<i>DO representatives (Jubaland conflict response and Beledweyne flood response)</i>
Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization (KAHRDO), headquarters: Somalia	<i>DO representatives (Jubaland conflict response and Beledweyne flood response)</i>
Ibado East Africa Charity Foundation, headquarters: USA	<i>DO representatives (Jubaland conflict response)</i>
Al-Rahmah Foundation, headquarters: Somalia	<i>DO representatives (Jubaland conflict response)</i>
Two Birmaal IDP Chairmen	<i>Community representatives (Beledweyne flood response)</i>
Birmaal IDP Women's Committee Leader	<i>Community representatives (Beledweyne flood response)</i>
Three Luglow IDP Leaders	<i>Community representatives (Jubaland conflict response)</i>
Jawaahir Daahir (Somali diaspora) Chair of Global Somali Diaspora	<i>National level stakeholders</i>

Ahmed Omar (Somali diaspora) Chair of New Ways, Director of DCF Consulting	<i>National level stakeholders</i>
OCHA Somalia (institutional humanitarian actor)	<i>National level stakeholders</i>
Somali NGO Consortium Mogadishu Office (institutional humanitarian actor)	<i>National level stakeholders</i>
Department of Diaspora Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (government office)	<i>National level stakeholders</i>
Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (government office)	<i>National level stakeholders</i>
Somali NGO Consortium Beledweyne Sub-Office	<i>District level stakeholders (Beledweyne flood response)</i>
Somali NGO Consortium Kismayo Sub-Office	<i>District level stakeholders (Jubaland conflict response)</i>
NABAAD Development Association (local NGO)	<i>District level stakeholders (Jubaland conflict response)</i>
WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives (local NGO)	<i>District level stakeholders (Beledweyne flood response)</i>

ANNEX II

SOMALI DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS MAPPING

Organization name	HQ country	Website (if any) or FB page (if no website)
Action for Relief & Development (ARD)	Somalia	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066535985909
African Care	Finland	https://www.africancare.fi/en/
African Relief Services	Sweden	https://www.facebook.com/AfricanRelief
Al-Rahmah Foundation	Somalia	http://alrahmahfoundation.com/
Amoud Relief Foundation	United States	https://www.amoudfoundation.org/about-us/
Anti-Tribalism Movement	United States	https://theatm.org/
Arlaadi Aid	United States	https://arlaadiaid.org/
Caawi Walaal	Somalia	https://www.facebook.com/CaawiWalaal/
Children of Somalia	Denmark	http://cosfo.org/en/
Confederation Of Somali Community In Minnesota	United States	https://csc-mn.org/cgi-sys/suspendedpage.cgi
Council of Somali Organizations - (diaspora network)	United Kingdom	https://www.councilofsomaliorgs.com/
Danish Human Appeal	Denmark	N/A
Danish Minorities' Center for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD)	Denmark	https://www.dmchrd.dk/
Danish Somali Aid	Denmark	N/A
Daryeel Aid Service	Denmark	N/A
Denmark Somaliland Network	Denmark	N/A
Esma Ry	Finland	https://www.esmary.fi/
Federation of Somali Associations Netherlands - (diaspora network)	Finland	https://fsan.nl/
Finnish Somalia Association	Finland	https://suomisomaliaseura.fi/
Finnish-Somalia Network - (diaspora network)	Finland	https://www.somaliaverkosto.fi/
FinnSom Society	Finland	N/A

ForLife	Somalia	N/A
Gannaane Association	Somalia	https://gannaane.org/
Garas Aid	Austria	http://www.garasaid.org/
General Assistance and Volunteer Organization (Gavo)	Somalia	https://www.gavosoma.org/
Gift of Givers	South Africa	http://giftofgivers.org
GIK - Gladsaxe Idræts- og Kulturforening	Denmark	N/A
Global Somali Diaspora	United Kingdom	https://www.gsd.org.uk/
Gosol Village Council	Somalia	N/A
Hear Women Gargar Foundation	United Kingdom	http://www.hearwomen.org/
Himilo Relief and Development Association (HIRDA)	Netherlands	https://hirdaafrica.org/
Humanitarian Action Relief Organization (HARO)	United States	https://harousa.org/
Ibado East African Charity Foundation	United States	N/A
Immigrant Women Association	Denmark	https://immigrantwomen.org/
International Relief Foundation	United Kingdom	https://internationalrelieffoundation.org/
International Solidarity organisation/Solidaarisuus	Finland	https://solidaarisuus.fi/
Irshad Foundation	South Africa	http://www.irshadsa.org/
Irshad Islamic Association	United Kingdom	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064481778541
Islamic Relief Sweden	Sweden	https://islamic-relief.se/
Kaaba Microfinance Institution	Somalia	https://www.facebook.com/KaabaMFI/
Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization (KHARDO)	Somalia	https://kalkalhuman.org/
Kanava Youth Organisation	Somalia	https://www.facebook.com/kanavaBaidoa/

Kisiwani Foundation	Somalia	https://www.kisiwani.so/
Kulmiye Relief and Development Organization	Somalia	https://kulmiye.org.so/
Mandhere Relief and Development Organization (MARDO)	Somalia	https://www.mardo.org/
Moniheli	Finland	https://moniheli.fi/
Mustahil Relief and Development Organization (MRDO)	Somalia	N/A
Nado Association	Somalia	N/A
New Ways	Somalia	https://new-ways.org/
OFROSOM	Denmark	http://ofrosom.org/
Ogaden Concern Association	Denmark	https://www.facebook.com/ogadencia/
Penny Appeal	United Kingdom	https://pennyappeal.org/
Physicians Social responsibility/ LSV Lääkäriin Sosiaalinen Vastuu	Finland	https://lsv.fi/english/
Rajo Organisation	Denmark	https://www.facebook.com/RajoOrganisation/
Restore Somalia Foundation	Canada	https://restoresomalia.org/
Somali American Chamber of Commerce	United States	https://www.somaliamericanchamber.com/
Somali American Community Association	United States	https://sacausa.org/index.html
Somali American Council of Oregon (SACOO)	United States	https://sacoo.org/
Somali American Parent Association (SAPA)	United States	https://www.mnsapa.org/
Somali Bantu Association of America (SBAOA)	United States	https://sbaoa.org/
Somali Democratic Institute	Sweden	https://www.soida.org/home/

Somali Diaspora Organizations Network (SODON) - (diaspora network)	Information not available	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077643540308
Somali Faces	United Kingdom	https://www.somalifaces.org/
Somali International Rehabilitation Centre	Sweden	http://sirclund.se/wp/
Somali Medical Aid Group	United Kingdom	https://smagroup.org/
Somali Medical Association	Sweden	https://sma.org.so/
Somali Organisation for Community Development Activities (SOCDA)	Somalia	N/A
Somali Relief and Development Forum (SRDF) - (diaspora network)	United Kingdom	https://www.facebook.com/somali-relief/
Somali Relief Network of North America (SRNNA)	Canada	https://www.somalireliefnetwork.org/
Somali Society Relief Development & Advocacy (SSRDAO)	Somalia	https://www.facebook.com/ssrda.org/
Somali Success	United States	https://www.somalisuccess.org/
Somali Women Leadership Initiative (SWLI)	Canada	N/A
Somalia Diaspora Alliance	Sweden	https://www.sdasweden.org/
Somali-Ethiopian Social & Economic Development Association (SESEDA)	Ethiopia	https://seseda.org/
Somaliland People Development Organization (SPDO)	Somalia	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081337665796
Somaliland Women's Association	Denmark	N/A
Somaliliitto	Finland	https://somaliliitto.fi/
Southern Somalia's Peace and Development Organisation (SSPDO)	Denmark	http://www.sspdo.org/en/home/
Southwest Research and Development Center	United States	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085082448899

Sustainable Relief & Transformation	Denmark	https://www.instagram.com/srtdenmark/
Swisso Kalmo	Switzerland	http://www.swisso-kalmo.ch/
Taakulo Somaliland Community	Somalia	https://www.taakulo.org/
TALO Aid	Germany	https://talosom.org/index.php
Viborg Somali Association for Peace and Development	Denmark	<u>N/A</u>
WAWA (We Are Women Activists) Network Puntland - (diaspora network)	Somalia	<u>N/A</u>
World Humanitarian Action Forum (WHAF) - (diaspora network)	United Kingdom	<u>World Humanitarian Action Forum</u>





DEMAC

DIASPORA
EMERGENCY ACTION
& COORDINATION

Responsible for content:

DEMAC – Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination
At Danish Refugee Council
Borgergade 10
1300 Copenhagen
Denmark

Email: info@demac.org
Phone: +45 6026 8116

Photocredits:

Front cover: © DRC

Page 2: © DRC

Page 9: © UN Photo, Ilyas Ahmed

Page 13: © DRC

Page 22: © Gettyimages

Page 28: © DRC

Page 33: © DRC

Page 37: © Gettyimages

Page 41: © DRC

Page 48: © UN Photo, Tobin Jones

Page 58: © UN Photo, Tobin Jones



DEMARC

DIASPORA
EMERGENCY ACTION
& COORDINATION



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



IOM
UN MIGRATION