

# Inclusive Resilience in Somalia (IRIS) Activity



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The USAID's Inclusive Resilience in Somalia (IRIS) Activity aims to enhance the resilience of individuals, households, businesses, communities, and the overall market systems in the country. This is achieved through diversifying rural and urban livelihoods and promoting inclusive and resilient market systems. The Activity takes a facilitative approach, focusing on building the resilience capacities of producer groups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), processing, and export companies in the key productive sectors of agriculture, fisheries, and livestock. This is done to help them withstand the shocks and stresses of recurrent droughts, erratic floods, social or political conflicts, and economic instability, which can lead to market volatility. IRIS' interventions contribute to four key result areas:

1. Expanded use of climate-resilient agricultural technologies and management approaches in the productive sectors of crops, fisheries, and livestock.
2. Increased private sector (including financial institutions) investment to extend services and products to MSMEs of marginalized communities in urban areas and to processing/export companies.

3. Expanded integration of urban poor and IDPs with market-driven productive sectors in urban areas.
4. Mandated policy and regulatory institutions develop and enforce policies and regulations to create an environment to expand the growth of the private sector in the productive sectors.

## INTERVENTION AREAS

IRIS interventions are in line with Somalia's development priorities, as stated in the National Development Plan (2020-2024) and the proposed National Transformation Plan (2025-2029). These interventions, which are inclusive and market-focused, are specifically targeted at USAID's Geographic Focal Zones (GFZ) as indicated on the map. The main objectives of these interventions are to:

- a. Strengthen and diversify rural and urban livelihoods for marginalized groups.
- b. Promote economic agency among the marginalized.



### Duration:

June 2022 - July 2027



### Funding:

USAID and FCDO, \$65,000,000



### Activity Objectives:

1. Strengthen and diversify rural and urban livelihoods for marginalized groups.
2. Promote economic agency among marginalized groups.

## STRENGTHEN AND DIVERSIFY RURAL AND URBAN LIVELIHOODS FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS

- Collaborate with business apex associations, chambers of commerce, and the government to position Somalia as a competitive player in the global fish and sesame industry. This is achieved through a) diversifying export markets and products b) strengthening the competitiveness and inclusiveness of the value chains and c) supporting mandated institutions in Somalia in developing policies, standards, regulations, and inspection and certification processes to ensure the quality of seeds, produce, and products in the fishery, livestock, and crop sectors.
- Provide support for private sector models that promote sustainable production, aggregation, and marketing. The value chain includes a) seeds of drought-tolerant crops/fodder, b) fodder and livestock feeds, and milk, c) grain and pulses, and d) fish. Co-investment should be made in building systems and structures for increased produce/catch, aggregation, collection, and distribution.
- Scale up the demand, use, and financing for technologies that are suitable for a) diversified crop production systems, b) sustainably providing last-mile extension services, and c) reducing the cost or improvement of the efficiency of production, processing, or marketing.
- Collaborate with financial institutions to develop new financial products and credit facilities, create demand for these products, co-finance liquidity, and expand networks in remote rural areas within the GFZ.
- Foster coordination, collaboration, and partnerships in the fishery, livestock, and crop sectors to increase investment, and industry growth, and facilitate policy development.



## PROMOTE ECONOMIC AGENCY AMONG MARGINALIZED GROUPS

- Work with private businesses in the fisheries, dairy, and crop sub-sectors to increase access to employment opportunities and wages for the urban poor and marginalized populations, especially during and after shocks.
- Facilitate the private sector in developing and improving strategies, approaches, services, and products that reduce entry barriers and risks while creating business incentives and providing access to technologies and skills that integrate internally displaced persons and urban poor into the urban productive sector economies.
- Collaborate with institutions of higher learning and business service providers to diversify the skill sets of marginalized and urban poor individuals in the productive sectors, enabling them to take advantage of economic opportunities.
- Support government's role in promoting business-to-business governance to create an environment for inclusive market systems, and increasing the voices and visibility of women.

### Implementing Partners:

DT Global (Prime), Mercy Corps, Save the Children, SATG, and ITAD

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