



N G O P r o f i l e

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



PROGRAM SUMMARY

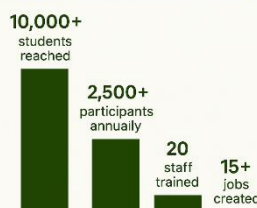
Somali Roots is a registered UK- and Somalia-based nonprofit organization committed to advancing climate resilience, inclusive education, and sustainable community infrastructure. As a social enterprise with public impact, Somali Roots designs and implements community-centered projects that bridge urgent humanitarian needs with long-term development goals. Our work is rooted in empowerment, equity, and environmental sustainability, with a focus on underserved populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, and youth.

One of our flagship initiatives is the Off-Grid Indoor Swimming & Sports Facility in Garowe, Puntland, a first-of-its-kind, climate-adaptive complex designed to serve as a youth and health hub. Built on land owned by Somali Roots, this facility includes solar-powered swimming pools, a learner pool for children, an AstroTurf football pitch, a therapy-focused sauna and steam room, and fully off-grid infrastructure using solar energy and borehole water. This center will promote trauma healing, life skills, and physical well-being for vulnerable groups including girls, children with disabilities, and displaced youth—while also creating local employment and vocational training opportunities.

In addition to our sports infrastructure work, Somali Roots is spearheading the Somali SAP Agroforestry Project—an ambitious climate action and agroecology initiative aiming to plant 10 million trees across 10,000 hectares, producing Somalia's first-ever verified carbon credits. This large-scale, land restoration and carbon finance project promotes climate resilience, community ownership, and rural employment, while contributing to global decarbonization goals. By engaging smallholder farmers and utilizing scalable agroforestry models, the project offers both local food security and global environmental impact.

Together, these initiatives represent Somali Roots' commitment to innovation, sustainability, and social justice. Our integrated model empowers Somali communities through climate-smart development while contributing to national priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are currently seeking aligned partnerships, funding, and endorsements from ministries, donors, and implementing organizations to expand our impact and ensure long-term success.

PROJECT BENEFITS



THE PROBLEM

Somalia faces a critical lack of access to safe, inclusive, and structured recreational infrastructure for children and youth, particularly for girls, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and children with disabilities. In urban areas such as Garowe, the capital of Puntland, there are over 25 public and private schools (UNICEF, 2023), yet no formal swimming pools or indoor sports facilities. Girls and children with disabilities are especially excluded from community sports programming due to inadequate infrastructure, cultural barriers, and safety concerns. Without inclusive recreational spaces, Somali youth are denied opportunities for physical education, social integration, and life skill development.

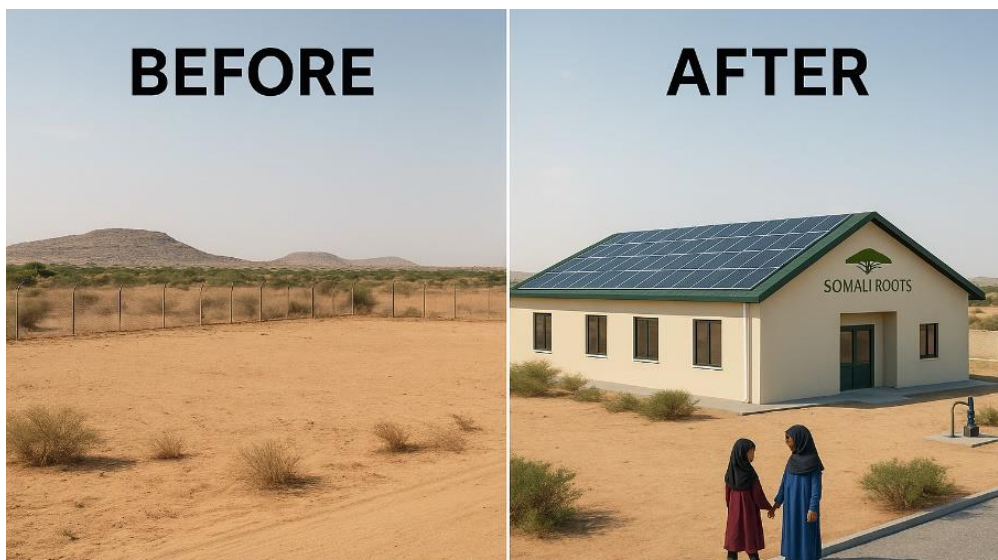
Compounding this challenge is the severe mental health burden in Somalia, which stems from decades of armed conflict, displacement, and poverty. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 1 in 3 Somalis are affected by some form of mental illness, which is one of the highest rates in the world (WHO, 2010). However, Somalia has fewer than 5 mental health specialists per million people, and psychosocial support services remain virtually inaccessible to most (UNHCR, 2021). Children and adolescents affected by conflict, displacement, and gender-based violence (GBV) often lack access to trauma recovery support, which further limits their emotional and cognitive development.

Climate vulnerability presents an additional crisis. Somalia ranks among the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, with prolonged droughts, water scarcity, and land degradation becoming more frequent (UNDP, 2022). In 2023 alone, the country experienced its worst drought in 40 years, with over 6.6 million people facing acute food insecurity (FEWS NET, 2023). Deforestation is also rampant, driven by charcoal production and unsustainable land use. These factors contribute to environmental degradation, threatening livelihoods and increasing displacement, particularly in rural areas where agroecological practices are nearly absent.

Somalia is also experiencing one of the largest internal displacement crises in Africa, with over 3.8 million IDPs recorded as of 2024 (IOM, 2024). Many of these individuals reside in informal settlements with limited access to education, healthcare, or basic services. Children in IDP communities are often out of school and face extreme vulnerability to protection risks such as child labor, early marriage, and exploitation. The lack of infrastructure and community-based programs in these settlements exacerbates cycles of poverty and social exclusion, especially for youth.

Finally, despite increasing global attention on carbon markets and nature-based climate solutions, Somalia remains absent from verified carbon credit systems. Yet, with its vast tracts of degraded land and high potential for agroforestry, Somalia has an untapped opportunity to generate carbon credits through sustainable land restoration. This could create a new revenue stream for rural communities while contributing to national climate adaptation goals. However, the absence of enabling frameworks, technical capacity, and investment in scalable agroforestry projects continues to block Somalia from participating in global climate finance mechanisms (Verra, 2023).

THE SOLUTION



Garowe, Somalia: Development of a sustainable indoor swimming pool facility under the Somali Roots project

To address the multifaceted challenges facing youth, displaced populations, and the environment in Somalia, Somali Roots has developed two integrated, community-driven solutions: a climate-resilient indoor swimming and sports facility in Garowe, Puntland, and a national-scale agroforestry and carbon credit initiative spanning 10,000 hectares. These solutions are grounded in sustainability, equity, and empowerment, directly targeting health, education, psychosocial support, employment, and climate mitigation through infrastructure and land-based interventions.

The first pillar of our approach is the Somali Roots Off-Grid Swimming & Sports Facility—a pioneering indoor complex built on secure land owned by Somali Roots in Garowe. The facility is designed as a multi-functional youth and wellness hub, offering inclusive access to structured swimming lessons, sports programs, and trauma recovery services. It features a 20m x 8m main swimming pool, a learner pool for children, separate gendered changing rooms, and a 5-a-side AstroTurf football pitch. To promote healing and psychosocial support, it also includes a unisex sauna and steam room, with programming tailored for survivors of gender-based violence, IDP youth, and children with disabilities. Accessibility and cultural appropriateness are central to the design, ensuring that girls and vulnerable youth can participate in a safe, dignified, and welcoming environment.

The facility is 100% off-grid, utilizing solar power with battery storage for energy and a borehole system for clean water supply. These systems not only reduce operating costs but also ensure reliable, climate-adaptive services regardless of municipal infrastructure availability. The entire complex is built with sustainability and affordability in mind—community members will be employed as lifeguards, instructors, and maintenance staff, while a cost-recovery model enables long-term viability. School groups, NGOs, and ministries will be able to schedule structured programming hours, while subsidized or free access will be provided to the most vulnerable groups, supported by donor sponsorships.

The second major component of our solution is the Somali SAP Agroforestry Project—an ambitious 10-year initiative to plant 10 million trees across 10,000 hectares of land, generating Somalia's first internationally verified carbon credits. This climate-smart agroforestry model uses Silvopasture, Alley Cropping, and Permaculture Design, combining native tree species with regenerative agriculture practices. The project directly addresses land degradation, deforestation, and food insecurity, while also creating income-generating opportunities through sustainable timber, fruit, and carbon credit revenue.

Through partnerships with international verification agencies such as Verra and Gold Standard, Somali Roots is working to certify carbon sequestration efforts and enter the voluntary carbon market. This not only attracts climate finance but ensures transparent measurement and monitoring of emissions reductions. Community ownership is a key element: local farmers, youth, and IDP groups are trained and employed in nursery management, planting, irrigation, and land stewardship. The project also includes training hubs for agroecology and environmental education, empowering rural families with climate resilience knowledge while restoring ecosystems and strengthening Somalia's environmental security.

Together, these two initiatives form a comprehensive, scalable, and replicable model of sustainable development. By combining trauma-informed youth infrastructure with ecological restoration and climate finance, Somali Roots is laying the groundwork for systemic change. We are not only building physical structures or planting trees—we are restoring dignity, livelihoods, and hope across Somalia's most affected communities.



MEASURABLE IMPACT

BUSINESS GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The main goal of Somal Roots is to empower Somali communities by developing sustainable, inclusive infrastructure and land-based solutions that improve youth well-being, advance climate resilience, and create pathways for education, health, and economic opportunity.

Objective 1: Swimming, Water Safety, and Physical Education

By the end of Year 1, integrate structured swimming, water safety, and physical education into the curricula of at least 15 public and private schools in Garowe, directly reaching 1,200+ students (minimum 50% girls), including internally displaced youth and children with disabilities.

- **Target Groups:** School-aged youth (ages 6–18), including IDPs, girls, and students with disabilities.
- **UN SDG Alignment:**
 - SDG 4: Quality Education
 - SDG 5: Gender Equality
 - SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Gender-segregated facilities, girls-only instruction, inclusive scheduling.
- **Resilience & Ownership:** Delivered in partnership with local schools and community instructors.

Objective 2: Health, Hygiene, and Life Skills Through Sport

Conduct weekly structured sports and wellness sessions for 2,000+ youth (50% girls) by the end of Year 2, with 70% of participants demonstrating improved knowledge in hygiene, teamwork, and healthy living.

- **Target Groups:** Out-of-school youth, adolescents in low-income or displaced communities.
- **UN SDG Alignment:**
 - SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Hygiene sessions designed with girls' needs in mind; all materials culturally appropriate.
- **Resilience & Ownership:** Run by locally trained facilitators with peer mentorship.

Objective 3: Trauma Recovery and Psychosocial Support Through Water Therapy & Sport

Provide 100+ trauma-informed wellness sessions annually, supporting at least 300 vulnerable youth (with 60% girls, including GBV survivors and displaced children), and achieve 80% self-reported improvement in mental well-being.

- **Target Groups:** Girls, GBV survivors, IDP youth, and children with trauma or disabilities.

- **UN SDG Alignment:**
 - SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Safe, confidential, and gender-sensitive programming with trained counselors.
- **Resilience & Ownership:** Referral partnerships with local health and protection agencies.

Objective 4: Youth Employment and Vocational Training

Create at least 20 sustainable jobs for local youth (50% women) within 12 months in facility operations, and provide vocational certification for 40 vulnerable youth in lifeguarding, instruction, and technical maintenance by Year 2.

- **Target Groups:** Unemployed youth, IDPs, returnees, and young women.
- **UN SDG Alignment:**
 - SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - SDG 5: Gender Equality
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Equal access to hiring and leadership tracks for women and marginalized groups.
- **Sustainability & Ownership:** Jobs tied to local infrastructure; training builds local capacity.

Objective 5: Off-Grid, Climate-Resilient Community Infrastructure Model

Complete construction and launch of a 100% off-grid, solar- and borehole-powered facility by Month 6; document and share the model publicly, and support replication in 3 new Somali communities by Year 3.

- **Target Groups:** Broader Garowe community, education partners, and underserved neighborhoods.
- **UN SDG Alignment:**
 - SDG 13: Climate Action
 - SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- **Sustainability & Resilience:** Powered entirely by renewable energy and independent water systems.
- **Local Ownership:** Land and infrastructure are Somali-owned and operated by community members.

Objective 6: Agroforestry and Carbon Credit Generation (Somali SAP Project)

Reforest 10,000 hectares of degraded land by 2030 with 10 million trees, and generate Somalia's first verified carbon credits. Train and employ 1,000+ rural residents (at least 40% women, 30% displaced) in agroecology, nursery operations, and tree care by Year 5.

- **Target Groups:** Rural farmers, climate-affected families, displaced populations, and women-headed households.
- **UN SDG Alignment:**
 - SDG 13: Climate Action
 - SDG 15: Life on Land
 - SDG 1: No Poverty
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Prioritize women and displaced persons in training and job creation.
- **Sustainability & Local Ownership:** Community-led restoration, with carbon credit revenue reinvested locally.

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

To translate our mission into measurable impact, Somali Roots has developed a strategic, phased action plan that integrates inclusive programming, climate-resilient infrastructure, and community-driven employment. Each objective is supported by a clear implementation roadmap—detailing staffing needs, timelines, ministry partnerships, and alignment with UN frameworks such as the SDGs, UNICEF WASH standards, and UNFCCC carbon certification protocols. Our plan ensures that youth, especially girls, displaced populations, and vulnerable groups, are at the center of every intervention. With a focus on local ownership, gender sensitivity, and sustainability, we will operationalize both our Garowe off-grid swimming and wellness hub and our nationwide agroforestry initiative in ways that are practical, scalable, and deeply rooted in community resilience.

Objective	Plan of Action
Objective 1:	Actions: - Partner with Ministry of Education and local school boards to integrate swimming into curricula. - Co-develop lesson plans aligned with UNICEF physical education and child protection standards. - Hire and onboard: 2 certified swim instructors (local, trained in gender-sensitive methods) – \$350/month. 1 female assistant coach for girls-only sessions – \$300/month. - Schedule school visits and booking rotations with 15 schools. - Recruit volunteer diaspora coaches for seasonal training sessions. Volunteer/Community Model: - Train youth peer leaders (ages 16–22) as assistant instructors and lifeguards. - Engage diaspora swimmers and athletes as remote mentors or visiting trainers.
Objective 2:	Actions: - Partner with Ministry of Youth & Sports, local health NGOs, and UNICEF WASH programs. - Deliver weekly sessions covering hygiene, teamwork, and reproductive health. - Employ: 1 sports and health educator with experience in WASH/life skills – \$400/month. 1 community mobilizer (female preferred) – \$300/month. - Distribute culturally appropriate hygiene kits in collaboration with WASH-focused NGOs.

	• Monitor health literacy through pre/post-program surveys. Volunteer/Community Model: • Recruit youth and women's group members to assist in hygiene outreach and kit distribution.
Objective 3:	Actions: • Partner with Ministry of Health, UNFPA, and protection-focused NGOs to co-deliver trauma-informed programming. • Offer group and individual therapy sessions using water and movement therapy. • Staff: ◦ 1 psychosocial counselor (trained in trauma-informed care) – \$500/month. ◦ 1 female wellness coordinator for GBV-sensitive programming – \$350/month. • Align content with WHO MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) standards. • Develop a referral pathway for GBV survivors in coordination with humanitarian protection actors. Volunteer/Community Model: • Identify and train local social work students and mentors as peer facilitators for group sessions.
Objective 4:	Actions: • Collaborate with Ministry of Labor, TVET institutions, and ILO for vocational certification support. • Develop a skills training program in pool operations, safety, maintenance, and reception. • Employ: ◦ 10 full-time youth staff (lifeguards, receptionists, maintenance) at \$250–\$300/month. ◦ 1 vocational trainer/supervisor – \$400/month. • Launch a 3-month apprenticeship pipeline for local youth with pathways to employment. Volunteer/Community Model: • Engage private sector mentors in hospitality and construction to provide 1-on-1 career mentoring. • Recruit diaspora professionals to lead virtual workshops on workplace readiness.
Objective 5:	Actions: • Design and implement systems in line with UNDP Climate Resilience Framework and SDG 13. • Collaborate with Ministry of Energy and Water for permits and technical guidance. • Hire: ◦ 1 solar systems technician for installation and maintenance – \$450/month. ◦ 1 water systems operator to manage borehole and treatment – \$350/month. • Conduct quarterly open house tours for ministries, donors, and NGOs to demonstrate replicability. Volunteer/Community Model:

	• Train vocational youth in solar and plumbing trades through hands-on participation in the build. • Encourage environmental engineering students from diaspora to support remote system design.
Objective 6:	Actions: • Partner with Ministry of Environment, UNDP, and UNFCCC-accredited verification bodies (e.g., Verra). • Establish 5+ tree nurseries and plant 10 million trees across 10,000 ha by 2030. • Staff: ◦ 1 agroforestry coordinator – \$600/month. ◦ 5 nursery managers – \$300/month each. ◦ 30+ seasonal planters and field workers – \$150/month. • Train 1,000+ local and displaced individuals (at least 40% women) in tree planting and monitoring. • Develop a digital MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification) platform with partners like Gold Standard. Volunteer/Community Model: • Engage diaspora agroecology experts in curriculum co-design and field visit mentorship. • Recruit youth environmental clubs to steward reforested plots and monitor growth.

Phased Staffing and Onboarding Summary

Phase	Timeline	Key Hires	Notes
Phase 1	Month 1–2	Project Manager, Solar/Water Technicians, Swim Instructor	Focus on infrastructure and school partnerships
Phase 2	Month 3–4	Counselors, Vocational Trainer, Sport & Health Educators	Begin core programming and mental health services
Phase 3	Month 5–6	Agroforestry Coordinator, Nursery Staff, GBV Wellness Team	Roll out agroforestry and trauma recovery programs
Phase 4	Month 6+ (Ongoing)	Additional lifeguards, Admins, Apprentices, Field Monitors	Scale employment and volunteer-led programming

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Somali Roots will implement a robust performance monitoring system to ensure accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement across all program components. Each initiative will be evaluated through a combination of quantitative metrics, qualitative feedback, and field-based verification, with a focus on inclusion, sustainability, and community impact.

- **Baseline and Endline Surveys:** We will conduct surveys with participants at the start and end of each program cycle (e.g., swimming, trauma support, vocational training) to assess improvements in knowledge, skills, well-being, and inclusion outcomes.
- **Participant Registration and Attendance Logs:** All youth and community members enrolled in our programs will be tracked using secure digital or paper records to measure participation, retention, gender balance, and access for displaced and vulnerable populations.
- **Monthly Activity Reports:** Program staff will submit standardized reports detailing outreach, sessions held, partner coordination, and incidents, if any—ensuring real-time performance tracking and issue escalation.
- **Staff Supervision and Peer Reviews:** Each staff member will be evaluated quarterly based on clear performance indicators (e.g., program delivery, punctuality, youth engagement, feedback from participants). Peer review sessions will complement supervisor assessments.
- **Qualitative Feedback Tools:** Focus group discussions, storytelling, and anonymous feedback boxes will be used quarterly to gather insights from youth, girls, IDP families, and partner organizations about program relevance and safety.
- **Infrastructure Audits and Technical Logs:** The solar power system, borehole, and pool operations will be assessed monthly using maintenance logs and off-grid monitoring devices to ensure operational efficiency and sustainability.
- **Environmental Monitoring (Agroforestry):** For the Somali SAP Project, performance will be tracked using GPS-based tree mapping, satellite verification, and growth sampling to confirm survival rates and carbon sequestration, aligned with Verra and UNFCCC standards.
- **Carbon Credit Verification:** Somali Roots will partner with third-party auditors to certify carbon credits under Gold Standard or Verra’s methodologies, with scheduled MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) milestones.
- **Partner and Ministry Reviews:** Biannual review meetings with ministries (Education, Youth & Sports, Health, Environment) and NGO partners will assess progress against shared goals, ensure alignment with national policies, and discuss scaling opportunities.

FUNDING REQUEST

The total cost of the Off-Grid Swimming & Sports Facility in Garowe is estimated at \$80,000 USD. Somali Roots will independently contribute over half of the total project cost, covering land, borehole drilling, solar energy system installation, and engineering design. We are seeking up to \$40,000 in grant funding to support construction materials, facility completion, and initial program delivery. To ensure full community ownership, Somali Roots will retain all infrastructure, and the funding is sought as grants only, with no co-ownership or equity arrangements. This investment will directly support gender-sensitive, trauma-informed programming for youth, particularly girls, displaced children, and individuals with disabilities.

For the Somali SAP Agroforestry Project, we are seeking \$300,000 USD over five years to establish five regional nurseries, plant up to 5 million trees across priority degraded lands, and initiate Somalia's first pipeline of verified carbon credits under Verra or Gold Standard. This funding will cover seedling production, community training, employment of over 500 rural and displaced individuals (with a focus on women and youth), and carbon monitoring infrastructure. Somali Roots will contribute in-kind resources, including technical oversight, data tools, and early-stage land restoration.

Together, these initiatives represent a community-driven model for inclusive development and climate resilience. We welcome grant-based partnerships from ministries, NGOs, and international donors to help scale these locally rooted, globally relevant solutions.

Contact Information and Organisation Details

This section provides essential information about Somali Roots, the organization spearheading this vital community infrastructure project.

- **Organisation Name:** Somali Roots
- **Organisation Type:** A UK- and Somalia-registered non-governmental organization (NGO).
- **Focus Areas:** Somali Roots is dedicated to climate resilience, inclusive education, youth empowerment, and sustainable community infrastructure.
- **Organisational Model:** Operates as a social enterprise with public impact, combining nonprofit outcomes with a self-sustaining design to bridge the gap between urgent local needs and long-term development goals.

Contact Information:

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