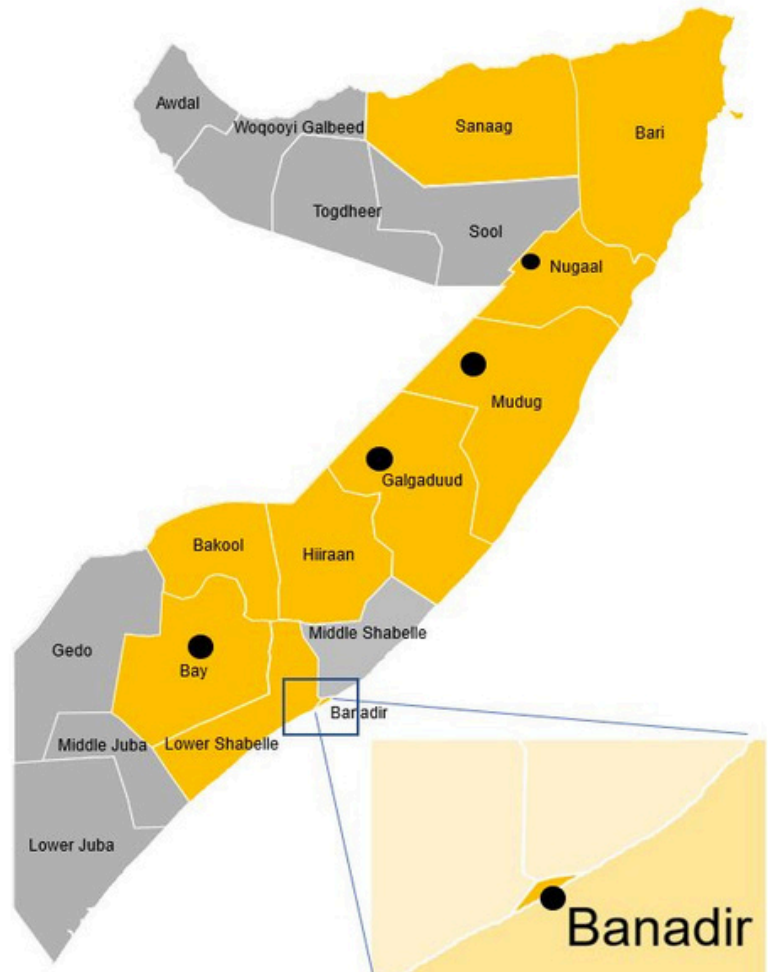




IRC SOMALIA FACT SHEET 2025

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 is operational in **Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, Baidoa, Galkacyo and Garowe**, and runs programs from offices located in Mogadishu and Dhusamareb.

* Until Sept 2025

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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 Federal Government and local authorities, the IRC focuses on the following:

- Delivering primary and secondary health care with a focus on reproductive reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health including antenatal, postnatal, family planning, safe delivery and emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC/CEmONC).
- Expanding access to health services in remote and hard-to-reach areas by establishing and rehabilitating health facilities, deploying outreach teams, and strengthening referral linkages between communities' facilities and hospitals.
- Community-based interventions that train female and community health workers to address priority health needs, including education, maternal and newborn care, immunization, nutrition, NCD management, and referrals.
- Community outreach and awareness creations by boosting demand and awareness via community health workers and volunteers who provide health education, conduct household visits, promote behavior changes and support referrals to ensure timely care –seeking.
- Community outreach by boosting demand and awareness via community health workers and volunteers
- Capacity building and system strengthening at federal and state levels, supporting Ministry of Health counterparts to enhance service delivery, align with national guidelines, and address the gaps identified by the national health cluster.



Nurse Practitioner in Baidoa, Somalia, screening a baby for malnourishment.



Kiin Abdi Jama at the IRC-supported Bandiradley Hospital in Mudug, where she safely delivered a healthy baby boy.

Highlight: Closing the Immunization Gap in Southwest Somalia

The Gavi-funded REACH project is enhancing immunization coverage in fragile regions of Somalia, focusing on Southwest state (Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle). Together with four local partners, with support from the Federal and State Ministry of Health, IRC targets agro-pastoralist and displaced communities. Despite insecurity and mobility challenges, outreach teams maintained services in hard-to-reach areas. To date, 283,840 doses have been administered, significantly reducing the number of Zero Dose Children and improving health outcomes. Building on this success, IRC signed an agreement with Gavi to expand its work on closing the immunization gap among internally displaced persons (IDPs), slum dwellers, and nomadic communities across Southwest, Jubaland and Hirshabelle.



Mustaf Hussien Ibrahim is receiving his first shot at the Ka'aan Health Center thanks to the IRC-implemented Gavi REACH program

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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 target regions including Benadir, Nugaal, Mudug, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, and Galgaduud.

- **Resumption of Nutrition Services at Karan and K13 Health Centers (2025) in Banadir:** In 2025, the IRC resumed life-saving nutrition services at two health centers in Banadir. Services at Karan Health Center restarted in July after being closed since January 2023, while nutrition services at K13 Health Center, which had remained closed throughout 2024, resumed in January 2025. To date, 3,704 people (2,314 children and 1,390 women) have received treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).
- **Innovating through the Simplified Protocol:** IRC has successfully managed both severe and moderate malnutrition cases across all sites through the simplified approach. The protocol allows best practices by integrating admission, treatment, and follow-up into one streamlined framework. Using a unified product and dosage system, this protocol reduces complexity for health workers, minimizes errors, and ensures consistency in care delivery. Ultimately, this integration strengthens caretaker confidence, improves recovery rates, and supports continuity of care contributing to better child survival outcomes in resource-constrained settings.



A nurse working with IRC's mobile health team in Mudug region provides a medical check up to diagnose malnutrition for an 8 year old brought at the Bandiradley hospital.



Feyla Adan Ibrahim brings her daughter to a local health facility supported by the IRC. The baby, Luuley Mohamed is 16 months old is severely malnourished. She receives help at the facility, which IRC supports with GFFO funding.

Highlight: Continuing to Treat Acute Malnutrition Despite Funding Gaps

IRC-Somalia continues to provide essential nutrition services across Banadir, Mudug, Galgaduud, and Nugal through a robust network of fixed and mobile outreach sites. These efforts are supported by the four-year Give Well-funded Nutrition Program (June 2021–August 2025), which targets the detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition in Somalia.

By July 31, 2025, IRC treated a total of 50,533 children under five (24,826 boys and 25,707 girls) for severe and moderate acute malnutrition through two fixed facilities and 32 mobile outreach sites using a simplified protocol. As the Give Well grant reached its closing on August 31, 2025, IRC secured continued service delivery through the ECF project, extending support from September 2025 until February 2026.



Rahmo Nur Osman has been visiting the IRC-supported Ka'aan health facility in Dinsor for more than 3 weeks after her child was diagnosed with malnutrition. Hanad has been able to recover well through the program. He is now eating normally and playing with his siblings.

THE IRC IN SOMALIA | AT A GLANCE

Staff

110

Partners

28

Donors

16

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:

- The IRC provides water, sanitation, and handwashing facilities to vulnerable communities. It also promotes hygiene practices such as handwashing, proper waste disposal, safe water management, and menstrual hygiene.
- The IRC's anticipatory action response works with local actors to promote sustainable and climate-resilient practices and prepare for climate-resilient emergencies. In FY25, IRC rehabilitated nine boreholes, benefiting 40,000 people with safe water access. Hygiene kits and promotion activities reached 6,000 individuals, strengthening community resilience.
- **Highlight: In FY25, the IRC provided 58,414 people with access to safe and clean water and improved access to sanitation**, either through direct provision or by maintaining rehabilitated or upgraded WASH systems. Hygiene promotion activities reached 39,080 individuals through mass media and direct community outreach.



Amino Abdullahi at a water kiosk that was rehabilitated by IRC in the town of Dinsor, Southwest state.

Emergency Response: Anticipatory Action to Mitigate Shocks

Somalia is experiencing severe drought conditions, particularly in southern regions such as Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Mudug, and Galgaduud. The IRC Somalia has continued to strengthen its Anticipatory Action (AA) and Crisis Modifier (CM) mechanisms to enhance early and effective humanitarian response across the operational areas of the country. Since start of FY25, IRC Somalia has successfully responded to six crises through the Crisis Modifier, including droughts, floods and conflicts, including through cash assistance and relief kits. Through Anticipatory Action, IRC reached 4,000+ of households in FY25 with drought early warning and anticipatory cash transfers. Overall, IRC has reached 123,535 individuals in FY25 alone through both anticipatory action and crisis modifier response.

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Building Resilient Livelihoods

The IRC in Somalia supports vulnerable urban and rural communities to meet their basic needs, recover from shocks, and build sustainable livelihoods. Programs are implemented across Nugaal, Mudug, Galgaduud, Sanaag, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, and Benadir, addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term economic resilience.

- In rural areas, the IRC helps communities strengthen their resilience to climate shocks through climate-smart agricultural practices, access to climate-adapted inputs and technologies, and training in sustainable livestock and crop production. The program also supports farmers' cooperatives with tools, infrastructure, and market linkages to boost productivity and reduce vulnerability to drought and other climate-related stresses.
- In urban centers, the IRC promotes economic inclusion for youth and women through vocational and technical training, apprenticeships, job placement, and entrepreneurship programs. These initiatives equip participants with market-relevant skills—particularly in digital, green, and service sectors—helping them secure employment and launch small businesses.
- The IRC further promotes financial inclusion by establishing and mentoring Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), fostering saving habits, improving access to financial services, and providing financial literacy training that enables participants to make informed decisions and invest in their futures.



IRC's Abdinasir Abdulahi visits BMZ-supported farmers in Dinsor.



Ruweydo Osman grows her business in Dinsor with IRC's BMZ support.

Highlight: Driving Economic Inclusion and Climate Resilience in Somalia

In 2025, the IRC supported over 53,000 people across Somalia through its livelihood and economic recovery programs. Over 34,000 individuals (54% women) received cash assistance worth USD 1.2 million, helping families meet essential needs and protect their livelihoods. Additionally, more than 1,200 farmers adopted climate-smart practices with access to quality seeds, tools, and irrigation support, while 65 VSLAs strengthened financial inclusion and resilience within their communities. These efforts continue to lay the foundation for sustainable, inclusive growth and climate-resilient livelihoods across Somalia.



Farmers' cooperatives supported by IRC proudly showcasing their resilience and innovation at the Beledweyne Product Expo under the BRICIS OASIS project.

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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, Hiran and Galgadud. The program's focus includes:

- Integrated programs are crucial to create lasting impact, and to strengthen bridges between divided groups, state and society relations, and local capacities for conflict management.
- Empowering local communities and governance structures through training and capacity building focusing on leadership and conflict management through participatory methodologies.
- The IRC and its partners provide support to communities through facilitating intergenerational dialogues forums to collaboratively devise solutions that promote peace and community resilience.
- **Highlight:** In FY2025, the IRC has engaged 2,196 people (1579 Male and 617 Female) through trainings on peacebuilding and conflict management, as well as through awareness-raising sessions, advocacy campaigns and dialogue forums on non-violent conflict management.



IRC staff meeting with local peace committee in Dinsor.

Partnering as Equals

The IRC Somalia works hand in hand with government bodies, civil society organizations, and private sector actors to ensure coordinated, sustainable, and locally led responses. The IRC currently partners with nine local CSOs, four of which are women-led, and more than ten government institutions. A landmark strategic partnership with Save Somali Women and Children has deepened collaboration beyond project-based funding to include institutional capacity strengthening, policy engagement, and joint advocacy. Partnerships with vocational training institutions, microfinance providers, and renewable energy firms also expand economic opportunities for communities.

Highlight: In FY2025, 33% of IRC Somalia's operating budget (up from 2.4% in FY19) supported local partners—demonstrating a major shift toward localization, women-led leadership, and sustainable community ownership.

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Promoting Women's Protection & Empowerment

The IRC in Somalia delivers survivor-centered gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response programs across Benadir, Bay, Mudug, and Galgaduud.

- Services include confidential case management, psychosocial support, and distribution of dignity kits, provided through Safe Spaces that also host peer support, life skills, and community dialogue sessions. The IRC strengthens the capacity of GBV service providers, partners, and community structures to ensure effective, coordinated support for survivors, including training on case management, psychosocial care, and clinical management of rape.
- Community engagement efforts involve men, women, and adolescents in addressing harmful gender norms and promoting equality through EMAP, SASA!, Girl Shine, and Women Rise approaches. The IRC also collaborates with local partners, government institutions, and the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) to improve coordination and advocate for survivor protection and rights.
- **Highlight:** In 2025, the **IRC reached more than 50,000 women and girls through GBV prevention and response initiatives**, strengthening community protection systems and advancing women's safety and dignity across Somalia.



Women and girls in safe space learning tailoring skills in Dhusamareb, Galmudug



Farhio, a small business owner in her shop that she runs in Gurciel, Galmudug.

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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