

ZAMZAM FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2022



مؤسسة زمزم
ZAMZAM
FOUNDATION



FOREWORD



Cover: Zamzam's emergency programmes reached over half a million people in 2022

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This annual report shows the important work accomplished by Zamzam Foundation in its 30th anniversary year to support our brothers and sisters who were most affected by conflict, floods and Somalia's worst drought in 70 years – and to help build a brighter future for all our people.

Despite the unprecedented drought and increased conflict in 2022, coupled with a weakened economy still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, our programmes touched the lives of 2.16 million people. We provided life-saving emergency aid alongside significant investment in health, clean water, food security and sustainable livelihoods, education, and peacebuilding. All these areas are fundamentally important both for day-to-day survival in the communities we serve and for our country's future prosperity, peace, and climate resilience.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our board of trustees and the dedicated staff and energetic volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to feed the hungry, protect the vulnerable, meet the basic needs of the marginalised, and empower families to lift themselves out of poverty. Without such generous support and hard work it would be impossible for us to have a significant impact in such challenging circumstances.

As hunger and malnutrition cast a shadow over the entire country, the numbers that define Somalia's humanitarian crisis are mind-blowing. Seventy per cent of our people live in poverty, over 7 million cannot be sure where their next meal is coming from, and nearly half the country's 16.9 million population need humanitarian aid to survive. The lives of 1.8 million of our children are at risk because they are acutely malnourished.

Behind these stark numbers are ordinary Somalis showing extraordinary resilience and resourcefulness in the face of extreme suffering. We tell some of their individual stories in this report – stories of livelihoods destroyed, families displaced, and our teams on the ground doing their utmost to help those affected to pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives.

Women feature strongly in these individual stories. When the rains fail it is women who end up suffering most. Our sisters are the ones most reliant on subsistence farming for their livelihoods, the ones most responsible for finding and fetching water, the ones most likely to be displaced and left caring for children on their own when climate change bites – or when conflict erupts.

Empowering our women and youth to determine their own development is a crucial aspect of the way Zamzam operates

It is critically important to listen to, support and empower our country's women, and Zamzam Foundation can be proud that our commitment to gender equity, justice, and women's empowerment was recognised in 2022 with a certificate of achievement from the International Labour Organisation.

Empowering our women and youth to determine their own development is a crucial and fundamental aspect of the way Zamzam operates. We are an organisation built, led, and continuously shaped by the communities we serve across Somalia. Our approach makes us an embodiment of the concept of localisation in humanitarian aid and development, a practical manifestation of the positive benefits of investing significantly in the capacity, delivery, and leadership of local responders.

There is a lot of talk about localisation in the global aid community but relatively little action. In 2016 donors pledged through the Grand Bargain agreement to spend 25 per cent of global aid budgets on local organisations by 2020, but by 2021 the real amount reaching local groups was still only 2.1 per cent.

Against this challenging background, we are enormously thankful to the donors and partners who already recognise and value the role we play by partnering with us to meet Somalia's vast humanitarian needs. We sincerely hope that we can look forward to strengthening and extending these partnerships and establishing new ones – local, national, and international – to meet the vision of the Grand Bargain and enable us to play an even bigger role in our country's development in the years to come.

Shuaib Abdullatif
Chair

Omar Jama
Executive Director



"As a young man entering adulthood in Somalia in the early '90s, a bright future seemed an impossible dream in an environment shrouded in darkness and despair. But I was fortunate to receive an education in one of the fledgling schools associated with Zamzam Foundation and to become a Zamzam project assistant after graduation. Today I am proud to lead an organisation that has grown into a real beacon of hope for the long-suffering Somali people"

Omar Jama
Executive Director



SOMALIA'S CHALLENGING CONTEXT

Zamzam Foundation was established in 1992 to support the people of Somalia through an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The central government had collapsed the previous year, plunging the country into civil war and economic chaos. Since then, we have grown into the biggest national aid and development organisation supporting communities across Somalia as they strive to overcome poverty and conflict.

Extreme poverty

Somalia is one of the world's poorest countries, according to Global Data Lab analysis. Around 70 per cent of people live below the poverty line and 8.25 million people rely on humanitarian aid to survive – nearly half the estimated 16.9 million population.

The economy has shown modest net growth in the ten years since federal government was significantly restored under a new constitution in 2012 – despite the slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. But economic expansion is barely keeping pace with population growth and is achieved from a very low base, with GDP at just \$8.13 billion – under \$500 per person.

More than 8 million Somalis rely on humanitarian aid to survive

Humanitarian country profile

Population	16.9 million
Life expectancy	51.5 years
Poverty	11.8 million people (70%) live below the poverty line; 8.25 million (49%) rely on humanitarian aid
Climate	Ranked first from 185 countries for climate vulnerability, with hot desert climate in the north, semi-arid in the south
Displacement	3.9 million people (23%) displaced by poverty, climate change and conflict
Economy	GDP is under \$500 per capita (\$8.13 billion); 50% unemployment (57% among women); agriculture accounts for a quarter of GDP and up to 90% of informal employment
Health	1.8 million children acutely malnourished; only 19% of health facilities fully functional
Education	3 million children out of school; 24% illiteracy among young people aged 15–24
Water	8 million people (47%) lack access to safe water and sanitation

The UN estimates over 43,000 people died in the intensifying drought of 2022

Devastating drought

By the end of 2022 Somalia had endured an unprecedented five consecutive seasons of failed rains and the worst drought in 70 years. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that the drought killed over 43,000 people in 2022 alone, as poor families succumbed to hunger and disease.

Millions of livestock have perished in the drought. Millions of people have temporarily or permanently lost the agricultural livelihoods that account for 26 per cent of Somalia's GDP, and up to 90 per cent of informal employment and export revenue.

The death toll of people and animals could have been much higher without the large-scale international aid effort mobilised by the government and various stakeholders and supported by Zamzam Foundation, the UN, and a host of other international, national and local non-government organisations. In the 2011 drought an estimated 260,000 people died when famine afflicted large areas of the country as a combination of conflict, political stalemate and inadequate international support prevented aid agencies from reaching many of those in need.



It is estimated that conflict has cost over **half a million lives** in Somalia in the past three decades

Persistent conflict

Over 6,500 Somalis were killed in conflict in 2022, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project – the highest conflict death toll for five years. It is estimated that conflict has cost over half a million lives in Somalia in the past three decades.

Each year, conflict forces tens of thousands of Somalis out of their homes and hampers the efforts of aid agencies to support those in need. OCHA says that in 2022 access to some rural areas was limited because of insecurity along main supply routes and “regular and active hostilities or military operations across parts of Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West State”.



Somalia is ranked **first** from 185 countries for **climate vulnerability**

Health, education and water resources

Zamzam Foundation and other aid organisations are striving to overcome the cumulative effect of poverty, climatic shocks and conflict and will continue to do so. But our country's 'vital signs' in terms of human development show how far there is to go.

Life expectancy is just 51.5 years, and 1.8 million children are acutely malnourished. One in eight children dies before reaching the age of five, and only 19 per cent of health facilities are fully functional.

Over three million children are out of school, and almost a quarter of young people aged 15–24 are illiterate. In a context where waterborne diseases frequently kill the most vulnerable, eight million people do not have access to safe water and basic sanitation – almost half the population.

While the food security, nutrition and health aspects of the UN's \$1.95 billion appeal for Somalia were almost fully funded by the international community in 2022, 14 per cent of the appeal remained unfunded – a shortfall of \$322 million. Education and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) were both chronically underfunded, with donations covering only 12 per cent and 39 per cent of needs respectively.

A changing climate

As if all these challenges were not enough, Somalia is ranked by ND-GAIN as the most climate-vulnerable nation on earth. This is based on our country's significant exposure and sensitivity to the negative impact of climate change, coupled with its limited capacity to adapt. ND-GAIN measures vulnerability in six life-supporting sectors – food, water, health, ecosystem services, human habitat and infrastructure.

Somalia's comparatively modest carbon emissions were 43.6 million tonnes in 2020 and its per-capita emissions 2.74 tonnes, indicating that the average US citizen produced more emissions than six individuals in Somalia. But the World Meteorological Organisation says that the last eight years have been the eight warmest in history, and low-emissions-high-vulnerability countries like Somalia are feeling the heat as climate change fuels increasingly frequent and severe droughts, floods and tropical storms.

As well as being very damaging to human health, extreme heat and drought make it more difficult to grow crops and support livestock, while the water needed to sustain life and livelihoods is becoming vanishingly scarce in parts of Somalia.

Economic activity and education are undermined when families are forced to leave their homes and lands in search of food, water and employment. Nearly 3.9 million Somalis are internally displaced – including 1.8 million newly displaced in 2022.

The multifaceted nature of our country's unique exposure to climate change, poverty and conflict requires a multifaceted, integrated approach to aid and development – a need reflected in Zamzam Foundation's forward-looking strategy and its multi-dimensional programmes.

OUR VISION



Zamzam Foundation works across all of Somalia to save lives through effective humanitarian aid and to transform communities through health, education, livelihoods, WASH, and peacebuilding programmes. On these pages we summarise the vision, mission, values, and strategic objectives that underpin everything we do.

Vision

We envision a day when there is no more poverty in the Horn of Africa and every person's dignity is protected, especially those affected by human and natural crises.

Mission

Our mission is to provide people affected by human and natural crises in the Horn of Africa with emergency relief, educational programmes, clean water and food security, health care, protection for children and orphans, and sustainable socio-economic programmes, as well as to promote peacebuilding and effective governance, while integrating our values of respect, impartiality, quality, accountability, advocacy and innovation in all our work.

Strategic plan

In 2022 we reached the halfway point in implementing our five-year strategic plan for 2020 to 2024. Under this plan we are working to deliver on our vision and mission, in alignment with our core values, through a \$75 million programme of strategic investment across five key areas:

- Education and social welfare
- Health, water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Livelihoods, resilience, economic development and emergency response
- Peacebuilding and governance
- Organisational strengthening.

The strategic objectives flowing from our strategic plan follow on page 10.

Upholding **dignity** and **absolute impartiality** are central in our approach

Our values

• RESPECT

We are committed to treat the people we serve with dignity and to listen to them for solutions that work for them.

• IMPARTIALITY

We believe in serving all people who are in need with impartiality and in an equitable manner.

• QUALITY

We strive to meet our objectives, serve our beneficiaries, and satisfy expectations of all stakeholders to the best of our ability.

• ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to being responsible and transparent in all our activities.

• ADVOCACY

We seek to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our society are able to take part in decisions that affect their lives.

• INNOVATION

We are a learning organisation dedicated to seeking appropriate and effective interventions for poverty and enhancing standards of living in the Horn of Africa.



● RESPECT

We have our own comprehensive code of ethics and conduct that spells out the high standards we expect of our staff and volunteers. These include treating the communities we serve with respect, involving them in all aspects of project implementation, and being sensitive both to religious and cultural customs and traditions and to the needs of women and all vulnerable minorities.



● ACCOUNTABILITY

To be truly accountable to the communities we serve, we take great care to listen to and address their needs, and to ensure they are protected from harm. Our safeguarding and protection policies hold everyone who works for us accountable for preventing abuse and meeting the highest professional standards – from our executive director (pictured) to our village-level volunteers.



● IMPARTIALITY

We are a signatory to the voluntary code of conduct for aid organisations developed by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In line with this code, we believe that everyone in need has the right to humanitarian assistance, and we distribute aid impartially to those who need it most – regardless of location, race, clan background, religious beliefs, or gender.



● ADVOCACY

As climate change bites, we believe it is vitally important not only to strengthen Somalia's water infrastructure but also to empower local people to manage it for themselves. Our staff are tireless advocates for the communities they serve, involving them every step of the way in WASH projects, and training them to take a lead in holding local authorities to account to deliver projects that benefit everyone.



● QUALITY

We strive for excellence in everything we do – from distributing emergency aid to building high-quality new schools and health facilities. In education we take pride in the quality of our school buildings and curriculum materials. The science and technology faculty at Zamzam University, pictured, is leading the way in improving the quality of technical and vocational education.



● INNOVATION

Our learning stems from 30 years of working with local communities, coupled with our investment in cutting-edge research. Zamzam University is renowned for its strengths in science and research, and on its main campus it has an experimental farm where innovative water-saving methods such as hydroponic growing and drip irrigation are being implemented and promoted.

OUR REACH

The objectives in our strategic plan relate to the following key programme areas. The 2022 reach of these programmes is shown on the map opposite.

Livelihoods, resilience, economic development and emergency response

- Strengthen emergency response to support vulnerable communities affected by conflict, extreme weather events and other crises
- Strengthen community resilience, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Improve farming productivity at household level, while improving community water resources as a major enabling factor
- Increase income security for individuals, families and communities through diverse livelihoods programmes.

Health and nutrition

- Deliver high-quality maternal and child health and other critical services to vulnerable communities
- Improve health infrastructure and establish new facilities
- Promote and increase community awareness of communicable diseases to limit their spread.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- Improve provision of safe water and sanitation facilities at household and community levels, ensuring better access and wider use
- Work with local communities to improve their capacity to get closely involved in management of local WASH facilities
- Work with local government and other responsible authorities to ensure they adopt a participative approach with local communities on WASH projects.

Education

- Create a good learning environment in Zamzam-managed schools by expanding and improving infrastructure
- Improve the quality and relevance of the teaching curriculum and education materials for schools, while promoting inclusive practices in education
- Expand and improve technical and vocational education and training (TVET) facilities
- Create employable skills among TVET graduates by improving the curriculum and teaching materials.

Orphans and social care

- Deliver orphan and social care services by providing healthcare, education, financial support and in-kind assistance to families looking after orphans
- Create employment opportunities for orphans above 18 years old and their families.

Peacebuilding and governance

- Promote strong participation by local communities and their citizens in governance, peacebuilding and the democratic process in areas prone to tensions and conflict
- Implement conflict-resolution projects among pastoralist communities to reduce violence over access to water, pasture and other scarce resources
- Promote the strengthening of governance institutions at district level
- Conduct civic education to improve district administrations' accountability to communities.

Seasonal programmes

- Supplement aid and development programmes with Ramadan food and qurbani meat distributions, plus gifts for children at Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha.



Our mobile clinics treat the sick and dispense medicines to families

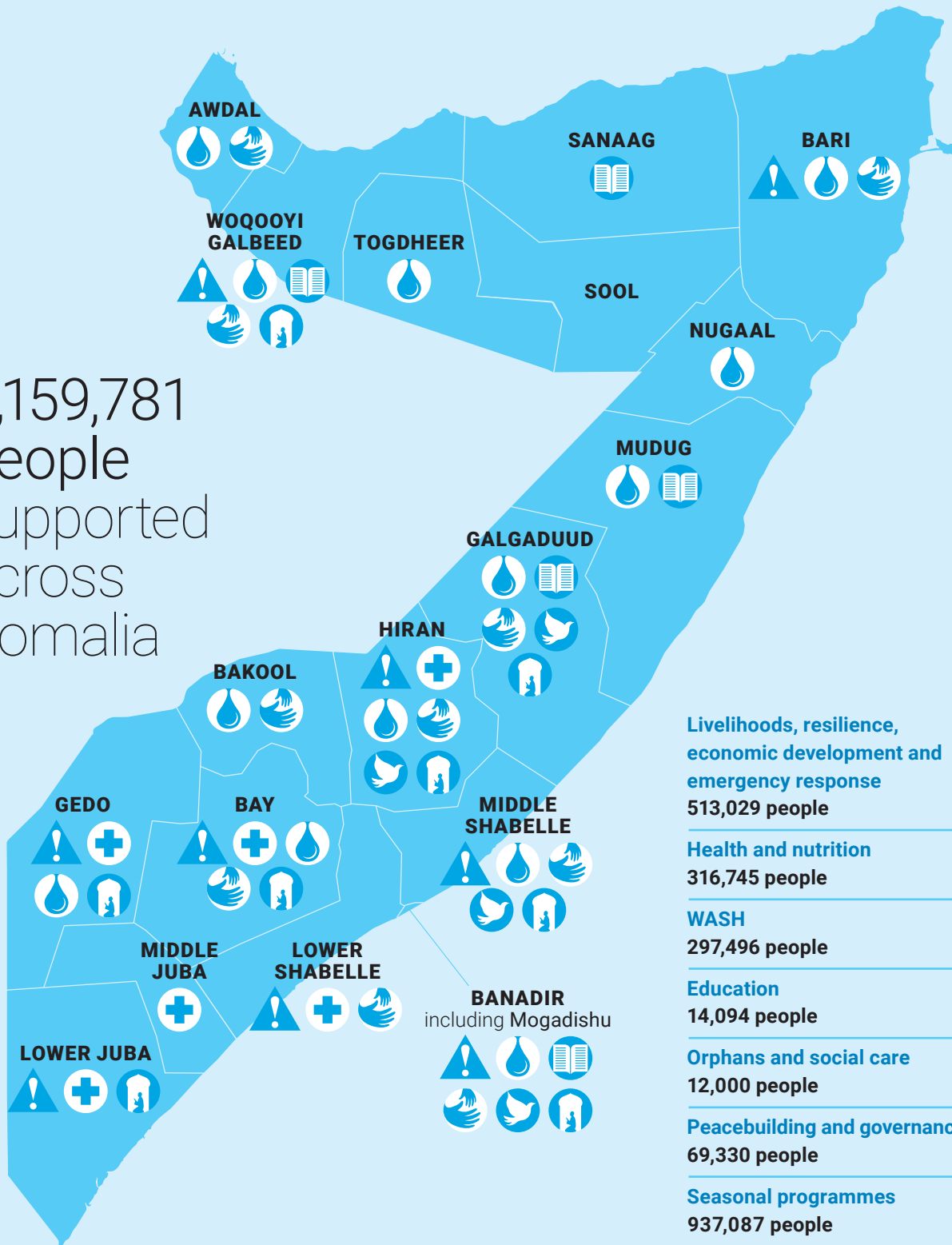


Our new wells feature separate taps and troughs for people and animals



Our peacebuilding projects bring people together to resolve conflicts over resources

2,159,781
people
supported
across
Somalia



OUR IMPACT

Zamzam Foundation provided vital food aid, nutrition, medical attention, cash assistance and shelter for 843,300 Somalis in acute need in 2022 – a year of devastating drought and significant displacement. A further 1,316,481 people benefited from our education, WASH, livelihoods and peacebuilding programmes and our seasonal Ramadan and qurbani distributions.



Livelihoods, resilience, economic development and emergency response

- **390,689** people received family food packages (left) or hot meals
- **109,800** people benefited from urgent cash assistance to spend where most needed
- **6,066** displaced families given emergency shelter kits
- **750** farmers given seeds and tools, plus help to prepare land for cultivation
- **600** families given fodder for hungry livestock
- **442** women, young people and families received income-generating grants and loans

Health and nutrition

- **113,233** people diagnosed and treated through our health facilities and mobile clinics (above)
- **20,294** women received maternity and post-natal care
- **43,000** people benefited from newly built or improved health facilities
- **12,165** mothers and children vaccinated against deadly diseases
- **6,923** women and children treated for acute malnutrition following screening of 58,808 people

We delivered vital emergency aid and health care for over **800,000** people



Our projects are building a brighter future

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- **42,000** people received emergency water supplies trucked into drought-affected areas (above)
- **195,000** people and their animals can now access clean water from new or upgraded boreholes
- **58,200** people served by new shallow and artesian wells
- **1,700** families received hygiene kits
- **420** people have new latrines

Orphans and social care

- **12,000** orphaned children received vital financial and other support
- **600** more children enrolled in our orphans programme in 2022
- **300** more of our orphans started school

Seasonal programmes

- **769,680** people received qurbani meat to celebrate Eid Al-Adha
- **57,141** Ramadan food baskets distributed (right)
- **85,472** people served hot meals during Ramadan

Education

- **3,394** children educated in our schools (below) – 52% girls
- **414** pupils graduated at secondary-school level – 56% girls
- **2,500** children benefited from new or upgraded school buildings
- **2,000** farming students served by our new agricultural training faculty
- **6,200** people benefited from newly built Qur'an schools and mosques



Peacebuilding and governance

- New district councils established in conflict-affected areas of Galgaduud
- Conflict resolution and peace action planning in three regions (above)
- Peacebuilding outreach by Zamzam teams involving hundreds of religious, business and other community leaders

OUR FINANCES

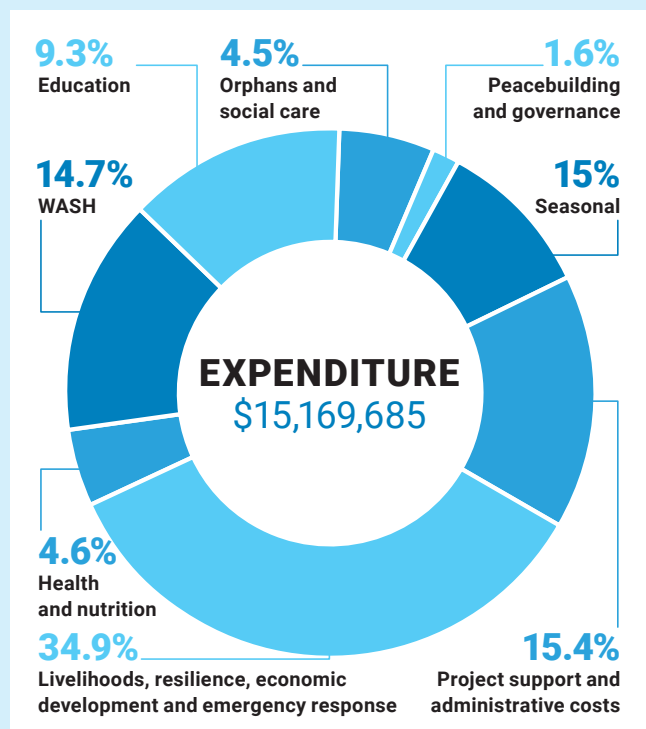
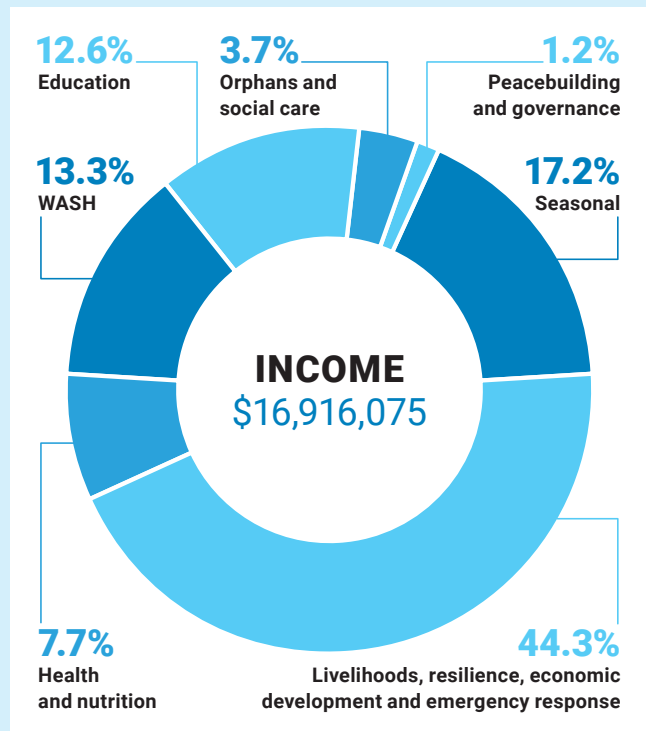
ZamZam Foundation's generous supporters and funders gave us nearly \$17 million in 2022 towards our vital aid and development programmes and operating costs.

Over 40 per cent of donations were for livelihoods, resilience, economic development and emergency response programmes. Another third were earmarked for health and nutrition, education, and WASH projects.

In allocating funds to implement our strategic plan, we spent over \$12.8 million on directly supporting people in need through our seven key programme areas – 84.6 per cent of the total. The other 15.4 per cent was spent on project support and administrative costs to keep all our programmes running in an integrated, efficient and effective way, to the benefit of all the communities we serve.

Top 10 funders by % of our income 2022

- Alnajat Charity 10.3%
- Islamic Development Bank 8.2%
- Muslim Aid Australia 6.8%
- Individual donors and supporters 6.6%
- International Association for Development and Relief (ONSUR) 6%
- Life and Peace Institute 5.8%
- Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Society 5.7%
- Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) 3.6%
- World Vision 3.3%
- Medair International 2.8%



We spent over **\$12.8 million** on directly supporting people



\$2.2 million
on clean water
and sanitation
for 300,000
people



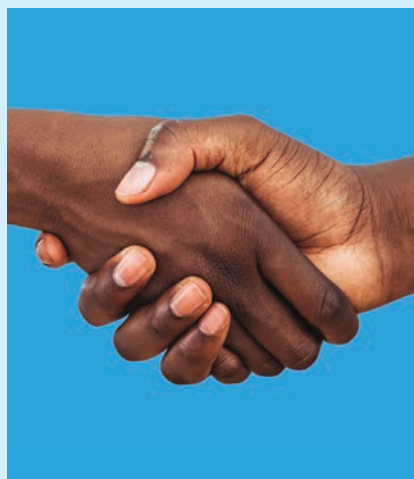
\$1.4 million
on education
and orphan
support for
15,000+
children



\$2.3 million
on Ramadan
and qurbani
food and
Eid gifts for
900,000+
people



\$6 million
on life-saving
emergency aid,
health care
and livelihoods
for 800,000+
people



\$250,000 on
peacebuilding
to help ease
conflict in
three regions

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

This annual report captures Zamzam Foundation's activities in our 30th anniversary year – our 30th year of service to the people of Somalia. On these four pages we present a brief overview of our 30-year history.

Our organisation's name is inspired by the Zamzam well in Makkah – holiest city in the Islamic world – and the pure, mineral-rich water of the same name that comes from it. Life-giving zamzam water has quenched the thirst and lifted the spirits of pilgrims for centuries. Our vision is to give a lift and bring new life, health and prosperity to marginalised communities across Somalia.

The communities we serve have shown incredible courage and resolve through three decades of extreme poverty and persistent conflict, and in the face of devastating floods and three major droughts in the last 12 years alone (2010–11, 2016–17 and 2021–22). These communities' resilience offers hope for positive progress for their families and for the country in the years to come, but the support and economic empowerment we bring will be needed more than ever as people rebuild their lives.





1992–1996

Zamzam Foundation is established against a backdrop of turmoil, crumbling state institutions and crippled social services as Somalia slides into instability. A severe drought ravages the country, and gunfire rocks the cities. Hunger, disease and violence threaten the lives of millions of people, prompting a UN intervention mission dubbed 'Operation Restore Hope'.

We are among the first responders to this deepening humanitarian crisis, stepping in to provide crucial food, water and healthcare for thousands of victims of conflict and famine in some of the areas worst affected.

Inspired by the vision of our organisation's founder and chair, the educator and philanthropist Shuaib Abdullatif, we organise emergency relief convoys and other humanitarian missions to bring critical support to conflict-affected communities. Our focus is on humanitarian relief and the provision of health and other social support services that are desperately needed following the collapse of Somalia's public institutions.

In response to rising unemployment, Zamzam establishes a modest cottage industry, setting up workshops to provide a livelihood for textile workers left jobless by the closure of a national factory. We also play a major role in establishing a groundbreaking vocational training centre for women.

1997–2001

We begin to focus significantly on education, which has been a pillar of Zamzam Foundation's activities ever since. We start by establishing primary and secondary schools in different regions of Somalia (pictured).

The importance of education at this moment in the country's history cannot be over-emphasised. Several years after the collapse of the public education system, young Somalis are staring hopelessly into a bleak future blighted by illiteracy, poverty and stagnation. Zamzam sets out to change this scenario by setting up and running schools in Mogadishu, Beledweyne, Lower Shabelle and Baidoa.

We celebrate our 10th anniversary by developing a long-term strategic work plan aimed at having a lasting impact on the lives of the Somali people.

Providing high-quality education has been a pillar of Zamzam's work throughout its history



2002–2006

We are determined to develop and build new, strong community-based educational and health institutions (pictured). With help from our local and international partners, we establish projects such as Al-Fajr Model Schools and the Arafat Hospital in Mogadishu. Both become established as the largest institutions of their kind since the collapse of the Somali state.

Our organisation becomes well known for its strategically located and lifesaving boreholes and artesian wells that make safe and clean water available to communities in need across Somalia. In this period Zamzam is emerging strongly as one of Somalia's most successful pioneering service organisations, becoming the largest and fastest growing development organisation in the country. We reach millions of people across the country every year through our varied programmes.

Arafat Hospital in Mogadishu is among the highly rated health facilities we have established



2007–2011

A period of significant institutional development and strengthening. We commit ourselves afresh to humanitarian service with a strong vision for long-term development programmes – including the economic empowerment of women (pictured).

Our organisation becomes a trailblazer in championing transparency and effectiveness in the delivery of humanitarian aid to vulnerable and marginalised communities. This raises our profile in international humanitarian circles and makes us a reference point for those interested in humanitarian work in Somalia.



2012–2016

Two decades into our work, we focus increasingly on sustainability and community development.

With a clear vision and an acute awareness of critical needs forged through many years of service, we embark on the development of targeted projects that enable people to become active agents of change in their own lives and communities – including important areas such as malaria prevention (pictured). We passionately believe that real community development can only occur when people at the heart of the communities we serve are also at the heart of building and leading development programmes.

2017–2022

We continue to invest in people through training and support for small farmers, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, youth, women and other marginalised groups.

We commission a comprehensive new strategic plan for 2020 to 2024 to guide our organisation into the future. It sets out a clear framework for accountability, identifies the means and mechanisms for achieving our stated objectives, and pledges that the impact and sustainability of our programmes will be open to critique and measurement by all stakeholders through results-based management.

In 2022 Zamzam is certified as gender-responsive by the International Labour Organisation's Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme, in recognition of our commitment to gender equity, gender justice, and women's empowerment.

We strengthen our internal systems through the development of forward-looking and professional policies and procedures. Zamzam Foundation becomes an active member of local and international humanitarian platforms, with increasing participation in international humanitarian conferences.

The organisation's contribution to Somali civil society is recognised in the United Arab Emirates, where we receive the prestigious Sharjah Award for Voluntary Work. Zamzam also achieves consultative status with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Somalia's needs

- **8.25 million** people (49%) rely on humanitarian aid
- **3.9 million** (23%) are displaced by poverty, climate change and conflict
- **7.1 million** Somalis (42%) could not meet their basic food needs in August 2022

Our response

- **390,689** people received immediate food aid, longer-lasting family food packages or hot meals
- **109,800** people benefited from urgent cash assistance to spend where most needed
- **6,066** displaced families given emergency shelter kits



As the drought intensified, we provided over 390,000 people with immediate food aid, longer-lasting family food packages or hot meals. At this distribution women from vulnerable families collected a month's supply of foodstuffs such as cooking oil, dates, flour, sugar, milk powder and grain to feed their families

Zamzam was established in response to a devastating humanitarian crisis in 1992, and once more we were there to support those in need as the unprecedented drought tightened its grip 30 years later.

We are a member of the Somalia NGO Consortium, working closely with UN bodies and other aid agencies in a coordinated way to save lives when disaster strikes. We conduct needs assessments to ensure we prioritise the most vulnerable – especially young and orphaned children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Widespread drought and localised conflict and flooding forced 1.8 million more Somalis to leave their homes in 2022, searching for food, water, and relative safety in a desperate fight for survival. The numbers taking refuge in camps increased significantly, especially in and around bigger cities such as Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Baidoa.

We gave vital food aid and cash assistance to 500,000 people

Cash assistance is increasingly important, giving our beneficiaries choice and flexibility

Our emergency teams responded on a large scale, providing nearly 400,000 people with immediate food aid and hot meals, or with longer-lasting food packages — each of which gives a family enough cereals, flour, sugar, cooking oil and other essentials to feed themselves for a month. We delivered water by truck to 42,000 people in camps that were lacking safe water sources to sustain them, and our mobile health clinics were on hand to identify and treat cases of acute malnutrition.

Cash assistance is an increasingly important part of our emergency response, acknowledging that different families have different needs and are in the best position to identify where their priorities lie. We provided 109,800 people with cash assistance in 2022, affording them dignity and flexibility in dealing with the impact of hunger, displacement and disease.



As well as providing food and trucking in clean water for displaced families, we distributed useful non-food items such as shelter materials and jerry cans



SUCCESS STORY

A journey from despair to hope

Haawa Ali Abdi, 35, beams a warm smile. Thanks to our emergency response programme, she has access to food aid, clean water and health care in the Al-Hidaya displaced camp near Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. Her six children are receiving a free education at the new Zamzam school near the camp.

The 120-kilometre journey to Mogadishu from Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle was a step into the unknown for Haawa and her young family. They were among a staggering 1.8 million Somalis displaced from their homes by drought, conflict and localised flooding in 2022.

"I was displaced because of the drought, and the lack of water," she says. "Now I have work as a cleaner in a market in Mogadishu. What I get from this work is not enough for us, so I get aid from the Zamzam Foundation as well."

"When I fled to this city, I had no hope. Zamzam has provided education for my children and given me hope for tomorrow."

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Somalia's needs

- **1.8 million** children are acutely malnourished
- **54%** of children aged 1–2 have not been vaccinated against measles
- **81%** of health facilities are not fully functional
- **68%** of children are born without skilled health staff present

Our response

- **113,233** people diagnosed and treated through our health facilities and clinics
- **20,294** women received high-quality maternity and post-natal care
- **46,636** people benefited from health awareness sessions covering issues such as safe infant feeding, malaria prevention and handwashing
- **43,000** people benefited from newly built or improved health facilities
- **12,165** mothers and children vaccinated against deadly diseases
- **6,923** women and children treated for acute malnutrition following screening of 58,808 people
- **2,891** people treated for tuberculosis following screening of 20,064 people
- **1,040** people received sight-saving cataract surgery



Our health facilities and mobile clinics carried out 58,808 screenings for malnutrition in 2022, providing follow-up therapy for the 6,923 most acutely malnourished women and children they assessed

When hunger and malnutrition are rife, it is the vulnerable who suffer most: those living in poverty, the very young and the very old, pregnant women and young mothers, and people with disabilities. For 30 years Zamzam has provided emergency medical aid to people afflicted by hunger and disease. We have also worked to improve the health of vulnerable populations by establishing and running local health facilities to bring basic healthcare within the reach of more poor families.

As well as being a threat to survival in the short term, acute malnutrition can permanently damage children's long-term health and development. Even before the devastating drought of 2021–22, the extensive Somali Health and Demographic Survey of 2020 found that one in five under-fives were acutely malnourished, 27 per cent were stunted (short in stature for their age) and 12 per cent were wasting (of a dangerously low weight for their height).

The survey also found that almost nine out of ten children had not been vaccinated against deadly childhood diseases such as measles, tuberculosis (TB) and polio, while nine out of ten young mothers had not received a health check-up within 48 hours of giving birth. Forty-two per cent of people with disabilities had received no care or support for their disability for a year or more.

Life-saving treatment for nearly 7,000 severely malnourished women and children

Screening children, pregnant women and young mothers for malnutrition and treating those suffering from severe acute malnutrition was a key element of the health services we provided in 2022 as the drought tightened its grip. Our health facilities and mobile clinics provided medical care and life-saving nutritional therapy for 6,923 severely malnourished women and children. We also vaccinated 12,165 children and young mothers, treated 2,891 people infected with TB at our 12 specialist treatment centres, and performed sight-saving cataract surgery on 1,040 patients.

People with disabilities were one of the priority groups among the 2.16 million people supported by Zamzam programmes in 2022, including health services. We provided 20,294 women with specialist prenatal, post-natal and maternal healthcare. In previous years we were instrumental in the establishment of Arafat Hospital, one of Somalia's largest health institutions, which has a major obstetrics and gynaecology unit.

We continue to invest in health infrastructure and to prioritise prevention and health education. In 2022, 43,000 people benefited from new or improved health facilities provided by Zamzam, while our health awareness sessions gave nearly 50,000 people a better understanding of how to protect their health through measures such as safe infant feeding, regular handwashing, and the use of sanitation facilities and malaria-limiting mosquito nets.



Our surgical teams performed sight-saving cataract surgery on over 1,000 people in 2022



SUCCESS STORY

The reassurance of good maternal health care

Eighty per cent of people displaced by drought and conflict in Somalia are women and children. Among them is Halima Sheikh Ahmed, 45, who comes from a village in the Bay region of central Somalia.

Halima sought refuge in Tufkasure camp, near Baidoa, when the drought wiped out the livestock that she and her family had relied on for their livelihood and sustenance.

Halima and her husband, Mohamed, have four adult children, and three younger ones — an eight-year-old and two under-fives. They live in a temporary shelter in the camp. With no reliable income, Halima says she would struggle to meet her family's basic needs without the humanitarian aid and support provided by Zamzam.

Halima particularly appreciates the presence of our maternal and child health centre in Tufkasure — a lifeline for so many women in the camp. During her most recent pregnancy, Halima's family were on the move and she found it difficult to get the medical attention she needed. Now she feels more confident about the health and well-being of her family into the future.

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Somalia's needs

- **11.8 million** people (70%) live below the poverty line
- **50%** unemployment (57% among women)
- **17.5%** food-price inflation peak in 2022

Our response

- **750** farmers have new or repaired irrigation channels
- **750** farmers given seeds and tools, plus help to prepare land for cultivation
- **750** farmers trained in innovative climate-resilient methods
- **600** families given fodder for hungry livestock
- **442** women, young people and families received income-generating grants and microfinance loans
- **78** families acquired new animals to replace livestock lost to drought

442
families
liberated
through
grants
and loans

“The lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable and marginalised people have been irreversibly harmed, and last-resort coping mechanisms have been exhausted,” warned UNOCHA in its Humanitarian Needs Overview at the start of 2023, following another year of severe drought in 2022.

“The drought has devastated the agriculture sector, which accounts for up to 26 per cent of Somalia’s gross domestic product (GDP), 90 per cent of its informal employment and 90 per cent of its exports. One-third of all livestock in the worst-affected areas have died since mid-2021.”

The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says a third of Somalia’s people were acutely food insecure by the end of 2022, rising to half the population in rural areas. The Central Bank of Somalia reported that food-price inflation peaked at 17.5 per cent, highlighting how the war in Ukraine sent food and fuel prices through the roof. The World Bank says Somalia relied on remittances from the Somali diaspora for 21.4 per cent of GDP in 2022, but remittances were hit as the global cost-of-living crisis took its toll.

Zamzam’s small but growing food security and livelihoods programme continues to offer a lifeline to vulnerable people in these challenging circumstances. We provided 442 grants and microfinance loans in 2022, empowering families to earn a sustainable income through a wide range of enterprises including dairy farming, tuc-tuc taxis, sewing and tailoring, and small shops and market stalls. As well as capital, we provide relevant training, equipment such as sewing machines, and specialist support through our Somali Entrepreneurship Incubator.

The FAO points out that every dollar spent on protecting rural livelihoods can save around ten dollars in food-related assistance for displaced families. Our investment in agricultural livelihoods in 2022 provided 2,928 farmers and their families with a variety of support. This included repairing vital irrigation channels; supplying seeds, tools, and livestock; and delivering specialist training in new climate-resilient farming practices such as hydroponic growing and drip irrigation. We provided 600 families with fodder for hungry animals, and replacement livestock for 78 families who had lost theirs to the drought.

In selecting beneficiaries, we prioritise the most vulnerable families and place a particular emphasis on youth empowerment and supporting women farmers and entrepreneurs – especially sole breadwinners such as widows. In periods of natural disaster or civil strife, Somali women play a pivotal role in family welfare and economic survival. The resilience of the whole country is critically reliant on the strength, resilience and hard work of women in the communities worst affected.

Every dollar spent on rural livelihoods can save ten dollars in food aid

UNFAO



Seed distributions – like this one in Hirshabelle state in partnership with the Somalia Humanitarian Fund - help farmers who have lost their crops to drought or floods. Our support for agricultural livelihoods in 2022 included providing 750 farmers with seeds, tools, and help to prepare land for cultivation, as well as new animals or fodder for 678 drought-affected families



Shopkeepers and market traders, tuc-tuc taxi drivers, and women's sewing and tailoring enterprises were among the small businesses to benefit from the 442 income-generating grants and microfinance loans we provided in 2022

With the **two cows** we provided, Billan Adan has built a **thriving** dairy business

SUCCESS STORY

Milking the rewards of hard work in adversity

Zamzam's livelihood restoration programme has enabled 36-year-old Billan Adan (below) to go back to what she knows best – keeping livestock to earn a regular income to feed her family.

Billan was born and raised in Madhaayte, a village in the Bakool region. Farming was the only way of life she knew, but all her animals died and her crops were destroyed as the rains failed for two successive years.

Billan and her husband Ahmed were forced to leave their home and farmland and travel in the blistering heat with their three children – Fatima (16), Hassan (13) and Jamila (8) – to look for food, water, and shelter. They ended up in one of the crowded camps that host so many of Somalia's 3.9 million displaced population.

Humanitarian aid was a lifesaver for Billan and Ahmed, but they were determined to try to fend for themselves – even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Ahmed has worked as a daily labourer locally but his earnings are inconsistent. Billan tried to contribute by taking on sewing work for a while, but opportunities were scarce.

Zamzam's team selected the family to enrol into our livelihood restoration programme. Billan was given two dairy cows and she has not looked back – she now has a stable income for the first time in many months. She sells milk and dairy products in the local community and nearby markets, caring for her animals alongside household chores and looking after the children.

The family's biggest challenge now is the chronic lack of schools for displaced families. Billan is determined to expand her fledging dairy farming business further to increase her income and invest in her children's education.



We provided **120** sewing machines to women launching **tailoring businesses**



SUCCESS STORY

Keeping the fabric of family life together

"I was looking for a means to better myself and support my family," says Riyaal Geedi (above), recalling the moment she seized the opportunity to start her own small business with the help of our microfinance programme. "I enquired about this project and chose to participate after making my case to the Zamzam team."

Riyaal, 52, lives in the Hodan neighbourhood of Mogadishu with her six children, her brother and sister-in-law, and her elderly mother. One of her sons gives her \$100 a month from his salary as a teacher, but it is not enough with so many hungry mouths to feed. We trained her to use a sewing machine and

gave her a new one to earn a living as a seamstress and tailor – one of 120 sewing machines we have recently provided to enterprising women.

"I get up in the morning, make breakfast for my kids, drop the youngest off at school and go to work in my small sewing shop," Riyaal explains. "My family are able to provide for our basic needs – including food and drink, and education – with the money we earn from my sewing machine and my son's work."

"This project has helped me start my own business, and become financially independent. In the future I hope to establish my own clothes shop."

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Somalia's needs

- **8 million** people (47%) lack access to safe water and sanitation
- **70 years** of weather records broken by the current unprecedented drought
- **13,000+** cases of acute watery diarrhoea in 2022, and 73 deaths

Our response

- **42,000** people received emergency water supplies trucked into drought-affected areas
- **195,000** people and their animals can now access clean water from new or upgraded boreholes
- **58,200** people served by new shallow and artesian wells
- **1,700** families received hygiene kits
- **420** people have new latrines
- **176** health-and-hygiene awareness sessions delivered



In 2022 our teams provided ten new fully equipped boreholes, like this one in Mudug region, and rehabilitated a number of others, enabling 195,000 people and their animals to access a plentiful supply of water from deep below ground

Zamzam has drilled over 150 boreholes and provided more than 5,000 artesian and open-surface wells across Somalia in the past 30 years. In 2022 we added a further ten boreholes and repaired or upgraded others, providing clean water from deep below ground in desert and semi-arid areas for 195,000 people and their animals.

We also enabled a further 58,200 people to access safer water through new shallow wells, and provided new latrines for 420 people. Where families weakened by drought and displacement had no water resources to fall back on, our emergency response teams trucked in lifesaving water supplies for 42,000 people.

This area of our work is vital if we are to keep pace with growing water scarcity and the threat to life it poses. As climate change bites, improving Somalia's water infrastructure is critical to enable poor communities to survive droughts of increasing frequency and severity, and to sustain the agricultural livelihoods that so many people depend on. Many people can die when the rains fail and there are no adequate water resources for people and their animals. The UN says over 43,000 Somalis lost their lives because of the severe drought in 2022.

New or upgraded wells and boreholes provided for 253,000 people

Nearly half of Somalia's population do not have access to both safe water and adequate sanitation. The Somali Health and Demographic Survey of 2020 found that while nearly 70 per cent of people were using safely managed water sources, only 43 per cent had access to piped water coming into their dwelling, yard or plot. Twelve per cent of families had to travel for 30 minutes or more to get water – much more in the case of remote and nomadic pastoralist communities.

Research shows that improved sanitation can reduce diarrhoeal disease by a third, but the survey found that only 40 per cent of families had their own exclusive improved sanitation facilities. Cases of acute watery diarrhoea in Somalia increased to above 13,000 in 2002, costing the lives of 73 people.

Improving water infrastructure and sanitation is only half the story. New water resources may not improve matters if they are badly managed or poorly maintained. Unsafe hygiene practices may mean poor families with good sanitation facilities remain vulnerable to water-borne diseases.

We continue to invest in community education and mobilisation to empower communities to manage their own water resources, to hold local authorities and community leaders to account to ensure equity and full community participation in water projects, and to practise good hygiene consistently. Our teams distributed hygiene kits to 1,700 families in 2022 and conducted 176 community health-and-hygiene awareness sessions.



Zamzam staff coordinate a delivery of clean water for displaced families in Southwest state. Our water trucking operation provided 42,000 people with emergency water supplies in 2022



SUCCESS STORY

A new water supply for 350 displaced families

Getting clean water used to be a major headache for Yusuf Adan Ahmed (above). There was no water point close to the shelter he calls home in Raydab Cadde camp, near Baidoa, so the 59-year-old and his elderly brother and aunt would spend hours each day fetching water in the exhausting heat.

Now their extended family – Yusuf and his wife have ten children, including three under the age of five – have a shallow well right on their doorstep. Our team dug the well in 2022 and built a tower and storage tank alongside it to provide a reliable source of clean water for 350 families and their animals.

Yusuf comes from a village called Rabdhure in Bakool, 170km from Baidoa. His home village is in an area plagued by conflict and ravaged by drought – not somewhere Yusuf wanted to be with young children and frail elderly relatives as the drought intensified.

Now living in the relative safety of Raydab Cadde camp, Yusuf is working as a labourer on a farm and dreams of a future where his children can get a decent education to break the cycle of poverty.

EDUCATION

Somalia's needs

- **3 million** children are out of school
- **81%** of primary-age children are not enrolled in school
- **75%** of women cannot read and write

Our response

- **3,394** children educated in our schools in 2022
- **414** pupils graduated at secondary-school level – 56% of them girls
- **6,200** people have had new Qur'an schools and mosques built for them
- **2,500** children benefited from new or upgraded school buildings
- **2,000** farming students benefiting from our new agricultural training faculty

Improving educational infrastructure is a vital part of our five-year strategic plan. In 2022 our improvements to existing school facilities and our building of new schools like this one in Middle Shabelle region benefited 2,500 pupils

Education is the cornerstone of any nation, and there is much to be done to lift standards and improve educational attainment in a country where conflict and chaos have decimated public services. There are not enough schools, and those that exist are often poorly equipped. Many teachers are unqualified and untrained, and many children do not attend school due to poverty and conflict. Unicef says more than three million Somali children are out of school, while half the male population and three-quarters of women cannot read and write.

Zamzam's education programme is aligned with the strategic plan of Somalia's Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education. The ministry's two main priorities are to increase access to good-quality education for children and to equip young people with the skills and knowledge they need to contribute positively to the country's long-term social and economic development.

We are pioneers in the provision of good-quality education in modern, well-equipped, mainstream schools. We have established over 120 schools across Somalia, equipping them with first-rate teaching materials and initially managing them ourselves before handing them over to local authorities and communities to manage. In 2022, 3,394 children were educated in the seven schools we managed directly, with 414 Zamzam pupils completing their education at secondary level. The Al Fajr and Anatole schools that we helped to establish are now among the most prominent and best equipped schools in the country. The two TVET institutes we founded are giving the brightest of Somalia's youth the skills they need to help lead the country's economic and social development, and Zamzam University is in the forefront of scientific research.

In 2022 we also built and supported a number of new Qur'an schools, strengthening the local, non-formal sector that educates more children in Somalia than mainstream schools. Qur'an schools are often the only option for families in remote villages and for nomadic pastoralist communities.



Upholding the right to education promotes normalcy and gives hope for Somalia's future

UNICEF



SUCCESS STORY

Studying hard for a brighter future

"It makes me happy when I see my children studying," says 40-year-old Fatima Abdulkadir Warsame (above, second right), who lives in Al-Hidaya camp in the Garasbaaley neighbourhood of Mogadishu. "I am not afraid for their future."

Zamzam Foundation built a school near Al-Hidaya camp in 2022 to help meet the rising demand for education as more displaced families arrived in the capital. Fatima's three daughters – Ferdowsa (11), Fartuun (10) and Maryam (6) – are among the new school's 520 pupils.

"This project has made a big difference because I could not pay my children's tuition fees, and now they are receiving free education," explains Fatima,

whose meagre earnings as a housekeeper are the family's only earnings. "I want to see them complete their education and help me in the future."

Fatima is not a newcomer to the camp – she has lived there for five years. Her family come from the Kismayo area of Lower Juba, 470 km down the coast from Mogadishu, but were forced to leave their home in 2017 after losing all their livestock in the country's previous major drought.

As climate change bites, millions of Somalis are trapped in a vicious cycle of drought and destitution. A good education for their children and the chance to build new livelihoods once the drought is over are the only hope some have of breaking that cycle.

ORPHANS AND SOCIAL CARE

Somalia's needs

- **19%** of Somali households are home to at least one orphaned child
- **50%** of children aged 5–14 in central and southern Somalia work to help feed their families

Our response

- **12,000** orphaned children's families supported across all of Somalia
- **600** more children enrolled in our orphans programme in 2022
- **300** more orphans started school
- **30** hardship grants and loans to orphans' families
- **14** families assisted with repairs to damaged homes

Our orphans work expanded, enrolling 600 more children



Enrolling children in our orphans programme ensures regular funding to meet each family's basic needs and send orphaned children to school. Zamzam orphans also benefit from fun activities we organise and gifts of new clothes at Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha

Our orphans programme was established in the 1990s to meet the pressing needs of some of the most vulnerable Somali children we came into contact with – children whose parents had lost their lives through conflict. By 2022 our programme had grown to support 12,000 orphaned children affected by conflict and extreme poverty across the country.

Orphans are mentioned 23 times in the Qur'an, which emphasises the responsibility of all believers to care for orphans in need. Our sponsorship of orphans and their families reflects both this sense of religious responsibility and the hard reality that children who have lost one or both of their parents are more likely to be living in poverty and deprivation, and less likely to get the education they need to break the poverty cycle.

Financial assistance is the main support we give. Our generous donors enable us to provide regular cash sponsorship to whoever is caring for an orphaned child alone, whether that be a sole surviving parent, another family member, or a non-family guardian from the wider community.

One third of Somali households are home to fostered or orphaned children

The money can be used to meet whichever of each family's needs are most pressing, ensuring our beneficiaries have an element of choice that respects their dignity and gives them flexibility. We place particular emphasis, however, on the importance of enabling children who would otherwise miss out to go to school. We actively encourage those caring for orphans to spend where needed on educational costs (such as school fees, books and uniforms), or to use our support to meet the kind of day-to-day cost-of-living expenses that too often pressurise families to keep children out of school so that they can earn money to contribute to the family budget.

This kind of support is desperately needed by so many families in Somalia. In a country where conflict, drought and displacement have torn families apart, the Somali Health and Demographic Survey of 2020 found that a staggering 32 per cent of households were home to a foster child and/or orphaned children, with one or more orphan in 19 per cent of families. Our programme may be a small drop of comfort in this ocean of need, but we extended our support to 600 more orphans in 2022, and enabled 300 more orphaned children to be enrolled in school.

In addition to sponsorship funding for individual families, orphans who live near our health facilities and the schools we run can access free healthcare and education. In Ramadan many of our orphans enjoy hot food cooked by our teams for iftars – the evening meals where families and communities break their daily fast. At Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha we provide new clothes and toys as Eid gifts for many orphaned children.



Orphan sponsorship is a lifeline for poor communities. It is also an investment in Somalia's future because it means families with one breadwinner can afford to send their children to school – including girls, who are otherwise most likely to miss out on education



SUCCESS STORY

Seven lives transformed via orphan sponsorship and microfinance

Shamso Abdullahi Haaji (above, centre) is a widow at the age of just 39, bringing up six orphaned children on her own in the Jumhuriya neighbourhood of Mogadishu. Orphan sponsorship is making a real difference for her family and thousands of others – 12,000 children are enrolled in our programme.

"My children were studying in one of the Zamzam schools when their father passed away," Shamso says. "I was told to bring pictures of my children so they could be registered in the orphan sponsorship programme."

Every three months, Shamso receives funds from us through orphan sponsorship to spend as she sees fit to meet her family's needs and help ensure her children can continue their education. We also helped her to establish a small shop where she sells a variety of utensils to earn an independent income.

We find that microfinance support can be just the boost that enterprising women like Shamso need to create new opportunities for themselves and their families.

PEACEBUILDING AND GOVERNANCE

Somalia's needs

- **6,500+** deaths through conflict in 2022 – the highest level for 5 years
- **500,000+** lives lost in the past 30 years
- **102,000** Somalis were driven from their homes by conflict in September 2002 alone

Our response

- New district councils established in conflict-affected areas of Galgaduud
- Conflict resolution and peace action planning in three regions
- Peacebuilding outreach by Zamzam teams involving hundreds of religious, business and other community leaders



Young people from different clan backgrounds came together to ease tensions and resolve their differences through a reconciliation process we organised in the region of Galgaduud, in partnership with the Life and Peace Institute

The well-being of Somalia's poorest families depends on many inter-related factors, which is why Zamzam is implementing such a wide range of programmes under its unifying strategic plan. Good education may be the key to unlock future prosperity, for example, but it is out of reach for the poor without sustainable livelihoods. Better child health improves educational attainment, but is hard to achieve without clean water and adequate sanitation. Progress on all fronts can be stopped in its tracks or reversed unless there is serious investment in peacebuilding to resolve the underlying conflicts that have plagued Somalia for decades.

Zamzam has an established community peacebuilding and conflict resolution programme that we are implementing in partnership with a specialist Swedish-based international organisation, the Life and Peace Institute (LPI), and other agencies. Our peacebuilding work in 2022 focused on three regions bordering each other to the north of Mogadishu that have all been severely affected by conflict.

The people of Middle Shabelle, Hiran and Galgaduud have had more than their share of violence, disruption and displacement as their communities have become battlegrounds in both national-level hostilities and localised conflicts. Our approach is to bring divided communities together in dialogue to try to overcome the issues that divide them by collaboratively addressing the challenges they have in common – including poverty, poor public services, and an increasingly extreme, destructive climate.

Our approach to peacebuilding improves trust and creates cohesion between communities

Somalia has experienced significant conflict and instability since the fall of the military regime in 1991, and the number of Somalis killed in conflict reached a five-year high of over 6,500 in 2022.

Clan-based clashes can be commonplace, fuelled by tension and disputes over scarce resources. The biggest single cause of clan-based violence is a severe lack of water and pasture as climate change bites, bringing groups into conflict with each other as they move around the region in search of better conditions.

Zamzam's approach is to promote and strengthen integration and dialogue between communities to create cohesion, build trust and defuse tensions. While the problems faced may be many and complex, community peacebuilding that is fully integrated with social development, and fully involves women and youth and other marginalised people, can be a strong basis upon which to build a new kind of social and political infrastructure. Our staff were involved in very wide peacebuilding outreach in 2022, engaging with over 2,200 religious, business, and other community leaders to build this area of our work.

Our main area of focus is jointly delivered inter-clan and intra-clan resource management projects, and we dovetail our peace-building work with our emergency response when needed. In April and May 2022, for example, we teamed up with LPI and Sida to provide clean water and cash transfers to 2,000 impoverished and marginalised families in remote villages of Balanballe, Herale, Guriel, Bergadid, and Mataban – the very areas of Galgaduud where our peacebuilding programme was being implemented.



Community consultation, listening and learning are vital for successful peacebuilding, helping to keep a lid on tensions and prevent localised conflicts from escalating



SUCCESS STORY

Giving thousands of people a say

In our experience the key to bridging the gap between non-state actors, local controlling authorities and local communities is a combination of smart project design, the LPI's tried-and-tested conflict transformation methods, targeted use of local expertise, and actively involving youth and women (pictured).

Our unique peacebuilding projects utilise post-conflict social transformation techniques while at the same time enhancing community development initiatives, and promoting non-violent approaches through community education.

Our theory of change is rooted strongly in working with local authorities to boost their legitimacy and impact among the communities they serve, creating a platform that increases the chance of resolving conflicts.

In 2022, for example, we facilitated the establishment of new district councils serving communities in conflict-affected areas of Galgaduud. These aim to ensure that community development and conflict resolution are firmly rooted in close consultation with the community at large.

SEASONAL PROGRAMMES

Somalia's needs

- **6 million** Somalis suffered acute food insecurity in Ramadan 2022 and the two months following
- **1.4 million** children were acutely malnourished
- **81,000** people faced what the UN called 'catastrophic hunger'

Our response

- **769,680** people received qurbani meat to celebrate Eid Al-Adha
- **57,141** Ramadan food baskets distributed
- **85,472** provided with hot meals during Ramadan
- **15,030** food packs and 9,764 cash grants allocated at Eid Al-Fitr through zakat donations

6 million
people
faced
severe
food
insecurity



Our teams cooked and served 85,472 hot meals in Ramadan 2022, supplemented here with fresh bananas

The holy month of Ramadan and the festivals of Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha are times of deep meaning and celebration for Muslims across the world, but they can be very challenging times for the poorest families in Somalia.

A month of fasting is particularly demanding in the suffocating heat of an arid environment, even more so in periods of drought when people are weakened by malnutrition and may not have enough food to break their fast each evening. Many families cannot afford meat to commemorate the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim at Eid Al-Adha, or to follow the tradition of giving gifts to children at Eid.

As Ramadan began in April 2022, the UN's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported that 4.8 million Somalis were experiencing severe food insecurity, and this rose to 6 million by the time of Eid Al-Adha in July. The FSNAU said 1.4 million children under five were acutely malnourished in April. It warned that 81,000 people were facing 'catastrophic hunger', meaning parts of the country were on the brink of famine.

Food and cash assistance provided to over 160,000 people in Ramadan

In these conditions of severe drought and hunger, our Ramadan food distributions and cash assistance supported over 160,000 people, providing a real lifeline for some of the poorest families. We served 85,472 hot meals to provide nutritious iftars for the most vulnerable to break their fasts – including pregnant and nursing mothers, children, and the elderly. We also distributed 57,141 Ramadan food baskets and longer-lasting food packages, providing enough supplies to enable hungry families to prepare their own meals for the whole of Ramadan, including flour, cooking oil, cereal grains, milk powder and sugar. At Eid Al-Fitr we distributed 15,030 food packs and allocated 9,764 cash grants to those in need, thanks to zakat donations.

We provided new clothes and toys to thousands of children to mark both Eid festivals, prioritising vulnerable children enrolled in our orphans programme. In our biggest seasonal programme of all, 769,680 people received qurbani meat, enabling them to celebrate Eid Al-Adha with a real family feast of the kind that few could otherwise afford. Sales of sheep, goats and other livestock for qurbani meat also bring a much-needed boost to the incomes of livestock farmers.



Our qurbani distributions – like this one in Mogadishu – enabled 769,680 hungry people to enjoy fresh meat as they celebrated Eid Al-Adha in July, while also giving the incomes of livestock producers a much-needed boost



SUCCESS STORY

A place to call home

“I want my family to thrive and have a brighter future,” says 42-year-old Abdullahi Shekh Ahmed, who lives with his wife Farhia and four children in the Wargaduud camp for displaced people near Baidoa. “I want to find stable employment, ensure a better education for my children, and rebuild our lives. I used to live in the village of Rabdhure in the south, but we had to leave because the drought destroyed our farming livelihood.”

Hunger and malnutrition are a daily reality for families like Abdullahi’s because of the drought. Our main seasonal distributions provide many with a double boost – a month’s supply of nutritious food to cook and eat when they break their fasts and qurbani meat they could not otherwise afford at Eid Al-Adha. Their family is also one of five in the camp that we built new homes for in 2022.

Abdullahi’s family currently has no choice but to rely on humanitarian aid from Zamzam and other organisations to meet almost all their basic needs, although Abdullahi occasionally finds work as a labourer within the camp. But he now has a sturdy roof over his head, and renewed hope for the future.

OUR PARTNERS

Our work would simply not be possible without your support. Thank you

Zamzam Foundation is privileged to have had formidable partners and supporters almost since we were established in 1992, working with us to fulfil our vital mission. Our partners include the Federal Government of Somalia and local authorities within the country, leading UN agencies, major international institutional donors, and a wide range of non-government organisations – local, regional, national and global.

We sincerely thank all our partners, funders, and supporters for the enormous contribution they have made in assisting us to address the impact of poverty in Somalia and work for positive and sustainable change in the lives of the country's most vulnerable people. We look forward to continuing to work with you for the achievement of enduring peace and prosperity. Our work would simply not be possible without your support. Thank you.



The Islamic Development Bank is a major supporter of our school building programme



Kuwait-based AISafa Humanity supports our health programme



Weltweiter Einsatz für Arme supports our seasonal distributions such as Eid gifts for children

“Working with Zamzam Foundation has been a very positive experience, as they’ve proved themselves to be reliable partners who are accountable for the resources allocated to them and dedicated to high-quality humanitarian delivery. Together we ran healthcare facilities and rolled out health-and-hygiene promotion activities, in coordination with local authorities, community leaders and UN agencies.”

Richard Magondu
Country Director, Medair, Somalia



- Al-Imdaad Foundation
- Alnajat Charity
- AlSafa Humanity
- Arab Medical Union
- Danish Refugee Council
- European Commission
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Human Appeal
- Human Appeal International (Australia)
- Human Concern International
- Humanitarian Excellence Association
- Humanitarian Forum
- Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH)
- International Association for Development and Relief (ONSUR)
- International Islamic Charity Organisation
- International Labour Organisation
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Kaaf Humanitarian
- Life and Peace Institute
- Medair
- Muslim Aid Australia
- Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Qatar Charity
- Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society
- Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- Somalia Humanitarian Fund
- Somalia Stability Fund
- Spark
- Tanmeia
- TIKKA
- Union of NGOs of the Islamic World
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- UN World Food Programme (WFP)
- Weltweiter Einsatz Für Arme (WEFA)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Vision
- Zakat House of Kuwait



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