



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	DAREX003
Project title	Climate resilience, food, and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland)
Lead Organisation	The Development Fund of Norway
Partner(s)	ADO, HAVOYOCO, KAALO and Amoud University
Project leader	Elin Cecilie Ranum
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1, 31 October 2024
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

Output 1: Two new CSBs established with full equipment and management structures; three existing CSBs enhanced to deliver high-quality seeds

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities: All preparatory/administrative/procurement and stakeholder engagement related activities for the FY3 2024 are mainly performed. Also, Beer Community Seedbank (CSB) received 10 seed stocks, hermetic storage bags, and other facilities to enhance seed quality (**Activity 1.5**). A 15-member committee was established to manage a newly constructed CSB community seedbank in Midhisho village, along with the development of two operational bylaws: one for management structures and the other for asset management (**Activity 1.8**). Also, a four-day training session on pest and disease control in storage facilities was conducted for 50 farmers (38 men and 12 women), based on findings from a 2023 seed security assessment in Dulcadale (**Activity 1.14**).

Output 2: Five CSBs (2 new, 3 existing) supported in selling seeds beyond local markets

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities: The newly constructed Midhisho CSB was equipped with essential office furniture and equipment, including tables, chairs, desks, shelves, a computer, a printer, a whiteboard, and file boxes. Additionally, 200 small plastic bottles were provided for storing gene-bank samples of local seed varieties. Eight blue plastic silos, each with a capacity of 177 kg, were also supplied. Also, the other

CSBs were technically supported to strengthen their internal procedures and continue assessing markets and attracting customers (**Activity 2.2**). It is worth noting that the procurement related activities for the rest of FY3 2024 is already commenced.

Output 3: Improved access to water for agricultural use for 2,500 smallholder farmers

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities:
 Two-day training sessions on Rainwater Conservation and Usage for Agricultural Farming were held, participated by 80 individuals (39 women and 41 men), including smallholder farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and other stakeholders from Cuun and Dulcadale villages (**Activity 3.2**). Additionally, 30 geo-plastic sheets were distributed in Beer and Midhisho villages (23 to men and 7 to women) to support water harvesting efforts (**Activity 3.3**). To ensure the sustainability of the newly established water points, water committees were mobilized and connected with local authorities and relevant government entities. Procurement for planned activities is already commenced.

Output 4: Improved agricultural skills and access to higher-quality soil for 2,500 smallholders

Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities:
 A four-day climate adaptation workshop was held in Beer Village, focusing on assessing climate vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity, with 21 participants (**activity 4.3**). A total of 9,900 meters of soil bunds have been constructed, employing 150 workers. Also, the procurement of 400 gabions is underway (activity 4.6). Project stakeholders have had higher discussions on addressing issues related to pests and soil erosion to minimize the factors that contribute to food insecurity.

Output 5: Enhanced capacity of public officials to draft and enact policies: Under this output, progress has been made on the following activities:

Discussions on enhancing Somaliland National Seed Policy have concluded, and the policies currently being translated. (**Activity 5.4**). For Puntland Seed Policy dissemination process kick started.
 As DF CO, we consistently monitored and provided technical support to partners during this period, ensuring alignment with the project timetable and objectives.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

1. With reference to the 2023-24 annual report and the ongoing dialogue with BCF/NIRAS, all activities by HAVOYOCO have been put on hold due to possible mismanagement of funds and HAVOYOCO's decision to terminate the partnership with DF. The case has been taken to a political level and this has made it difficult to identify a new partner which can replace HAVOYOCO. Moreover, the upgrading of the Galoolay CSB and support to smallholder farmers in Gabiley and Aburin were delayed due to HAVOYOCO protracted activity handover. This has led to a reduction in the budget for 2024-25, as well as delays in achievement of some targets as previously informed. A change request will be submitted by 31 December 2024.
2. Internal administrative changes at strategic partner Amoud University led to policy adjustments, further delaying certain activities.
3. Activities in Midhisho were delayed due to security concerns between clan militias in Erigavo, which also had a detrimental impact on the project implementation timeline.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	No

Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)
Actual spend:

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)?
 Yes No

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.
If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.
NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

The upcoming elections in Somaliland in November 2024 could potentially cause civil unrest, impacting logistics and movement. To mitigate risks, partners and DF have planned measures like staff safety, asset controls, and regular communication with security responsible entities.

The new Director General of Somaliland's Ministry of Planning and National Development threatened to suspend the DF Country Office's license unless payments to HAVOYOCO are made and has unlawfully requested the removal of its forensic audit process. The Norwegian Embassy in Kenya is addressing these concerns through meetings with the Minister. However, the issues with Havoyoco remains to be a challenge and to be resolved.

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

S/N	Comments from recent annual report	Status
2	Review viability of exit strategy following discussion on way forward relating to departure of HAVOYOCO.	DF informed BCF that the Ministry of Planning and National Development stepped in to address the disputes between DF and HAVOYOCO.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1 st April 2024)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)?	NA
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register?	NA
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1 st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review?	X
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	X
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	X
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project?	X

Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	X
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