



Wasaaradda Qorsheynta,
Maalgashiga iyo Horumarinta
Dhaqaalaha - Soomaaliya
Ministry of Planning, Investment and
Economic Development



Mid-Year Review

JANUARY – JUNE

2026

NEWSLETTER

SOMALIA WATER FOR RURAL
RESILIENCE PROJECT

Somalia Water for Rural Resilience
Project (Barwaaqo)





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NEWSLETTER





MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

Dr Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed

National Project Coordinator
Somalia Water for Rural Resilience
Project (Barwaaqo)

It is my pleasure to share this Mid-Year Review of the Barwaaqo Project, covering January through June 2026. The first half of this year reflected the steady, deliberate work that underpins everything we do: strengthening the systems, safeguards, and institutions that make our investments sustainable for the long term. From the Integrated Training Mission in Puntland to the Training of Trainers on Operations and Maintenance in Mogadishu, our teams and partners across the Federal Member States have built the technical and institutional foundation needed to deliver lasting results.

June brought that momentum into sharper focus. Our Implementation Support Mission in Nairobi brought the National Project Coordination Unit, our Project Implementation Units, and the World Bank Task Team together to review progress and accelerate delivery. Days later, we stood with H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as he laid the foundation stone for the new Ministry of Environment and Climate Change headquarters, a facility Barwaaqo is proud to support. And in Baxdo, we saw what this work means for communities on the ground. A town once threatened by

advancing sand dunes now has a three-kilometer green belt, restored water access, and more than 150 active farms where there were once fewer than ten. Stories like Baxdo's are why this project exists.

Since 2023, Barwaaqo has reached 600,000 targeted beneficiaries, including 180,000 women, completed 29 new climate-resilient water points, and treated more than 771,000 livestock across Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South West, Jubaland, and Somaliland, all financed through a US\$70 million IDA grant and an additional US\$18.3 million.

None of this progress happens in isolation. It is the result of close coordination between the National Project Coordination Unit, our Federal Member State partners, the World Bank, and the communities we serve. As we move into the second half of 2026, we remain committed to that same coordination and discipline, deepening our work to deliver water, livelihood, and climate resilience outcomes for communities across Somalia.

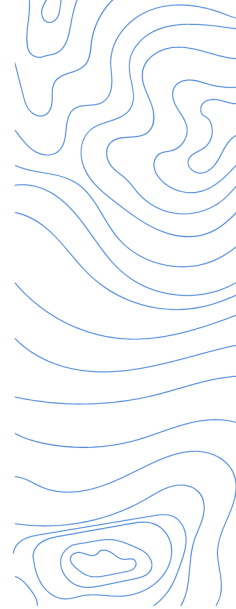
Dr. Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed

National Project Coordinator,
Barwaaqo Project

“Since 2023, Barwaaqo has reached 600,000 targeted beneficiaries, including 180,000 women, completed 29 new climate-resilient water points, and treated more than 771,000 livestock. These achievements demonstrate our commitment to building resilient communities and sustainable livelihoods across Somalia.”

**BUILDING RESILIENCE.
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.**





President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud Lays Foundation Stone for New Ministry of Environment Headquarters

30 June 2026 | Mogadishu H.E.

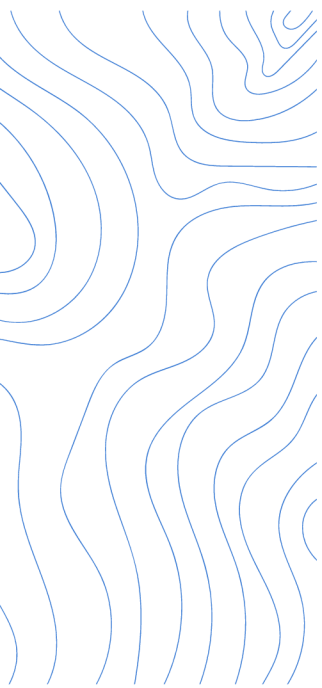
President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud laid the foundation stone for the new headquarters of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, a facility supported through the Barwaaqo Project as part of its commitment to strengthening the institutions that lead Somalia's climate resilience and sustainable development agenda.

The President was joined by H.E. Bashir Jama, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and Dr. Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed, National Project Coordinator of the Barwaaqo Project. The new facility will enhance the Ministry's capacity to coordinate climate action, environmental governance, and resilience-building

efforts, contributing to a more sustainable future for Somalia.

“ This new headquarters will give the Ministry the institutional home it needs to lead Somalia's climate action and environmental governance agenda for years to come. ”

Barwaaqo Project, on the significance of the new headquarters





Barwaaqo Concluded Support Mission in Nairobi

Implementation

2–4 June 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya The Somalia Water for Rural Resilience Project concluded a three-day Implementation Support Mission (ISM) in Nairobi, bringing together the National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU), Project Implementation Units (PIUs) from participating Federal Member States, and the World Bank Task Team to review implementation progress, address bottlenecks, strengthen coordination, and accelerate delivery of water, livelihood, and climate resilience interventions across Somalia.

The mission was officially closed by National Project Coordinator Dr. Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed, marking

another step in Barwaaqo's continued partnership with the World Bank to keep delivery on track across the Federal Member States.

“ By bringing together the National Project Coordination Unit, Federal Member State Project Implementation Units, and the World Bank Task Team, the mission reinforced collaboration to accelerate water, livelihood, and climate resilience interventions across Somalia ”





From Sand Dunes to Green Fields: Building Climate Resilience in Somalia's Drylands

Baxdo, Galmudug State The Somalia Water for Rural Resilience Project (Barwaaqo) is helping communities across Somalia's dryland regions strengthen resilience to climate change through investments in water infrastructure, environmental restoration, climate-smart agriculture, and livestock services. Financed through a US\$70 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and an additional US\$18.3 million, the project targets 600,000 beneficiaries, including 180,000 women, across Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South West, Jubaland, and Somaliland.

In Baxdo, a town in central Somalia's Galmudug State, these investments have helped reverse years of environmental degradation and desertification. A three-kilometer afforestation belt, improved water access, and agricultural support have transformed areas once threatened by advancing sand dunes into productive farmland, creating new livelihood opportunities and helping communities adapt to an increasingly difficult climate.





Before

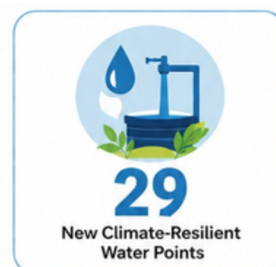
A Town Being Buried by Sand

Years of drought reduced vegetation cover in Baxdo, allowing strong winds to carry sand into residential neighborhoods, roads, farms, and public facilities. As dunes advanced, some families abandoned their homes, and parts of the town became increasingly difficult to access. Agricultural production was minimal, water was scarce, and many households relied almost entirely on purchased food.

“The drought reduced vegetation, and the town was being covered by sand. We repeatedly appealed for assistance.”

Ahmed-Salad Sheikh Abdullahi Warsame,
Deputy District Commissioner of Baxdo

afforestation belt, improved water access, and agricultural support have transformed areas once threatened by advancing sand dunes into productive farmland, creating new livelihood opportunities and helping communities adapt to an increasingly difficult climate.





From Fewer Than Ten Farms to More Than 150

Barwaaqo's response in Baxdo combined a three-kilometer afforestation belt, rehabilitated water infrastructure, local tree nurseries, seedling distribution, and farmer training on improved agricultural practices. The green belt now serves as a natural barrier against advancing dunes, and areas once partially buried by sand have been reclaimed, with previously abandoned sections of town habitable again.

Before the project, fewer than ten farms operated in and around Baxdo. Today, local authorities estimate more than 150 farms are producing tomatoes, onions, leafy greens, and other vegetables and fruits for local consumption and sale — turning a town that once imported nearly all its food into one that is increasingly feeding itself.

“Previously, we didn't plant anything at all. People were unfamiliar with farming. Before this, there was nothing here. Now we have been trained, guided, and motivated.”

Fadumo Ahmed Mohamud, farmer in Baxdo

“Every household in the town now has one or two trees from the Barwaaqo nursery. The entire community is benefiting from agricultural production. People are settling near the farms to take advantage of the opportunities they provide.”

Isse Mohamud Muse, Baxdo resident

Results Across Somalia's Drylands

Beyond Baxdo, the project has delivered measurable results across all six participating Federal Member States and Somaliland since its 2023 launch:

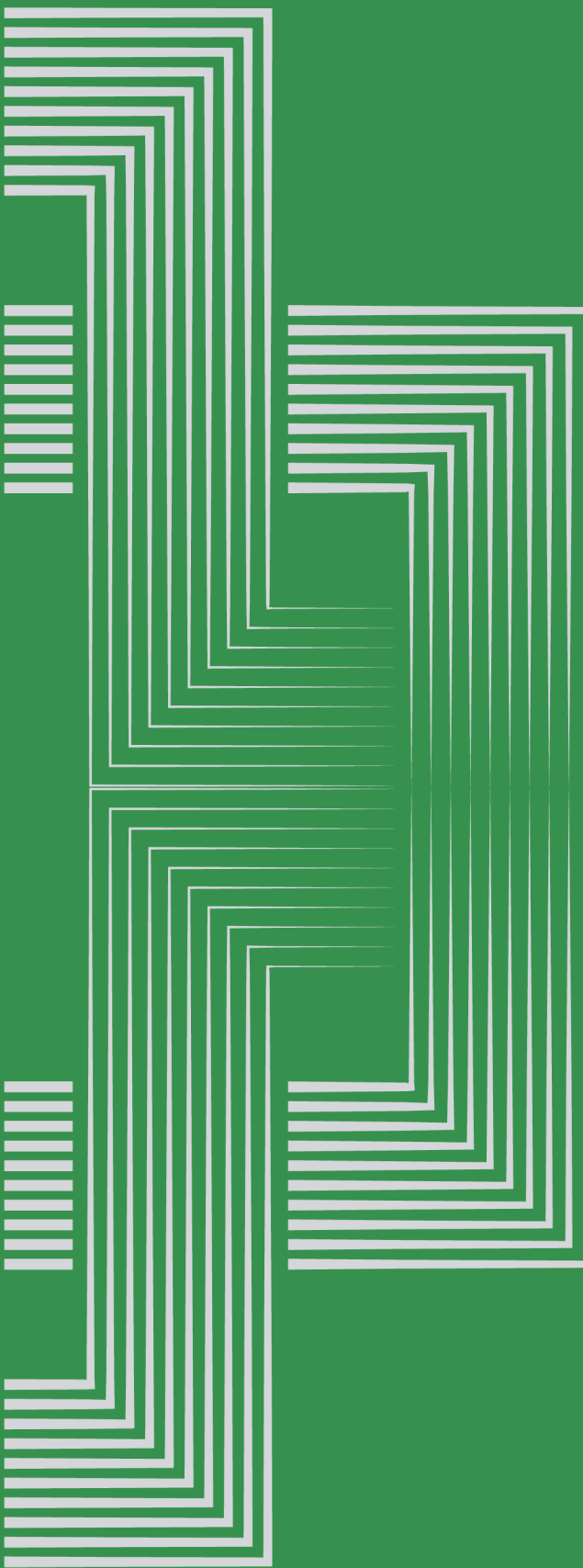
- 29 new climate-resilient water points completed and 20 existing water points rehabilitated.
- More than 771,000 livestock treated through veterinary campaigns; 333 Community Animal Health Workers trained.
- More than 1,800 hectares supported through sustainable land management interventions.
- 115 government staff trained in planning and designing climate-resilient infrastructure.

Looking Ahead in Baxdo

Challenges remain: farmers in Baxdo continue to face water shortages, limited irrigation infrastructure, and inadequate fencing to protect crops from roaming livestock. Local leaders are calling for additional afforestation and further water infrastructure investment to consolidate recent gains. Over the coming years, Barwaaqo will continue expanding climate-resilient water systems, environmental restoration, livestock services, and livelihood opportunities across Somalia's drylands — building

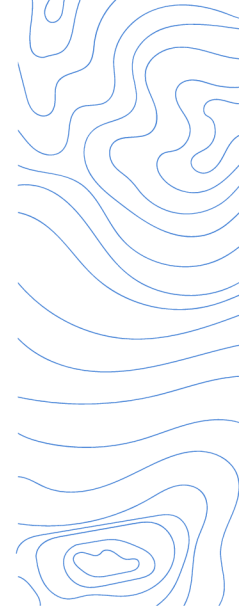
on Baxdo's green belt as a symbol of what is possible when communities, government institutions, and development partners work together.





Mid-Year Review January – May 2026

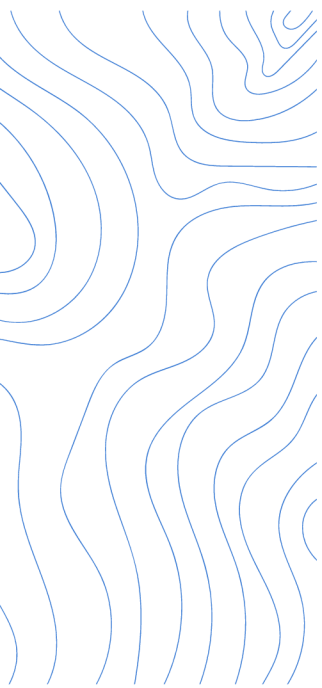
Before the momentum of June, the first five months of 2026 laid the technical and institutional groundwork across Puntland, Mogadishu, and the project's Federal Member State partners.

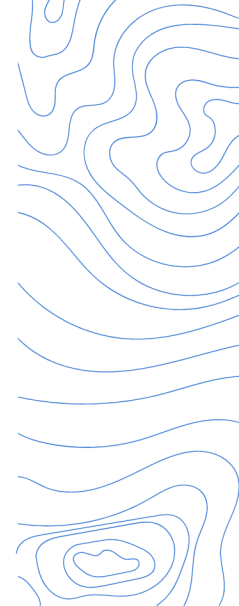


Integrated Training Mission Begins in Puntland

31 January 2026 The NPCU, the Puntland PIU, and a visiting World Bank team launched the Integrated Water, Safeguards, O&M, and CDD Training Mission with field visits to a large haffir dam under construction in Boone Village, plus technical stopovers at Rabaable and Darayle, assessing construction progress, technical design, drought resilience, and readiness for long-term operation and maintenance.







Capacity-Building Training Completed in Garowe

1–5 February 2026 A five-day integrated capacity-building training in Garowe brought together Federal Member State PIUs, Puntland institutions, and partners Alight, SURP, and Groundwater for Resilience (GW4R), strengthening water service delivery, safeguards, O&M, and community-driven development in line with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework.





“ Coordination, safeguards compliance, and institutional capacity remain the foundation of everything Barwaaqo delivers on the ground. ”

*Dr. Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed,
National Project Coordinator*





Training of Trainers on Operations & Maintenance Sustainability

29 March 2026 — A four-day Training of Trainers in Mogadishu brought together engineers, environmental and social specialists, community development specialists, and gender-based violence specialists from all Federal Member States, developing guidelines and materials so communities and local leaders can manage water systems effectively for the long term.

“Sustainable water services require not only infrastructure, but robust systems for operation, maintenance and management.”

*Dr. Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed,
National Project Coordinator*







Strengthening Monitoring & Results Tracking for Component 3

29 April 2026 A five-day workshop in Mogadishu strengthened results-based monitoring and reporting for Component 3 — ecosystem restoration, rangeland rehabilitation, and climate resilience — producing Federal Member State-specific action plans and validated tools including indicator tracking templates, reporting formats, and data quality checklists.







Watershed and Basin-wide Modeling Workshop

7 May 2026 A two-day stakeholder workshop in Mogadishu covered hydronic zoning, hydrological models and watershed profiling, multicriteria analysis, and Federal Member State water sector investment priorities, strengthening evidence-based planning for water capture, storage infrastructure, and ecosystem restoration.







North Eastern State President Visits Barwaaqo Office

20 May 2026 H.E. Abdulkadir Ahmed Firdhiye, President of the North Eastern State of Somalia, together with Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene), paid a courtesy visit to the newly established Barwaaqo project office, where Dr. Abdullahi Elmi Mohamed briefed them on implementation progress and ongoing efforts to strengthen water security and resilience.



“The Barwaaqo team continues to deliver impactful initiatives that directly support vulnerable communities and Somalia's long-term resilience and development goals.”

*H.E. Abdulkadir Ahmed Firdhiye,
President, North Eastern State*

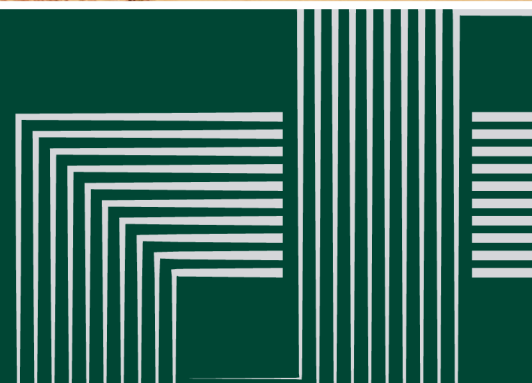
Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2026–2028

From integrated safeguards training in Puntland to a new ministerial headquarters in Mogadishu, the first half of 2026 demonstrated Barwaaqo's steady progress in strengthening institutions, systems, and infrastructure for rural water resilience. The project will build on this momentum in the second half of the year, deepening coordination with Federal Member States and development partners to accelerate delivery of water, livelihood, and climate resilience outcomes for communities across Somalia.



About the Barwaaqo Project

The Somalia Water for Rural Resilience Project (Barwaaqo), funded by the World Bank and implemented under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, aims to strengthen resilience in Somalia's drylands through integrated investments in water, agriculture, environmental management, and community-driven development.



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