

DIAKONIA IN SOMALIA

Photo: Fredrik Lerneryd

Who We Are

Diakonia is a rights-based Swedish organisation working globally to challenge poverty, inequality, and injustice. In the Somalia country office, Diakonia plays a key role in supporting local civil society organizations to promote democratic governance, protect human rights, and enhance resilience. We work hand in hand with local partners, including long-standing CSOs and government bodies in Puntland and Southwest states. The office was established in 1994.

What we do

We invest in sustainable, climate-smart agriculture to enhance food security and reduce displacement—particularly among women-headed households. By combining indigenous knowledge with modern techniques, we foster inclusive, environmentally conscious development at the grassroots level.

We build and strengthen capacities within communities, civil society, and government institutions, advocate for accountability, and mobilise resources to support locally led initiatives. Our work contributes to peacebuilding, empowers youth through decent work initiatives, and strengthens community-based early warning systems to mitigate risks before they escalate.

Currently, we actively collaborate with a diverse network of partners who are committed to building a more just, equal, and sustainable Somalia—from the ground up.

Our Approach

Triple Nexus

We apply the Triple Nexus approach to connect humanitarian relief, development, and peacebuilding—ensuring that crisis response contributes to long-term sustainability and stability. While implementation is complex, it represents a shift toward holistic and integrated crisis management that addresses both immediate needs and long-term resilience.

Human rights-based approach

Diakonia's Human Rights-Based Approach affirms that all individuals are entitled to their fundamental rights and have the power to claim them. We prioritise inclusion, accountability, and non-discrimination—ensuring all community members can meaningfully participate, equitably access resources, and that development initiatives uphold dignity, justice, and the active engagement of all rights-holders.

Feminist principles

We integrate feminist principles into our programming by addressing the interconnections between gender, power, justice, and environmental issues. This approach promotes gender equality and social inclusion, ensuring meaningful engagement of beneficiaries across all our work areas. By actively involving marginalized groups—including women, girls, Indigenous peoples, and individuals with disabilities—we foster inclusivity, equity, and sustainability. Our implementations prioritize beneficiary perspectives in decision-making processes to ensure equitable access to our interventions and solutions.

Promoting Resilience and Peaceful Co-existence for Climate Crisis-affected Communities

One of the key programmes in Somalia, the Promoting Resilience and Peaceful Co-existence for Climate Crisis-affected Communities programme, aims to strengthen community resilience, reduce conflict, and promote peaceful co-existence in climate-affected regions.

Co-funded by Bread for the World, the programme supports sustainable agriculture, inclusive governance, and climate adaptation, while empowering women and youth to lead local peacebuilding and development efforts. It bridges humanitarian response with long-term development by addressing immediate needs while building sustainable, locally driven solutions for lasting peace and resilience.

Theme related to SDGs:

Gender equality, Democracy and human rights, Climate Action, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Poverty, Humanitarian responses, Community resilience



Suhayra Ism'il Ahmed harvested a ripe watermelon from the farm
Photo: Da'uud Yusuf Muuse



160 women and youth trained in entrepreneurship and smart agriculture—driving job creation, reducing unemployment, and stimulating local economic growth.



50 farmers supported with land preparation, planting, greenhouse farming, and drip irrigation — **40 % increase in crop yields**, improving food security and livelihoods.



70 traditional elders and CSOs trained in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable resource management—reducing resource-based conflicts and strengthening community cohesion.



1,000 drought-affected families (7,000 individuals) gained access to clean water—alleviating suffering and protecting health during water scarcity.

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Learn more:



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