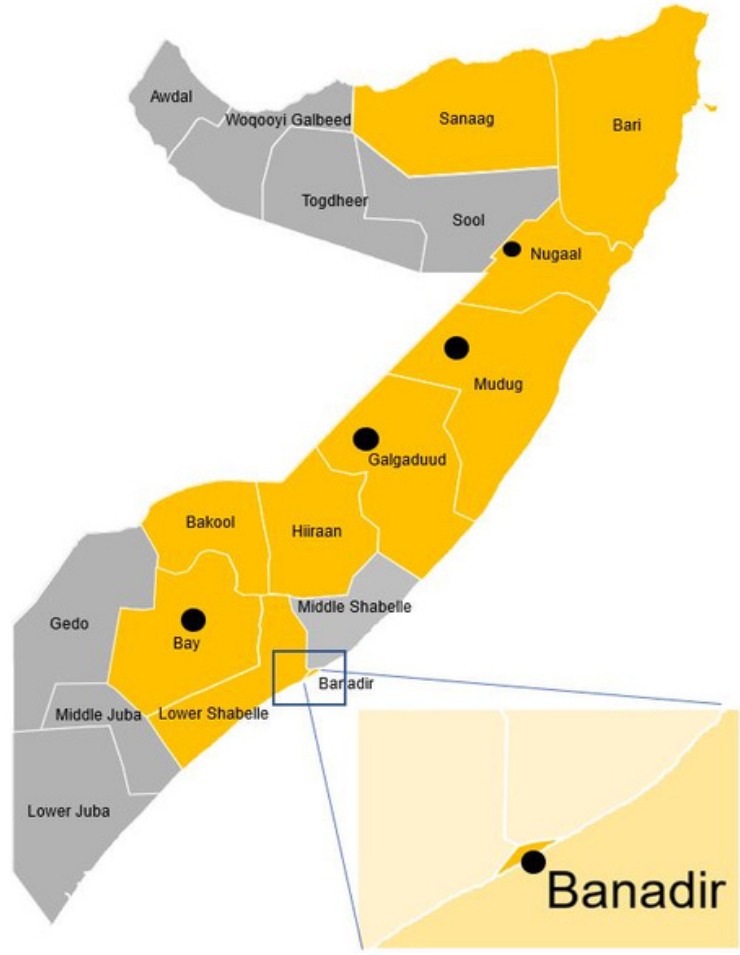




IRC SOMALIA FACT SHEET 2023

Country Program Overview



Introduction

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Somalia collaborates with clients, civil society organizations, and governments to provide crisis-affected and most-in-need communities with quality humanitarian assistance and contribute to their long-term development.

History

The IRC's mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. The IRC first began programming in Somalia in the 1980s, assisting individuals in the aftermath of the Somalia-Ethiopia conflict. After a brief suspension during the civil war, the IRC returned fully to Somalia in 2007, resuming its efforts to support communities. Currently, the IRC implements programs across various regions in Somalia, including Benadir, Nugaal, Bari, Mudug, Sanaag, Hiraan, Galgaduud, Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle, to help communities survive, recover, and develop. These programs focus on key sectors such as Health, Nutrition, Economic Development & Recovery, WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene), Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE), and governance.

In focus

The IRC conducts major activities in **Health, Nutrition, Economic Development & Recovery, WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene), Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE), and governance sectors across Somalia**

Presence

The IRC runs programs from offices located in **Baidoa, Dhusamareb, Galkacyo, Garowe and Mogadishu**

* Until May 2023

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Delivering Health Care in Challenging Environments

The IRC in Somalia provides life-saving health services, for drought and conflict affected populations in Benadir, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, Nugaal, Mudug, and Galgaduud regions.

Together with its partners, the IRC focuses on the following:

- Delivering integrated health services which encompass essential preventive, promotive, and curative measures,
- Services are delivered through both fixed and mobile outreach teams to ensure hard-to-reach communities can access health care.
- Community outreach efforts are prioritized to improve demand generation and community sensitization.
- Complementary WASH and nutrition services, as well as cash assistance are provided to support the full recovery of vulnerable groups.
- Health systems are strengthening through the provision of capacity building support to the Federal and State-level Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Benadir Regional Health Administration. These partnerships significantly enhance national health coverage and address the needs identified by the national health cluster.



Caption: IRC nutrition nurse measuring a child's arm in a village outside Dhusamareeb, Somalia



Caption: IRC staff receiving training at Korsan clinic, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Providing Integrated Nutrition Programming

The IRC in Somalia provides integrated nutrition interventions, to address the needs of children under five and pregnant/lactating women affected by drought and conflict.

These interventions are implemented in regions such as Benadir, Nugaal, Mudug, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, and Galgaduud.

More specifically, we focus on the following:

- Using the IRC's global simplified approach to improve early identification, referrals, community mobilization, and treatment of malnourished children. This approach involves using a single solution for both severe and moderate acute malnutrition.
- Community health workers are trained and supported to promote positive nutrition behavioral changes and empower families to monitor their children's well-being.
- The IRC delivers its programs in partnership with other organizations, and currently serves as the co-chair of the nutrition cluster working group in Somalia to ensure the delivery of high-quality nutrition programming across the country.

THE IRC IN SOMALIA | AT A GLANCE

Staff

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Partners

23

BMZ, CDC, CDCS, ECHO/EU, FCDO, GAC, GAVI, GFFO, GIVEWELL, IPPF, IRISH AID, SIDA, UNOCHA, UNPBF, USAID/BHA, WFP

Donors

16

Promoting Women's Protection & Empowerment

The IRC in Somalia provides survivor-centered Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response programming in the regions of Benadir, Bay, Nugaal, Mudug, and Galgaduud. This includes the following services:

- Provision of case-management for GBV survivors, and psychosocial support and dignity kits for vulnerable women.
- Engaging men, women, and adolescent girls and boy to change perceptions on harmful social norms and practices affecting women's rights through IRC's EMAP, SASA and Girl Shine approaches.
- Training community health workers and psychological first aid volunteers to deliver culturally sensitive protection services.
- Collaborate with local partners to operate safe spaces for women and adolescent girls that offer a range of activities, such as life skills training, and essential GBV services, as well as campaigns to promote community mobilization around GBV.
- Complementary WASH and cash assistance are provided to women and girls experiencing increased protection risks. All protection services are informed by do-no-harm principles.

Emergency response to drought and flooding in 2022-2023

The IRC is supporting Somalis during extreme climate shocks, after years of conflict and crises. The impacts of the worst drought in 40 years, combined with COVID-19 and conflicts has caused widespread displacement and disrupted livelihoods. Heavy rains in the second quarter of 2023 have led to flooding, causing destruction of property and displacement. This has exacerbating humanitarian needs for over half of the population – approximately 8.5 million people. The IRC Somalia is responding to these crisis through rapid and lifesaving interventions for the most vulnerable people. These interventions include providing cash assistance, water, hygiene and sanitation, and emergency health and nutrition services, as well as protection services for vulnerable groups.

Building resilient Livelihoods

The IRC provides supports vulnerable urban and rural communities to meet their basic needs, recover from shocks and develop sustainable livelihoods. These programs are implemented in the regions of Nugaal, Mudug, Galgaduud, Sanaag, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle and Benadir. The focus areas include:

- In urban areas, the IRC promotes enterprise development and employment through market-relevant entrepreneurship training, small business grants, vocational skills instruction, and access to financial services. The IRC also enhances market and communal infrastructure.
- Using its innovative Economic and Social Empowerment (EASE) model, the IRC empowers women and addresses potential negative societal impacts on them.
- In rural settings, the IRC assists pastoralists and small-holder farmers, aiming to enhance their productivity and income. This is done by providing farmers and pastoralists with climate-smart training and access to quality inputs.
- Additionally, the IRC offers emergency cash assistance to vulnerable households impacted by conflict, drought, or flooding, helping them to meet basic and emergency needs.



Caption: Fatima fetching water from a water point installed by IRC in Codobyar village, Burtinle, Somalia



Caption: Abdirahman, a carpenter, at work in a woodwork shop supported by IRC in Mogadishu, Somalia

Partnering as equals

The IRC partners as equals by forging long-term strategic partnerships with local civil society, government, and private sector actors. Our goal is to ensure those affected by crisis and the actors closest to them possess the power and resources to drive lasting change. As a principled and preferred partner, we collaborate with local civil society, government and private sector actors, leveraging their expertise to increase the impact and scale of our response. Together, we strive to achieve the best outcomes for those affected. Guiding all our partnership work is the IRC's Partnership Excellence for Equality and Results System (PEERS), which encompasses our strategy, principles, policy, processes, and tools for effective collaboration in every context.

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Fostering Peaceful and Inclusive Communities

The IRC collaborates with local authorities, government bodies, key ministries, and civil society to support communities to enhance peace. Operating at the intersection between humanitarian aid, development assistance and peacebuilding (HDP-nexus), the IRC implements programs in Bay, Lower Shabelle and Benadir. The program's focus includes:

- Empowering local communities and governance structures in identifying and resolving their own unique peace needs and emphasizing positive peace by addressing the root causes of conflict.
- Putting human security at the forefront of IRC's work, shaping all decision-making.
- Integrated programs are implemented to create lasting impact, and to strengthen bridges between divided groups, state and society relations, and local capacities for conflict management.
- Recognizing that peacebuilding and reconciliation in Somalia require long-term societal changes, the IRC and its partners support communities to design and implement sustainable solutions, contributing to more peaceful and inclusive communities.

Improving Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

The IRC in Somalia focuses on improving access to water and sanitation facilities for host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the regions of Bari, Sanaag, Nugaal, Mudug, Galgaduud, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, and Benadir. Key focus areas in WASH programming include:

- Improving access to water by rehabilitating water sources, supporting water trucking in emergencies using community water vouchers, and distributing hygiene kits.
- Ensuring proper sanitation and hygiene services to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. This involves upgrading latrines in displacement and conducting intensive hygiene promotion activities. Investing in sustainable and climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, such as solarization of water boreholes, to provide reliable services.
- Additionally, the IRC, where possible, extends water pipelines in high-potential areas for agriculture and livestock grazing, enabling communities to strengthen their livelihood and improve overall food security through water infrastructure utilization. Through these initiatives, the IRC aims support community resilience in the targeted regions.



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) helps people whose lives have been shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and rebuild.

Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, we now work in over 40 crisis-affected countries as well as communities throughout Europe and the Americas.

Ingenuity, fortitude and optimism remain at the heart of who we are. We deliver lasting impact by providing health care, helping children learn, and empowering individuals and communities to become self-reliant, always with a focus on the unique needs of women .

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