



Project Concept Note

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Title Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS): What Works for Climate-Resilient Food Production in Somalia – Currently in Draft Stage

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Implementing Partner/s BRCiS Members: Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Concern Worldwide (CWW), International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Save the Children International (SCI)

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Somali Partner Organizations: SOSTA (via CWW) and Zamzam Foundation (via IRC)

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External Technical Experts: Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

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Sections

The Challenges The Global Hunger Index 2021 (GHI) ranked Somalia the lowest out of 116 countries surveyed in terms of food security, with a GHI score of 50.8 putting Somalia as the only country in the extremely alarming category. This situation is deteriorating further as Somalia and the Horn of Africa continues to experience the worst drought in 40 years. The last drought in 2016/17 led to a decline in rural households' consumption of 19% (about a 13% decrease in food consumption), corresponding to a 24% increase in the probability of being poor. Somalia faces a chronic food crop deficit, as local production meets only 22 percent of per capita cereal needs, according to the FAO, and even in the best agricultural seasons, domestic production provides only about 40–50 percent of per capita cereal needs.

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Unsustainable exploitation and loss of natural resources and biodiversity is widespread in Somalia, where huge areas that were once healthy rangelands have been reduced to treeless plains prone to severe soil erosion, gulying and degradation. A report in 2017 by UNDP estimates that approximately 35,000 hectares of land are deforested each year for charcoal production, in spite of a national ban against the damaging practice, and unsustainable land use practices like uncontrolled hunting, tree cutting, and burning areas for grazing aggravates erosion and desertification. Wildlife has disappeared and fresh water has become scarce as water bodies are silted. There is insufficient awareness across food system actors (producers, input suppliers, consumers, natural resource custodians, etc.) on how to mitigate the impacts of climate change, sustainably manage natural resources, and use environmental and conservation best practices.

These challenges are universally experienced across Somalia, with the drought touching all states, regions and districts of the country; however, for the purposes of this time- and budget-limited Action, BRCiS members and partners have narrowed focus to four regions as per the criteria explained below under "The Project Strategy." The selected regions are not necessarily the most drought-affected in the country as the Action will focus on longer-term food production through activities that would not be appropriate or sustainable in some locations where immediate humanitarian assistance is required to prevent further loss of life and livelihoods. See below a summary of the needs in these locations:

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Beleyweyne (Hirshabelle): Like the rest of the country, Beletweyne district is deeply impacted by the drought. About 67% (198,030) of the population are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 131,010 people who are in IPC3. The FSNAU nutrition update released on October 2022 shows that the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) has increased significantly in Beletweyne Urban/IDP (2.5% to 6.5%), and it is reflecting an increase in GAM prevalence since 2021Gu and low access to water (27%). The Hirshabelle drought update published 21st August 2022, showed that the Shabelle River is drying up

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and recurrent droughts are placing extreme demands on water usage for all categories of farmers and pastoralists. These frequent climate-induced shocks are coupled with a broken seed and farm-input system for Hirshabelle farmers and chaotic food systems for households. Few farmers have access to high-quality seeds, pastoralists lack adequate information or resources to adapt to changing rangeland conditions and most Somali families subsist on imported pasta and rice – rather than traditional, locally produced staples.

**Bosaso (Bari):** 671,363 people live in Bossaso, of whom 132,200 are IDPs (figure,- IMWGG 2021 report) and are at risk of chronic food, nutrition, and livelihood insecurity because of the repeated droughts. In Bosaso, 35 percent of the population classified as "very poor" or "poor" (mostly from households that are displaced and living in communal settings) is likely to face the worst outcomes of climatic shocks. Bosaso's vulnerability is due to the declining resilience of the livelihood systems, which consist mainly of frankincense, fishing, goats, and sheep, and emerging crop production due to the recurrent droughts. This is compounded by the underlying factors of political instability, economic, social, and environmental factors, which have eroded the social, institutional, livelihood, and environmental capacities of households and their communities. Some 60 percent of the population relies on livestock production under natural rangeland conditions, fishing, and irrigated farming. The export of livestock and livestock products (mainly to and from the Middle East) comprises one of the key economic activities under threat. The latest seasonal Food Security and Acute Malnutrition Monitoring Analysis indicates a crisis level (IPC3) of food insecurity and acute malnutrition. These people have been exposed to a series of shocks, including the summer heatwave, mass inflation, and cyclical drought, with severe humanitarian consequences. Consequently, the severity of the impacts of droughts, such as crop failure, livestock deaths, and declining purchasing power, have left many households in an almost chronic state of livelihood crisis. The traditional survival mechanisms for IDPs are slowly depleting, and pressure is mounting on the host community to share the already overstretched and scarce resources with the IDPs in this crisis. Despite the implementation of repeated large-scale disaster relief efforts aimed at saving lives and protecting livelihoods in the short term, communities already vulnerable from the previous shock are faced with the certainty of another imminent drought cycle, which will again threaten any small gains achieved.

**Dhusamareb (Galgaduud):** Pastoral and crop farming communities all often suffer from high rates of chronic malnutrition, and for Galgaduud region, projections in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for October to December 2022 are in the critical (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality levels are expected. Even before the onset of the current severe drought, the nutrition living standards gap stood at 75% per multi-cluster needs assessment done in June to August 2020 by REACH and OCHA in Galgaduud. Severe food insecurity in agro-pastoral communities of Dhusamareb and the rest of Galgaduud set in as early as in the first quarter of 2021 when pastures were depleted, and most livestock started dying or were too emaciated to fetch any meaningful prices in the market to sustain household income (NRC Situational assessment report for Galgaduud region, March 2021). In the face of the current drought, the agropastoral communities in Dhusamareb need various support to continue/resume and increase crop/food production, to protect their livestock assets - the mainstay of the economy for these communities, to diversify their livelihood options and to stem the unsustainable rural exodus currently happening in search of humanitarian assistance.

**Baki, Boroma, Gabiley (Adwal and W. Galbeed):** Somaliland's domestic production of staple foods meets less than one-fourth of its needs. In Somaliland the majority of the population are highly reliant on livelihoods tied to natural resource use, and climate change has exacerbated the degradation of the country's natural resources as a result of sustained and unregulated exploitation and mismanagement



over several decades. Baki, Boroma and Gabiley districts are located in the west of Somaliland in the most populous regions, heavily reliant on agro-pastoralism.

The Project Strategy

In partnership with the DG-INTPA, BRCiS will improve the output, local consumption, and resilience to climate-related shocks and stresses of nutritious food in drought-affected areas of Somalia. By placing responsible and regenerative environmental management at the center of BRCiS's approach and comprehensively engaging individual and cooperative agro-producers, service providers, authorities/regulators, and consumers (including individuals experiencing climate-related displacement) BRCiS will build collective community ownership of nutritious food system resilience instead of siloed value chain or supply-only approaches that are inherently less resilient and less sustainable. BRCiS and its members are well-established across drought-affected communities in Somalia after nearly a decade of leading community-based interventions with the support of the European Union, EU member states, and other donor-partners. This diverse portfolio offers built-in opportunities to build on and scale what works in nutritious food system resilience beyond initial areas of intervention.

The Impact/Overall Objective of the Action is "Enhanced sustainable food production and local food system resilience in Somalia." This will be achieved through three inter-related Outcomes/Specific Objectives comprised of eight constituent Outputs as summarized below:

1. Agro producers and service providers in target locations increase their production capacity
  - a. Increased production skills for cooperatives and producer associations
  - b. Increased access to financial services.
  - c. Improved land tenure for agro producers
  - d. Innovative approaches for post-production risk management developed and implemented
  - e. Enhanced quality, accessibility and affordability of private and public agro-business services
2. Communities increase their use of context specific environmental management practices (i.e., climate-responsive, and regenerative)
  - a. Local environmental management groups/networks established and trained
  - b. Innovative approaches to agroecological development developed and implemented
3. Food insecure Somalis increase their consumption of/demand for locally produced foods
  - a. Location specific analyses of nutritious food demand/affordability completed and include actionable recommendations

This logical framework and associated indicators are provided as an annex to this Concept Note. However, as the proposal and budget development process remains ongoing, it is not possible for BRCiS to provide targets at this point in time.

While this project logic will be harmonized across all areas of intervention, the specific set of activities will vary by location in order to be highly contextualized and adaptive. See below a summary of project locations which is then followed by additional detail on planned activities.

Project Locations: The locations proposed for this DG-INTPA project are all severely drought-affected while still offering potential to increase food production in the near term based on the availability of water sources for productive use (either naturally occurring or based on established water capture practices), presence of farming and/or livestock producer associations, existence of an active private sector including input suppliers, training providers, and aggregators/buyers, and past investments through BRCiS and our members by the EU commission and member states. Cumulatively, these

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Commented [PL(7R6): Collaboration and recognition of the role of the MoAI at FGS and FMS to accompany implementation and Monitoring is crucial. Technical advisors to accompany daily implementation and monitoring could be supported for this purpose

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Commented [EG10]: Not very clear impact here so I recommend to change some activity related to agriculture and extension related issue

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conditions increase the chances that BRCiS will make a meaningful impact on climate-resilient food production within a relatively short period of time and despite the prevailing drought conditions. Considering the limited funds available to BRCiS, not all regions or Somali states are included in this proposal. BRCiS closely coordinated its location selection with the other EU IPs for food security including FAO and SomReP and it is our understanding that areas not addressed by BRCiS (for example Jubbaland) will be incorporate in other IP proposals. This will avoid duplication of work and increase program and cost efficiency.

The locations – spread strategically throughout Somalia and all outside of the USAID CDCS focal zone – also offer a range of agro-production practices, individual value chains, water sources, and tenure arrangements that will allow BRCiS to develop a robust understanding of what works to improve nutritious food production during a drought.

Beladweyn district (Hirshabelle): IRC and Zamzam Foundation will implement on behalf of BRCiS in Beladweyn district. River-fed agro-pastoralist communities. Majority land-owning farmers with private ownership over irrigation infrastructure, minority of renter farmers or other insecure tenure arrangements. Several communities were supported under previous BRCiS DEVCO funding and were included in recent seed system security assessments by IRC – in connection with local private sector – which highlight specific opportunities for support to agro-production. The project will apply a market-based approach that is likely to include support to sorghum, maize, and nutritious vegetable value chains. Anticipated communities<sup>1</sup> include: Laanle, El-Baraf, Bilan, Kaah, Faragoye

Baki, Boroma, and Gabiley districts (Adwal and W. Galbeed): CWW and SOSTA will implement on behalf of BRCiS in Baki, Boroma, and Gabiley districts. Agro-pastoralist communities reliant on rainwater capture. Majority land-owning farmers with seasonal communal grazing. Includes communities supported under previous BRCiS resilience programming guaranteeing the existence of baseline resilience capacities. The project will also leverage specific strategic value chain assessments and developments (milk and eggs) supported by IrishAid. Anticipated communities include: Jaarahorato, Geed-Diqsi, Sabawanaag, Dhuxunka, Satile (Baki), Jir Jir, Carracad, Abase, Qolqol, Culaacule, Boroma town, Shirwac, Dagmolaqas, Saraka (Boroma), Ceelbaxay, Dhagax-Madoobe, Korji, Gabiley town (Gabiley)

Bosaso district (Bari): Diverse agro-production practices including farming, oasis farming, pastoralism and fishing. Majority land-owning farmers, minority of renter farmers or other insecure tenure arrangements – primarily IDPs. Group farms also common. Significant opportunity to support livestock (including dairy), fodder, and fishing value chains. While new to BRCiS, there have been significant EU commission and member investments (SAGAL/ILED, RESTORE, ECHO humanitarian actions and BMZ) in Bosaso that will enable the efficient implementation and rapid scale up of the proposed food production activity. Anticipated communities include: Nekfish/Soweto/Hafatul arab, Siilada Hoolaha, Conqor, Dhagcaan, Karin, Laag, Baalade

Dhusamareb district (Galmadug): Includes two agricultural zones – pastoralist and agro-pastoralist. Significant needs for HLP support to renter farmers; however, past BRCiS implementation in the district has yielded long-term lease agreements that can be extended and/or expanded. Primary value chain growth opportunities relate to livestock. Anticipated communities include: Laanle, El-Baraf, Bilan, Kaah, Faragoye

<sup>1</sup> Please note that where we have indicated “Anticipated Communities” these are preliminary and not final. BRCiS is continuing to work on the final selection of locations within the prioritized districts and this will be done over the remaining project design period and during the project inception phase.



**Project Activities:**

SO1: Agro producers in target locations increased their production capacity

SO1.1 Increased production skills for cooperatives and producer associations, including the following activities:

- Technical assistance to agro-training institutes (private, academic, etc.): to increase quality of training – particularly on regenerative rangeland management/regenerative agriculture and livestock keeping. (All locations)
- Support to agro-producers/collectives on contract negotiation (for contract farming, post-harvest sales, shared equipment, etc.) to reduce real/perceived risk of exploitative business practices from buyers. (Beldweyns, Baki, Boroma, Gabiley, Dhusamareb)
- Other trainings based on needs identified, for example in partnership with the Puntland Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, BRCIS will establish three model farms for demonstration and best practices in Bosaso district. (All locations)

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**Commented [EG14]:** Not need to go privet or academic ministry can do this activity / government should lead or do this activity

**Commented [PL(15R14):** It should also include Ministries of Agriculture at FGS and FMS level

SO1.2 Increased access to financial services. This will include facilitated access to finance (via VSLAs, Revolving Loan Funds, and Self-Help Groups) to support agro-expenses such as seeds/inputs, equipment, and other needs (all locations). Where possible, this will also include partnerships with private sector actors like Dahabshiil MFI (Dhusamareb) and Amal Bank (Bosaso).

**Commented [EG16]:** This is very cheap so we recommend to come up activity that can have tangible impact to the agricultural communities

SO1.3 Improved land tenure for agro-producers/HLP support where land tenure/ownership is in dispute based on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) assessments, public awareness raising, and direct assistance to cooperatives negotiating long-term land leases (all locations).

**Commented [EG17]:** How the project will deliver this result is not clear? Not relevant and remove form the project and This is irrelevant and not inline to the Project.

This issue collaboration with government lead activity

SO1.4 Innovative approaches for post-production risk management will be developed and implemented including incentivizing collective investments in post-harvest infrastructure (all locations). Innovative approaches may include BRCIS members providing guarantees to post-harvest material suppliers in case cooperative farmers default on loans or borrowing arrangements (Baki, Boroma, Gabiley) or partnership with private actors like CSET and SATG-Filsan in Dhusamareb.

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SO1.5 Enhanced quality, accessibility and affordability of private and public agro-business services, including through:

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- Public-private partnerships including piloting and scaling responsible agro-innovations. This will include seeking to promote and ~~sussustain community~~ sustain government both state and federal level and community-based seed multiplication for improved drought-tolerant varieties and fodder trees while avoiding cost-ineffective annual seed procurements that can perpetuate producer poverty. (All locations)
- Advocacy will be undertaken towards relevant government departments and the agricultural input suppliers on the laws regarding organic fertilisers and pesticides, with the intention of ensuring that banned, toxic products are not available for food producers to buy and that input suppliers are able to advise on organic, sustainable approaches instead, as well as stocking these for sale. (Baki, Boroma, Gabiley)
- The feasibility of partnerships with training institutes (private and public) will be assessed, with BRCIS members improving the overall capacity and training diversity available at the institutes (all locations). For example, IRC will provide technical assistance to Zamzam University's Faculty



of Agriculture and CSET, a private seed producing company, in order to expand their services and trainings for farmers and cooperatives]

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SO2 Supported communities increase their use of context specific environmental management practices (i.e. climate-responsive and regenerative)

SO2.1 Local environmental management groups/networks will be established and trained through the following activities:

- BRCiS members, with the participation of community resilience committees that were formed in previous BRCiS community resilience programs, will conduct community consultation and engagement to identify existing or establish new community environmental management groups/networks that will include authorities (including FMS representatives if desired), producers/cooperatives, suppliers, consumers, and other formal and informal natural resource custodians. (All locations)
- Once established, BRCiS members with the support of ICRISAT and ICRAF-CIFOR will conduct a training needs assessment of the community environmental management groups and subsequently develop and deliver appropriate curricula on best practices, minimum standards, and context-specific opportunities for regenerative environmental management. To achieve scale, this training will be delivered through a training of trainers model and technical experts from MoAI can contribute as master trainers. (All locations)
- Following training, BRCiS will lead groups through a participatory scenario analysis based on predictable climatic shocks, soil assessments, and model interventions for resilient crop and livestock production against those shocks. These scenario analyses will closely align with and further expand on the indicators tracked in the BRCiS Early Warning Early Action System which can subsequently be used by these groups to monitor the likelihood of various scenarios and plan accordingly.

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SO2.2 Innovative approaches to agroecological development will be developed and implemented through the following activities:

- BRCiS, ICRISAT, and ICRAF-CIFOR will develop and carry out a robust soil quality and land health baseline assessment during the project inception phase. The Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) will be used to assess multiple dimensions of land degradation, and land health in general, efficiently and across multiple scales. (All locations)
- Based on LDSF findings and the community environmental management group priorities/scenario plans, BRCiS will facilitate cash for work schemes focused on soil and water conservation, ecosystem regeneration, and/or other locally prioritized environmental management practices (revegetation, soil bunds, check dams, etc.). (All locations)
- For other priority projects that cannot be achieved through cash for work, BRCiS will carry out contractual water supply initiatives including irrigation works in riverine areas and/or water capture systems in rain-fed areas. This may include either directly carrying out/contracting works, or more sustainably facilitating private sector expansion of water works through BRCiS's public-private partnership approach. (All locations)

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SO3 3. Food insecure Somalis increase their consumption of/demand for locally produced foods

SO3.1 Location specific analyses of nutritious food demand/affordability will be completed and include actionable recommendations through the following activities:

- [Food security policy and implementation plan strategy to be developed in this project](#)



- Following a desk review of available national information, BRCiS, ICRISAT, and ICRAF-CIFOR will develop a methodology for additional location-specific cost of diet analysis and other demand factors to establish the availability and affordable locally accessible nutritious foods. (All locations)
- Based on gaps and growth potential identified in the demand analysis, BRCiS, ICRISAT and ICRAF-CIFOR will model food flows and select specific nutritious food value chains that require further analysis (for example green vegetables in Beladweyn, fodder/animal feed in Baki, Boroma and Gabiley, or milk in Dhusamareb). (All locations)
- To help drive demand based on these analyses and therefore improve the sustainability of local food systems, BRCiS members will carry out public behaviour change campaigns using various strategies adapted to each location. This campaign will leverage existing community health networks of community health mobilizers, mother-to-mother support groups, and critically farmer cooperatives themselves. Campaigns will be coordinated and carried out in partnership with government counterparts. (All locations)

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Technical and consultative inputs for the design

Coordination is one of the main functions of the MOAI, which will be responsible for the overall coordination of this project and linking stakeholders efforts in the realization of the objectives of this project. The goal of the coordination is to build confidence, enhance transparency, open communication channels, and exchange ideas among all involved stakeholders to achieve the goals and objectives of this project. Close coordination ensures that all resources and stakeholders should have access to open channels where questions and concerns are raised and lessons learned exchanged. The government will develop stakeholder collaborative forums at all implementation levels, promoting joint program planning and implementation and information sharing.

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Monitoring will be an activity characterized by continuous supervision and oversight of activities. The goal of this continuous supervision and management will identify possible slippages, shortfalls, and overruns even before it occurs and provides remedial measures and actions. The Federal MOAI, in collaboration with MOAI-FGS, will have an oversight role in monitoring and evaluation. It should also assess the impact of this project on overall agricultural activities, crop production, knowledge and information sharing, and farmer empowerment.

The Ministry, EU, and implementing partners (FAO, BRCiS, and SomRep) will form the Project Steering Committee (PSC) led by the Federal MOAI, which will be a forum for providing overall strategic guidance to project performance while enabling delivery of its outputs and outcomes, including the project budget. The MOAI will be responsible for developing inclusive agricultural strategies and policies for the nation. Similarly, the MOAI has the mandate, legitimacy, and authority to initiate and lead agricultural projects with the cooperation of international partners and other stakeholders. Federal MOAI will provide technical guidance and advocacy support for the agricultural program's federal member state. The MOAI will carry out the monitoring and evaluation of this project. The Federal MOAI will Strengthen the coordination of agriculture state ministries, NGOs, academic and research institutions, farmer organizations, and agribusiness companies to ensure this project's effective and smooth implementation.

On the other hand, the state MOAI will play an increasingly important role in the implementation of this project. With the cooperation of BRCiS, the state MOAI will build the capacity of frontline extension agents and farmers with a clear training framework. Likewise, the state MOAI will play an important role in establishing strong linkages between farmers, farmers' organizations, and other stakeholders.

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The state MOAI will conduct field-level coordination with the cooperation of BRCIS. The state MOAI will also facilitate and participate the community engagement at the state level.

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Alignment with existing Plans and Strategies

The overall project design closely aligns with the Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) priority areas, strategies, and key priorities as presented by Abdullahi Ali, Technical Advisor; Mohamud Yasin Artan, Director of Planning and Policy; and Engineer Mohamud Gurey, Director of Irrigation and Agrometrology during the tripartite meeting of MoAI, BRCIS and the EU Commission in Mogadishu on November 14, 2022. Specifically, activities under this Action will contribute to MoAI Strategies I. Improving the productivity of both irrigated and rainfed farming systems; III. Strengthening the technical capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; IV. Ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups – particularly women, the youth, and displaced persons – into the intervention design and implementation; and V. Improvement of cooperative capacities through the promotion of agri-business, marketing, and agricultural value-chain. The Action further relies on a two-way exchange of technical expertise between MoAI (at both FGS and FMS levels) and BRCIS. For example, the Action’s learning agenda can directly contribute to MoAI’s upcoming Food Security and Nutrition Strategy while the MoAI Irrigation Master Plan and Irrigation Strategy can be used to align communal water management activities that are prioritized by BRCIS communities (through cash for work or contractual water management depending on community and government environmental management priorities). The Action is also designed to be consistent with and providing added value to FMS ITDPs and other national and state-level action plans, including those detailed by location below.

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*Beladweyn district (Hirshabelle):* The proposed approach from IRC and Zamzam Foundation in Beladweyn is in line with the Somalia National Development Plan (NDP9: 2020-2024), particularly contributing to the Economic Growth and Resilience pillars of the NDP. The project also contributes to the strategic objectives of the Somalia Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF) that sets out a collective vision, strategic objectives and principles to guide drought recovery and build future resilience. More importantly, the action is aligned to the Hirshabelle Integrated Development Plan and in particular the Beledweyne Urban Territory territorial objectives and priority actions under productive and private sectors, such as a) providing multifaceted technical and material support to establish and strengthen the reach and representation of agricultural cooperatives, b) supporting the provision of agricultural inputs including farming tools, seeds, pesticides, fertilisers, energy, and irrigation equipment, c) incentivising financial institutions to expand their presence/reach, in partnership with local SMEs and TVET centres, d) designing and implement integrated and affordable financial products and services targeting both new and existing enterprises, e) strengthen community-based agricultural cooperatives as a channel for expanding the delivery of tailored financial products and services to rural farmers among others.

*Baki, Boroma, and Gabiley districts (Adwal and W. Galbeed):* The activities proposed by Concern and SOSTA under this action are in line with Somaliland’s Integrated Territorial Development Plan 2021-2023, specifically actions promoting the productivity/output of agro-pastoralist communities, promoting the resilience and sustainability of the livestock/agricultural value chains, and increasing access to finance and business development support to SMEs to promote employment opportunities for youth, women and disadvantaged groups. Somaliland has suffered a number of devastating climate shocks in recent years including successive droughts and destructive cyclone in 2018. In response to these challenges Somaliland has drafted a Climate Change Policy focused on adapting and mitigating the harm caused by climate change. In line with the livestock and agricultural objectives of this plan to manage natural resources effectively through climate smart farming initiatives, Concern and SOSTA will





work with targeted beneficiaries on implementing environmentally sustainable farming solutions specifically with regard to the management of animal waste (conversion to organic fertiliser) and reducing post-production losses through improved transportation and spoilage prevention. The planned intervention will complement Concern's ongoing Climate Resilient Natural Resource Management activities under Irish Aid funding aimed at improving soil quality and watershed management in line with the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development's 5-year Strategic Plan.

*Bosaso district (Bari):* Save the Children Drought Recovery project interventions will specifically be aligned with the Puntland Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development integrated territorial development planning and to the wider objectives of the Somalia National Development Plan 2020 to 2024 (NDP-9). The intervention activities in Bossaso will contribute to the target objectives of the Puntland Coastal Territory Development Objective and Priorities including (1) Livestock Priority Actions – with alignment to improving animal health service delivery to pastoral communities inhabiting the coastal territory; (2) Economic and Business – aligning to stimulating and expanding access to finance; (3) Crossing-cutting Priority Actions, especially, improving community resilience to shocks and reducing rural to urban migration through investment on productive agriculture sectors.

*Dhusamareb district (Galmadug):* The Somalia National Development Plan for 2020-2024 recognises the constraints that face Somali communities on resource availability and access, which are exacerbated by exogenous shocks such as droughts and other climate related shocks, including in Dhusamareb. The NDP provides a framework for humanitarian and development actors as it sets out the country's priorities for national recovery and development identified in five areas: economic development, institutions, social and human development, infrastructure and resilience. In line with the NDP, the interventions proposed in this action will aim to break the cycle of crisis and deepening vulnerability by complimenting current efforts of meeting immediate humanitarian needs brought about by the drought, and addressing the root causes of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by investing in resilient agricultural livelihoods. The proposed action is also in line with NRC's own Somalia Country Strategy objectives of ensuring that hard-to-reach displacement affected communities: have access to humanitarian assistance and protection and are resilient to shocks; are supported to adapt to climate change and have reduced exposure to environmental hazards; become self-reliant because of NRC's strategic partnerships with government, civil society and private sector actors; and, are empowered to attain durable solutions because of the programmes and advocacy of NRC and its collaborators.

Coordination and synergies with other interventions (EU and other donors)

*Baki, Boroma, and Gabiley districts (Adwal and W. Galbeed):* The activities included in the Action are generally new to the proposed context and do not overlap any other activities carried out by other organizations in the selected locations. The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing soil and water conservation project funded by Somali Development Fund in Baki district and this will strengthen the resilience capacity of the target beneficiaries under this programme. This Action will improve the capacity of the existing women who engage in egg and milk production to complement the previous and current interventions under FCDO, Irish Aid and Forsa Foundation funding. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is promoting agro-ecological and regenerative approaches in their agriculture and food security programmes in Somaliland and Concern actively coordinates with WHH, to avoid duplication and to share learning wherever possible.

*Beladweyn district (Hirshabelle):* In Beladweyn district, IRC and Zamzam Foundation will collaborate with other humanitarian organizations active in the district such as FAO, WFP, WARDI, ACF, Save the Children, and CESVI to avoid possible duplication and leverage on past interventions such as CESVI and FAO's supported farmer cooperative groups. The action will specifically collaborate with FAO and SCRIP



members such as ACF to ensure that harmonized sustainable and market-oriented approaches are used to promote uptake and adoption of new practices. The action will also incorporate lessons learned from previous FAO, CESVI and Save the Children interventions to improve the sustainability of action interventions.

*Dhusamareb district (Galmadug):* Dhusamareb is an agro-pastoral area with great potential. There has been progress achieved in resilience building in the selected communities through the BRCIS II project and other NRC initiatives. The BRCIS Phase II project funded by FCDO invested in the Guriel livestock market that has demonstrated impact with increased economic activities. There is an opportunity to work on livestock value chains (like milk and meat) and to improve livestock health care and further support to market to increase economic opportunities for the rural communities. Existence of community governance structures like Resilience Committee (CRCs) established in 2018, can help mobilize more community contribution to establishment of PPPs as was demonstrated in phase II with water systems and markets invested on in this district. Project will build on past achievements on resilience building to scale up NRM and community based EWEA systems, promote rainwater harvesting techniques in rural areas, rangeland rehabilitation and management. Strengthening of farming systems through working with farmer associations and cooperatives established in the previous projects can promote diversification of livelihood options in both rural and peri-urban settings e.g., rainfed cereal production, production of fruits and vegetables, beekeeping and fodder production for the local markets.

*Bosaso district (Bari):* Save the Children's proposed actions will ensure coordination with the Puntland State Drought Committee, the UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network, and the IOM CCCM and DTM. This project will work closely with the Puntland State Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to ensure continued alignment with drought recovery and priorities as outlined in the Resilience Chapter of the National Development Plan of the Federal Government of Somalia. BRCIS consortium members will be informed of project progress through program updates and a consortium-wide annual resilience measurement and learning event within the consortium to provide an opportunity for documenting and mainstreaming best practices and shared learning. Save the Children is actively involved and has a strong collaborative relationship with sector clusters and Bossaso-based humanitarian organizations like DRC, NRC, Care International, PMWDO, Kaalo, ASAL, PSA, TASS, and GECPD. These organizations are active members of the WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), cash-based response working groups, and health and nutrition clusters in Somalia and will contribute to the development of the annual humanitarian response plans and taskforces. The relevant BRCIS agencies in Bosaso district will be engaged and collaborations enhanced to avoid duplication of drought response activities, including sharing program updates, emerging lessons learned, key assessment findings, and any early warning indicators of drought from SCI program target locations in Bossaso. The action will build on the gains made by the SCI EU RESTORE project in Bosaso and other cash assistance programs implemented by the aforementioned implementing partners.

**Cross-cutting Issues:**

Cross-cutting issues including gender, inclusion of persons with disabilities or who otherwise social stigmatization/marginalization, and the active participation of youth are central to the project design. BRCIS's detailed approach to such issues is currently under development and will be included in the final proposal to DG-INTPA. BRCIS's approach will closely align with MoAI Strategy IV. Ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups – particularly women, the youth, and displaced persons – into the intervention design and implementation.



The Implementing Partner/s

As noted above, the Implementing Partners of this action are the following:

**BRCiS Members:** Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Concern Worldwide (CWW), International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Save the Children International (SCI)

**Somali Organizations/Partners:** SOSTA (via CWW), Zamzam Foundation (via IRC),

**External Technical Experts:** Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

See below a brief summary of the partners and how they are managed.

*Norwegian Refugee Council (BRCiS lead agency):* NRC’s senior management team includes the Country Director and Head of Programs who ultimately will have oversight on implementation of this project. The project will be managed under the Resilience Program Manager who reports to the head of programs and will be charged with overall management responsibility, technical supervision, planning and reporting. Day to day operations will be managed from the field office in Dhusamareb under the South-Central Area Program with a project coordinator and project officers.

*Concern Worldwide and SOSTA:* Concern has been operational in Somalia since 2011 implementing Emergency, Resilience and Livelihood programming in Awdal, Marodijeex, Togdheer, and Sahel regions through funding from Irish Aid, FCDO, European Union and the German Foreign Ministry. Concern’s programme in Somaliland is overseen by a dedicated Area Coordinator, Programme Manager, Systems, Logistics and Finance teams overseen by the Programme Director and Country Director. Technical oversight for this programme will be through a dedicated Project Manager based in Boroma who will be supported by the Resilience Coordinator based in Mogadishu and head office technical advisers on resilience, nutrition and environment. Both the Project Manager and Resilience Coordinator, along with partner staff from SOSTA will participate in BRCiS technical working group meetings for this project. The Project Manager will be based in local partner SOSTA’s offices to ensure maximum technical and capacity building support for SOSTA field staff. SOSTA was founded in 2008 with an organisational mandate is to work with vulnerable groups in Somaliland especially women youth providing skills training to improve livelihood opportunities and stimulate the local economy. Concern has worked with SOSTA during the implementation of BRCiS II in Somaliland including the Milk Value Chain pilot which will be scaled up in the proposed action.

*International Rescue Committee and Zamzam Foundation:* The IRC Extended Senior Management Team (ESMT) that includes the CD, Deputy Director for programs, Deputy Director for Operations, HR Coordinator, Program Technical Coordinator and MEAL Coordinator will be responsible for the overall grant management and implementation. The IRC relies on staff based in Somalia, most of whom are Somali nationals that have the local acceptance, access and freedom of movement necessary to implement lifesaving programmes directly, and in some cases partner with local organisations, with limited risk of life to the IRC or partner staff. In this project, Zamzam local staff and IRC staff based in Beledweyne, and Mogadishu will be responsible for project implementation. The Economic Recovery and Development (ERD) Coordinator based in Somalia, will be the technical lead person who will provide technical advice on program management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The ERD Technical advisor, based in Nairobi, will provide technical advice and guidance on program framework, support in development of relevant toolkits for program implementation and providing capacity building for program staff. This support is provided both remotely and, where security allows, through visits to program areas. The IRC will partner with Zamzam Foundation, a local organization with strong presence in Hirshabelle state and Banadir region that implements a wide range of interventions including livelihoods and resilience building programs. Zamzam has passed through the IRC’s partner

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mapping and due diligence processes and met the threshold to implement programs on behalf of the IRC.

*Save the Children:* The project implementation and day to day-to-day operations will be handled by a will be recruited program coordinator while Save the Children Child Poverty Reduction Program Manager, his deputy and FSL project officers based in Puntland area offices will provide the overall direction on implementation. Coordination and direction will be the responsibility by the Director of Resilience and Social Protection based in Mogadishu, technicality oversight will remain with the Country Climate Resilient Livelihoods Technical Specialist.

The Governance and Management

NRC is the BRCiS lead agency, responsible for coordination of all BRCiS programs including this one. This coordination is primarily managed by the BRCiS Consortium Management Unit under the overall accountability of the BRCiS Program Steering Committee (PSC). The below table further elaborates the standing coordination architecture for BRCiS which will be used for this Action.

Mechanism	Members	Role
<a href="#">Program steering committee</a>	<a href="#">EU, Federal Government (FMS) and Implementing partners (FAO, SomRep and BRCiS)</a>	<a href="#">Provide over all leadership, coordination and oversight of the implementing partners (FAO, SomRep and BRCiS) of the project for technical monitoring, supervision and learning</a>
Program Steering Committee (PSC)	Country Directors from consortium partners, and the BRCiS Chief of Party	Provide overall governance, strategic direction, oversight, and guidance; Undertake joint periodic reviews; Identify solutions to major implementation challenges, including risk management and mitigation; Validation of research and evaluation findings. Meet Quarterly at start of project (may reduce to bi-annual if appropriate to do so).
Consortium Management Unit (CMU)	Program, Grants, Compliance and Finance colleagues hired through NRC	Managing the contractual relationship with EU; Administering partner sub-grant agreements and coordination of Consortium partners; Submission of all contractually required reports; Managing government engagement; Coordinating and information sharing; Conducting programmatic audits/review processes.
Technical Working Groups (TWG)	Technical specialists from consortium partners	Provide technical advice, recommendations and quality assurance to the CMU and PSC; Build the capacities of programme personnel; Provide technical oversight on development of guidelines, curricula, materials and tools; Identify technical challenges to implementation and develop solutions/recommendations; Ensure that models and approaches are harmonised across the programme; participate in monitoring, evaluation, reviews etc; Produce timely documentation and communications; and Report on programme results and outcomes. Meets on monthly basis.

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BRCiS will further supplement this robust consortium management architecture with project-specific coordination involving the EU Delegation, MoAI representatives (FGS and FMS), and implementing partners who are a part of this project but not the core BRCiS consortium (ICRISAT, ICRAF-CIFOR, SOSTA and Zamzam Foundation). This project fits under the existing BRCiS Steering Committee, but specific meetings for this project will be held at least quarterly where all members can attend. A Technical

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Working Group will be formed between all eight agencies to ensure technical standards are adhered to and standardisation can occur as much as possible.

**Sustainability and Ownership**

By adopting a whole-of-food system approach BRCIS will engage with a diverse range of Somali agriculture market actors including individual and cooperative agro-producers (farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists), private agro-business service providers (input suppliers, vet/animal health centres, training centres), local authorities / natural resource custodians (formal and informal), and individual consumers in order to build respective capacities, local ownership, and longer-term sustainability of the project.

The project will contribute to the financial sustainability of farmer and (agro)-pastoralist livelihoods through skills and knowledge transfers. Links made to markets, financial service providers and savings and loans groups will enable them to independently generate sufficient income. The Action’s activities supporting agro-input and -service providers is another best practice in sustainability and market systems development by ensuring that more producers and cooperative members than those directly assisted on this project will have access to high quality inputs and services over the longer term (and cyclically these suppliers will stay in business longer and diversify services based on the increased demand and linkages made by the project).

At an institutional level, sustainability of this Action will be ensured by building the knowledge and skills of government, environmental management groups, cooperatives and individual farmers on sustainable environmental management practices and climate smart agricultural practices to attain institutional adaptive capacities to shocks and stresses. Private sector engagements will also contribute to the sustainability of these institutions to function beyond the project period.

The Action is also thoughtfully designed to align with MoAI policy and strategy priorities such as Food Security and Nutrition Strategy and Irrigation Master Plan and Irrigation Strategy. While these are policy advocacy and influence opportunities that are currently known and well-established, the continuous coordination between BRCIS members, partners and government at FGS and FMS levels will allow the Action to adaptively support new policy priorities and opportunities as they emerge. At the policy level, the Action will also support in housing, land and property (HLP) assessments to inform land access for vulnerable groups and prioritization of regeneration of degraded land. The Action will also support local authorities to map out existing HLP laws and frameworks and land dispute resolution mechanisms to come-up with district level by-laws that will help in resolving land tenure problems. These and other policy level engagements will be supported by the common learning agenda “What Works for Sustainable Local Food Production” built into all activities. FGS and FMS will be engaged as co-creators and accountability holder for this learning agenda to ensure maximum coherence to policy objectives.

Environmental sustainability too is a core consideration of this resilience-focused action, given its focus on food production. Currently the ongoing drought, deforestation and over grazing has reduced soil fertility and caused gully formation reducing the land available for agriculture. Soil bunds and gully rehabilitation will be done through cash for work, to rehydrate land, reduce flash floods and re-vegetate degraded areas, rebuilding soil and providing fertile land to grow fodder for milk and egg production.

**Overall Budget** €6,000,000