



MOGADISHU ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

MOGADISHU ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT 2023

Final Report





MOGADISHU
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUMMIT

“

Somalia and Water Crisis: Moving Beyond Projects

”

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Executive Summary

The Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2023 is an annual event that brings together environmental and climate professionals, experts, activists, organizations, academics, researchers, students, investors, entrepreneurs, journalists, and media houses to discuss Somalia's environmental and climate challenges and opportunities. The theme of this year's summit is "Somalia and Water Crisis: Moving Beyond Projects".

The Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2023, a major event that brought together environmental and climate stakeholders from Somalia and beyond, was hosted by Action for Environment, a Somali non-governmental organization, and SIMAD's Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE), a leading research center in the country. The summit coincided with a severe water crisis in Somalia, which was caused by the El Nino phenomenon, a climatic pattern that affects rainfall and temperature in the region. The water crisis had devastating effects on the environment, health, livelihoods, security, and development of millions of Somalis, especially in rural and drought-prone areas. The summit aimed to raise awareness and find solutions for the water crisis, as well as other environmental and climate challenges and opportunities in Somalia.

The summit aims to address to raise awareness and understanding of the causes and consequences of the water crisis in Somalia and its impact on the environment, health, livelihoods, security, and development; showcase and promote innovative and sustainable solutions and best practices for water management, conservation, and governance in Somalia and the region; foster collaboration and partnership among different stakeholders and sectors to enhance water security and resilience in Somalia and the region; and advocate for increased investment and support for water-related initiatives and policies in Somalia and the region.

The summit which took place on October 2-4, 2023 at the Jazeera Palace Hotel in Mogadishu. The summit will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, networking sessions, and cultural activities. The summit will also launch the Mogadishu Water Declaration, a document that outlines the vision, principles, and commitments of the participants to address the water crisis in Somalia and the region.

The summit attracted over 200 participants from Somalia and abroad, including government officials, representatives of regional and international organizations, civil society, private sector, media, and academia. Attendees of the summit also include the SomaliREN, a network of Somali higher education institutions, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia, the Benadir Regional Administration, the United Nations, and other partners.

During the two-day event the summit facilitated discussions between experts, policy-makers, practitioners, and stakeholders from various sectors to discuss and address the pressing environmental challenges facing Somalia and the region. The summit will focus on the following themes:

Strengthening Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Private Sector Engagement for Moving Beyond Projects: This session explored the opportunities and challenges of enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration and private sector involvement in environmental projects and initiatives. It also showcased successful examples and best practices of multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms for environmental sustainability.

Water Crisis, Climate Change, and Food Security: This session examined the interlinkages and trade-offs between water, climate, and food security in Somalia and the region. It also highlighted the impacts and risks of water scarcity, climate variability, and food insecurity on human development, peace, and stability. It also proposed solutions and strategies to improve water management, climate adaptation, and food production and distribution.

Water, Sanitation, and Health: This session addressed the challenges and opportunities of providing safe and adequate water and sanitation services to the population, especially in urban and peri-urban areas. It will also analyze the health implications and benefits of improving water and sanitation access and quality. It also presented innovative technologies and approaches to enhance water and sanitation service delivery and governance.

Breaking the Cycle: Empowering Women in the Face of Water Crisis and Climate Change: This session recognized the vital role and contribution of women in water and climate-related sectors and activities. It also explored the barriers and constraints that women face in accessing and managing water and climate resources and services. It also recommended ways to empower and support women as agents of change and resilience in water and climate action.

Threatened Waters: Unveiling the Profound Impact of the Water Crisis on Biodiversity: This session revealed the extent and severity of the water crisis on the biodiversity and ecosystems of Somalia and the region. It also demonstrated the importance and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and development. It also suggested measures and actions to conserve and restore the biodiversity and ecosystems that depend on and provide water.

In the end, the summit provided a platform for dialogue, learning, and networking among the participants and speakers. It also generated recommendations and commitments for advancing environmental sustainability and resilience in Somalia and the region.

Welcoming and Opening Remarks



Abdilatif Omar, Coordinator - Mogadishu Environmental Summit

Honorable guests, government officials, academicians, scholars, partners, sponsors, media, activists, youth, women, and all the participants, greetings to you all, and welcome to Mogadishu Environmental Summit (MES) 2023. Mogadishu Environmental Summit (MES) inaugural event was organized in 2022, an annual event where environmental issues and their solutions are discussed. Our focus is to gather experts on the environment, climate change, and water, religious scholars, youth, women, and the different portions of the community to discuss and talk about the pressing issues of the environment and climate change and reach durable solutions regarding these issues.

Last year's theme was Climate Change and Somali. This year's theme is "Somalia and Water Crisis: Moving Beyond Projects" and the reason we chose this particular theme is the recurring water crisis in Somalia in recent years and the forecasted El Niño which adds salt to the problem.

We modified the format and the structure of the summit this year as last year's summit was two days long consisting of panel discussions, keynote speeches, paper presentations, and exhibitions. The change this year focused on practitioners in the field of climate change and water by giving them two full days of training as well as paper presentations and the third day encompassing all the aspects of last year's structure.

We are aware that the country has been facing a water crisis in the last two decades, either water shortages or floods and that is due to the lack of management of water in the country. To reach durable solutions our theme this year is "Somalia and water crisis, moving beyond projects" aiming to reach avenues to solve the repetitive cycle of crisis and at the same time tackle the project-fixed mindset and pave the way towards a more sustainable way of facing the issues and finding solutions.

We gathered the very best brains who can talk about this topic in general and the issues in particular including representatives of the relevant ministries in water, environment, and climate change. We have here experts in water for more than 20 years. We have also, engineers who have important water-related data in the country. There are also the activists, stakeholders, and all of the different portions of the community. We are glad to have you all here welcome to MES2023.



Mohammed Okash, Executive Director of ICE, Partner - Mogadishu Environmental Summit

Honorable ministers, partners and sponsor representatives, scholars, experts, and all the participants, welcome to MES2023. It's a great honor for us to accept our invitations and attend this event where several important topics will be discussed. Somalia is one of the vulnerable countries to climate change in fact it's believed that we are the 2nd country that is vulnerable and it's not prepared for its adaption in terms of economic, infrastructure, and government policies. That requires us as universities, the private sector, and all stakeholders to come together and not just wait for the government and burden it alone but to come with a joint effort. That is why Simad University established the Institute of Climate and Environment and is here supporting this summit. Late last year and earlier this year there was a drought that hit the country which almost turned into a famine causing 6 million people to not get enough food and water due to delays in rainfall seasons for about 5 times and other times rainfalls in neighboring countries causes floods due to our lack of management of these waters which killed people and animals. Solving the water crisis both ground and underground waters is the entry point in solving all these issues and creating a safe green beautiful environment to live in and healthy domestic animals. This discussion is part and the start of solving these issues and the pathway of the green Somalia vision we are aiming for. Let us include all stakeholders in delivering and reaching government institutions and private institutions to make them part of it.

We are currently in the middle of a study about the relationship between climate change and conflict so far, we have found that there is a positive relationship between them looking at Somalia. Whenever there's a drought there are conflicts in those areas the water is scarce so the drought isn't the only thing that kills our people in these periods but also the conflicts that stem from it. The unique thing about this year's edition of MES is the two-day workshop and paper presentation which was tailored and designed to improve the youth's capacity in the field of climate change and water. Besides the discussions and talks these youth have with each other; they'll also get the chance to directly learn and ask experts on their respective fields and the different perspectives they'll present their topics.

The theme of this year is a very crucial element in climate change as droughts and floods stem from the lack of it or the excessive availability of it respectively. Water is an important issue for us and the experts in this field are very rare and limited in our country, it's an area where more research and study are needed. Somalia is considered one of the countries where the water crisis will have a massive impact by the year 2030 as it is forecasted that the water shortage rate will increase over the next years. As environmentalists, we should put more time and effort into researching to better understand these issues. We hope that you'll gain a lot from these discussions and anyone involved in working with the organizing parties there are different ways we can work together. Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the sponsors who knew the importance of this summit and invested economically so it's a great thing.

Sponsor Speeches



Abubakar Dhaqane,
SOS Children's Villages,
Country Director
for Somalia

Greetings all participants, firstly I want to extend thanks to the organizers of this timely summit which came at a much-needed time. I'm from the humanitarian sector and every year, we make a survey and forecast the anticipated and upcoming things whether it's climate change-related issues or conflicts. If we forecast a drought this year, the following year we are forecasting floods but one thing that's common and guaranteed between both issues is displacement which we include in every year's survey. If we were to do prevention measures many tragic events were to be prevented using clear steps towards averting that problem.

This year's theme and the El Niño forecast which is already in our forecast so the question is as experts, relevant ministers, and scholars what is the plan that's in place aside from raising awareness and spreading the messages? The establishment of a clear number of actions toward facing the current crisis and the forecasted one is what this summit contributes to and aims to reach. We the humanitarian organizations are accused of not bringing sustainable solutions, we'll try to do so, right now we have the opportunity to utilize the sustainable development goals and to work on the nexus.

Finally, we are delighted to sponsor this event as an organization and we'll keep supporting MES and other similar organizations and events. We call for the government to also take their part and support such programs. Thank you and have a great event.



Mohamed Ibrahim Abdulle, Head of PR of Hormuud Telecom

Greetings, ministers, scholars, experts, academicians, organizers, and all the participants. On behalf of the Hormuud telecom team, we are delighted to be part of the honorable guests who were invited to this event. We are happy to sponsor this event which is crucial to the Somali people and at the same time participate in it.

Hormuud Telecom tries to fill the gaps and contribute to the different areas that are beneficial to the Somali people. We see this event filling the gap of the discussions needed about the current crisis and challenges and paving the way towards reaching sustainable solutions.

Hormuud Telecom established institutions and organizations to help them contribute and take their role in solving people's problems with the aim being to deliver the most efforts that the company is capable of. During natural crises like droughts and floods the company takes its role although we are aware that sometimes it isn't enough, the company tries to do its best but we hope that our government system to be strengthened to cover those issues.

Hormuud Telecom will not be part of this program but we will also back up and be there for anyone who comes up with an innovation that helps to solve any of the gaps and needs in our community. We know that many youths with great innovations need to be encouraged, backed, and offered the facilities they need so we need to utilize and avail their minds and for that reason, we will be there for them. it's about time we start using our people's innovations and creativity and to do that we need to offer them every means to do so.

We will be part of the MES and we hope that the government, private organizations, and companies will help and support such innovations and steps towards adding value to the community and taking part in solving current issues. Thank you everyone.

Keynote Speeches



Ibrahim Mohammed Ali, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources

Greetings to all participants based on their respective status in attending this event. Our country faces a massive water crisis sometimes we die due to lack of water while other times we die due to floods during both periods of water shortage and excessive water our people die. Internationally it seems most water crisis is due to the water shortage and that the war will be fought over water.

Our country has many sources of water rivers, seas, underground, and from rains also we have energy, oil, and other minerals but the problem lies in the management of these resources and their utilization as well as the insecurity of the country as it's hard to have a functioning system which manages all these resources and set policies.

In 1983 some floods hit the country the existing regime back then although they were new managed the problem by taking the necessary measures to tackle it and aiding the impacted people what facilitated that was the peace that existed back then as everyone who was working to solve that problem was safe and secure giving the ability to work freely in every area they are required to unlike now where it's hard to get to certain regions due to the lack of security.

In conclusion, all the basic and necessary services that the public needs whether it's education, health, or solving these issues having security and peace is a prerequisite in achieving them effectively otherwise it would be very hard to achieve these things throughout the country. We have resources that will suffice all our needs if we were to benefit and use them accordingly and having peace and security will allow us to shift and focus our attention towards those issues.



Dr. Sa'ed Mohammed Ali, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

I'm happy to be at this well-organized event where a lot of work was put to emerge in this way. I believe that this summit will benefit the Somali people. I congratulate the organizers of MES which is a youth-led program on how well they organized this event and the message they are trying to deliver. I also compliment the cooperation and collaboration with the relevant ministries and projects in taking part in this summit.

The water crisis isn't limited to the availability of water only but its issues extend beyond that as it affects the other different sectors that depend on it. With that being said I call upon other ministries to join and contribute to the issue of water as it's not a matter for the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources but rather a collective issue facing all of us and everyone needs to take part in solving it and fulfill their role in doing so.

The water crisis in our country stems from poor water management ways as our crisis isn't about water shortage because of a limited number of water sources but instead a lack of systematic water management processes and a lack of planning on how to do it and when to do it. A good example is right after droughts and lack of water we are hit with floods the complete opposite of the issue.

This summit is a very important event in bringing attention to the water crisis in particular and the environmental issues in general and we as ministers are responsible for speaking up about those issues in the same way everywhere to raise awareness and bring the attention of the people. As the president is currently on the frontline of wars with Al-Shabab to liberate the country those are the areas where water sources were available and which need a lot of work unless it's liberated it's hard to shift the focus to improve our water sector and particularly manage it to bring solutions to current issues and prevent the occurrence of potential ones.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is a new ministry established a year ago, and it's ready to work with MES and anyone whose goal is to contribute to the environment by improving it and trying to solve the issues, challenges, and crises caused by climate change. Starting with taking action from the outcomes of this summit.



Dr. Suleiman Ali Hussein, MP & State Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range of FGS

Many thanks to the MES organizers; Action for Environment, Institute of Climate Change of Simad University, and all the participants particularly the experts. We are all aware of the importance of MES2023 the second edition of the annual summit which was first held in 2022 when it comes to discussing and putting the spotlight on the environmental issues, we are facing to find sustainable solutions.

The theme of this year is focusing on the water crisis, a very important one in which our lives depend on it. Water crisis is also where all our issues and problems arise from causing conflicts to the people of these areas to fight over the limited available water also it affects our domestic animals and agricultural activities.

It particularly affects and impacts our ministry's field of work which is domestic animals where we generate income and contribute to the national GDP as domestic animals are one of the most exported things. As Somalis, one thing we all agree on is we don't import meat as our land is rich with vast domestic animals.

The summit covered different topics in the current crisis focusing on describing the issues and drawing up ways for cooperation between the different sectors to reach sustainable solutions, all of that was done through panel discussions, speeches, and questions and answers in which all the experts and participants were part of and contributed.

Ultimately, I'm very glad to have attended this event and I acknowledge the massive efforts and time that was put into this summit to be in this image and form. Thank you all for your participation and the summit is officially closed.



Dr. Mohammed Osman, Member of National Economic Council, Advisor to Somalia President, Sub-Regional Rep to UN University for Peace

My speech will follow the sectoral coordination topic discussed in the second panel discussion. What united us all here is the current water crisis that exists in the country and the anticipated El Niño. Water responsibility is something beyond one government and community to be responsible for and its impact reaches everyone so everyone has responsibility towards it.

Change is hard and difficult to make but once it's achieved it's something great. The attitude and awareness level towards the water crisis isn't where it should be but compared to the last 10 years there's a notable difference in terms of awareness and understanding of the situation as well as the experts we have are not on the same level as those before them.

El niño is a phenomenon that existed for years but the major threat this time is that it's expected to affect about 1.2 million people in Somalia and 1.5 million hectares of farming land to be damaged as well as domestic animals. In 2013 when El Niño hit the east regions of Somalia it had a great impact on the lives of people many people died there as well as those who were trying to aid them, some were people I knew so it can be really dangerous as those people who died where trying to save families who were affected by the floods.

The different sectors of the community, the public sector, the private sector, universities, elders, youth, women, and religious scholars all have a role to contribute whether it is awareness raising or resource contribution to face these crises both the current and the anticipated ones. The diasporas of the country also have to contribute financially to help the locals in facing these crises. One other that's not there yet is the insurance system in the country with the establishment of an effective insurance system in the country it could even reach and extend to the agriculture and pastoralism in the country helping them cope with threats, risks, and losses.

The available financial resource is 25% of the intended amount which is a small amount indeed to face the anticipated threats. No one can stop the upcoming forecasted threat if it to occur we can only do something about the manifestations and impacts it has, one way of doing so is to instruct the people to move from the lowlands to the highlands where it's safe compared to the former and the same applies to the business people and anyone who has something there as the lives of the people and their properties are the most important including the domestic animals. I call upon my Somali people to be resilient and help each other in these hardships to overcome the crisis, the only important thing is to have the backs of each one of us and to be together in the face of anticipated crisis.



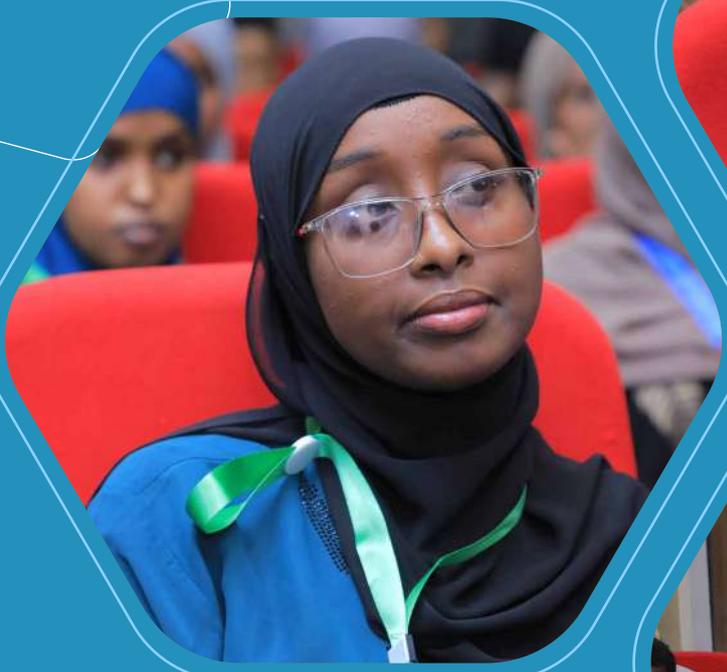
Mohammed Dugow, Director of the Villa Somalia's PR Office

I extend my thanks to the parties involved in the organizing of this summit, sponsors, scholars, experts, and all participants of this great event.

I believe that climate change is the second factor and source besides politics after the collapse of the government that caused conflicts and wars in which our people killed each other for it.

These effects of climate change which led to conflicts include water shortage, droughts, and floods all of these causing fights over the little resources that remain and sometimes causing displacement and pressuring the host communities with limited resources so this issue of climate change is so crucial it needs attention and action towards it of either awareness raising or direct action in preventing it or facing and tackling the impacts and consequences it causes. This issue also needs collective action against it, ranging from the government, private sector, international community, and the different portions of the community to reach a final solution.

We should focus on raising awareness as much as we can and in any way we can use social media platforms, gatherings, and any other form of communication we can as there is no system in place to warn the people who are vulnerable to the risks so we should take the initiative to warn everyone one we can to talk about the issue as much as we can by telling everyone where to leave and where to stay and go to avoid the risks of the forecasted crisis or at the very least minimize its impact in that way.



Panel Discussions

In this section of the summit, three-panel discussions revolving around the different dimensions of the water crisis were held. The panel discussions explored strategies for enhancing collaboration, coordination, and private sector engagement in sustainable water management in Somalia, breaking down silos, and fostering cross-sectoral cooperation. They delved into the intricate interplay between the water crisis, climate change impacts, and food security, highlighting the need for integrated solutions to these interconnected challenges.

Additionally, the discussions addressed the critical issue of public health within the context of the water crisis, emphasizing the implementation of solutions to improve public health through sustainable water management, sanitation, and hygiene practices. These diverse panels collectively aimed to provide a holistic perspective on the complex water-related challenges facing Somalia and the strategies for addressing them comprehensively.

Highlights of The First Panel Discussion

This panel participated by:



Dr. Abdullahi Elmi,
National Coordinator,
Biyole (Barwaaqo) Project.



Mursal Hashi Shirwa
General Manager Benadir
Water Development Co.



**Eng. Ahmed
Mohamed Hassan,**
Director of Hydromet, MoEWR



**Mohammed Ahmed
Mohamed,**
SOS Children's Villages Somalia,
WASH Focal Point Benadir



Nasra Kiin Hashi,
Freelance Journalist (Moderator)



This panel discussion titled “Strengthening Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Private Sector Engagement for Moving Beyond Projects” focused on breaking down silos and mobilizing the private sector to enhance collaboration and coordination, to promote sustainable water management in Somalia, and here are some of the key information it delivered.

The awareness and knowledge of the Somali people regarding the climate change effect and the related crisis improved in recent years compared to the last two decades as a few numbers of people were concerned with and were aware of the issue as well as trying to educate and bring the people’s attention to the problem that existed, now more than any time before more people are aware about the climate change and its related crisis. Though the Somali government has been at its best period in the last decade the economic and knowledge challenges persist as well as the low capacity of our institutions working in the water sector particularly and in general all sectors. Continuing these efforts in raising awareness and thriving for change through tangible actions would improve the situation.

In doing so the focus should shift to producing scientific knowledge followed by actions and move beyond talks, discussions, and general knowledge to a more specific scientific and evidence-based knowledge that adds to what is known instead of repeating the same approach which lacks action and tangible outputs. The coordination issue between the different sectors involved in water projects both private and public institutions lie in the governing system after the fall of the government all the systems associated with the government were destructed; the governance process, the institutions, the infrastructures, and the whole system including water management processes as it’s part of the government system processes.

Water unlike other services cannot be delivered unless in the presence of a strong government system that governs, manages, and administers its processes and systems at a community level. In 2010 the UN announced that the water management system should be at a community level which means the local community of any district is responsible for solving the issue of water in their district as the case was in the military regime and before the military regime the cities were responsible of the water management system. So, when the water service is at the community level that’s where the coordination process between them can be established and initiated.

The main challenge is our government’s weak ability after the adoption of the federalism approach and the establishment of FMS right after the civil wars the issue of a guiding policy of who to provide the water service exists as the FMS voice isn’t united which makes the coordination between them hard also, with the private sector filling the government role during the government’s absence as now there isn’t an established approach and institutional arrangement in guiding and differing their different roles in water services increases the extent of the problem.

The water quantity in Somalia is good in terms of wells and sources the problem existed in managing these quantities of water and their quality because a good storage and utilization of water during these periods where there is more water would have prevented their negative impact on people during that period of creating floods and later on during periods of low rains the lack of utilizations of the waters before will lead to droughts. Scientific research has to be put into effective and efficient ways of managing water and comparing it with previous ways it was managed.

The establishment of coordination between the private sector water-providing companies and the public institutions is the government’s responsibility particularly the relevant ministries, to do so there are 3 possible ways. The first is to build trust among the private sector companies as there is no trust and confidence among them, we mean the trust on a business level as they know themselves on the individual level as there isn’t an issue there.

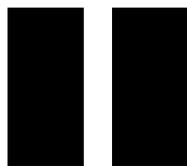
The second way is to establish governing rules among the companies and with the relevant ministries and those rules and regulations should come and stem from the local people as the local people know exactly what the situation is instead of rules and regulations that are imposed from international organizations and nations. The third is to strengthen the capacity of government staff, unlike the private sector where competence is prioritized the government staff has to be competent to do all the necessary work they're assigned to together with other public institutions and the private sector companies.

Without mentioning a particular city in general there is a need for water in Somalia as private companies' data claim that 25% - 35% of Somalis don't receive enough adequate water like IDPs and rural people, there are some parts of Mogadishu where water services didn't reach how it was supposed. The public-private partnership (PPP) of water management in Somalia is different from one city to another and one region to another as well as their mechanisms in doing so also, they don't have any coordination at all between them. In the northern regions of the country, there are PPP system of water management that is good and works in cities like Hargeisa and Borama for example. In the south and particularly Baidoa the same applies as there is a good PPP system in water delivery services.

There are plans also, for Dolow to have such a system but none of these systems are unified as they differ in the system, context, policies, and mechanisms. The issue is that the FGS can't rush into unifying the PPP system across the county for the time being as its process is complicated, the water service is needed day and night, and on top of that the water sector needs huge investment as the private sector's capacity isn't prepared for that, they face challenges sometimes in delivering water to certain areas.

There are more than 3 million people in Mogadishu and the water usage in Mogadishu increased over the years with what the average person would use on a single day. that being the situation the water supply is in the hands of private companies that wasn't supposed to be as water is one of the sectors where the government has to be the provider. the water sector needs huge investment and the private sector's limited ability can't invest that much money.

Major cities in Somalia suffer from water shortages while having sources that need investments. We only talking about the water supply issue as sanitation is a whole other topic that needs further discussions and resources. Mogadishu and all the cities need a unified water management system.



Highlights of The Second Panel Discussion

This panel participated by:



Hafsa Omar Abdilahi,
DG, Department of Climate Change, MoECC



Abdullahi Ahmed 'Najib',
National NDC Consultant



Eng. Mohamed Moalim Ali,
DG, Department of Planning, MoEWR



Adam Aqli,
Program Manager, Green Somali Initiative (Moderator)



This panel discussion titled “Water Crisis, Climate Change, and Food Security” discussed the interconnected challenges of managing the water crisis, addressing climate change impacts, and ensuring food security in Somalia, emphasizing strategies to overcome these complex issues, here are the main things that were discussed in it.

The water crisis in Somalia is of two types one time there is a lack of water due to droughts caused by natural causes which leads to the shortage of water affecting the livelihood of the people and other times is floods due to the weak and poor infrastructure when rains fall heavily and also negatively affect the people’s lives.

To overcome these two crises, the first step should be to raise awareness and educate the people in both these situations as people aren’t aware enough about it. There should be cooperation in tackling these crises by all parties involved and pulling together all the resources available to prevent these situations and tackle them. The collaboration and cooperation between the ministries and the other institutions responsible and tasked to work on these issues have to be increased to plan better strategically and effectively.

Somalia doesn’t have the problem of water shortage or water scarcity in reality it’s one of the countries in the region that has one of the most ground or Aquifer water if it were to be availed but Somalia is one of the countries with poor and weak resilience measures. The issue lies in the knowledge and capacity of both the government and the people in terms of how to manage it. The federal government of Somalia and the federal member states budget regarding the development of water can give us insight into how well we are prepared which isn’t much as we are dependent on small projects regarding the water development throughout the country.

The water crisis comes from the complexity of the system as the water isn’t a resource to be singly managed but must be managed regarding the number of people and livestock in every area by maintaining a good ration of water sources to the people and livestock and failing in doing so results in the issue of water shortage which is the situation now. The NDC budgeted \$15 million for the water development in Somalia for the next 5 years. The transborder water is an issue the NDC didn’t address as this water which goes to the neighboring countries should be utilized.

The water shell management of rains is another issue that also needs addressing. The financial problem also can be fixed if the private sector companies and businessmen invest in the water development of the country, one way to do so is to show them there is a profit return in doing so, and the Biyole project “now called Barwaqo” in its early stages of implementation in Puntland and Somaliland a \$1 million investment returned about \$5 million.

The underground water that Somalia has if it were to be utilized this water crisis wouldn’t exist. The problem is that there is a gap between the government and the NGOs and also between the older generation and the young ones as there is no stable politics in the country thus an integrated system of managing and developing water in the country isn’t feasible. also, the country is in the debt relief process which indicates that it’s being administered and supervised. The Water Act or the legislative bill is missing and passing that bill in a unanimous way of all the FMS is a step towards solving the water crisis. The water crisis that Somalia has can be solved if the politics of the country stabilizes, the legal acts are passed and the country gains full control of the finances of these projects upon the end of the debt relief process.

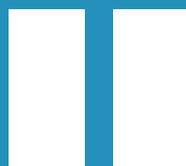
The first step in facing the consequence of the forecasted El Niño is raising awareness about it to all of the different portions of society because the prevention and the tackling of the situation revolves around the level of information and awareness the community has of that phenomenon.

This contributes to the cooperation needed by the different sectors and portions of the society in pulling together their efforts mainly the youth as Somalia is 70% youth. The emphasis on raising awareness is that it kind of had some effect as El Niño is a phenomenon that existed for a long time but in the last 2 decades it has become more popular in Somalia than ever and that is the result of raising awareness across different platforms in social media, schools and other places. The other step is to constantly monitor the phenomenon and anticipate the areas where most of the threat is faced and be prepared to face the possible impacts if it happens the tackling and facing the issue will be based on the level and extent of the damage.

There are different arguments when it comes to water management of whether it has to be the public sector or the private sector but the real focus should be how the water is managed throughout the country and these arguments are not just in the water management but also in other sectors like health and education.

The private sector is profit-oriented and has the financial capacity to reach different areas but they won't reach where they can't see profit while the government is preoccupied with other issues inhibiting their ability to effectively manage the water throughout the country as well as the financial capacity to do it. Based on that there should be an integrated process from the policies, investment, and technicality that guide the different roles both the private and public sectors have in delivering and managing water throughout the country that is where the cooperation should exist.

The FGS is responsible for the overall policies but the FMSs are responsible for pinpointing the areas where development is needed and what is hindering that is the FGS government's ability and capacity itself in doing so as the government is preoccupied with security and political issues.



Highlights of The Third Panel Discussion

This Panel participated by:



Dr. Qasim Mohamed Jim'ale,
Vice President of Research and Development, Jamhuriya University.



Dr. Sadia Said,
Chancellor at both Hano Technical University and Hano Academy



Dr. Hassan Warsame Nor,
Senior Advisor on Environment and Climate Change at Banadir University



Abdirahman Mohamed Dahie,
HoD, Social Work & Sociology at SNU (Moderator)



This Panel discussion titled “Water, Sanitation, and Health” centered on implementing solutions for sustainable water management and improved public health in Somalia, particularly emphasizing water, sanitation, and health-related issues as key components of the broader water crisis, here are the major outcomes of the discussion.

The relevant ministries of FGS regarding water have to put in place policies, rules, and regulations that govern the management of water in the country. The implementation of the policies, rules, and regulations has to be taken part by every stakeholder from the ministries at the federal level, state level, cities, districts, and private sectors, all the way to the community level.

Part of the problem we have in terms of being vulnerable to floods and drought during both periods where water is way too much and there is a water shortage or scarcity is the lack of policies and regulations that dictate how the issues are approached or even anticipated. The same applies when it comes to water quality in terms of sanitation if the water sources and facilities are hygienic. The establishment of policies and regulations regarding water allows the assessment and testing of water quality before using them and determines the need for water treatment to prevent diseases. The quality assurance in the country isn't adequate not only in the water sector but also in the other different sectors in the country.

Hygiene and sanitation at all levels are crucial to human beings particularly in terms of water and food as these have to fit the consumption of human beings otherwise it'll directly lead to outbreaks of diseases through viruses and germs.

To maintain these all the people should know it and have a certain level of understanding about them that's where raising awareness in this part comes in and it's one of the things where raising awareness should never stop. Raising awareness has many levels, starting at schools and universities where students are ready to learn something, this is an opportunity to teach these young people about the importance of drinking clean water and overall maintaining the hygiene of water and food.

They can also be educated on ways to clean water like boiling and using chlorine. These messages aren't limited to schools and universities but also to health institutions and everyone has to deliver these messages in raising awareness to all the public through different ways such as social media, traditional media, and any other available approach. These messages can be long or short depending on the target audience, they can be videos or even research outputs any type is important.

The water crisis isn't limited to the floods and the shortage of water but anything that arose from it is also considered a water crisis. To manage this vast water crisis that's beyond floods and shortage there has to be the knowledge and the capacity to do it of having competent engineers, scholars, and technicians.

Second, there have to be policies and regulations in place to guide and govern the roles of different stakeholders in executing the plans. thirdly there have to be sufficient financial resources to undertake the necessary measures to either prevent the crisis or to tackle it depending on the situation. Looking at Somalia the government's limited ability and capacity as well as its dependence on external support inhibits their efforts. There are some ways to circulate and reuse water through water treatment and desalination but the aforementioned prerequisites are limiting the government's ability to undertake such large project operation.

To reach sustainability from this water crisis there has to be community engagement as they have to be involved in the process of preventing and reversing these issues the theme of this summit is “moving beyond projects” because communities aren’t mainly involved in projects directly and they don’t feel ownership in it so that’s what the community engagement is trying to achieve. There also has to be constant health surveillance monitoring on the potential disease risks that are anticipated in periods of crisis to prevent and reverse them in time to make it durable and sustainable.

One way to enhance community engagement is the collaboration among the different portions of the community and different institutions both the public and the private throughout the country in every state and city. Youth inclusion in the fight against climate change and the water crisis can make a difference as each one of the communities is crucial in working together to achieve sustainability by creating the mentality of not being part of the crisis through individual efforts in reducing everyone’s negative impact at the very least.

Creating an awareness campaign that starts from every house and every school to all the community of not wasting water and instead make them aware of the amount of water as more water is being wasted by households and schools without them being aware. The point is that everyone in the community has to be aware and conscious of the current crisis of climate change and the importance of water and its hygiene to better preserve and maintain it and make themselves responsible for that goal. Basic water quality maintenance at the household level needs attention as waterborne diseases kill many people internationally and in Somalia as the WHO reports thousands suffer from it hile hundreds die from it as there can be many others that weren’t recorded. To prevent this seholds, have to be aware of where they store their water as well as keep it clean constantly to survive the diseases.

Doing that alone can’t guarantee you that you’re safe if your neighbors are drinking dirty water as some diseases are contagious so you’re vulnerable to that risk of suffering from such diseases that is why raising awareness is important it saves all as no one will be unaware of the risks of such diseases. People who live in rural areas drink from rivers and water ponds which are the most contaminated waters that aren’t treated and in the first place aren’t hygienic.







Paper Presentations and Workshops



Abdulkadir Gure's Presentation, WASH Cluster, UNICEF and Information Manager

The presentation on "El Niño Flood Risk Analysis in Somalia" primarily focused on the projected El Niño event in late 2023 with high certainty, necessitating humanitarian action and preparedness. Potential risks include flooding along the Juba River, impacting vulnerable populations and WASH infrastructure. Approximately 1.6 million people could be affected during this period, facing displacement, water source contamination, and heightened risks of water-borne diseases.

To mitigate these risks, the importance of early warning systems was highlighted, emphasizing data collection, analysis, and information dissemination. Four key elements were underlined: Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Predicting, Disseminating Information, and Response. Also, the presentation stressed the significance of emerging technologies, such as weather forecasts, remote sensing, and warning systems, for effective drought management and risk reduction. These technologies, along with databases and computer models, play a critical role in addressing the multifaceted challenges associated with drought.



Hassan Abdi Hassan's Presentation, Deputy Director of A4E

The presentation on "The Economic Impact of El Niño" highlighted the significant importance of understanding how El Niño events affect the global economy. It emphasized that these climatic phenomena can have far-reaching consequences, affecting economies, particularly in Africa, by hampering agricultural production, impacting GDP growth, rising inflation, and straining balance of payments. The economic projections painted a grim picture, with estimated losses of \$84 trillion in the 21st century and a \$3 trillion setback to the global economy over the next five years due to the 2023 El Niño event.

In summary, the presentation emphasized the urgent need for global climate action, recognizing the destructive impact of human actions on the environment and the vulnerability of less developed countries to these natural phenomena. It also highlighted the insufficiency of climate actions in many industrialized nations and stressed the growing challenges posed by intolerable natural events, making it clear that addressing the impact of El Niño and related climate disruptions is of paramount importance.



Shakir Abdullahi's Presentation, Lecturer, Blogger and Content Creator

The presentation on "Cultural Dimensions of Wastage of Water" underscored the critical importance of water conservation and its cultural significance. It emphasized that while complete water usage cessation isn't feasible, preventing wastage is within our control. Key points included the alarming fact that only 3% of Earth's water is freshwater, with a mere 1% readily accessible for human use. Water's vital role in the human body, essential for survival and as a building block of biology, was highlighted.

The presentation advocated practical water-saving measures, such as turning off taps when not in use, reusing water, and using water efficiently during activities like showering. It also pointed out the significant waste caused by leaky taps. The presentation concluded by emphasizing that water conservation isn't just an individual responsibility but a vital part of environmental protection. In summary, it served as a poignant reminder of water's value, its essential role in our lives, and the cultural significance of responsible water usage for the sake of environmental sustainability.



Abdirahman Dahie, Head of Department of Social Science at SNU

The presentation on "Water Crisis as a Social Issue" highlighted the profound impact of the water crisis on society was a central focus of the presentation. It enumerated a series of social consequences, including elevated health risks due to the prevalence of waterborne diseases resulting from the lack of clean water and sanitation facilities. It also addressed the economic challenges arising from water scarcity, which affect agriculture, livestock, and various economic activities, leading to reduced productivity and financial hardships. Gender disparities and the burden on women and girls were emphasized, as they often shoulder the responsibility of water collection, which can hinder their education and overall well-being. Furthermore, the presentation acknowledged the role of water scarcity in contributing to internal displacement and migration as people seek better living conditions.

The presentation emphasizes the importance of improving water infrastructure by building and rehabilitating water wells, constructing treatment plants and pipelines for clean water distribution, and implementing rainwater harvesting systems to harness alternative water sources. Additionally, the presentation advocates for water conservation and management, highlighting the need for raising awareness about water-saving practices, implementing efficient irrigation systems, and encouraging responsible water use. Lastly, it underscores the significance of enhancing water governance and policies, which involves strengthening water-related legislation, establishing effective water management institutions, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.



Mohamud Dahir's Presentation, Researcher at A4E

The study "Comparative Assessment of Drinking Water Wells Quality in Deynile and Hodan Districts, Mogadishu, Somalia" aimed to evaluate the quality of drinking water wells in Deynile and Hodan districts, emphasizing the importance of assessing water resources' precarious state. The research conducted a comprehensive analysis of physical, chemical, and biological parameters, comparing the results to the World Health Organization's (WHO) stringent standards. While most of the water quality in the examined districts met WHO standards, exceptions were found, particularly in temperature, total dissolved solids (TDS), electrical conductivity (EC), ammonia, and fecal coliform levels. Notably, the Hodan district's well water exhibited higher concentrations of sodium, chloride, alkalinity, and sulfate compared to the Deynile district. Biological water quality was a significant concern, with some sources exceeding WHO's recommended standards, especially in the Hodan district, where none of the samples met safe drinking water standards.

The study highlighted the need for improved sanitary conditions around wells and emphasized the role of septic tanks in contamination.

In conclusion, the study raised concerns about the sanitary conditions of water wells, particularly in the Hodan district. It recommended measures such as strategic placement of wells away from contamination sources, proper coverings, proactive inspection and treatment, and public education initiatives to ensure safe water consumption. Additionally, the study called for expanded research efforts, involving government and academic institutions, to address the persistent water quality challenges in the Deynile and Hodan districts, including the investigation of additional parameters like heavy metals and E. coli to safeguard community health comprehensively.



Hafsa Omar's Presentation, Director of the Department of Climate Change at MoECC

The presentation “Breaking the Cycle: Empowering Women in the Face of Water Crisis and Climate Change,” highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, particularly in Somalia. Women often bear the brunt of climate change due to their social and economic status, making them more vulnerable to its effects. They are more likely to face poverty and limited access to resources, which increases their vulnerability to climate change-related impacts.

In the context of climate change and water crises, women play a crucial role as primary gatherers of water, food, and fuel. They are often responsible for subsistence farming and caregiving. Research shows that empowering women in these roles can alleviate poverty and contribute to effective climate change solutions.

In summary, this presentation underscores the profound impact of climate change and water crises, particularly on women in Somalia, and highlights the importance of empowering women in addressing these challenges. It emphasizes the need for coordinated efforts to tackle climate change and water scarcity while promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.



Dr Osman Gedow's Presentation, Biodiversity Expert and the Somali National Museum Director

The presentation titled "Threatened Waters: Unveiling the Profound Impact of the Water Crisis on Biodiversity" emphasizes the significant consequences of climate change on water sources. Decreased rainfall leads to lower surface water levels and limited groundwater replenishment, making both humans and wildlife more vulnerable to water scarcity. Climate change has various impacts on biodiversity, including shifts in species distribution, migration, increased drought, desertification, invasive species, rising sea levels, and coral bleaching.

Wetlands are highlighted as complex ecosystems crucial for supporting a rich variety of species due to their unique aquatic and terrestrial conditions. They are essential for migratory birds, offering rest and refueling points during long-distance migrations, including species like Ibis, Herons, Ducks, and Waders. Breeding tropical bird species face challenges due to climate change, including extreme weather events like droughts and water crises. These disruptions can lead to the abandonment of breeding attempts as birds prioritize survival over reproduction.

In essence, this presentation delves into the intricate relationship between climate change, water crises, and biodiversity, emphasizing the vulnerability of ecosystems and species in the face of these environmental challenges.



Eng. Abdi Shakur Diiso's Presentation, Lecturer at Jamhuriya University of Sciences and Technology

The backdrop of the study titled "Water Supply Management and Sustainability in Afgoi District, Somalia," is rooted in the civil war that began in Somalia in 1990, which destroyed critical water infrastructure, including boreholes. Despite some efforts to restore water resources in certain areas, a significant challenge is the lack of comprehensive, long-term data on Somalia's water resources. This study aims to address this information gap by examining water management and sustainability in the Afgoi district, Somalia.

The study has specific objectives, including assessing water supply management and sustainability in the Afgoi district, examining the community's contributions to protecting and maintaining water sources and investigating institutional approaches to enhance water supply sustainability.

Water samples from the study area were analyzed using experimental tests, including the assessment of bacterial contamination (total coliform) and various physico-chemical factors such as pH, turbidity, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, smell, and color.

The findings indicate that all the studied water supply systems are technically sustainable and capable of delivering good quality water to the users. Consequently, all five water supply systems in the Afgoi district appear to be operating effectively, ensuring the provision of quality drinking water to the local population. The results are promising, as they indicate that the studied water supply systems are functioning efficiently, providing safe and quality water to the community.

Exhibitions

EXHIBITORS

Mohamed Omar

SOS Children's Villages

Ecosom

Art exhibition by 4C

Quman Project

Raw Compost

WHAT THEY EXHIBITED

Exhibited various plants in glass jars and emphasized their suitability for office environments without the need for soil.

Showcased interlocks and trays made from recyclable plastics, which can be used for seed germination.

Exhibited the use of coconut shells for making charcoal, promoting a sustainable alternative to traditional charcoal production methods.

Presented an art exhibition focusing on the impact of climate change.

Showcased their eco-friendly Todd bags, which were tailored to be environmentally friendly.

Demonstrated the use of animal dung as a natural composting material, emphasizing its benefits for sustainable gardening and agriculture.

Communiqué

The Mogadishu Environmental Conference (MES) is an annual forum for political influencers, environmental experts, institutions, businesses, academics, researchers and various people working and advocating for environmental issues to share ideas on environmental issues. of the country, in the right direction for efforts to find solutions to these issues.

The MES 2023 forum was organized with the partnership of Simad University, which hosted the sections of the forum, Action for Environment, Hormuud, Singet, Sos and SomaliREN. This year we are honored by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water Ibrahim Mohamed Ali and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Dr. Said Mohamed Ali.

MES 2023 was introduced while there are still many fears of water problems in the country, mainly due to heavy rains and the effect of El Nino. We have seen an increased water crisis this year and the troubles to overcome those crises.

It has been suggested that there should be cooperation between different sectors such as government and private organizations that work when it comes to finding solutions to water issues in the country. It has also been recognized the importance of strategic articles on water problems, climate change and food security in Somalia and how they are interconnected.

In conclusion, the forum analyzed the relationship between water problems, efforts and solutions that can increase salinity in Somalia and the impact of water.



Summit in Numbers



**5 Keynote
Speakers**

**3 Panel
Discussions**



**8 Papers and
Workshops**

**40 Trainees
2 Training Days**

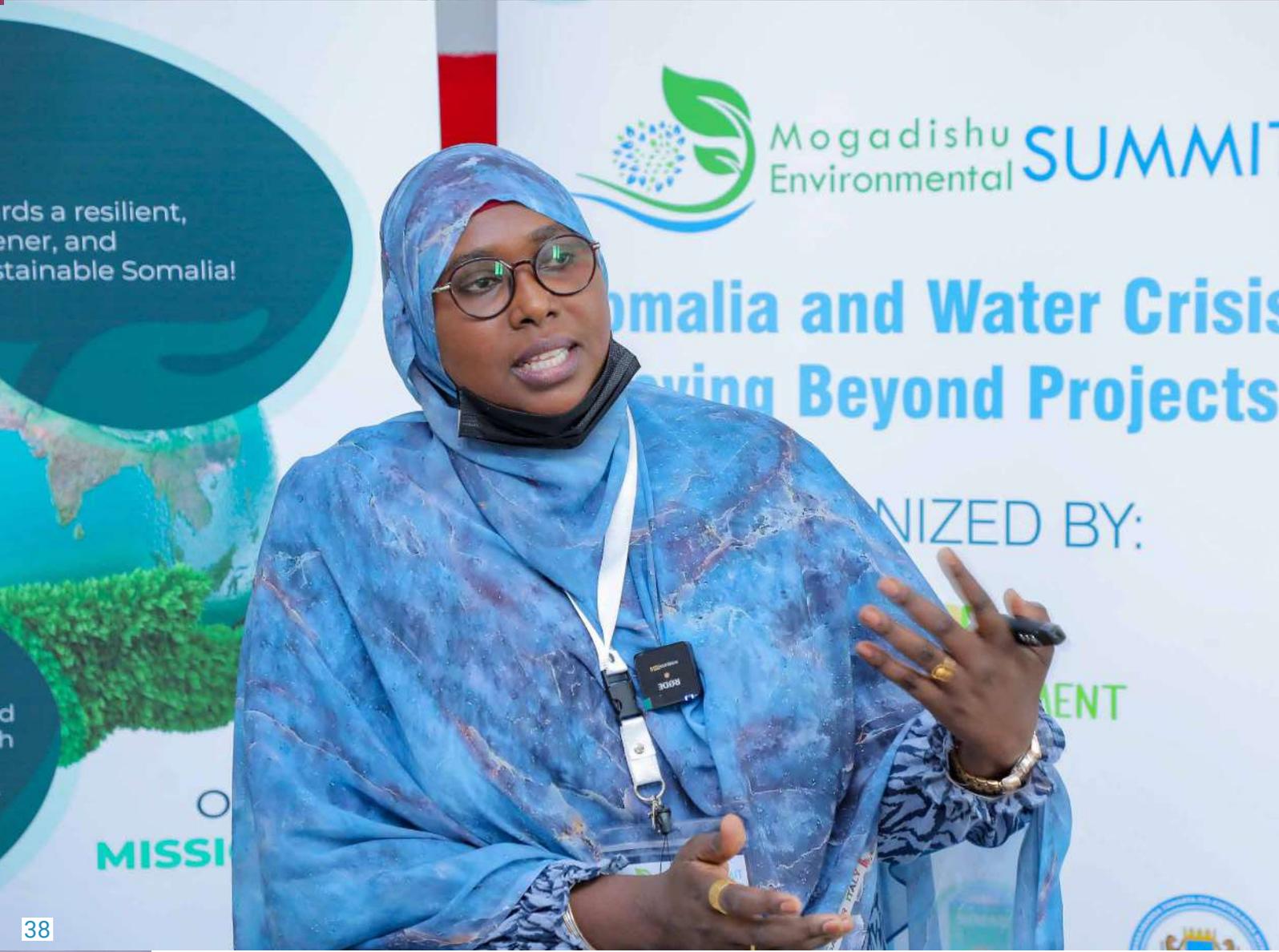


**200 Summit
Participants**

6 Exhibitors













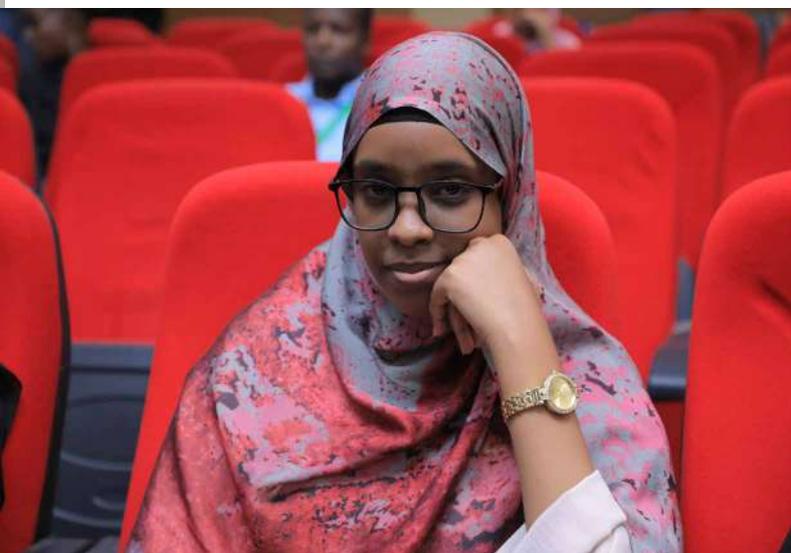


Mogadishu Environmental SUMMIT
Climate and Water Crisis: Moving Beyond Projects'
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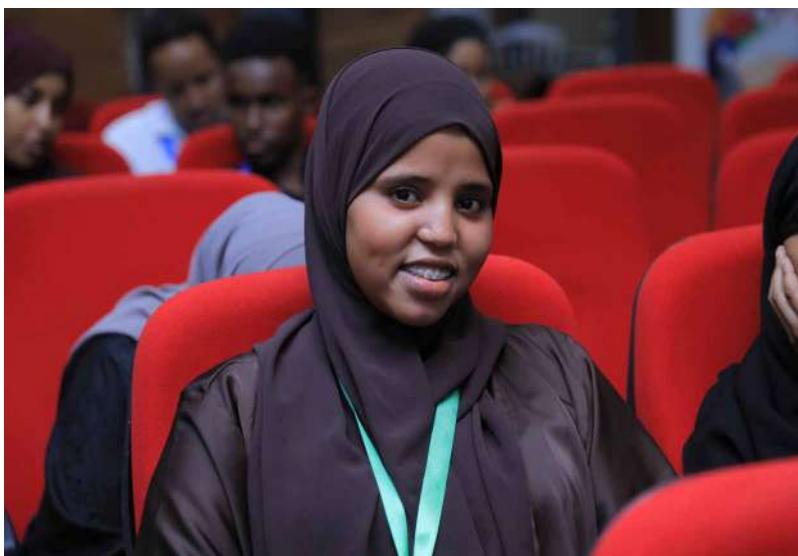
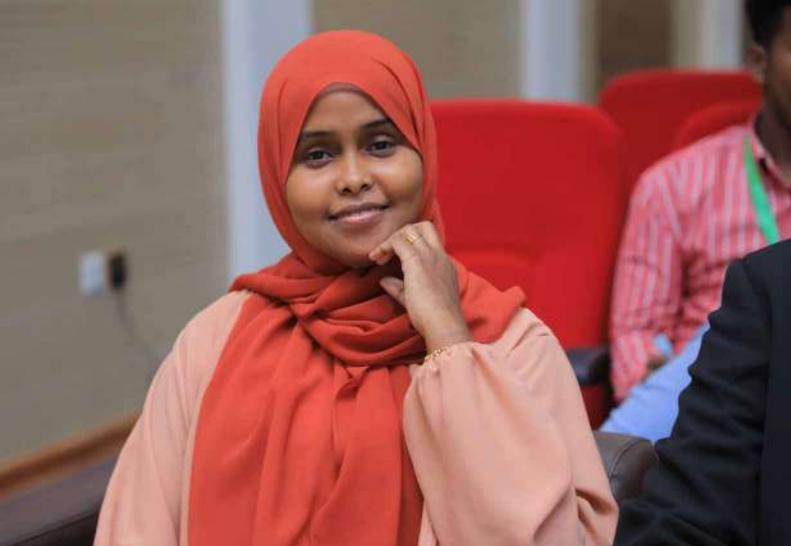




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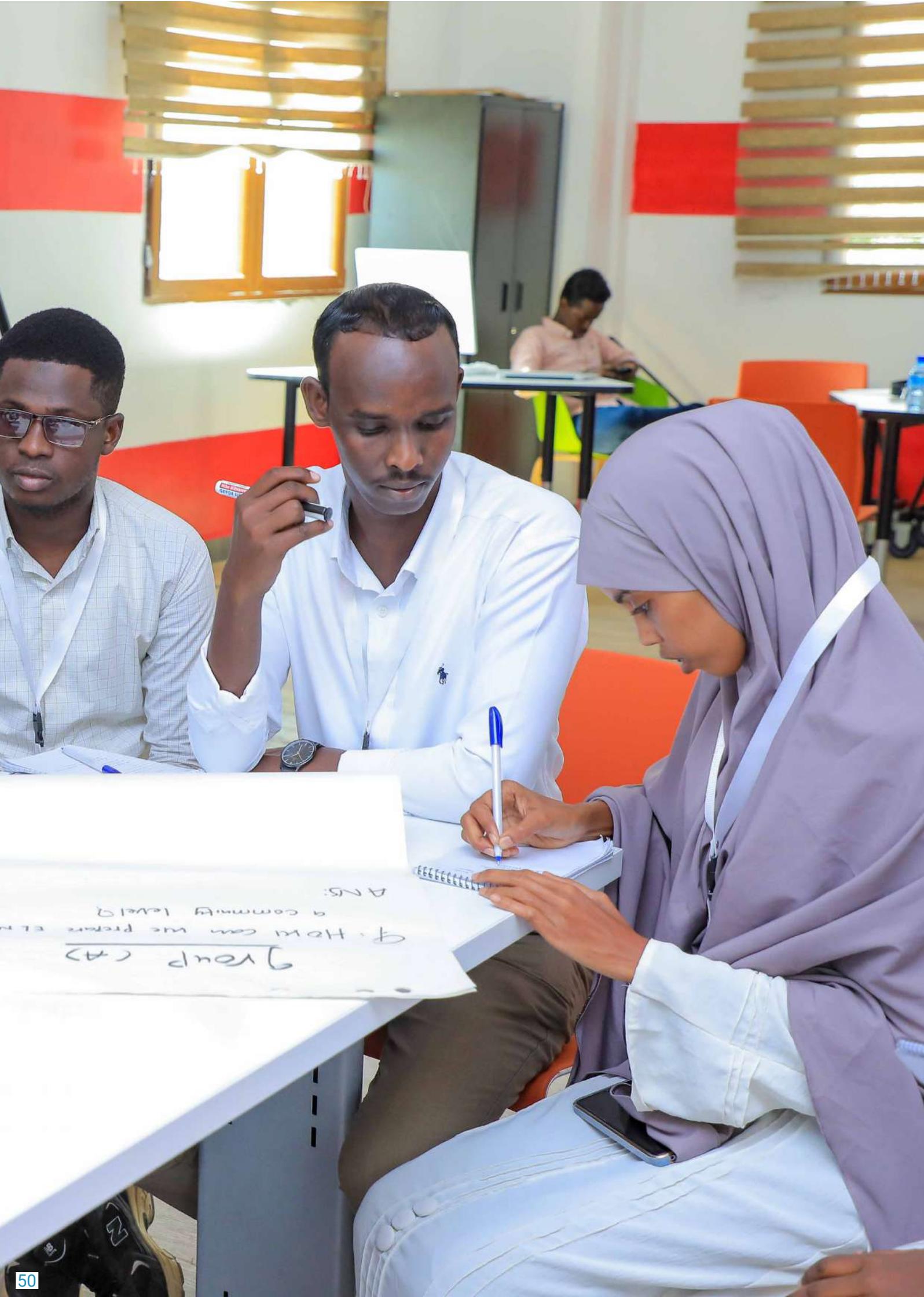






QUIET ZONE
Fadhoo Naxsiirada Tawana







“Somalia and Water Crisis: Moving Beyond Projects”





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December 2023

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