

ZAMZAM FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2025



مؤسسة زمزم
ZAMZAM
FOUNDATION



FOREWORD

In a year of severe drought and tight funding constraints, our lifesaving and life-changing programmes supported 2.2 million Somalis



Our health centres provided vital basic health services and lifesaving care to over 212,000 people – see pages 22–23

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As the drought deepened, our emergency and seasonal distributions provided food to 1.7 million hungry people (see pages 20–21, 36–37)



There is much to be positive about in this annual report, which captures one of the most impactful years in Zamzam Foundation's 33-year history. There is also much to concern us, with funding cuts biting at a time when humanitarian needs rose sharply in Somalia's worst drought for 40 years.

On a positive note, our programmes touched the lives of 2.2 million Somalis in 2025. Our emergency and seasonal food distributions reached a record 1.7 million people, and our network of 35 health facilities assisted over 212,000 people – another record figure.

We opened four new health centres, built five new schools, and delivered clean water for over 133,000 people by providing or rehabilitating 107 new and existing boreholes and wells.

Our livelihoods and climate resilience programme supported 38,000 people - 43 per cent more than in 2024. Our education and orphans programmes benefited more than 20,000 children, with a 32 per cent increase in numbers of orphaned children supported.

Strengthening community resilience in the face of climate shocks and conflict continues to be at the heart of our work. We are thankful that we have also built a level of organisational resilience that has enabled us largely to maintain frontline services in a year in which three-quarters of Somali NGOs closed offices or froze projects because of funding cuts. We achieved this at a cost, however, reluctantly laying off a third of our staff and implementing pay cuts for those remaining.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our dedicated staff and volunteers, and to the many partner organisations – local, national and international – who have stuck with us in challenging times. Our focus will always be building a brighter future for as many as possible of the 10.6 million Somalis who live in poverty, people whose own resilience will never cease to inspire us.

In these tough times, it is more important than ever for Zamzam to make its mark internationally as a voice for marginalised people, as a champion of localisation and climate adaptation, and as a means to connect funders and the Somali diaspora with projects on the ground. The international outreach section of this report shows our growing presence on the international stage, including our advocacy at pivotal events such as the UN's annual COP climate summit; the fundraising and partnership building of Zamzam UK; and the growing success of Zamzam Türkiye in securing significant funds from Turkish NGOs and their supporters.

A number of our strategic priorities come through strongly in this report, especially our commitment to empowering women in all our programmes and the ways in which we are supporting farmers to protect food security and strengthen climate resilience.

Looking ahead, UN agencies have warned that Somalia's continuing drought has become one of the world's worst hunger crises, with nearly half a million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and a real risk of a full-blown famine on the horizon. We stand with UN bodies in calling for an urgent expansion of humanitarian aid to save lives. We also urge all donors to turn words into action on localisation, channelling more funds through national and local NGOs like Zamzam that are best placed to deliver emergency aid and support community development cost-effectively in hard-to-reach areas.

Shuaib Abdullatif
Chair

Omar Jama
Executive
Director



SOMALIA SNAPSHOT

Somalia is among the ten poorest nations on earth, and the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Life expectancy is just 59, GDP per capita is barely \$2 a day, and one in five Somalis have been driven from their homes by conflict, poverty, and the relentless impact of increasingly severe drought and floods.

It is against this challenging backdrop that Zamzam Foundation is working to save lives and assist the most vulnerable; to improve access to health, education and clean water; and to support livelihoods that empower people to lift themselves out of poverty.



54%

10.6 million people live below the poverty line



53%

4.8 million children are missing out on school



48%

9.4 million people lack access to safe water



55%

1.8 million under-5s are acutely malnourished



20%

4.8 million people rely on humanitarian aid to live

OUR REACH

Our humanitarian and development programmes are delivered by over 300 specialist staff, recruited mostly from the communities they serve

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



Our provision of food and meat packs and hot meals fed more than 1.7 million people in 2025 as Somalia's drought intensified



Our 35 health facilities cared for 212,597 people, including maternal healthcare, immunisation, treatment of diseases and malnutrition



We provided or rehabilitated 107 wells and boreholes, delivering clean water for 133,200 people

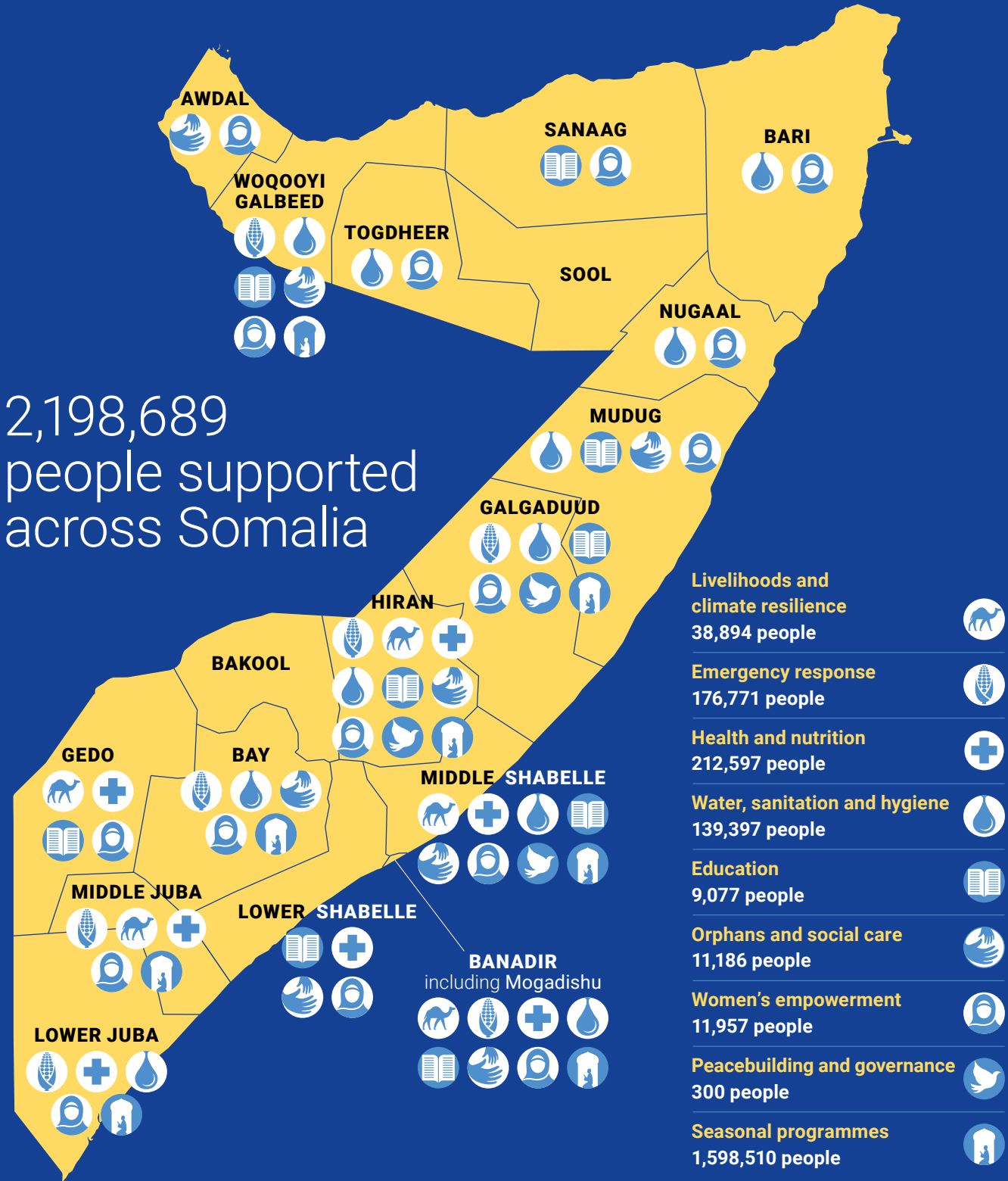


Our support for farmers – including seeds, tools, water pumps and livestock – benefited 26,878 people in farming families



The eight schools run by us educated 4,277 children, and we built five new ones in Mogadishu, Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Gedo

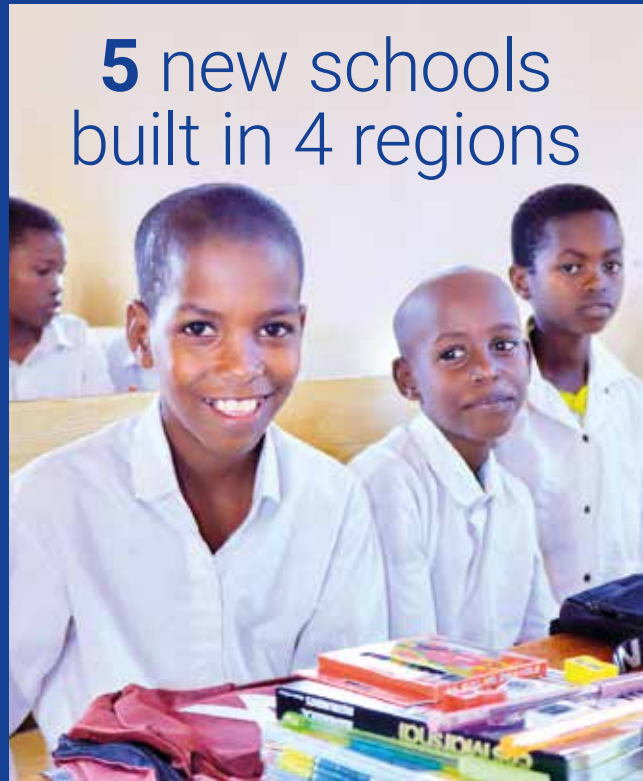
2,198,689 people supported across Somalia



OUR IMPACT

2.2 million
people helped
by Zamzam
in 2025

176,000 people
received life-saving
emergency aid



Over 1.5 million
people fed through
our seasonal
distributions



OUR FINANCES

Zamzam Foundation’s income fell by 4.7% in 2025 to \$16.8 million, reflecting the impact of sharp cuts in international aid. We reduced spending by a similar amount, 4.4%, implementing staff and salary cuts to maintain frontline services as far as possible.

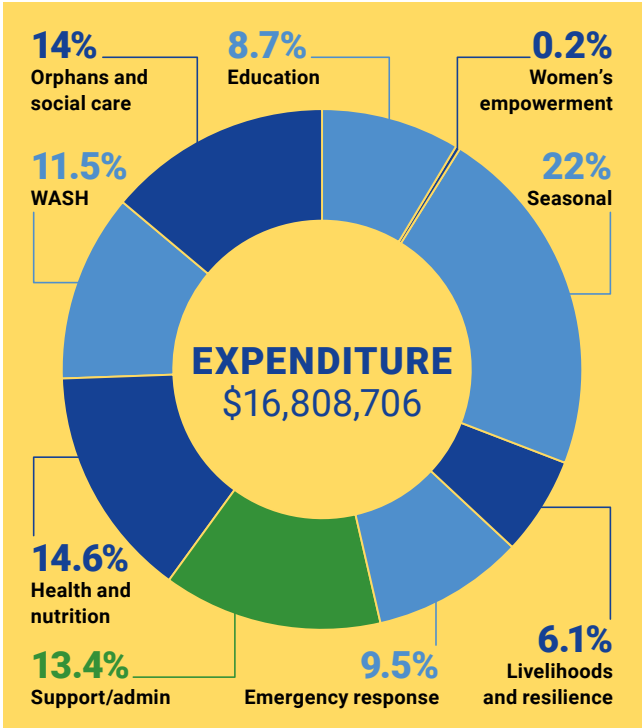
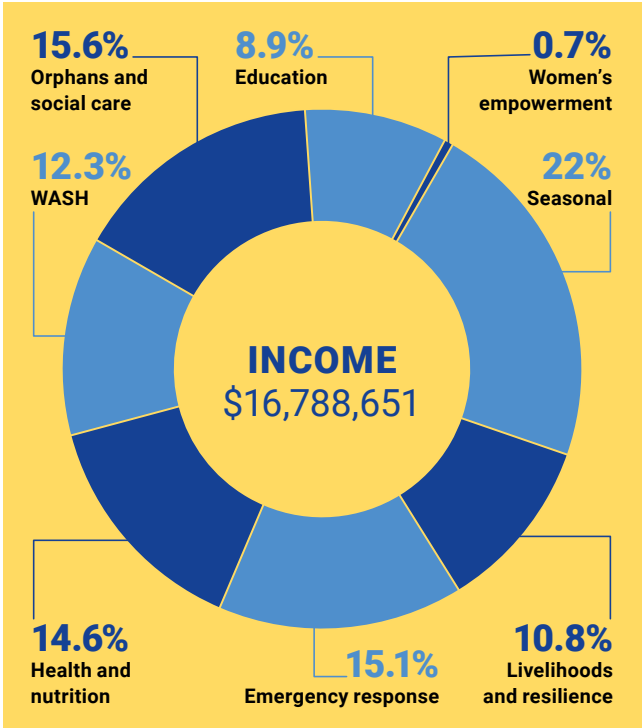
The most popular area of programming with donors was seasonal programmes, which accounted for 22% of income. Our orphans programme secured a \$1.6 million increase in funding – up 158% – which enabled us to support over 2,700 more orphans than in 2024 (a 32% increase). All other programme areas suffered a drop in income, with emergency response and WASH hit hardest (down 29% and 54% respectively).

Despite funding challenges, we spent over \$14.5 million directly supporting people in need through our key programme areas – 86.6% of total spending. The other 13.4% of our \$16.8 million expenditure was allocated to direct programme support cost and administrative costs to keep all our programmes running in an integrated, efficient and effective way.

For the first time in 2025 we separately captured spending on climate and environment projects and on the protection of women and girls against gender-based violence and other abuses. These are new focus areas in our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, and we want to map the progress we make over time in securing and allocating funds for these strategically important areas.

TOP 10 FUNDERS BY % OF OUR INCOME 2025

- ▶ Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) 10%
- ▶ Sefkateli 9%
- ▶ Islamic Development Bank 7%
- ▶ International Rescue Committee 7%
- ▶ World Vision 6%
- ▶ King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre 6%
- ▶ Human Appeal Australia 6%
- ▶ Zakat House of Kuwait 3%
- ▶ Human Concern International 3%
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society 3%



We spent over \$14.5 million on directly supporting people across Somalia

\$1.6 million

on life-saving emergency aid and livelihoods for 215,000 people



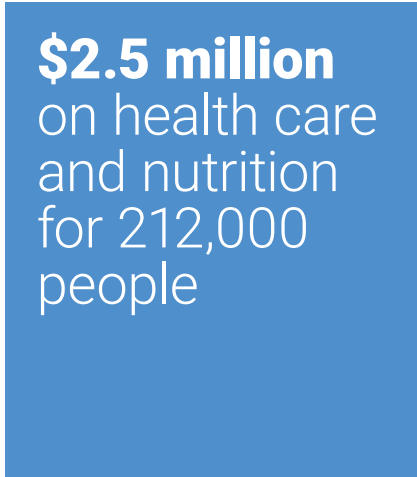
\$3.7 million

on Ramadan and qurbani food and Eid gifts for 1.6 million people



\$3.8 million

on education and orphan support for 20,000 children



\$2.5 million

on health care and nutrition for 212,000 people



\$1.9 million

on clean water and sanitation for 139,000 people



\$2.5 million

on health care and nutrition for 212,000 people



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 a wide range of non-government organisations – global, regional, national, and local.

Our international funders are spread across five continents, with a wide geographical spread from Canada (Human Concern International and Penny Appeal) to Australia (Human Appeal and Muslim Aid).

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.

Building climate and community resilience is pivotal in many of our partnerships. "Resilience means communities understanding the risks, holding institutions accountable, and making decisions about their future," says Perrine Piton, Chief of Party of the Building Community Resilience in Somalia consortium (BRCiS). "NGOs like Zamzam are supporting them to walk this path."

We sincerely thank all our partners, funders and supporters for the enormous contribution they make. Our work would simply not be possible without your support.



Muslim Aid Australia funded a new borehole in Banadir in 2025, providing clean water to 18,000 people



International Rescue Committee has partnered with us in delivering elements of our livelihoods and health programmes



CORE Group Partners Project is a major funder of our health and nutrition programme in several regions

NGOs like Zamzam are supporting communities to build resilience

Perrine Piton, Chief of Party, BRCiS Consortium



- Al-Imdaad Foundation
- Alnajat Charity
- CORE Group Partners Project
- Darul Tauhid
- Dompert Dhuafa Foundation
- Dutch Relief Alliance
- Europe Aid Foundation
- European Commission
- Federal Government of Somalia
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Gates Foundation
- 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)
- Kaaf Humanitarian
- King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre
- Life and Peace Institute
- Medair International
- Muslim Aid Australia
- Osman Consulting
- Oxfam
- Penny Appeal Canada
- Qatar Charity
- Sadakataşı Derneği
- Save the Children International
- Sefkateli
- Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society
- Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- Somalia Humanitarian Fund
- Somalia Joint Response (SomJR)NO
- 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 provided WASH facilities to reduce diarrhoea from unsafe water – one of the drivers of malnutrition

Asha Shidow Mohamed, ECHO-SHIP Project Manager



CONNECTING ZAKAT DONORS WITH 68,000 ZAKAT-ELIGIBLE SOMALIS



Zamzam providing cash assistance to displaced families, supported by zakat funds from Sefkateli's Turkish donors

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam, a religious obligation for Muslims to redistribute wealth from the better off to those less fortunate. Zamzam is an effective conduit for organisations looking to use zakat donations they have collected from their donors to assist disadvantaged Somalis.

In 2025 Zamzam provided zakat in the form of cash assistance to 3,500 families in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Hargeisa, using \$350,000 in zakat donations collected by NGOs around the world. The main supporters of this operation were Weltweiter Einsatz Für Arme (Germany); the South African branch of Al-Imdaad Foundation; and Turkish NGOs Sefkateli and Yedibasak.

We also provided food packs for 2,208 hungry families across Somalia using a pool of zakat donations to which Human Appeal Australia, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society (Kuwait) and Penny Appeal Canada were the main contributors. In total these cash and food distributions benefited 5,708 families – over 34,000 people.

In addition, Zakat Al-Fitr donations to Zamzam partner organisations around the world enabled us to provide meals for 34,824 people at the end of Ramadan in March.

Individual donors are not restricted to channelling their zakat through other NGOs partnering with Zamzam. They can also donate zakat to us directly via the Zamzam UK website, where supporters can find our full Zakat Distribution Policy, developed with advice and training from Islamic Relief Worldwide.

“We spend zakat donations in accordance with Islamic guidance and in alignment with our Zakat Distribution Policy,” explains Numan Sharif, Director of Special Programmes. “The programmes we prioritise reflect the choice of our funders, whose recent focus has been food distributions and cash assistance. Individual donors and partner NGOs can also support zakat-eligible water, health and livelihoods projects if they choose.”



Zamzam distributing food packs in a displacement camp, supported by zakat funds from Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society

INTEGRATING PROGRAMMES STRENGTHENS THEIR IMPACT



Zamzam staff treated over 10,000 malnourished children as part of the Somalia Humanitarian Integrated Project (SHIP), funded by ECHO

Integrated programming is an important feature of some of Zamzam's most impactful partnerships. The guiding principle is that when communities have complex and overlapping multi-sectoral needs, those needs will be best addressed through an integrated, coordinated response involving multiple programmes.

Two strong examples of integrated programming are the Multi-Sectoral Emergency Response Project (MSER), funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); and the Somalia Humanitarian Integrated Project (SHIP) project, financed by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

MSER is an ongoing nexus project implemented across four regions since 2023, bringing together four partners to strengthen community resilience by linking emergency relief with support for health and nutrition, WASH, livelihoods, protection and peacebuilding.

Zamzam's contribution, implemented in partnership with International Rescue Committee (IRC) and focused on the Beledweyne and Buloburde districts of Hiran, had benefited a total of 54,892 people by the end of 2025.

We built 59 latrines, provided cash assistance to 870 people, and developed six boreholes and 11 shallow wells to improve access to safe water. We also set up farmer cooperatives and village savings-and-loans associations, and trained 400 farmers in climate-smart agriculture (see page 34 for details of the peacebuilding component).

Zamzam was one of eight partners who delivered SHIP in 11 districts between May 2025 and April 2026, providing integrated support for health, nutrition, WASH and protection – along with cash assistance. Our focus was the districts of Jamaame, Buale, Jilib and Bardere. We rehabilitated four health facilities; treated 10,656 malnourished children; provided cash assistance for 250 families hit hard by malnutrition; supported survivors of GBV with treatment and counselling; and provided clean water or sanitation for 37,535 people.

“We know from experience that treating malnutrition in isolation, without addressing its root causes, does little to improve the situation,” explains our SHIP Project Manager, Asha Shidow Mohamed. “That is why we also provided cash assistance to some of the families worst affected and provided WASH facilities to reduce diarrhoea from unsafe water – one of the drivers of malnutrition among under-fives.”



Rehabilitating health centres, like this one, to deliver health services was an important part of the SHIP and MSER integrated projects

OUR STRATEGY



In 2025 Zamzam Foundation began the implementation of a new six-year strategy, building on our 33-year track record delivering lifesaving emergency aid and life-changing support for community development.

The organisation was established in 1992 to support the people of Somalia through an unprecedented humanitarian crisis following the collapse of the central government. It has since grown into the country's biggest national aid and development organisation.

Our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan sets out what we see as the most pressing challenges facing Somali communities, and how we will go about tackling those challenges. It also reaffirms our commitment to driving sustainable development, building climate resilience, strengthening livelihoods, and bringing hope to the next generation through education.

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.

A core principle of the plan is its emphasis on integrated programming. The impacts of conflict, climate and poverty are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. They demand a coordinated response that invests in food security, livelihoods, education, healthcare and peacebuilding in an integrated way.

We hope this is a plan that our funders and partners will be inspired by and will want to support, enabling us to strengthen our delivery of positive, lasting change in the communities we serve.

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 rightsholders, 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.

By engaging communities in the design and implementation of programmes, Zamzam ensures that its interventions are both relevant and impactful

Strategic Plan 2025–2030



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 children 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.



Health and nutrition

VISION

Improved community well-being through stronger primary health-care, 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.



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.

This plan enables us to prioritise resources, adapt to changing circumstances, and align with national and international development frameworks

Strategic Plan 2025–2030



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.



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.



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.



Protection and women’s empowerment

VISION

Enhanced protection and empowerment for the vulnerable, 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.



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.



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.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OUR IMPACT

169,986

displaced people benefited from food packs to prepare meals for a month

6,789

hot meals served

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ Alnajat Charity
- ▶ Human Appeal (Australia and UK)
- ▶ Human Concern International
- ▶ International Islamic Charity Organisation
- ▶ Muslim Aid Australia
- ▶ Osman Consulting
- ▶ Sefkateli
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society
- ▶ WEFA
- ▶ Yedibasak



Cash assistance is an increasing part of our emergency response. Families can spend the money on what they need most, giving them choice and dignity

Our emergency response teams provided vital food aid to 176,771 hungry people across Somalia in 2025. We more than doubled the reach of our food distributions as a deepening drought took its toll on communities already weakened by two seasons of failed rains the previous year.

The drought has become so severe that the Government of Somalia declared a national drought emergency in November. By January 2026 the UN's annual Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan was putting numbers of acutely malnourished children at 1.84 million – almost a quarter of a million more than a year previously.

The total population of displaced people increased by around 3 per cent through the year, going above 3.9 million. Drought was the principal cause of displacement for 52 per cent of people newly displaced from their homes in 2025, with conflict the main factor for 44 per cent.

As part of our drought response Zamzam staff distributed 10,654 food packs in seven of the areas worst affected – Banadir, Bay, Hiran, Galgaduud, Somaliland, and the hard-to-reach regions of Middle and Lower Juba. These distributions improved food security for around 64,000 people, as each food pack provides a family of six with enough dry foodstuffs and cooking oil to prepare nutritious meals for a month.

We also distributed 17,677 packs of fresh meat, providing protein-rich food for a further 106,000 people, and served 6,785 hot meals for vulnerable people in displacement camps.

A rapidly unfolding catastrophe, driven by the longest and most severe drought in 40 years

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



SUCCESS STORY

WATER TRUCKS KEEP HOPE ALIVE

Maanaay Hussein Abikar's life was turned upside down by two long years of failed rains and the severe drought that ensued.

"Before the drought my family could depend on livestock and farming for survival," says the 50-year-old mother of seven. "The drought killed all our animals and destroyed our livelihood. Now we depend entirely on humanitarian aid."

Maanaay and her family live in Sheikh Osman Ali displacement camp in Baidoa. "There are no work opportunities in the camp and it's a struggle to find food and water," she says. "My husband has no work, and I am physically weak and unable to support our family alone."

At the height of the drought, Zamzam trucked in clean water to 6,000 people in Baidoa's displacement camps – including Maanaay and her family. "We have really benefited from the water provided by Zamzam," she says. "We had no reliable source of clean water and could not afford to buy it, but through Zamzam we have been able to get water for drinking and cooking."

Our emergency interventions are part of an integrated approach to meeting humanitarian needs that also includes seasonal distributions of Ramadan food packs and qurbani meat, cash assistance, water trucking, livelihoods support, and providing health services and education for displaced people.

Across the year we provided food for 1,769,399 people through our emergency and seasonal programmes – more than ever before. We also trucked in clean water to protect 6,000 people in displacement camps in Baidoa against waterborne diseases.

Women and children from displaced families were among those to benefit from free treatment and free education provided by Zamzam health centres and schools. Our cash distributions enabled 8,376 recipients to choose for themselves how best to meet their families' needs.

The increase in humanitarian needs across Somalia has coincided with a collapse in international support. Donors provided only \$530 million in humanitarian funding in 2025 according to UN figures, less than 40 per cent of the \$1.4 billion target set by the UN to meet the country's needs.

"We are seeing a sharp increase in humanitarian needs at a time when funding constraints and budget cuts by government donors are hitting hard, putting lives at risk," says Numan Sharif, Zamzam's Director of Special Programmes. "In a year of increased needs and rising food prices, we have managed to expand our emergency response and seasonal distributions, helped by improvements both in operational efficiency and in the effective targeting of those most in need."



People with disabilities are among the most vulnerable displaced people we prioritise in our food distributions – along with widows, children, and older people

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

OUR IMPACT

113,240

women and children screened for acute malnutrition, and 29,863 treated

46,442

women received maternal health care

30,833

children vaccinated against deadly diseases

21,532

people screened for tuberculosis, and 3,181 treated

KEY PARTNERS

- CORE Group Partners Project
- Dutch Relief Alliance
- Gates Foundation
- International Rescue Committee
- Medair
- World Vision



Our health facilities cared for 29,863 acutely malnourished women and young children in 2025, including the provision of food supplements in the form of high-protein paste (pictured)

Our health and nutrition programmes benefited 212,597 people in 2025 – a 17 per cent increase on the previous year.

Although two of our health centres were forced to close due to lack of funds, the prioritisation of hard-to-reach areas by some of our donors enabled us to open four new centres in Middle and Lower Juba and Gedo. We now operate 35 health facilities in seven regions – ten main health centres, 16 specialist TB units, five primary health clinics and four mobile teams.

Our frontline staff of over 200 health workers focus on saving lives threatened by malnutrition and disease; providing high-quality maternal and newborn healthcare and other essential health services for the most vulnerable; and delivering community education and immunisation to protect people from harm.

In a year of deepening drought and increasing hunger, we screened 113,240 pregnant or breastfeeding women and children under five for malnutrition – more than three times as many as in 2024. The 29,863 women and children diagnosed with moderate or severe acute malnutrition were enrolled in supplementary feeding programmes, or given life-saving medical treatment in the most serious cases.

We have managed to expand our services and reach a record number of people

Ilyas Mohamed, Programmes Director

Despite significant expansion of immunisation across Somalia in the past decade, around 30 per cent of under-5s are entirely unvaccinated against the major diseases of childhood. We vaccinated 30,833 children in 2025. We also provided sight-saving cataract surgery for 550 people, and gave infection-preventing tetanus jabs to 14,252 pregnant women.

The World Health Organisation says Somalia is one of the most dangerous places for women to give birth, with a maternal mortality rate of 621 deaths per 100,000 live births. We provided 46,442 women with specialist prenatal, post-natal and maternal health care in 2025. Our teams ensured that 5,453 of these women gave birth with the assistance of a trained health professional at one of our health centres.

Our 16 tuberculosis clinics screened 21,532 people for TB, treating 4,682 who tested positive. The proportion of those testing positive increased from 15 per cent in 2024 to 22 per cent in 2025 – a concerning indicator of how the prevalence of infectious diseases can increase in challenging conditions such as prolonged periods of severe drought.

“There has been a sharp increase in hunger and malnutrition because of the drought,” says Ilyas Mohamed, Zamzam’s Programmes Director. “At a time when people need health services and nutrition support more than ever, it is a huge concern that around 40 per cent of all health facilities across Somalia were forced to close in 2025 because of funding cuts. In this challenging context it feels like a significant achievement that we have managed to expand our services and reach a record number of people.”



Our ten main health centres provided maternal and newborn healthcare to 46,442 women in six regions of Somalia, including prenatal appointments like this one in Middle Shabelle

SUCCESS STORY

THREE SAFE BIRTHS IN ZAMZAM HEALTH CENTRE

All of Shukri Ahmed’s three young children have been born safely with the support of trained midwives and other staff at Zamzam’s Qalimow Health Centre, in the Baclad district of Middle Shabelle.

Qalimow is one of ten Zamzam health centres that provide free maternity care in a country where maternal and newborn death rates are alarmingly high. These centres provide a vital service for women who do not have access to healthcare because they live in remote areas, or because they simply cannot afford it.

Shukri’s family is in debt and her husband is unemployed, with no stable income. Their three-hectare farm was unproductive for most of 2025 due to lack of rainfall and the intensifying drought.

“I am one of the people benefiting from this health centre,” Shukri told us. “I have given birth here, and my children have been vaccinated here. People come here from many surrounding villages.”



LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

OUR IMPACT

26,878

people in farming families benefited from our provision of seeds, tools, livestock, irrigation pumps and other support

200

people earned an income working on our community infrastructure projects

610

women and young people received small-business grants and loans

400

farmers received trained in climate-smart agriculture

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ European Commission Humanitarian Office
- ▶ Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
- ▶ International Rescue Committee
- ▶ Kaaf Humanitarian
- ▶ Qatar Charity
- ▶ Save the Children
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society



We provided 40 water pumps to five farming cooperatives in 2025, enabling 600 farmers to irrigate their crops and feed their families

Somali pastoralists and farmers are repeatedly suffering catastrophic losses of livestock and crops because of a combination of higher temperatures, reduced rainfall, more erratic seasons, and more frequent and extreme droughts and floods. Our livelihoods programme empowers food producers to stay on their land, while also enabling displaced people to find new ways to earn a living.

We provided livelihoods support to 38,894 people in five regions in 2025 – Hiran, Gedo, Banadir, Middle Shabelle, and Middle Juba – a 43 per cent increase in beneficiary numbers. We prioritised supporting agriculture because of the huge role farmers play in the economy and food security.

Our support for farmers benefited 26,878 people in farming families and included the provision of seeds, tools, water pumps, livestock and veterinary services – as well as assistance with clearing and ploughing land. We trained 400 farmers in climate-smart agriculture techniques, enabling them to increase yields while using less water and reducing soil erosion.

Our two demonstration plots in Jowhar and Beledweyne are helping to establish the best varieties of drought-resistant maize, sorghum and fodder crops to grow in local conditions. We employed 200 people in cash-for-work programmes to improve community infrastructure, including the digging or rehabilitation of 39 km of irrigation canals.

The finance, animals and equipment we provided enabled 610 people to establish a wide range of small income-generating enterprises, including dairy farming, sewing and tailoring, and small grocery and clothing shops. We provided vocational training for 25 young men and women in motor mechanics, beauty services, and electrical skills.

Zamzam’s locally led resilience work empowers vulnerable communities through sustainable livelihoods and long-term recovery solutions

Ismail Maalim Ali, International Rescue Committee



SUCCESS STORY

SELLING GOAT’S MILK TO BOUNCE BACK FROM DROUGHT

Amina Mohamed, 30, paid a heavy price for the severe drought that tightened its grip on Somalia in 2025. All her family’s livestock and crops were wiped out, forcing Amina and her seven young children to leave their home village in search of food.

Amina took refuge in Wadajir displacement camp in the southern city of Baidoa, a crowded and chaotic place where every day can feel like a battle for survival. She believes she has turned a corner, however, thanks to support from Zamzam’s livelihoods programme.

In October Amina was one of 178 displaced farmers in Baidoa who received goats or dairy cows distributed by Zamzam in partnership with

Qatar Charity. The farmers were chosen through careful needs assessments to identify those in greatest need.

“I look after my goats because they are my main source of income,” Amina says. “I sell some of the milk in the market and use the money to support my family. I also give milk to my children to drink. Although things have improved, life is still difficult for us. Being displaced, we continue to face many challenges.”

None of Amina’s three sons and four daughters currently goes to school, and that is something she hopes will change in the future as the family gets back on its feet.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Women's empowerment is crucial to reduce inequality, increase opportunity, and support community well-being

Amina Abdinoor, External Relations and Partnership Manager



OUR IMPACT

10,424

people benefited from community workshops and cascaded learning on gender-based violence (GBV)

1,315

women received treatment, counselling or education materials related to GBV



Women in displacement camps are vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV). Zamzam is working to combat GBV through education, training, and district protection committees.

We believe the inclusion, empowerment and protection of women in our programmes is critical for community resilience and well-being in the short term and for peace and prosperity in the future.

Girls accounted for 45 per cent of the 4,277 places taken up in Zamzam schools in 2025, and nearly 48 per cent of our successful graduates at secondary level.

Women farmers and small family enterprises established and run by women were prominent among recipients of the 610 income-generating grants and loans we provided. Women accounted for 48 per cent of the 8,189 individuals benefiting from our livelihoods programmes overall. Our maternal and new-born health services benefited 46,442 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Our work to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) and support those affected included practically based community workshops in which 23 of the 43 participants were women. We ensured that learning from these workshops was cascaded to the wider population, reaching over 10,000 people.

In two districts we established district protection committees composed of equal numbers of women and men, resulting in 104 particularly vulnerable women being identified, reached and referred to GBV protection services.

Women were well represented on each of the 107 water and sanitation committees we set up or re-established as we provided new boreholes and wells or rehabilitated existing ones. We also continue to ensure that women were well represented in all our community peacebuilding activities, including training, dialogue and conflict mediation.

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ Dutch Relief Alliance
- ▶ European Community Humanitarian Office
- ▶ Oxfam
- ▶ Medair
- ▶ Somalia Joint Response (SOMJR)
- ▶ World Vision

SUCCESS STORY

A THRIVING TIE-AND-DYE BUSINESS

When the opportunity arose to establish a small tie-and-dye clothing business, 42-year-old Amino Yare Mohamud grabbed it with both hands.

Training and support from Zamzam have empowered Amino, a widowed mother of four, to earn a modest income through buying clothes and then reselling them at a profit. She is able to enhance their value by adding vibrant colours and patterns through tie-and-dye techniques.

In 2025 Zamzam provided 610 start-up grants and loans to women and young people, enabling them to re-establish themselves as farmers or build entirely new livelihoods in a country where climate change is making farming increasingly difficult.

Amino lives in a displacement camp in the Bardere district of Gedo. She was forced to leave her home village of Serinley in 2023 when years of severe drought, punctuated by periodic heavy flooding, took their toll.

It used to be easier to make a living from keeping livestock or growing crops, Amino reflects, but climate change means rainfall is becoming more irregular.

"Through Zamzam I have learned valuable skills, and I was provided with a start-up kit to help me set up and grow my small business," she says. "This business has improved my ability to support my children and meet our basic needs.

"My hope for the future is to build a more stable and sustainable livelihood for my family. Most of all, I want my children to complete their schooling and have a better future."



WATER AND SANITATION

OUR IMPACT

133,200

people given access to clean water – over 22,000 families

98

new boreholes and wells

5,139

people received hygiene kits or health-and-hygiene awareness training

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ Human Appeal Australia
- ▶ Human Concern International
- ▶ International Islamic Charity Organisation
- ▶ Kaaf Humanitarian
- ▶ King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre
- ▶ Muslim Aid Australia
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society



Over 53,000 people have a new supply of safe water close to home, thanks to the 94 shallow and artesian wells we provided in 2025

Access to safe water reached crisis point in Somalia’s severe drought this year. Many water sources dried up, waterborne diseases and water prices surged, livestock died in large numbers, and women were forced to travel longer distances to find functional water points.

“Water scarcity and fragile healthcare infrastructure are increasing vulnerability to waterborne diseases and placing an immense strain on an already overstretched health system,” says the UN’s latest Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Somalia.

In 2025 Zamzam gave 133,200 people access to clean water by providing four new boreholes and 94 new shallow and artesian wells, as well as rehabilitating a further nine wells that had stopped functioning properly. Our four-strong water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team – three WASH officers and a water engineer – prioritised some of the areas worst affected by the drought, including Somaliland and Puntland, Baidoa, Buloburde, Jowhar, and Beledweyne.

Three of the new boreholes – one each in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug – were financed by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre. We also drilled a borehole to support displaced families near Mogadishu in partnership with Muslim Aid Australia. We have drilled over 180 boreholes and provided around 5,200 wells across Somalia since Zamzam was established in 1992.

New boreholes are what communities in hard-to-reach areas need to provide long-term water security

Abdimalik Shuaib, WASH Project Officer



We set up or re-established community water committees – with women strongly represented on each – for all 107 of the boreholes and wells we built or rehabilitated. These committees ensure that water facilities are well managed, properly maintained, and accessible to the most vulnerable.

Investment in sanitation, hygiene and community education is also vitally important. Research shows that improved sanitation can reduce diarrhoeal disease by a third. In 2025 we built 21 latrines, providing improved sanitation for more than 600 people. Working alongside our WASH and emergency response teams as part of an integrated crisis response, our health staff distributed 2,939 hygiene kits and delivered five health-and-hygiene awareness sessions in displaced communities, attended by 2,200 people.

“Our water projects are primarily driven by the needs of communities on the ground,” explains Abdimalik Shuaib from Zamzam’s WASH team. “We often receive requests for support from hard-to-reach areas.

“Another big factor is the priorities of funders and partners, and the resources they commit to our projects. This has been a challenging year when it feels like sources of funds have dried up even faster than water sources, limiting our capacity to support communities whose needs have been exacerbated by the drought.

“Boreholes are more expensive at around \$120,000 each, but boreholes are what most communities really need to provide long-term water security. A shallow well may only last four years, and requires constant maintenance.”



The four boreholes we drilled in 2025 are providing clean drinking water on tap for 72,000 people, as well as large watering troughs for livestock

SUCCESS STORY

NEW BOREHOLES SAVE TIME AND SAVE LIVES

Amina Ibrahim and her family have easy access to a new borehole drilled by Zamzam in 2025 that is providing clean water for around 18,000 people in a dry rural area near Hargeisa.

“Previously our community depended on long journeys to the Arabsiyo area to get drinking water,” she explains. “Now we are able to get safe water within our own community, which is a big improvement.”

Borewells like the one in Amina’s village, funded by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, can save women and children a lot of time. Amina used to have to travel for around two hours to find water – a four-hour round trip.

New water sources also save lives by protecting children from deadly waterborne diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea.

Crucially, Zamzam’s network of new and existing boreholes kept many livestock alive in 2025 as the drought intensified and other water sources dried up.

OUR IMPACT

5
new schools built

6
new Qur'an schools established as part of community mosque construction

4,277
children educated in Zamzam schools

315
secondary-school pupils successfully graduated from our schools

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ Al-Imdaad Foundation
- ▶ Human Appeal Australia
- ▶ Human Development Fund
- ▶ Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH)
- ▶ Islamic Development Bank
- ▶ Kaaf Humanitarian
- ▶ Sheikh Abdalla Al-Nouri Charity Society

The proportion of children missing school surged from 56 per cent to 62 per cent in 2025, according to the UN's Education Cluster of humanitarian agencies providing education services in Somalia. More families were displaced because of drought and conflict, and financial pressures forced more children to drop out of school to look for work or support family livelihoods.

Zamzam Foundation delivers high-quality education through the eight schools we run ourselves, as well as building new schools each year to expand education provision. We have established around 160 schools across Somalia in the past 33 years, equipping and initially managing them before handing them over to local authorities and communities to operate.

Our orphan sponsorship programme enabled over 10,000 children to go to school in 2025 by providing a monthly stipend to a lone parent or other family guardian. Over a thousand orphans are educated free of charge in Zamzam schools each year.

In 2025 we built five new schools – two in Mogadishu and the others in Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle and Gedo. We also established six new Qur'an schools – three in Mogadishu, two in Galgaduud and one in Hiran – as part of our construction of six new mosques.

Informal education through mosques makes a significant contribution to education in a country where formal education provision can be limited. Mosques are often focal points for education, as well as for supporting poorer families and community development.



By building and equipping around 160 schools across more than three decades, Zamzam has made a significant investment in education in Somalia

There are an estimated 1.3 million primary-age children out of school in Somalia

Education Cannot Wait, UN global education fund



Girls from the poorest families often miss out on education. We make education for girls more accessible by providing free places or charging nominal fees

Zamzam Foundation ran four schools in Mogadishu and four in Hargeisa in 2025. A total of 4,277 children studied at our schools – a 14 per cent increase on the previous year.

To address imbalances in education we operate one girls-only school, and we aim to offer equal numbers of places to girls and boys enrolling in our schools at primary level. In 2025 nearly 48 per cent of the 315 pupils successfully graduating from our schools at secondary level were girls – a remarkable figure when girls are much more likely to drop out of education prematurely.

Significant barriers that restrict access to schooling in Somalia include inadequate education services, teacher shortages, inaccessibility of school facilities because of conflict and insecurity, and disruption of education when families are displaced. Financial constraints are the biggest barrier for many families.

We draw hope, however, from the progress that has been achieved in reducing illiteracy. The hard reality is that only around half of Somali adults can read and write – 54 per cent of men and 46 per cent of women. The hopeful sign is that literacy rates among young people aged 15-24 have reached 70 per cent, showing how investment in education is making a positive difference in the long term.

SUCCESS STORY

DREAMING OF BEING A PILOT

Along with two of her eight siblings, Iqro has a free place at Al-Fajri School, one of the eight schools run by Zamzam in Mogadishu and Hargeisa. She believes the school has played a significant role in her development.

"It has shaped my mind and strengthened my knowledge," she says. "Honestly, I was one person before. Today I have grown into another."

Iqro's favourite subject is IT, and she smiles broadly as she shares her dream that she will become a pilot one day.

Iqro speaks with confidence and pride about her progress at the school. Her confidence reflects her personal growth, while her strong sense of purpose is apparent in her dedication to her studies.

This is the power of the high-quality education delivered by Zamzam schools. Our schools are expanding children's horizons, and pupils can dare to dream of a brighter future.

ORPHANS AND SOCIAL CARE

We have seen an increase in school attendance and an improvement in academic performance

Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim, Head of Sponsorship



OUR IMPACT

11,120

orphaned children's families supported

10,133

orphans received monthly support to enable them to go to school

676

new children enrolled in our orphans programme

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ Europe Aid Foundation
- ▶ Human Appeal Australia
- ▶ Human Concern International
- ▶ Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH)
- ▶ International Islamic Charity Organisation (IICO)
- ▶ Kaaf Humanitarian
- ▶ Sadakataşı Derneği
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society
- ▶ Weltweiter Einsatz Für Arme (WEFA)



As well as being able to go to school because of orphan sponsorship, Zamzam orphans often benefit from fun-filled days out and other recreational activities

The generosity of our donors enabled us to support the families of 11,120 orphaned children in 2025, an increase of 32 per cent on the previous year.

Importantly, we were able to provide monthly financial support to 10,133 of the children enrolled in our orphan sponsorship programme, an increase of 72 per cent. Sustained financial support gives parents and guardians the regular and reliable income they need to send their children to school.

"We have seen an increase in school attendance by our orphans and an improvement in their academic performance," says Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim, our Head of Sponsorship. "The living conditions of families have improved, and we have provided better child welfare support."

The authoritative Somali Health and Demographic Survey of 2020 found that nearly one in five Somali families (19 per cent) included one or more orphans. 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. Our support for orphans aligns with Islamic teachings: orphans are mentioned 23 times in the Qur'an, which emphasises the responsibility of all believers to care for orphans in need.

The money we provide can be used to meet whichever family needs are most pressing, giving our beneficiaries an element of choice that respects their dignity. Alongside general financial assistance we also provided grants or microfinance loans to 11 families of orphans in 2025. "We aim to expand our programme to reach more orphaned children, with an increasing focus on family empowerment through support for income generation," says Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim.

SUCCESS STORY

THRIVING AT SCHOOL

Support from Zamzam's orphan programme means 17-year-old Abdisamad is close to completing his schooling – and dreaming of giving something back to his community in the future.

"My biggest dream is to become a businessman," he says. "I want to succeed in life and support my community in the same way that I have been supported."

Abdisamad lives in the Madino district of Mogadishu with his four younger siblings – three brothers and a sister. He studies hard, and he has managed to reach the final year of his secondary education at Hilal International Academy – despite being orphaned at a young age.

"My mother passed away, and my father also died when I was very young," he says. "I never had the chance to know my father."

With no family income to support him, Abdisamad is thankful for the assistance he gets from his school and from Zamzam. He has a free place at the school, which includes free school meals. Financial support from Zamzam covers a range of his basic needs, including food outside of school, travel costs and books.

"Before I got support from Zamzam, it was very difficult to continue my education because of a lack of financial and family support."

Without our sponsorship programme, Abdisamad would likely face a future of illiteracy and poverty. Instead, he is enjoying school every day, with real hope of breaking the cycle of poverty.



PEACEBUILDING

Conflict remains a critical driver of humanitarian needs in Somalia, with inter-clan fighting, retaliatory attacks, and military offensives

Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan

OUR IMPACT

200

people attended community dialogues to resolve local conflicts

100

community, faith and local authority leaders attended peacebuilding training

3

peace committees that we established are facilitating ongoing dialogue and conflict prevention in Galgaduud, Hiran and Middle Shabelle



We believe in an inclusive approach that involves both women and men, engaging young people as well as elders in peacebuilding dialogue and mediation

Our peacebuilding programme, established in 2012, brings communities together to resolve local conflicts. We received no external funding for peacebuilding in 2024 or 2025, but we continue to core-fund a specialist team of two to harness their experience across all our programmes.

As well as hostilities between government forces and armed opposition groups, Somalia is divided by clan-based violence, often involving disputes over dwindling resources such as water and pasture. Tackling these localised conflicts, fuelled by climate change, is the focus of our work.

Around 316,000 Somalis were driven from their homes by conflict in 2025 – 26 per cent more than the previous year. Deaths related to clan-based conflicts fell in most regions, but increased sharply in Banadir (up 11 per cent), Bay (up 35 per cent) and Togdheer (up 86 per cent).

This year we included a peacebuilding component in a multi-sectoral emergency response project in the Buloburde district of Hiran region (see pages 15 and 35). Our peacebuilding team organised community dialogues involving 200 people from three villages regarded as conflict hotspots in the district. We also provided training on peacebuilding and local governance for 100 community and faith leaders and key local authority staff.

This kind of peacebuilding work can have lasting benefits. Three peace committees we previously established – in Hiran, Galgaduud and Middle Shabelle – have become self-sustaining community peace platforms with around 40 members each. All operate on a voluntary basis to coordinate peacebuilding initiatives and foster peaceful coexistence.

“The communities we have worked with are increasingly using dialogue and mediation as tools to resolve conflict,” says Aweis Omar Hassan, Zamzam’s Peace Coordinator. “We want to spread this approach to Mudug and other areas of Hiran where it is urgently needed.”

SUCCESS STORY

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The immediate welfare of his land and livestock are not the only concerns for Dahir Abdi, a 47-year-old farmer and community elder who lives in the Buloburde district of Hiran.

Dahir also has climate change on his mind – how farmers can deal with it, and how communities can avoid coming into conflict over water, fodder and pasture. He found some of the answers he was looking for when Zamzam Foundation came to Xaaji Buube village, where he has lived all his life, to deliver peacebuilding training.

An important priority, he now sees, is breaking down barriers between clans and communities – and seeing climate change as an issue that can unite rather than divide. Farmers need to work together to improve food security, build climate resilience, and reduce conflict over scarce resources. Dahir now leads by example as a respected member of a dynamic village committee that has put peacebuilding at the top of its agenda.

“Before this project, there were frequent conflicts and disputes within the community,” he says. “People didn’t know how to resolve conflicts peacefully. Thanks to training from Zamzam, we gained knowledge and practical skills in conflict resolution, community leadership and accountability. The village has become more stable. People are living together more peacefully.”

Dahir is looking to the future with hope and ambition. “I hope that peace will continue, and that our young people will have better opportunities,” he says. “I also want to see basic services in the community improve.”



SEASONAL PROGRAMMES

OUR IMPACT

214,692

people benefited from our distribution of Ramadan food packs and our serving of hot iftars

1,377,936

people were able to celebrate Eid Al-Adha with qurbani meat

5,882

children received new clothes as Eid gifts

KEY PARTNERS

- ▶ Alnajat Charity
- ▶ Human Appeal Australia
- ▶ Human Appeal UK
- ▶ Human Concern International
- ▶ International Islamic Charity Organisation
- ▶ Muslim Aid Australia
- ▶ Osman Consulting
- ▶ Sefkateli
- ▶ Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society
- ▶ WEBA
- ▶ Yedibasak



Our staff ensure that animals involved in our qurbani programme are well cared for, and that slaughter complies with Islamic rules and guidance

Our Ramadan and qurbani distributions reached nearly 1.6 million people in 2025 – 21 per cent more than the previous year.

In total our provision of Ramadan food packs, qurbani meat, Eid gifts and zakat cash assistance reached 1,598,510 people – a record number. Our distributions took place mainly in displacement camps in and around seven cities: Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo, Jowhar, Beledweyne, Guricel and Hargeisa.

In March, 214,692 people benefited from the hot meals, Ramadan food packs and Zakat Al-Fitr support (food and cash assistance) provided by our hard-working teams. We distributed enough food packs to feed 86,166 people – a slight reduction on the 87,426 people who benefited in 2024.

We cooked and served 93,702 hot meals, providing nutritious iftars for the most vulnerable to break their fasts – a 72 per cent increase. Zakat Al-Fitr donations, which stem from a religious obligation for Muslims who are better off to provide meals for those less fortunate before the Eid prayer, enabled us to provide a meal or equivalent cash assistance to a further 34,824 people.

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 – plus dates to break the fast in the traditional way.

Zamzam's qurbani preparations and the quality of the livestock have been excellent

Omar Al-Jamal, Human Appeal Australia



In the first week of June, we provided qurbani meat for a record 1,377,936 people, enabling poor families to celebrate Eid Al-Adha with a nutritious meal and store additional meat to boost their diets for up to a week. The sheer scale of the programme ensures a significant boost for the livelihoods of livestock farmers supplying our qurbani meat.

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 teams distribute the meat to families they have carefully identified as needing it most – an extensive operation that involves around 150 staff and volunteers.

“Our distributions were particularly timely this year because of the impact of the drought,” says Numan Sharif, Zamzam’s Director of Special Programmes. “Everywhere we went we encountered real hardship, hunger and malnutrition. It has been a year of higher food prices, reduced purchasing power, and increased reliance on food assistance from NGOs.”

As part of a tradition observed by Muslims at Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha, we distributed new clothes to 5,882 children as gifts – enabling them to celebrate Eid with their families in a way they could not otherwise afford.



Our mass distributions in displacement camps provided over 14,000 hungry families with a month's supply of food to prepare meals for themselves in Ramadan

SUCCESS STORY

ONE FAMILY'S RELIEF FROM HUNGER

When Zamzam staff first met Habibo Adan, she and her eight children were going hungry every day in an overcrowded displacement camp in Baidoa.

“Ramadan is approaching, and we are in need of support,” she told us. “We need food and support for suhoor and iftar.”

Habibo was driven from her home village by conflict. She was forced to raise her children alone after being abandoned by her husband.

She scrapes together a modest income by scouring the area in and around the camp for firewood to sell. It is exhausting work, and fraught with danger because of the threat of abuse and violence by men.

The food pack we provided ensured that Habibo had enough food to prepare meals for the entire month of Ramadan. As well as keeping hunger at bay, she was able to fulfil her fast in dignity and enjoy breaking it by sharing iftar with her children each day.



INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

TURKISH SUPPORT TOPS \$3.6 MILLION

The continuing growth of Zamzam Türkiye – established in 2017 – provided a welcome boost for Zamzam programmes on the ground in Somalia as funding cuts from other sources continued to bite.

In 2025 the amount raised from Turkish non-government organisations was a record \$3,675,479 – a 22 per cent increase on the previous year. Most of the money raised was allocated to Zamzam Foundation’s Qurbani and emergency response programmes, providing much needed food assistance for hungry families struggling in the drought.

The funds were secured through partnerships and collaborations with 35 Turkish partner organisations, including ten new partnerships established in 2025. The two biggest contributors were Şefkateli Humanitarian Aid Association and Yedibaşak Humanitarian Aid Association.

“We really appreciate the support of our Turkish partners,” says Murat Kudak, who heads up Zamzam Türkiye operations. “Together we have been able to consolidate and strengthen existing programme areas, while also expanding our investment in lifesaving emergency relief and food assistance.”



Every Pregnancy CEO Isra Chaker (centre) was the catalyst for bringing together Mukhtar Karim of Lady Fatemah Trust (left) and representatives of Zamzam Foundation, including Amina Abdinoor (right), in a new match funding partnership

Zamzam Foundation is speaking up on the global stage with a distinctive voice of the kind that too often goes unheard in international debate, particularly where Somalia is concerned. It is the voice of an established grassroots NGO with the experience, capacity and community credibility to deliver solutions to some of the biggest challenges Somalis face.

Zamzam’s international presence is spearheaded by our Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Unit (PRMU) and enhanced by the work of Zamzam Kenya, Zamzam Türkiye and Zamzam UK – three independent entities working to extend our humanitarian reach, raise awareness, and raise funds.

In 2025 there was a threefold focus to PRMU’s international outreach:

- ▶ Projecting a Somali grassroots perspective at important international events
- ▶ Advocating through international networks for concrete commitments to climate finance, resilience building and localisation
- ▶ Forging new partnerships, tapping into new networks and participating in key consortia to access funding and influence programme implementation.

The events we attended included the COP 30 climate conference and the Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum. In advocacy we campaigned for significant climate finance that is accessible to grassroots organisations, as well as for meaningful localisation that puts a lot more influence and resources in the hands of local organisations.

Zamzam’s UK presence strengthens diaspora engagement and amplifies Somali voices

Jawaahir Daahir, Chair, Global Somali Diaspora



On the partnership front we strengthened our engagement within the Somalia NGO Consortium, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), and the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia consortium (BRCiS). We established new partnerships with the Islamic Circle of North America, MatchLocal (for shared advocacy and better access to German and European funding), and Taqat – a leading Qatari sustainable development platform.

“International funding is not keeping pace with growing climate and humanitarian needs in Somalia,” says Suleikha Ali Yusuf, our Partnerships Director. “At least there is growing recognition that effective action to meet humanitarian needs and adapt to climate challenges depends increasingly on strong, capable, local organisations like Zamzam operating at scale.”

Zamzam Foundation UK, launched with a new website and social media accounts in November 2024, spent 2025 expanding its digital fundraising and forging links with like-minded Somali diaspora organisations and community groups.

The organisation’s most significant achievements included:

- ▶ A national launch event at East London Mosque with speakers from two Zamzam partners – International Rescue Committee and Save the Children.
- ▶ Developing a Zakat Distribution Policy with support from Islamic Relief – including training for Zamzam staff in the UK and Mogadishu.
- ▶ Fundraising campaigns for drought relief and for Ramadan food and qurbani meat distributions, including live appeals on Universal TV
- ▶ Joining the global Every Pregnancy coalition to participate in collective fundraising and advocacy efforts for maternal and newborn health programmes.
- ▶ Raising over £16,000 for Zamzam’s Qalimow Health Centre in Middle Shabelle through an online All Mothers Matter campaign, a Hike for Hooyo event in the Chiltern Hills in partnership with Somali Hikers, and match funding from a fellow Every Pregnancy member: Lady Fatemah Trust.
- ▶ Working with Norwegian Refugee Council, Somali Development Services and Bristol Somali Forum to stage panel debates on climate resilience in Leicester, Bristol and London as part of Somali Week, involving MPs Shocket Adam and Kerry McCarthy.
- ▶ Teaming up with Global Somali Diaspora to coordinate a letter to the Minister for Africa from 17 Somali community organisations, expressing concern about UK government aid cuts and paving the way for ongoing dialogue with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

37,465 KENYANS HELPED

Over 37,000 people living in four counties of northern and eastern Kenya benefited from Zamzam Kenya’s programmes in 2025, including emergency food assistance, seasonal distributions, health and nutrition services, and water projects.

Emergency food baskets were given to 2,200 hungry families and fresh qurbani meat to 4,259 households. Zamzam Kenya’s Ramadan feeding programme reached 2,723 families. The Kenyan embassies of Qatar and Saudi Arabia played a pivotal role in supporting Zamzam Kenya’s iftar programme, alongside HASS Petroleum.

Seventy new shallow wells were built in Tana River and Garissa counties, earning Zamzam Kenya the accolade of Best Performance in WASH Activities in Kenya’s NGO Awards for 2025. More than 150 people benefited from cataract surgery at Madogo Health Centre.

“Alongside all this programme activity, we enhanced our visibility with a new website and social media platforms,” says Programme Director Farhia Ahmed. “We also participated in strategically important dialogues on disaster risk reduction and on climate resilience in the build-up to the COP 30 climate summit.”



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ZAMZAM
FOUNDATION

info@zamzamsom.org

 Zamzam Foundation

 @zamzamsom

www.zamzamsom.org

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