

ZAMZAM FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2024



مؤسسة زمزم
ZAMZAM
FOUNDATION



FOREWORD



Fartun is among the farmers enjoying better yields and higher incomes thanks to our innovative OASIS project – see page 38

CONTENTS

- Somalia snapshot 4
- Our new strategy 6
- Our reach 10
- Our impact 12
- Our finances 14
- Empowering women 16
- Emergency response 18
- Health and nutrition 20
- Livelihoods and resilience 22
- Water, sanitation and hygiene 24
- Education 26
- Orphans and social care 28
- Peacebuilding and governance 30
- Seasonal programmes 32
- International outreach 34
- Our partners 36
- Partnership in action 38

Building resilience against climate change is a key component of our new Strategic Plan – see pages 6–9



From emergency response to peacebuilding, our programmes supported a record 2.63 million Somalis in 2024

This annual report captures a year of significant growth and achievement for Zamzam Foundation in our mission to support Somalia's most vulnerable people and lift families out of poverty.

Our programmes touched the lives of a record 2.63 million Somalis, 13 per cent more than in 2023. We built eight new schools, opened two new health clinics and drilled 23 new boreholes, providing clean water to over 970,000 people.

The transformative work we do is needed more than ever in a country where 10.5 million people are living in poverty, 3.8 million have been driven from their homes by conflict and climate change, and 6 million rely on humanitarian aid to survive.

We are enormously thankful to our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication, and to the many partner organisations – local, national and international – that we are privileged to work with. We continue to draw inspiration from the resilience and resourcefulness of the communities we serve.

Four pages of this report are dedicated to the new Strategic Plan we have developed for 2025–2030 – our \$120 million blueprint for addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing our country. Empowering women and girls and building climate resilience are among the nine 'strategic pillars' we set out, reflecting how important these issues have become in everything we do.

We also share exciting news of Zamzam's development globally. Our voice is increasingly heard in advocacy on the international stage, and there are now three independent entities in other countries bearing the Zamzam name.

Zamzam Kenya is doing important work supporting communities in some of the country's poorest and driest areas, while Zamzam Türkiye raised a record \$3 million for our programmes in Somalia from Turkish donors in 2024. November saw the launch of Zamzam Foundation UK through a partnership with an established UK registered charity, with a view to raising awareness and funds in the United Kingdom.

Despite these successes, we are entering another challenging period in 2025. Drought is tightening its grip again, causing UN agencies to warn of increased numbers of people facing malnutrition and needing humanitarian aid. The increased needs we are seeing coincide with deep cuts in the aid budgets of key western government donors, as well as reductions in support from some Middle Eastern institutional funders.

At Zamzam we are working hard to find new support for all our programmes. While we are thankful for the sizeable expansion we have achieved in our seasonal food distributions, we are conscious that it is in livelihoods, health, education and peacebuilding where growth has the potential to make the deepest impact on people's lives.

We hope to be able to forge more partnerships that realise the localisation vision of the 2016 Grand Bargain agreement – channelling more funding through local organisations and empowering organisations like Zamzam to play an even bigger role in our own countries' development.

Shuaib Abdullatif
Chair

Omar Jama
Executive Director



SOMALIA SNAPSHOT

Somalia's humanitarian crisis is among the world's most complex, driven by cycles of internal conflict and climate shocks

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Zamzam Foundation and other aid organisations working in Somalia are struggling to overcome four significant obstacles that are impeding the country's development: extreme poverty, increasing climate extremes, protracted conflict and limited public services.

There is hope, however, in the extraordinary resilience of Somalia's people and the richness of our country's resources.

"Somalia's abundant natural resources, strategic location, and dynamic telecommunications sector present significant opportunities," says the UN's World Food Programme. "With increasing political stability, investments in agriculture, fisheries, and renewable energy have the potential to drive economic recovery and long-term resilience."

THE PRICE OF POVERTY

Somalia is one of the world's poorest countries, according to Global Data Analysis. More than half the population (54 per cent) live below the poverty line, with very limited income and assets.

Six million Somalis rely on humanitarian aid to survive, yet in 2024 only 56 per cent of the \$1.59 billion Somali Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) was funded by governments. Zamzam's emergency response programme provides a lifeline to tens of thousands of people in displacement camps.

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION

▶ **19.3 million**

ECONOMY

- ▶ **\$12.1 billion GDP** (\$627 per capita)
- ▶ **10.5 million people** (54%) live below the poverty line
- ▶ **6 million people** (31%) need humanitarian aid to survive

HEALTH

- ▶ **8 million people** (41%) lack access to safe water
- ▶ **1.6 million children** are acutely malnourished
- ▶ **59 years** life expectancy, 14 years below the global average

ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ **Ranked 7th** of 187 countries for climate vulnerability

DISPLACEMENT

- ▶ **3.8 million people** (20%) are displaced by poverty, climate change and conflict

EDUCATION

- ▶ **3.6 million children** are out of school
- ▶ **Nearly half of adults** (46%) are illiterate

THE COST OF CONFLICT

Around 4.5 million people are currently affected by conflict in Somalia, which is estimated to have claimed the lives of over 500,000 people in the past 35 years. The human cost is measured not only in lives lost but also in livelihoods disrupted or destroyed as people are forced to leave their homes and land.

Conflict was the main driver of internal displacement in Somalia in 2024, accounting for 53 per cent of the 477,000 displacements recorded between January and November. Zamzam Foundation provides food, water and cash assistance to families displaced by conflict, and helps communities to peacefully resolve localised clan conflicts.

A DEEPENING CLIMATE CRISIS

Somalia is ranked 7th among the most climate-vulnerable nations on earth by ND-GAIN, which bases its rankings on the vulnerability of six life-supporting sectors in every country – food, water, health, ecosystem services, human habitat and infrastructure.

All Zamzam Foundation's programmes take account of climate change and the need to help communities adapt to it:

- ▶ Our emergency response programme saves lives when families lose everything to drought or floods
- ▶ Our livelihoods programme enables those affected to rebuild their lives and helps farmers to adopt climate-smart ideas
- ▶ Our peacebuilding work focuses on resolving conflicts over scarce resources such as water and pasture
- ▶ Our water programme includes drilling boreholes powered with renewable energy to deliver extensive new water resources
- ▶ Our health teams prioritise treating deadly water-borne diseases and vaccinating vulnerable children.

WATER AND SANITATION

In a context where waterborne diseases frequently kill the most vulnerable, eight million Somalis do not have access to safe water – 41 per cent of the population. Two-thirds of the population, 13 million people, do not have access to safely managed sanitation. When women are forced to give birth in poor and unsanitary conditions in overcrowded displacement camps, the lives of mothers and babies are put at risk.

Drilling more boreholes, digging more wells and improving maternal health services are critical to protect the health of the most vulnerable, along with community education to encourage good hygiene practices. Zamzam Foundation is in the forefront of providing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes and maternal health care across Somalia.

PUBLIC SERVICES AT FULL STRETCH

Over 3.6 million Somali children are out of school, and nearly half of adults are illiterate (46 per cent). Poor families who want their children to be educated often struggle with the limited availability of schools; the cost of school fees, books and uniforms; conflict and safety concerns; social norms that favour boys' education over girls'; and a shortage of teachers.

Life expectancy in Somalia is just 59 years, 14 years below the global average. One in eight Somali children dies before reaching the age of five, 1.6 million children are acutely malnourished, and respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases are major killers.

Zamzam Foundation built eight new schools and opened two new health clinics in 2024, helping to improve access to public services for the most vulnerable families.

OUR NEW STRATEGY



Since being set up in 1992 to support the people of Somalia through an unprecedented humanitarian crisis following the collapse of the central government, Zamzam Foundation has grown into the country's biggest national aid and development organisation.

In 2024 we developed a new Strategic Plan for the next six years, covering the period from 2025 to 2030. It sets out what we see as the most pressing challenges facing vulnerable Somali communities, and how we will go about tackling those challenges. It also reaffirms our unwavering commitment to driving sustainable development and improving lives.

VISION

A day where poverty is eradicated in the Horn of Africa, and every person's dignity is upheld.

MISSION

We are committed to providing impactful humanitarian aid and development programming aimed at alleviating suffering and poverty, as well as fighting ignorance and disease, through implementing sustainable and climate-friendly community-driven initiatives that uphold human rights and dignity.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Our Strategic Plan features nine strategic pillars – the key focus areas that will define our work and the impact we want to achieve. These key focus areas are underpinned by 35 strategic objectives, as well as 165 key performance indicators (KPIs) to help us monitor and measure our progress.

The most significant shift from our previous plan is the addition of two new focus areas. One is protection and women's empowerment, the other climate change and the environment. Both represent issues that have evolved into significant influences and priorities across all our programmes in recent years, and it is time to further acknowledge their central importance and give them strategic objectives and KPIs of their own.

We hope this is a plan that our partners and the communities we serve will be inspired by and will want to support, as partnership and community participation will be critical to our success.

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.

► NON-PARTISAN

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.

► TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

► ADVOCACY

We seek to ensure that the most vulnerable people can 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.

► COMMUNITY

Our approach is community centred and community driven, putting those we serve at the heart of everything we do.

We aim to deliver our vision through **nine** strategic focus areas



1 Education and social welfare

► **VISION:** High-quality education for all, with a focus on marginalised groups including girls, displaced children, nomadic and other hard-to-reach communities, and people with disabilities.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Building and rehabilitating schools; training and professional development for teachers; scholarships and financial support for students; vocational training for young people; inclusive education for children with disabilities.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Increased education access and literacy, improved teacher capacity, greater youth employment opportunities.



2 Health and nutrition

► **VISION:** Improved community well-being through stronger primary healthcare, maternal health services and child nutrition programmes.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Establishing community health centres in underserved areas; providing comprehensive prenatal and post-natal care; widespread immunisation campaigns; nutrition programmes featuring education and micro-nutrient distribution alongside supplementary feeding; training for health workers and community volunteers.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Reduced child mortality, improved maternal health, increased immunisation coverage.



3 Water, sanitation and hygiene

► **VISION:** Creating healthy living conditions and preventing water-borne diseases through access to safe water and better sanitation.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Drilling and maintaining solar-powered boreholes; constructing latrines and other sanitation facilities in schools and health centres; community awareness campaigns on hand-washing and hygiene; training local communities on water resource management; distributing hygiene kits and dignity kits to vulnerable people.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Increased access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities and better hygiene practices.

Our success will be measured by the impact we have on the communities we serve, and this strategy is our roadmap

Shuaib Abdullatif, Zamzam Foundation Chair



4 Food security, economic recovery and development

► **VISION:** Empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty through skills training, financial inclusion initiatives and support for entrepreneurs.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Microfinance and small grants for small family businesses; vocational and technical training in skilled trades; support for women's co-operatives and income-generating activities; facilitating connections between local producers and markets; promoting innovative farming techniques to improve food security and climate resilience.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Increased household incomes, job creation, women's economic empowerment.



5 Governance and peacebuilding

► **VISION:** Peaceful coexistence, effective governance and better social cohesion through community-led peacebuilding initiatives and inclusive decision making.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Training local leaders and mediators in conflict resolution; establishing local peace committees; encouragement of active participation in local governance through civic education; empowering young people and women to take on leadership roles; educating communities on human rights, social justice and democratic values.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Reduced conflict, strengthened local governance, improved social cohesion.



6 Climate change and environment

► **VISION:** Mitigation of environmental degradation and stronger disaster preparedness through promotion of sustainable and climate-resilient practices.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Afforestation, reforestation and land restoration; support for renewable energy projects; training for farmers on climate-resilient agricultural techniques; risk reduction programmes to equip communities to prepare for natural disasters; local, national and international advocacy to influence environmental legislation and promote climate action.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Increased climate resilience, greater use of renewables, reduced deforestation.



7 Protection and women's empowerment

► **VISION:** Enhanced protection and empowerment for vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Providing safe spaces, psychosocial support and legal assistance for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); community awareness campaigns on women's rights and gender equality; microfinance loans, training and mentoring for women setting up small businesses; training for law enforcement and community leaders on gender-sensitive approaches; development of community-based child protection mechanisms.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Reduced incidence of GBV, greater inclusion of women in leadership, enhanced child protection.



8 Emergency response and seasonal

► **VISION:** Improved emergency assistance, food security and seasonal support for communities affected by natural disasters and conflict.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Effective use of rapid response teams to distribute aid; establishing emergency response frameworks to improve humanitarian response; enhancing cash assistance programmes to help economic recovery; supporting vulnerable communities with seasonal food distributions; building local capacity for disaster preparedness.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Improved food security, faster emergency response, reduced disaster impact.



9 Strengthening organisational effectiveness

► **VISION:** Improved institutional capacity, accountability, operational efficiency and programmatic impact through strengthening of Zamzam's internal systems.

► **KEY ACTIVITIES:** Enhancing governance structures and financial transparency to improve accountability; ongoing staff training and development; strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) systems to support data-driven improvements; improving programme effectiveness by leveraging technology; fostering innovation through partnerships.

► **KEY OUTCOMES:** Greater accountability, improved staff performance, better data-driven decision making.

OUR REACH

We provide vital food, healthcare, clean water and livelihoods support for the poorest families



Maternity services, combating TB and treating malnourished children are central to the work of our 28 health clinics



New and rehabilitated Zamzam boreholes and wells provided clean water for 163,100 families – over 970,000 people



Hygiene kits for displaced families are part of emergency response efforts that benefited over 82,000 people in 2024



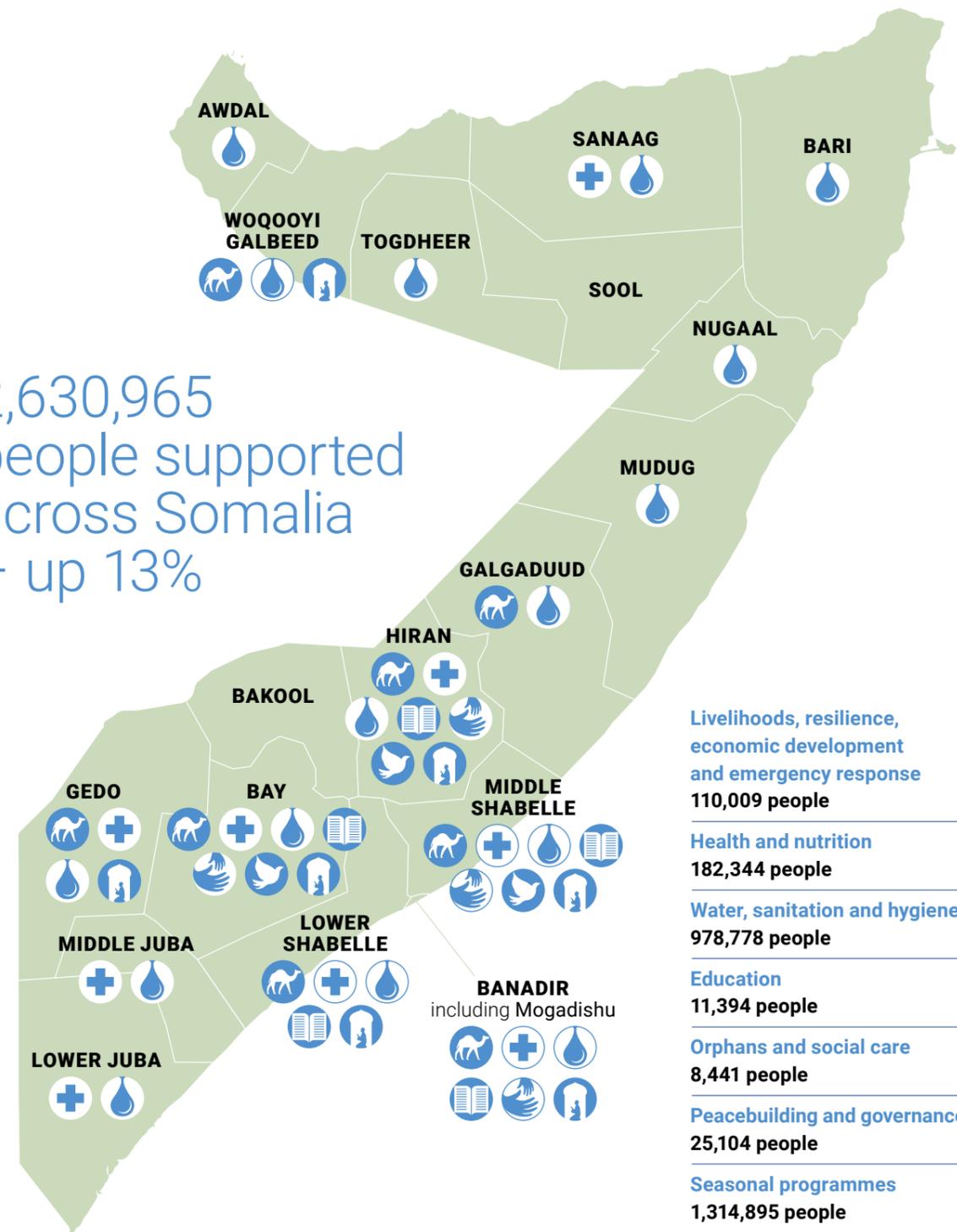
Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. We provide farmers with seeds, tools, irrigation pumps, livestock and training in best practices



We built eight new schools and assisted the families of over 8,400 orphaned children, who too often miss out on education

Our education and peacebuilding programmes give families and communities hope of a future free from poverty and conflict

2,630,965 people supported across Somalia – up 13%



OUR IMPACT

Over 2.6 million people helped by Zamzam in 2024

182,000 people received healthcare through 28 clinics



82,000 people received life-saving emergency aid

970,000 people provided with clean water



More than 8,400 orphaned children's families helped

Over 1.3 million people fed through our seasonal distributions



8 new schools built



27,000 farmers and small businesses supported



OUR FINANCES

Zamzam Foundation's generous supporters and funders gave us \$17.6 million in 2024 towards our vital aid and development programmes and operating costs.

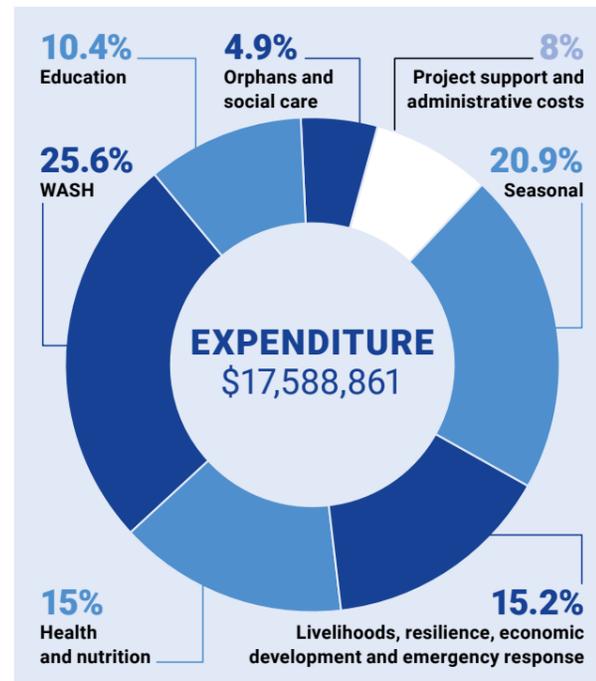
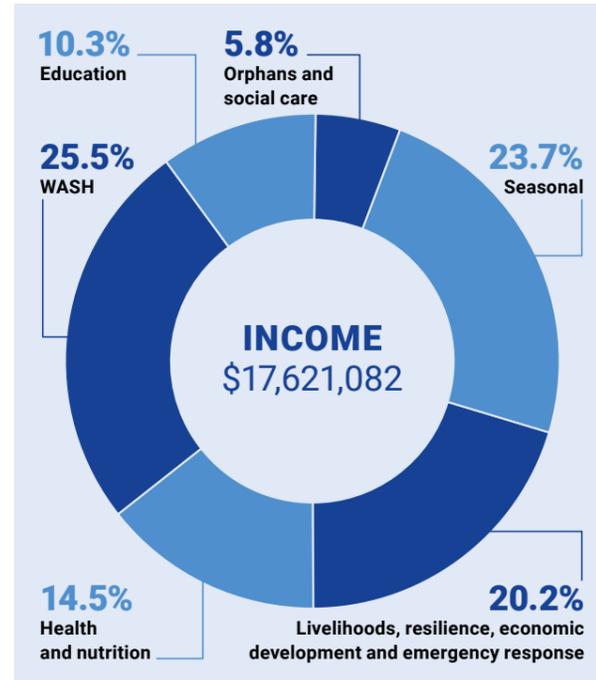
Nearly half of donations were either for water and sanitation projects (25.5%) or for our seasonal programmes delivering Ramadan food packs, qurbani meat and Eid gifts (23.7%). The other half were mainly for livelihoods, resilience, economic development and emergency response programmes (20.2%), health and nutrition (14.5%), and education (10.3%).

We spent \$16.1 million directly supporting people in need through our seven key programme areas – 92% of total spending. The other 8% was spent on direct project support and administrative costs to keep all our programmes running in an integrated, efficient and effective way, to the benefit of the communities we serve.

We received no external funding for governance and peacebuilding programmes in 2024, and we had no direct programme expenditure in this area as a result. We relied on our project support and livelihoods budgets to maintain the peacebuilding department as it supported existing peace committees and carried out peacebuilding activities under the OASIS livelihoods programme.

TOP 10 FUNDERS BY % OF OUR INCOME

- ▶ King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre 14.4%
- ▶ Alnajat Charity 8.8%
- ▶ International Rescue Committee 7.2%
- ▶ World Vision 7%
- ▶ Islamic Development Bank 5.2%
- ▶ Human Appeal Australia 3.5%
- ▶ Human Concern International 3.4%
- ▶ Medair 3.3%
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Alnouri Charity Society 2.9%
- ▶ Human Appeal UK 2.7%



We spent over \$16.1 million on directly supporting people across Somalia

\$4.5 million on clean water and sanitation for 970,000 people



\$2.7 million on education and orphan support for 19,000 children



\$3.6 million on Ramadan and qurbani food and Eid gifts for 1.3 million people

\$2.6 million on health care and nutrition for 180,000 people



\$2.7 million on life-saving emergency aid and livelihoods for 110,000 people

EMPOWERING WOMEN

A SAFE SPACE TO RECOVER FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Umal (not her real name) is a vulnerable young mother who got support from Zamzam following a horrific sexual assault.

Umal sought help at our Hajji Bube health facility, a critical support centre for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in the Buloburde district of Hiran region. First, a trained GBV specialist nurse assessed Umal's condition and provided initial counselling to ease her trauma. Then a doctor treated her physical injuries at one of our maternal and child health centres.

More counselling sessions followed to help her process what she had been through and get her confidence back. We also provided her with a dignity kit containing essential hygiene items such as soap, sanitary pads and new underwear.

"I was struggling before visiting the health centre," Umal tells us. "I felt unwell and isolated from the community. Now I feel better, and I feel reintegrated."

Women's empowerment is a key focus area of our new Strategic Plan for 2025–2030.

In 2024 we significantly advanced the empowerment of women and girls by embedding women-centred strategies across all our programming in education, health, protection, water and sanitation, livelihoods, emergency response and peacebuilding.

The results can be seen in the practical action we took to support, train, protect and elevate women and girls:

- ▶ We imparted transformative knowledge and skills through equal access to high-quality education and training. Girls accounted for half of the 3,749 places taken up in Zamzam schools, and we enabled 64 orphaned girls to go to school for the first time. We trained 205 women in tailoring, cooking, food production, business management and financial literacy.
- ▶ We equipped small businesses run by women, strengthening livelihoods. Households headed by women were prominent among the 132 recipients of grants to support family income-generating enterprises.
- ▶ Our maternal, antenatal and postnatal care services benefited 32,624 pregnant and lactating women – a lifeline in rural and conflict-affected areas with minimal health provision. More than 900 women received dignity kits from our health teams and participated in practical education sessions focused on menstrual hygiene and reproductive health.
- ▶ Hundreds of women affected by gender-based violence (GBV) benefited from our provision of medical care, counselling, advice and support.
- ▶ We ensured that women were fully involved in community WASH committees and in training to manage community water resources. We installed clean water access points near shelters where female-headed households were concentrated, and we conducted public awareness campaigns to empower women as hygiene educators.
- ▶ We integrated women into community peacebuilding to prevent clan-based conflict, recognising the important role that women play in social cohesion and economic recovery. We facilitated community awareness sessions led by women to mediate disputes at household and community level, working to prevent GBV and promote non-violent conflict resolution.
- ▶ Many thousands of women received Ramadan food packs or qurbani meat from Zamzam, reducing hunger and malnutrition and enabling poor families headed by women to celebrate Eid with dignity.

Ensuring the protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, is central to our mission

Zamzam Foundation Strategic Plan, 2025–2030



Tailors (pictured), shopkeepers and dairy farmers are among the women supported by Zamzam to establish or expand small businesses

SUCCESS STORY

THE LOANS HELPING A YOUNG FARMER ACHIEVE HER DREAMS

Managing her finances more effectively has been a gamechanger for Iqro Abullahi Warsame, a 29-year-old mother of three who lives in a poor village in the Beledweyne district of Hiran region.

Like most of her fellow villagers, Iqro used to be part of a traditional ayuuto savings group. Although the group provided some support to its members, it lacked the organisation and training she really needed to get access to loans and achieve her dreams.

Iqro's fortunes changed when she joined one of the new village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) that we established under our Operationalising Agricultural Sustainability in Somalia (OASIS) project, in partnership with International Rescue Committee.

Each VSLA meets four times a month to pool resources and provide farming families with stronger mutual support through loans.

Unlike before, when finding a loan felt like an impossible challenge, Iqro now enjoys the confidence of knowing help is only a meeting away. "Whenever I need a loan, I gather the members, and I can easily access one," she says.

With the loans she has received, Iqro has progressively invested in her farming activities, paying for essential costs such as fuel, fertiliser and labour. Her success has given her real hope for the future. She plans to create her own business – something that previously seemed out of reach.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **6 million** people (31%) reliant on humanitarian aid
- ▶ **3.8 million** (20%) displaced by poverty, climate change and conflict
- ▶ **1.6 million** children acutely malnourished

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **58,746** displaced people received hot meals or food packs lasting a month
- ▶ **21,000** benefited from cash assistance to spend where most needed
- ▶ **1,107** displaced families given shelter materials

Emergency response has been at the heart of Zamzam's work since we were established in 1992. In 2024 we provided vital food aid, shelter kits, cash assistance and other support to 82,734 people affected by drought, floods and conflict across Somalia.

Many of the families forced to flee their homes by conflict or climate shocks live in overcrowded camps clustered around bigger towns and cities – particularly Baidoa and Mogadishu. It is in these camps that the efforts of Zamzam's emergency response teams are mainly focused.

Those to whom we provide food aid and cash assistance also benefit from the support of our health teams and the emergency water supplies we truck to people who have no safe water supply. Our various programme teams work together in an integrated way, using needs assessments to identify and prioritise the most vulnerable who need most support.

The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs describes Somalia's humanitarian crisis as "among the world's most complex, driven by cycles of internal conflict and climate shocks that drive displacement and undermine development efforts". It adds that "the cumulative effect of both violence and climate shocks continues to drive displacement, destroying livelihoods, and leaving millions of people in urgent need of assistance".



Each of our food packs provides enough supplies – including flour, cooking oil, cereal grains, milk powder and sugar – for a family to feed themselves for a month

Food insecurity and water scarcity remain critical for displaced populations and rural communities

UN World Food Programme



SUCCESS STORY

EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR A NASTY BURN AS PART OF OUR MULTI-SECTOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Five-year-old Abdinisir received effective treatment for a nasty burn on his left leg, thanks to free treatment at Hajji Bube health facility in the Buloburde district of Hiran region.

The clinic that took care of him is supported by Zamzam Foundation under our multi-sector emergency response project, backed by International Rescue Committee.

His wound was treated on the spot when his mother Fatima brought him to the clinic, and our team provided dressings and medication to support his healing.

"My son was struggling," explains Fatima, a mother of five. "But after receiving treatment and wound care, he significantly improved. Before this health facility was established, I had to go to the nearest pharmacy in the market and either pay or incur debt to afford medication for myself and my children."



Our emergency response team worked with Oxfam in late 2023 and early 2024 to provide cash assistance to flood-affected communities.

In 2024 conflict was the main driver of internal displacement, accounting for 53 per cent of the 477,000 displacements recorded between January and November. Our emergency response supported families driven from their homes by conflict.

We also supported people affected by floods and drought, which increasingly alternate in Somalia in a cycle of climate extremes that can be devastating for livelihoods and food security.

In April and May we responded to flooding caused by heavy Gu seasonal rains, which displaced 81,000 people across 13 districts. Later in the year our teams increasingly supported people affected by lack of rain, with farmers struggling again as areas of southern and central Somalia received only 30 to 45 per cent of average seasonal rainfall in October and November.

Partnership is pivotal in delivering an effective humanitarian response. 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.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **430,000** children suffer from severe acute malnutrition
- ▶ **1 in 20** women aged 15–49 die in childbirth or from pregnancy-related causes each year
- ▶ **Respiratory disease**, including tuberculosis (TB), is Somalia's single biggest killer

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **99,616** people diagnosed and treated through our 28 clinics
- ▶ **2 new clinics** opened in hard-to-reach Jubaland
- ▶ **32,624** women received maternal health care
- ▶ **3,632** babies delivered in our facilities
- ▶ **35,888** women and children screened for acute malnutrition
- ▶ **20,645** people screened for tuberculosis, and 3,181 treated
- ▶ **11,035** mothers and children vaccinated against deadly diseases
- ▶ **2,536** people received sight-saving cataract surgery



Zamzam's health clinics are beacons of hope and support for vulnerable families in remote areas starved of health services, and we opened two new clinics in 2024

Our health and nutrition programmes benefited over 182,000 people in 2024.

Our teams focus on three main areas of intervention: saving lives threatened by malnutrition and disease, providing essential health services for the most vulnerable, and delivering community education to protect people from harm.

Somalia ranks as one of the three countries worst affected by hunger, according to the Global Hunger Index. In response, we screened 35,888 pregnant or breastfeeding women and children for malnutrition. Those diagnosed with moderate or severe acute malnutrition were enrolled in treatment programmes and given life-saving medical treatment.

Across our 28 health facilities and mobile clinics, we delivered consultations and treatment for 99,616 people. We screened 20,645 people for tuberculosis (TB) – one of the respiratory diseases that are the single biggest killer in Somalia – and treated 3,181 who tested positive. Additionally, we performed cataract surgeries that restored sight for 2,536 patients.

Food prices in 2024 were above average in many areas, restricting household access to food

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit

Nine out of ten children in Somalia have not been vaccinated against all the major diseases of childhood. UNICEF says that one in 20 women aged 15–49 die every year from pregnancy- or birth-related complications.

To reduce the heart-breaking toll of preventable disease and death, we vaccinated 11,035 children and young mothers in 2024, and provided 32,624 women with specialist prenatal, post-natal and maternal health care. Our teams ensured that 3,632 of these women gave birth with the assistance of a midwife or other health professional at one of our health facilities.

We opened two new primary healthcare clinics in 2024, in Lower Juba and Gedo. "Both are in hard-to-reach areas that were previously lacking the health services people need as they struggle to survive in the face of conflict, drought, and diseases like cholera and malaria," says Amina Abdinoor Ahmed, our Head of Health and Nutrition.

Our health awareness sessions and mother-to-mother support groups benefited 18,600 women, with many receiving mosquito nets to protect against malaria.



Our staff treated over 3,100 people for tuberculosis in 2024, with outreach into displacement camps in addition to the work of our 16 specialist TB clinics

SUCCESS STORY

BRINGING CHILDREN BACK FROM THE BRINK

Little Anzer Abdulle appears well fed – a stark contrast from the thin and malnourished boy that his mother Lelo first brought for treatment to our Jamhuriya health facility in the Karan district of Mogadishu.

"I really appreciate the medical care and nutritional support my son has received," says 29-year-old Lelo. "He has improved a lot through the treatment given."

Life can be a struggle for young mothers like Lelo. Her husband is unemployed, and casual work is hard to come by. Their limited income means they cannot afford to buy the food they need, or to pay for medicines.

Lelo is determined to do what she can to provide for her family but admits they often rely on humanitarian aid to survive. The free treatment we provided for Anzer may just have saved his life.

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **10.5 million** people (54%) live below the poverty line
- ▶ **30%** of under-25s are unemployed
- ▶ **52%** of families cannot afford to eat a healthy diet

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **928** farmers provided with seeds, tools, irrigation pumps and help with land preparation
- ▶ **1,890** livestock farmers given fodder or replacement animals
- ▶ **21,000** people given multipurpose cash assistance
- ▶ **4,500** farmers trained to restore ecosystems and protect fragile water resources
- ▶ **2,598** people earned an income working on our community infrastructure projects
- ▶ **132** grants to help women, young people and poor families generate an income
- ▶ **157** women and young people given training in employable skills
- ▶ **50** permanent homes built for displaced families

Our livelihood grants enabled beekeepers (pictured), taxi drivers, shopkeepers and farmers to establish or expand small family businesses

Our livelihoods programme benefited 27,275 people in 2024, providing practical and financial support to farmers, traders and small businesses to enable them to earn an independent income.

The surest way to improve food security in Somalia is to strengthen farming. The economy revolves around agriculture, which according to OCHA accounts for up to 26 per cent of GDP, 90 per cent of informal employment and 90 per cent of exports.

In 2024 we provided over 900 farmers with seeds, tools, irrigation pumps and help to prepare land for cultivation. We trained 4,500 farmers in how to restore ecosystems and manage fragile water resources, ensuring a balance between the needs of agricultural production and protection of the wider environment.

Our support for livestock production included supplying fodder or replacement animals to 1,890 farmers to keep their nomadic herding enterprises afloat.

The average family size in Somalia is six people, which indicates that the combined impact of our support for farmers was to provide food security for over 43,000 people. The figure for those benefiting will ultimately be significantly higher than this because of the produce that our support for farmers enabled other families to buy from local markets.

By employing 2,598 people in cash-for-work programmes, we facilitated the construction of vital community infrastructure such as irrigation systems, schools, and health clinics. We also enabled the labourers we employed to earn an income that ultimately supported over 15,000 people.

The 132 grants and microfinance loans we provided empowered families to earn a sustainable income through a wide range of enterprises including dairy and poultry farming, beekeeping, tuc-tuc taxis, sewing and tailoring, and small shops and market stalls.



Livestock account for 80% of the value of Somalia's agriculture sector and 45% of the country's GDP

International Livestock Research Unit



SUCCESS STORY

BIGGER YIELDS AND A BETTER INCOME USING CLIMATE-SMART TECHNIQUES

Dealing with the effects of climate change can be a battle for farmers like Abdikadir Arboow. But his broad smile as he shows off his latest onion and maize crops tells us he is enjoying the fight.

"When I think about my childhood, things have definitely changed," says the 25-year-old farmer, who lives with his wife and five children in the Jowhar district of Middle Shabelle. "In the past we had more reliable seasons, and it was easier to predict when to plant and harvest."

Abdikadir and other smallholders are seeing the benefits of the climate-smart training and high-quality seeds Zamzam has provided through a project we implemented under the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia programme.

We are sharing ideas and techniques that farmers can adopt to adjust to the hotter and drier conditions they are seeing for much of the year, as well as times of heavy rainfall and flooding.

"In my first season with the new seeds from Zamzam, I grew maize and onions and spinach," Abdikadir says. "The training taught me how to grow these crops together on the same piece of land in a way that manages the land more efficiently and reduces the chance of diseases and pests."

"I've learned how to take care of my land better, and I believe I can keep improving. My yields have significantly increased. I now have enough food to feed my family throughout the season, and the extra income has made a huge difference in our lives."

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **8 million people** (41%) lack access to safe water
- ▶ **13 million** (67%) lack access to 'safely managed' sanitation
- ▶ **1.9 million** (10%) walk for more than 30 minutes a day to fetch water in the dry season.

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **978,778** people given access to clean water – over 163,000 families
- ▶ **23** new boreholes drilled and 14 existing ones rehabilitated
- ▶ **135** new community wells
- ▶ **10,204** people benefited from health-and-hygiene awareness training
- ▶ **134** community water committees set up or re-established



Drilling new boreholes and rehabilitating existing ones helps reduce the incidence of deadly waterborne diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea

Providing clean water to drink and a reliable supply of water for farming is a vital part of our work across Somalia.

In 2024 we gave nearly a million people access to clean water. We scaled up our plans for new boreholes and wells on the back of a 27 per cent increase in our income for water projects, from \$2.7 million in 2023 to nearly \$4.5 million in 2024.

The poor quality and limited quantity of water available to so many Somalis is a life-and-death issue. In a country where 8 million people do not have access to clean water, children and other vulnerable people can fall prey to deadly waterborne diseases. Diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) are Somalia's second-biggest killer.

We have drilled over 180 boreholes and provided more than 5,100 artesian and open-surface wells across Somalia in the past 33 years. In 2024 we drilled 23 new boreholes and repaired or upgraded 14 existing ones. We also provided an additional 135 artesian and shallow wells.

The risk of contracting easily preventable diseases is high due to the lack of access to clean water

UNICEF



SUCCESS STORY

PROVIDING A PRECIOUS RESOURCE IN A HARSH CLIMATE

Farming is a precarious way of life in the dry heat of Puntland as climate change intensifies – especially if you do not have a reliable water supply.

"If the rains fail or pests ruin our crops, we struggle to grow enough to eat or sell," says Xasan Abdi Yusuf, a 64-year-old father of five who cultivates vegetables and cereal grains on a small plot of land in the Isqanbuus area. "These days it is dry for too long, but we keep going because we have no other choice."

Zamzam has helped Xasan's community by providing a new borehole to ensure a plentiful supply of water close to home.

"Before we had this borehole we had to walk a long distance to reach our nearest well and the water wasn't safe to drink," he explains. "We now have clean water nearby, and it's a big relief."

Around 90 per cent of the cost of our new boreholes were covered by two funders – King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (Saudi Arabia) and Alnajat Charity (Kuwait). We prioritise drought-affected areas such as Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland, Bay and Hirshabelle.

Each borehole is drilled to a depth of 120–420 metres and provides clean water for 4–6,000 families – around 24,000–36,000 people. Artesian wells (45–50 metres) provide water for 1,000 families and shallow wells (18–20 metres) for 300 families.

Investment in sanitation, hygiene and community education is also vitally important. Research shows that improved sanitation can reduce diarrhoeal disease by a third.

In 2024 our teams built 48 latrines, distributed hygiene kits to 3,643 families, and conducted health-and-hygiene awareness sessions for 10,204 people. We also established or revived 134 community committees to oversee the management and maintenance of WASH facilities.

As climate change bites, our ongoing work to continually improve Somalia's water infrastructure is critical for helping poor communities to survive droughts of increasing frequency and severity, and also to restore water sources when they become contaminated during floods.



All our boreholes have separate drinking troughs for animals to prevent contamination of water supplies for families

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **Over 3.6 million** children are out of school
- ▶ **Nearly half** of adults (46%) are illiterate

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **8** new schools built
- ▶ **13** existing schools expanded or renovated
- ▶ **3,749** children educated in Zamzam schools, equally split between girls and boys
- ▶ **Over 98%** of our secondary-school pupils passed their government certified exams
- ▶ **22** teachers and school administrators attended Zamzam training days

Investment in education is vital if we are to inspire and empower the next generation to lift themselves and our nation out of poverty.

The primary focus of Zamzam's education programme is building and running new schools, providing high-quality teaching materials, training teachers, and delivering vocational training to help young people find employment.

We built eight new schools in 2024 – five in Jubaland and one each in Somaliland, Galmudug and Banadir. Our aim is to fully equip and staff them within the school year in which they are constructed so that we can provide much-needed school places for children from poor families. All the children in our schools attend for free or pay nominal fees.

There is much work to be done to raise standards and improve educational attainment in Somalia. More than 3.6 million children are out of school, and nearly half of adults are illiterate (46 per cent).

Zamzam has established over 150 schools across Somalia in the past 30 years, equipping and initially managing them before handing them over to local authorities and communities to operate.



The new schools we built in 2024 will provide high-quality education for their pupils and free places for orphans and other vulnerable children

Education is the cornerstone of long-term societal transformation

Zamzam Foundation Strategic Plan 2025–2030



We provide training for teachers and school leaders to help them raise educational standards and improve academic attainment

A total of 3,749 children were educated in the seven schools we managed directly in 2024 – four schools in Hargeisa, including one dedicated girls' school, and three in Mogadishu.

At primary level our intake is split evenly between girls and boys but in 2024 boys accounted for 60% of those graduating successfully from our secondary schools – an indication of the greater pressure on girls to drop out of school before they complete their studies.

The Somalia Health and Demographic Survey of 2020 reported that fewer girls than boys go to school, while men are 23 per cent more likely than women to have completed secondary or higher education. We are working to address these imbalances in Zamzam schools and other educational institutions.

We provided vocational training for 105 young people in 2024 to help them find employment. Zamzam University is in the forefront of scientific research, and farming students regularly benefit from the agricultural training facility we established as part of the university in 2022.

Our continuing commitment to educational excellence was reflected by the training days we delivered in 2024, equipping 22 teachers and school administrators to maintain and improve professional standards.

SUCCESS STORY

STAYING ON AT SCHOOL WITH DREAMS OF A NURSING CAREER

Unlike so many girls of her age from the poorest villages, Ruweydo Abdi was still at school at 18 in 2024 – thanks to support from Zamzam Foundation and her own hard work and determination.

"I got involved with Zamzam in 2019, when they started to cover my school fees," explains Ruweydo, who has lived her whole life in a small village in Banadir region and goes to Alfajri secondary school.

"I used to feel hopeless watching other students go to school while I didn't," she says. "Now I am in grade 12 and I hope to become a nurse in future and help others."

"Zamzam has had a really positive impact on my life. Please continue to support more students like me who have big dreams but lack opportunities to get an education."

ORPHANS AND SOCIAL CARE

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ 19% of Somali households are home to at least one orphaned child
- ▶ Three-quarters of primary-age children do not go to school

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ 8,441 orphaned children's families supported
- ▶ 5,878 orphans received monthly support to enable them to go to school
- ▶ 1,387 new children enrolled in our orphan support programme
- ▶ 881 orphans given Eid gifts
- ▶ 38 social events and entertainments organised for orphaned children
- ▶ 20 grants to orphans' families to support income-generating activities

Our orphans programme provides fun activities for orphaned children alongside financial support for their families

We supported the families of 8,441 orphaned children in 2024, with 5,878 of the orphans we assisted benefiting from monthly financial support through orphan sponsorship.

Our team did their best to assist as many families as possible in a year when international support for our orphans programme dipped because of pressure on the budgets of funders. The income of the orphans and social care department fell by \$1.5 million, a 61 per cent drop, which meant that we could support 3,000 fewer families than in 2023.

The Somali Health and Demographic Survey of 2020 found that 32 per cent of households were home to a foster child and/or orphaned children, with at least one orphan in 19 per cent of families. Children who have lost one or both of their parents are more likely to be living in poverty, and less likely to get the education they need to escape from poverty entirely.

Despite budget pressures, we were able to enrol 1,387 new orphans in our support programme in 2024 as older orphans reached adulthood and opportunities opened up to connect donors with different children.

Financial assistance is the main support we give. Our donors enable us to provide regular cash sponsorship to those 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. The money can be used to meet whichever of each family's needs are most pressing, giving our beneficiaries an element of choice that respects their dignity.

Some orphans who live near Zamzam health facilities and schools can access free education and healthcare. In 2024 we also provided grants or microfinance loans to 20 families of orphans to support income generation, and gave Eid gifts of clothes or toys to 881 orphaned children.



Access to education ... is one of the key national responses that would guarantee orphans ... equal access to better lives as they grow up

Somali Health and Demographic Survey, 2020



SUCCESS STORY

FROM WIDHOOD AT 30 TO A THRIVING SHOP WITH A POSITIVE FUTURE

Maryam Abdirahman is a successful shopkeeper in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. Our orphans programme has contributed significantly to her success.

"Life was very difficult before we had the shop," she says. "I didn't have a stable income, and we struggled to make ends meet."

Widowed at just 30 and driven from her home village by conflict and insecurity, Maryam sought refuge in Mogadishu in 2015 with her eight children. At that point her five girls and three boys were aged between three and 15 years old. She faced the daunting prospect of raising her large family alone, without a reliable source of income.

"The income from the shop pays for our basic needs and has given us a sense of stability and hope for the future. With the support of Zamzam Foundation, our living conditions have improved, and I have been able to provide for my children's education and daily needs. In the future I hope to expand my shop and improve our lives further."

That is when Zamzam stepped in. First, we enrolled some of Maryam's children in our orphan sponsorship programme. Then, in 2017, we provided materials and training to help Maryam set up a small shop selling kitchenware and other household items.

In 2024 we provided 20 grants to Maryam and others like her, enabling the families of orphaned children to set up or re-establish small businesses and earn an independent income.

PEACEBUILDING AND GOVERNANCE

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **4.5 million** Somalis are currently affected by conflict
- ▶ **Over 250,000** people were displaced by conflict in 2024
- ▶ **64,576** deaths directly attributable to conflict 1989-2024

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **25,104** beneficiaries of new and ongoing peacebuilding activities
- ▶ **2,300** reached by our awareness campaign around land and property rights
- ▶ **684** people given training on improving gender relations, fostering peaceful coexistence and responding to conflict
- ▶ **5** local land disputes resolved



Zamzam Foundation trains community leaders and local mediators in conflict resolution techniques to help resolve disputes peacefully

Zamzam's peacebuilding team are ready and willing to bring more communities together to resolve localised conflicts – undeterred by a lack of external funding in 2024.

Despite the funding hiatus, our peacebuilding team helped to resolve five local land disputes and continued to support community peace committees set up by Zamzam in three conflict-ravaged regions. They also brought their expertise to bear to help ensure harmonious partnership between farmers participating in our flagship OASIS livelihoods project across five villages in Hiran region.

Somalis have experienced significant levels of conflict and instability since the fall of the military regime in 1991. Somalia is the most fragile country in the world according to the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index, which ranks the security situation in 179 countries in the context of a range of social, political and economic "pertinent vulnerabilities" such as levels of poverty and inequality.

Effective governance and social cohesion are vital for sustainable development and conflict resolution

Zamzam Foundation Strategic Plan, 2025–2030

Over 250,000 Somalis were driven from their homes by conflict in 2024 – the biggest single cause of displacement. As well as hostilities between government forces and armed opposition groups, Somalia is divided by clan-based clashes. The biggest cause of clan-based violence is tension over access to scarce resources such as water and pasture as climate change bites.

Zamzam's approach is to bring divided communities together in dialogue to address the socio-economic challenges they have in common. In 2023, before the pause in funding, our efforts were particularly successful: we helped to resolve two localised conflicts and enabled 30,000 people to live together more harmoniously.

What we do is aligned with the concept of the triple nexus – the idea that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programmes need to be coherently interlinked to meet all people's needs effectively and move towards sustainable peace and prosperity.



Our new Strategic Plan includes empowering more women and young people to take on leadership roles in peacebuilding and community dialogue

SUCCESS STORY

DEVELOPING DIALOGUE, RESOLVING CLAN CONFLICT

"Somalia has many conflict challenges," says Aweis Omar Hassan, Zamzam's Peace Coordinator.

"There is political conflict, there is armed insurgency, and there is clan conflict – pastoralists competing for precious water, pasture and fodder as climate change bites.

"Resolving clan conflicts is so important, because if there is no peace there can be no development. Our approach involves conflict mapping to determine where our support is needed, facilitating community dialogue, then making agreements that are ratified at local government level.

"We are working to find new sources of funds to support this vital and transformative work."

SEASONAL PROGRAMMES

SOMALIA'S NEEDS

- ▶ **4.4 million** Somalis were facing high acute food insecurity ahead of our seasonal food distributions
- ▶ **1.6 million** children were acutely malnourished in this period

OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ **1.3 million** people benefited from our seasonal programmes
- ▶ **1 million** people were able to celebrate Eid Al-Adha with qurbani meat
- ▶ **14,571** families received food packs to prepare their own meals through Ramadan, benefiting over 87,000 people
- ▶ **54,450** hot iftars were served by Zamzam teams for poor families to break their fasts
- ▶ **9,475** children received new clothes as Eid gifts



Our teams cooked and served over 54,000 hot meals for hungry families to break their fasts during Ramadan

Our seasonal programmes aim to ensure that vulnerable people in poor communities do not go to bed hungry during the holy month of Ramadan and the festivals of Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha.

In 2024 we were able to boost our spending on seasonal programmes by \$1.3 million and assist an additional 317,392 people, boosted by a 48 per cent increase in support from our generous donors around the world. In total our provision of Ramadan food packs, qurbani meat, Eid gifts and zakat cash assistance reached over 1.3 million people – a 32 per cent increase on the previous year.

In March and April, 141,876 people benefited from the hot meals and food packs provided by our hard-working teams in Ramadan. We cooked and served 54,450 hot meals, providing nutritious iftars for the most vulnerable to break their fasts. We also distributed enough Ramadan food packs to feed 87,426 people – 20 per cent more than in 2023.

Each of our food packs provides enough supplies to enable families to prepare their own meals for the whole of Ramadan, including flour, cooking oil, cereal grains, milk powder and sugar.

People are so happy when they get their qurbani meat. When they are happy, we are happy too

Numan Sharif, Zamzam's Head of Social Care

In our biggest seasonal programme we provided qurbani meat for over a million people, enabling families to celebrate Eid Al-Adha with a nutritious meal and store additional meat to boost their diets for up to a week.

Zamzam works with five suppliers across the country who procure the animals from farmers – mainly cattle and sheep but also goats and camels. The suppliers take care of slaughtering in compliance with Islamic rules and guidance, and then they prepare and package the meat. Zamzam staff distribute the meat to families they have identified as needing it most.

“Most of the people we support live in displacement camps,” says Numan Sharif, Zamzam’s Head of Social Care. “Many are suffering from malnutrition, particularly young children. It’s nice to be able to give people a nutritional boost, and the qurbani season also supports the livelihoods of farmers with livestock.”

As part of another tradition observed by Muslims at Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha, we distributed new clothes to 9,475 children as gifts – enabling them to celebrate Eid with their families in a way they could not otherwise afford.



Our qurbani distributions provide nutritious meat for people who cannot afford to celebrate Eid in the traditional way



We distributed new clothes to 9,475 children as gifts to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha with their families

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

We have a growing presence on the global stage, attending international events and engaging with international networks to highlight Somalia's humanitarian needs, forge new partnerships and make our voice heard in advocacy.

Our international presence is further enhanced by the activities of Zamzam Kenya, Zamzam Türkiye and Zamzam UK – three independent entities working to make new connections, extend the Zamzam family's humanitarian reach, raise awareness, and raise funds.

In 2024 our staff actively participated in a wide range of local, regional and international events and forums. Zamzam representatives attended policymaking summits and conferences online and in person across East Africa as well as in Europe, the United States, the Arabian peninsula and south-east Asia.

We also teamed up with partners to take part in joint research and advocacy efforts – vital collaboration in what is becoming an increasingly challenging humanitarian landscape as aid cuts start to bite. We have consistently advocated for more direct funding for local organisations in Somalia, in line with the 2016 Grand Bargain agreement which aims to ensure that local and national groups receive at least a quarter of all global aid budgets by 2026.

In March we were in Geneva for the annual assembly of the International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), one of the biggest and most influential NGO networks globally. In May we attended the Malaysia International Humanitarian Conference, strengthening our partnerships with Malaysian NGOs. We also signed the Climate and Environment Charter, committing ourselves to seven targets to be achieved over the next six years.

In September we took part in the 11th East African Humanitarian Summit (where we showcased Zamzam programmes in both Somalia and Kenya) and in the UN Summit of the Future, where world leaders and civil society got together to focus on improving global governance and strengthening multilateral cooperation.

November saw the launch of a new website and five social media channels representing Zamzam Foundation UK. This welcome expansion into the UK is on the back of a partnership we formed in 2023 with a UK registered charity called Somali Relief and Development Forum (SRDF). SRDF's trustees agreed to change the organisation's name to Zamzam UK and focus efforts on raising funds from the Somali diaspora and the UK public for our work across Somalia.

ZAMZAM TÜRKIYE RAISES A RECORD \$3 MILLION

Zamzam Türkiye raised a record \$3 million from Turkish organisations in 2024 to support Zamzam Foundation's transformative work across Somalia.

A team of just two staff has now built partnerships with 70 Turkish civil society organisations, including 13 new partnerships established in 2024.

Based in Istanbul, Zamzam Türkiye was established in 2017 to strengthen Zamzam Foundation's relationships with Turkish NGOs and secure funding for new projects. The initiative has been so successful that support from Turkish organisations has become one of Zamzam Foundation's biggest sources of funding internationally.

The principal programme receiving support from Türkiye is our Ramadan and qurbani seasonal food distributions, followed by orphan sponsorship and wells that provide education and clean water for poor families.

Zamzam Foundation is doing fantastic work, not just addressing short-term needs but also building community resilience

Nimo Hassan MBE, Executive Director, Somali NGO Consortium



At the UN's COP 29 climate conference we made the case for more 'loss and damage' funding to be made available to the poorest countries

In November we also travelled to Azerbaijan to participate in COP 29, the latest annual United Nations climate summit. We added our voice to those calling for the new loss and damage finance pledged at COP to be transferred swiftly to the communities who need it most.

Our programme implementation in partnership with international organisations has been enriched by increasing co-design of projects, integration of programmes across different sectors of intervention, and collaboration in consortium-based fundraising.

Recent programmes that showcase our integrated, multisectoral approach include:

- ▶ Integrated provision of clean water, mobile health services, livelihoods support and GBV response in Buloburde, Hiran, under a project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office
- ▶ Integrated investment in clean water, food security, income generation, flood control and community governance in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle, under the third phase of the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia programme
- ▶ Delivering essential health services and hygiene support alongside GBV case management and WASH in Banadir region through the Zamzam-led SOMJR project
- ▶ Active participation in implementing UNICEF's Multi-sectoral Child Protection Project across South Central Somalia, providing vulnerable children and young people – especially girls – with a blend of child protection, education, healthcare and psychosocial support.

ZAMZAM KENYA DEEPENS IMPACT

Solar lanterns distributed by Zamzam Kenya in 2024 are providing clean, safe and sustainable lighting for over a hundred schools, health clinics and vulnerable families across five of Kenya's poorest counties – Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Garissa and Mandera.

For rural clinics the lanterns mean longer opening hours. For families they mean schoolchildren can extend their study time, and women feel safer at night.

The project is part of efforts by Zamzam Kenya to deepen its impact on the lives of poor communities in refugee settlements and the country's arid and semi-arid lands.

The organisation has also focused in 2024 on strengthening its operating capacity and attracting new funding partners, despite deep cuts in international aid funding. It has worked on zakat policy in partnership with the World Humanitarian Action Forum, established a social media presence, and launched a new website to increase visibility.

OUR PARTNERS

Zamzam Foundation is privileged to work with a wide range of partners 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 lots of non-government organisations – global, regional, national, and local.

Our partnership with government is multi-dimensional, encompassing national authorities and ministries and their counterparts at federal state level. We work with the regional administrations of Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland, South West and Banadir. We also partner with the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation; Education, Culture and Higher Education; Energy and Water Resources; Health; Interior Federal Affairs and Reconciliation; and Planning and International Cooperation.

We sincerely thank all our partners, funders and supporters for the enormous contribution they continue to make 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 in pursuit of enduring prosperity and peace. Our work would simply not be possible without your support. Thank you.



The Islamic Development Bank supports our major construction programme to provide much-needed new schools.



Alnajat Charity, a Kuwaiti organisation, supports our extensive work drilling boreholes to provide water for families and their animals

We really want to invest in partnerships with organisations that have a very strong local footprint

Elisa Pozzi, Deputy Director, Economic Recovery and Development Unit, International Rescue Committee



- ▶ Al-Imdaad Foundation
- ▶ Alnajat Charity
- ▶ Darul Tauhid
- ▶ Dompert Dhuafa Foundation
- ▶ Dutch Relief Alliance
- ▶ Europe Aid Foundation
- ▶ European Commission
- ▶ Federal Government of Somalia
- ▶ Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- ▶ German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- ▶ German Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- ▶ Human Appeal international (UK)
- ▶ Human Appeal International (Australia)
- ▶ Human Concern international (Canada)
- ▶ Humanitarian Forum
- ▶ Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH)
- ▶ Humaniti
- ▶ International Association for Development and Relief (ONSUR)
- ▶ International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- ▶ International Islamic Charity Organisation (IICO)
- ▶ International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- ▶ Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- ▶ Islamic Relief USA (via Osman Consulting)
- ▶ Kaaf Humanitarian
- ▶ King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre
- ▶ Life and Peace Institute
- ▶ Medair International
- ▶ Muslim Aid Australia
- ▶ Oxfam
- ▶ Penny Appeal Canada
- ▶ Qatar Charity
- ▶ Save the Children International
- ▶ Sefkateli
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society
- ▶ Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- ▶ Somalia Humanitarian Fund
- ▶ Somalia NGO Consortium
- ▶ Tanmeia
- ▶ TIKA
- ▶ Union of NGOs of the Islamic World
- ▶ United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- ▶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- ▶ United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- ▶ Weltweiter Einsatz Für Arme (WEFA)
- ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO)
- ▶ World Vision
- ▶ Zakat House of Kuwait
- ▶ Zumra Humanitarian Aid Association

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

We are committed to improving access to health services in rural and hard-to-reach areas

Amina Abdinoor Ahmed, Zamzam's Head of Health and Nutrition



Our climate-smart agriculture training helps farmers increase their income, save water, and provide a nutritious diet for their families



Strong community organisation, through village savings associations and farmers' co-operatives, contributes to the OASIS project's success



Our seven primary healthcare clinics play a vital role in improving the quality of antenatal and postnatal care in remote areas



Our 16 TB clinics are in the forefront of diagnosing and treating cases of this potentially deadly disease

WORKING TOGETHER TO OVERCOME CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Grassroots community groups are playing a vital role in protecting the environment and improving food security in one of Zamzam's flagship programmes in Somalia.

In the Beledweyne district of Hiran region, we are implementing the OASIS project (Operationalising Agricultural Sustainability in Somalia) to support farmers with their livelihoods while building climate resilience. OASIS has supported 2,787 farmers in five villages to increase yields, while better protecting the soil, water resources and pasture they depend on for their livelihoods.

"These farmers are achieving so much," says Dr Hassan Ali, our OASIS Project Manager. "Increased food security, higher incomes, better management of environmental resources, more consumption of local food and growing awareness of nutrition."

Our main implementing partner in the project has been International Rescue Committee under the project oversight of the consortium lead – the Norwegian Refugee Council. The European Union is the ultimate funder of the project, under the auspices of the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia programme (BRCIS).

We are also implementing a second project under BRCIS in the Jowhar district of Middle Shabelle, working in partnership with Save the Children and funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (see success story, page 23).

The farmers in Beledweyne are growing maize, cow-peas, sesame, tomatoes, watermelon, spinach and other vegetables. They are succeeding in increasing yields and incomes while also providing a more nutritious and varied diet for their families.

In each village we have supported farmers and their families to form co-ops and village savings-and-loans associations (VSLAs). Through the co-ops, we have been able to train farmers in a wide range of climate-smart techniques and advise on reducing wastage after harvest. Through the VSLAs, villagers are able to finance innovations such as solar-powered irrigation pumps.

New environmental management committees formed in these communities are also crucial to the project's success, ensuring that the wider environment is better cared for and protected by farmers.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT BREATHES LIFE INTO HEALTH SERVICES IN REMOTE AREAS

Zamzam operates 28 health clinics across Somalia. We have seven main primary healthcare facilities, 16 specialist tuberculosis clinics and five mobile clinics visiting displacement camps.

We could not carry out such extensive work in prevention, diagnosis and treatment without the significant support we receive from a number of key international funders, working alongside local Somali partners.

Our international partners include Medair through the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA); International Rescue Committee (IRC) with funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO); and World Vision through support from both the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

"If you compare where we are now with where we were 15 years ago, there is a huge difference," says Amina Abdinoor Ahmed, Zamzam's Head of Health and Nutrition. "Our country is more stable, health services have improved, and people's health is also improving."

Amina adds: "My vision is to build community resilience so that families are better able to withstand the challenges they face, whether that means health problems, climate change, or conflict."

The Zamzam health and nutrition team in Somalia consists of around 200 staff. Most are professional practitioners working in the field alongside the communities they serve – including nurses, midwives, pharmacists, lab technicians and community health workers.

"Community outreach is crucial," Amina explains. "Building trust with the community is the first step, it's what allows us to engage meaningfully. Once that trust is there, we can deliver training on essential topics like handwashing, breastfeeding, disease prevention, and how to prepare nutritious meals for a balanced diet."



مؤسسة زمزم
ZAMZAM
FOUNDATION

info@zamzamsom.org

 Zamzam Foundation

 @zamzamsom

www.zamzamsom.org

© Zamzam Foundation 2025