



## Darwin Initiative: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:  
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

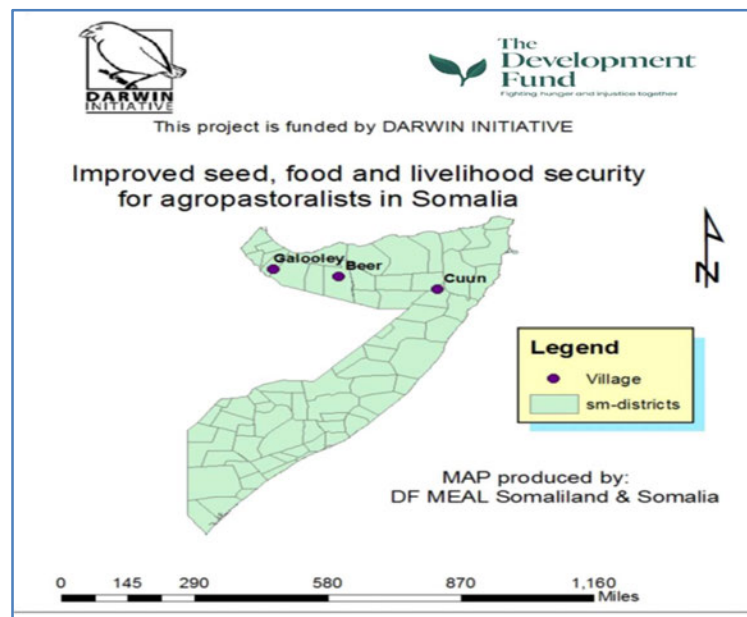
### Darwin Project Information

Project reference	25-025
Project title	Improved seed, food and livelihood security for agropastoralists in Somalia
Country(ies)	Somalia
Lead organisation	The Development Fund Norway
Partner institution(s)	HAVOYOCO, ADO, KAALO
Darwin grant value	£400,000
Start/end dates of project	September 1, 2018 – March 31, 2022
Project leader’s name	Elin Cecilie Ranum
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/">https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/</a> <a href="http://www.utviklingsfondet.no">www.utviklingsfondet.no</a>
Report author(s) and date	Ulf Flink, Issmael Shebal, Nafisa Abdirahman and Maryam Mohamoud 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

## 1 Project Summary

According to the series of analyses related to climate change and food security produced by the FAO [Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia \(FSNAU\)](#), the frequency and severity of climate-related shocks, especially droughts and flash-flooding, have worsened over the last decade.

Prolonged dry periods characterized by high temperatures and diminished access to water continue to pose a serious challenge to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and livestock. Climate change-related shocks have resulted in the



loss of diversity of plant genetic resources and the degradation of farmland and areas for pasture, thereby undermining local food security. Moreover, due to severe disruption caused by civil war, multiple seed crops and local varieties vanished. The absence or inadequacy of natural resource management plans and increased consumption of wood for firewood and charcoal have contributed to rapid soil erosion and gully formation.

As documented by the project<sup>1</sup>, limited access to quality seeds of locally adapted varieties is a severe challenge to the farmers in the project areas. Their vulnerability is exacerbated by poor crop diversity and a lack of knowledge of soil conservation and natural resource management, as well as poor access to water and irrigation.

The semi-autonomous regions of Somaliland and Puntland, and Somalia in general, suffer from lack of policies, strategies, and capacity to reverse the degradation of agro-biodiversity and other natural resources. As clear, well-resourced strategies for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources are lacking, further erosion of genetic resources in these regions may severely affect the capacity to adapt agricultural production to climate change and enhance food security in the future. As conditions for livestock management are becoming more challenging, agriculture has come to play an increasingly important role. However, lack of seed security, poor farming conditions and continued erosion of natural resources threaten to severely weaken livelihood security and reinforce the cycle of poverty.

In light of these significant challenges, the project aimed to build the resilience of agro-pastoralist production systems in Somaliland and Puntland through: 1) seed security initiatives to improve access to diverse, quality seeds; 2) improved soil and water management to reclaim degraded agricultural land; and 3) increased awareness among government and local actors concerning farmers' rights to seeds and the implementation of policy measures supportive of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

The project focused on seed security and land reclamation actions in three agro-pastoralist communities: Beer and Galooley villages in the Togdheer and Maroodijex regions of Somaliland; and Cuun village in Nugaal region of Puntland. Experience from these core interventions was used to engage relevant ministries and other stakeholders at the policy level.

In further elaboration of point 3 above, the main objective of the ITPGRFA is the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use (refer to section 4.2 for further details on contribution). The project contributed to the treaty's objectives, especially in relation to articles 5, 6 and 9.

## **2 Project Partnerships**

DF implemented the project in partnership with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), learning institutions and government entities to strengthen ownership and aid-localization on the one hand, and on the other to enhance relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. DF partners were involved upstream in the project design and provided essential inputs for the preparation of this final report, in particular evidence and results-related data.

As the lead organization, DF was responsible for the overall coordination and management of the project, while collaborating closely with three implementing partners, the local NGOs KAALO, HAVOYOCO and ADO. Each partner was responsible for the implementation of project activities in one focal village where they have strong established working relationships with local communities. The project built on pre-existing partnerships; ADO and HAVOYOCO have partnered

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<sup>1</sup> *Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report*, dated 30 April 2021

with DF since 2009 and KAALO since 2017 in food security and livelihood programmes funded by the Norwegian government and the European Union. Each organization brought to the partnership a working relationship with relevant government and policy actors, including the ITPGRFA (DF), the Somaliland Ministries of Agriculture and of Environment and Natural Resources.

As reported last year, throughout the project period, except the first financial year, COVID-19 restrictions caused delays to the implementation timelines of multiple interventions such as monitoring, communication, timely collaboration with stakeholders, and public gatherings (trainings, awareness sessions and public events). In consultation with all relevant partners, DF reviewed project plans multiple times and adjusted accordingly.<sup>2</sup>

DF and partners continued to advocate for CSB services and improved access to quality seeds with government and International Organizations (IOs) in the agriculture and nutrition sectors. Significantly, purchase of seeds from the CSBs by the Ministry of Agriculture and multiple INGOs, which began in the last reporting period, continued into this year, generating revenue and contributing to the further development and sustainability of CSB structures and services in participating communities.

As implementation progressed, DF's partners responded well in addressing challenges and risks related to the management of seed pest and insect diseases. As the collection of seed varieties accelerated during implementation, exposure to pest and insect diseases increased. In response to this, DF and relevant stakeholders engaged in a dialogue with DF Ethiopia office and Amoud University specially the project Participatory action and research for enhanced food security and climate resilience in the dryland (PAR). As a result of the said dialogue, the farmers used locally available products and methods such as using Neem tree, and Hot paper to control Pests. Farmers had also used smoke to chase away the Desert locust. Altogether, these endeavours reduced pest-related losses

Throughout the project implementation period, the government agencies continued to be important stakeholders for the project, particularly the Somaliland and Puntland Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, respectively, and agencies responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in the two regions, as well as local governments. Collaboration with public stakeholders such as these has critical implications for the next phase of support to CSBs through Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project (climate resilience, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia), particularly in respect of the following activities: multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing workshops to raise awareness on SSA findings and recommendations, the collection of seed varieties, and, not least, on farmers' rights.

Since UK embassies and British high commissions have no offices in Somaliland and Puntland, DF continued to communicate project results directly with the Darwin Initiative.

### **3 Project Achievements**

#### **3.1 Outputs**

##### ***Output 1. Seed security assessments conducted with local communities and other local agencies***

**The project achieved targets related to output 1 as laid out in the LFA** (ref Annex 2 for further details on all defined outputs). Partners and relevant stakeholders began with training on a Seed Security Assessment (SSA) methodology facilitated in collaboration with Seed Change (formerly USC Canada), a Canadian NGO that has advocated for farmers' rights for over 30 years.<sup>3</sup> The training was participative and comprised both practical and theory sessions which contributed to

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<sup>2</sup> *Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report*, dated 30 April 2021

<sup>3</sup> <https://weseedchange.org>

effective implementation of SSAs by local **smallholder farmers, civil servants, and learning institutions (29 women and 57 men)**.

After the data was collected, local consultants were commissioned to conduct data cleaning and analysis, bridge any information gaps and finalise the assessments. On this basis, **tailor-made Seed Security Action Plans** were developed by the Community Seed Bank committees for the 3 CSBs to ensure that the targeted smallholder farmers contribute to the sustainability of the area-specific **agro-biodiversity**.

Following the SSA exercises, partners organized a series of knowledge-sharing workshops hosted by the CSBs of the 3 project villages to disseminate the SSA results for application in other neighbouring villages. In number, 3 workshops were held in the 3 CSBs engaging a total of **108 farmers, (38 F, 70 M), 6 government staff, 9 staff from academic institutions, 3 staff from International NGO and 11 DF/partner staff**.

Rolling out of the said action plans and promoting farmer rights was highly participatory i.e. all relevant stakeholders including local partners, universities, UN (FAO), academic organizations, farmers, village committees, were actively engaged (comprising a total of **175 individuals**). Notably, the action plans focused on improving the services of the CSBs. Specifically, CSBs operation/management guidelines and manuals were developed, CSBs were equipped with the necessary equipment, farmers continued gathering/multiplication of PGRs, and farmers acquired knowledge from the demonstrations facilitated in the CSBs.<sup>4</sup>

**Throughout the project period, 5 GOs, 11 NGOs, 2 Universities, 1 UN Agency (FAO), 1 academic organization, 26 farmer groups, 7 women/youth associations, 8 local committees, 114 farmers (40F)**, were actively contributing to achievements under Output 1 including through awareness raising on SSA results, farmers rights and implementation of the Action Plans. **(Indicator 1.3)**.

### ***Output 2. Initiatives supported to improve access to diverse quality seeds for women and men agro-pastoralists***

**LFA targets related to output 2 indicators were exceeded by the project**, resulting in substantially improved access to diverse quality seeds across the project CSBs. At project completion, a total of **40 crop varieties** were collected, of which **1 new variety** is added in 2022. The collected crop varieties were identified through the SSA process and are categorized according to the following groups: **cereal, oil crops, cash crops, fodder seed and legumes (Indicator 2.1) (see the updated Crops Register listed in Annex 7)**.

In terms of testing of crop varieties, positive results were achieved throughout the project period. CSBs successfully implemented Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS). A total of **30 new crop varieties** were tested for adaptability by the CSB management committees in Galooley and Beer villages, **24 of which were found to be adaptable, whilst 6 were maladapted** to local climatic conditions or were shown to have undesirable traits **(Indicator 2.2)**.

Cumulatively, a total of **1608 individuals (768 F, 844 M)** in the three CSBs were trained in techniques to improve seed quality and reduce postharvest losses (falling 12% short of the target of 1830 individuals) due to scarcity of resources. As a substitute, DF and implementing partners increased the awareness of the small holder farmers through peer to peer education where the trained individuals disseminate the information across their dwellings. This is largely attributed to the introduction of ToT, whereby selected farmers have been capacitated to conduct the relevant, timely and cost-effective trainings in their respective communities<sup>5</sup> **(Indicator 2.3)**.

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<sup>4</sup> DF has commissioned a consultancy to conduct a rapid assessment of the CSB component, which is ongoing and will assess any gaps that could be addressed in the next phase of the project. (Darwin Round 28).

<sup>5</sup> The ToT approach is considered good value for money, as training was conducted at village level using schools, cooperative offices and similar to avoid hall rental, per diems and transportation costs for the participant farmers.

As part of efforts to strengthen the sustainability of CSB operations, the project delivered a developed standard of procedures manual for CSB management (Jan 2020), which was refined and rolled out in the last year of the project. A technical manual for NGO/GO staff was also developed and operationalised (**Indicator 4**). Moreover, CSB business plans were developed, further refined, and formally adopted by the 3 CSBs (**Indicator 2.5**).

Production capacity of the CSBs was substantially improved through investments in automatization. Specifically, 3 seed cleaning machines were installed and training in their operation was conducted; 1 threshing machine was delivered for use in Galooley village during harvesting season; and moisture meters and weighing machines (2 of each) were procured for each of the 3 CSBs (**6 machines in total**) (**Indicator 2.6**).

Lastly, positive achievements towards overall realization of the output were made in relation to piloting other community initiatives to improve seed availability, access and quality (priorities were identified in the SSAs and targets defined in the corresponding action plans). A total of **11 separate initiatives** were piloted: **2** fruit tree nurseries established in Cuun and Galoolay CSBs, **1** irrigation facility extended for Beer CSB, **3** seed demonstration sites established at the **3** CSBs for the participatory varietal selection, **7** seed multiplication fields established for **3** CSBs, **1** greenhouse established in Galoolay, and **1** grinding machine for the Beer CSB (**Indicator 2.7**).

### ***Output 3. Support provided to reclaim and rehabilitate degraded agricultural land***

**The project substantially met or exceeded the defined targets for the third output.** Project communities assessed their vulnerabilities to soil degradation and developed mitigation measures. Cuun community experienced flash-flooding in 2019 and a mitigation plan for the community was developed and damaged land (20ha) was rehabilitated in 2020. (**Indicator 3.1**).

The project surpassed overall targets related to the rehabilitation of land in the 3 participating CSB villages. At project completion, a total of **137.5 ha** of land (compared to the target of **120 ha**) was rehabilitated in partnership with the communities. As a result, vegetation cover increased (**Indicator 3.2**).

### ***Output 4. Support provided to raise awareness among government agencies and other local actors on farmers' rights, seed security and related policy instruments (ITPGRFA)***

**Targets related to output 4 were met or exceeded by the project.** As detailed in previous progress reports, DF built the capacity of its partners to raise the awareness of all relevant stakeholders including small holder farmers. Throughout the project period, partners facilitated **6 workshops** attended by **177 farmers (56 F and 121 M)**, **7** Government officials, **1** Learning institutions on farmers' rights and the ITPGRFA to respond to the local needs for legal related information (**Indicator 4.1**). Partners continued raising the awareness of the community to further improve the seed security/farmers' rights among key stakeholders. **167 farmers (39 F and 128 M)**, **21 Government staff, NGO and Academic Institutions (20 M)** participated in the meetings (**Indicator 4.2**).

As reported earlier, the project delivered technical/analytical support to Somaliland and Puntland authorities in the process of developing national seed policies and implementation plans through multistakeholder dialogue. Whilst the overall target of conducting planning workshops was met for both regions, the process in Somaliland was more advanced than in Puntland. In Somaliland, project efforts were geared towards review of the recently drafted seed policy as well as the development of an implementation plan. In the case of Puntland, the project delivered a stylised analysis (carried out by DF staff) related to seed policy needs and gaps as a first step towards the development of a national seed policy. The implementing partner, Ministry of Agriculture, and

small holder farmers continued their dialogue to further underline the gaps in the seed policy (**Indicators 4.3 and 4.4**).<sup>6</sup>

Unfortunately, Somalia is not part of the ITPGRFA, and as such it is not guaranteed that the farmers will not be denied from accessing their rights. Nevertheless, DF and implementing partners ensured that authorities understand the need for promoting farmer rights through awareness raising and regular dialogue. Due to the limited capacity of the Somaliland and Puntland authorities as well as the fact that resources were scarce, the endeavours to review the National Seed Policy required more effort, resources and time than anticipated. DF and implementing partners will address this in the new Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 (Climate resilience, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia).

#### Problems encountered:

- Despite concerted efforts by DF and partners, the target associated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> indicator was not fully met in terms of the promotion and inclusion of female farmers (only 65% achievement).
- Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, CSBs were not able to travel to neighbouring countries to collect additional PGRs, in response to this, DF and Implementing partners encouraged CSBs to locally gather adoptable PGRs.
- Due to the scarcity of resources, the need for addressing soil and water degradation was not fully addressed, DF and implementing partners coordinated the need with the other international organizations operating in the area.

### **3.2 Outcome**

**The project's intended outcome:** Resilience of agro-pastoralist production systems in 3 communities enhanced through improved access to diverse, quality seeds, improved soil and water management, and increased awareness of farmers' rights among government/local actors.

The project made **substantial progress towards achieving the intended outcome**. This assessment is supported by the M&E evidence base collected by DF and its partners<sup>7</sup> and provides a compelling rationale for partnering with DI in the next phase of the project.<sup>8</sup>

***Indicator 01: Number of varieties conserved in community seed banks (CSBs) increased from 55 (revised baseline) to 70 varieties from 19 crop species***

**Throughout the project period, significant progress** has been made related to seed variety conservation carried out by the CSBs. The project exceeded the target for seed varieties conserved in the 3 CSBs (70), increasing the total from 55 to 71 (+29%). As reported earlier, testing revealed that all 71 seed varieties are replicable. The capacity of the partner field staff and the farmers on CSB maintenance and management was improved through the Plant Protection Guideline (January 2020), standard procedure manuals (also submitted earlier) and guideline for running CSBs (submitted earlier), combined with interventions on adequate seed handling, management and storage practices (**Activity 2.3**), and seed cleaning, testing and multiplication practices through Participatory Varietal Selections (**Activity 2.2**).

As a result of strengthened CSB management capacity, none of the seed varieties conserved in the CSBs were affected by pests and diseases in the last two years, whereas nearly half of the seed collections were contaminated by pests and diseases in 2019-2020. Collaboration with

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<sup>6</sup> Notably, the Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project (Climate resilience, food and livelihood security for Agro-pastoralists in Somalia) will consolidate and build on the advocacy-related work.

<sup>7</sup> See the updated and detailed logframe for the project in Annex 1.

<sup>8</sup> Reference successful DF application under the latest call, Darwin 28.

Amoud University and the DF Ethiopia office contributed substantially to this result. Moreover, some of the seed varieties lost in 2019/20, and which possessed desirable traits, have since been restored through practice of cleaning and testing in Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) (Activity 2.2). The result of this indicator clearly demonstrates that the overall project target is met (see Annex 1 for further details).

**Indicator 02: 1280 households (75% of target population) perceive that their access to quality seeds has improved since this project has started**

As stated in last annual report, this indicator will be measured at endline, i.e. as part of the CSB Rapid Performance Assessment to be concluded in August 2022. It will also be part of the baseline data collection exercise for the next phase of the project under Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 project (Climate resilience, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia). However, based on anecdotal evidence and observation, it is expected that increases in available seed varieties, enhanced capacity on seed handling and postharvest management, including improved seed cleaning and farming technology (Output 2) – combined with strengthened overall capacity and improved management of the CSBs – will contribute to increased quality and availability of seed at both household and community level in the three project villages.

**Indicator 03: Seed security score of 4 key crops improved as compared to baseline in each of the three target communities**

A total of 4 key crops were identified by the CSBs for improvement based on the six parameters of seed security assessed in the SSA Report. The table below presents the key crops conserved to date and reflects complete coverage across the project areas.

Throughout the project period and based on identification and selection of key crops, farmers and project partners have collected the preferred seed varieties for testing and multiplying to ensure high quality and adequate seed stocks at each respective CSB. Based on regular project monitoring of seed testing at the CSBs, documented results attest to improved seed security at community level.

Crop	Village		
	Galooley	Beer	Cuun
Maize			
Sorghum			
Cowpea			
Sesame			
Tomato			
Onion			
Papaya			
Dates			

**Indicator 04: At least 240 vulnerable households, including at least 96 female-headed households, have improved soil and water resources on their farms**

The target for the 4<sup>th</sup> indicator was exceeded. In total, the project has supported 250 households with soil and water conservation structures and rehabilitated 137.5 hectares of land in the three villages to conserve, stabilize the soil and enhance crop productivity. Project monitoring demonstrated that the established soil and water conservation structures are well maintained by the farmers and continue to control gully erosion and flooding.

**Indicator 05: Evidence of progress towards implementation of policy measures supportive of farmers' rights/ITPGRFA is documented**

As mentioned in previous progress reports, in Somalia, governing systems to protect farmer rights continue to be hampered by instability, localised conflict and lack of awareness on the part of policymakers. Generally, farmers' rights are poorly protected; smallholders are also not encouraged to contribute to the improvement of food security. Nor do they have access to loans and other forms of support, save small trainings and tools provided by international partners.

Throughout the project period, a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue was conducted to identify opportunities for integrating farmers' rights in the Somaliland and Puntland seed legislation, as well as to enhance farmers' role in implementing seed policy. Measures to enhance farmers' role and involvement in the seed policy were agreed by stakeholders, including a seed and genetic resource structure and plant variety protection act, expected to be incorporated into the draft seed policy. It is also expected that the draft seed policy will include measures to ensure inclusion and strengthen plant breeding and seed technology in the relevant programmes of regional universities. Moreover, this important advocacy and policy promotion work will continue in the Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project.

***Indicator 06: At least 70 percent of the benefited households have experienced positive change in their livelihood security***

As reported earlier, this indicator will be measured at endline and as elaborated under Indicator 02 above. It will also be part of the baseline data collection exercise for the next phase of the project under Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project. However, anecdotal evidence continues to indicate that soil and water conservation measures are contributing to increasing food production (**Indicator 04**). It is intended that the next phase (Darwin 28) will further improve seed security parameters (**Indicator 03**).

### **3.3 Monitoring of assumptions**

A total of 16 assumptions and risks were monitored throughout the project period (ref Annex 1), 5 of which are at outcome level. These remain valid and certain risk factors were realised and addressed accordingly. Further details are as described below. Outcome level assumptions were monitored to ensure that high level risks are addressed in due course:

- ***CSBs maintain collections and renew them periodically:*** The capacity of the CSB committees to collect, manage and maintain Plant Genetic Resources was strengthened on one hand, and on the other, they were supported to establish revolving seed lending systems where small holder farmers are borrowing and bringing back seeds after harvesting.
- ***Seed security initiatives address real constraints in the seed system (including women and men's priorities):*** CSBs developed business plans to address real and perceived constraints as well as priorities, e.g. to ensure that operational costs are covered.
- ***Soil and water conservation structures are adequately maintained by communities:*** Project beneficiaries developed maintenance plans to ensure proper maintenance of soil and water conservation structures. To help ensure effective implementation of maintenance plans, DF and partners built the capacity of the Community Management Committees to conduct routine monitoring.
- ***Government/local actors develop an awareness of farmers' rights and seed security concerns:*** As observed by the implementing partners, Government or local actors had less understanding about farmers' rights in agro-biodiversity. However, the initial dialogue with Government entities facilitated bridging gaps related with behaviours and practices; both Somaliland and Puntland authorities committed to embedding farmer rights in their Seed Policies. The Darwin Initiative Round 28 project will continue supporting advocacy related with farmers' rights and seed security.
- ***Stable enough conditions (climatic, security context, etc) to allow for good participation in activities:*** As reported in the previous progress reports, on multiple occasions, climate-related shocks (drought and pests) affected the Participatory Varietal Selection and Seed multiplication exercises. In response DF and partners, Ministries of Agriculture and Amoud University provided technical assistance to control/contain the incidence of pests and disease. Water scarcity remained a major challenge for the CSBs operations. In response, the project constructed two water reservoirs for Galoolay and Beer CSBs whereas Cuun CSB was connected to a borehole built under other projects implemented by DF which reduced the water scarcity during dry seasons.



Beneficiaries also prepared seasonal calendars that helped them manage their production effectively and partners provided capacity building based on the beneficiary seasonal calendars. This measure improved participation and partners observed that the outcomes of the practical sessions were utilized effectively by the beneficiaries as it was facilitated when beneficiaries were farming and harvesting (i.e. optimal timing).

Noteworthy assumptions at the output level include:

- **Local partners have adequate capacity to conduct SSAs:** This assumption had positively brought about consistent change on the agro-biodiversity as well as the seed security in the area as partners gained in-house capacity building from other projects supported through DF.
- **Government, NGOs and other actors see value/interest in SSAs:** Through a series of dialogues, it was noted that the Government, local NGOs and other actors value and are interested in the facilitation of the SSA as the authorities lacked the essential capacity to implement SSAs.
- **Material transfer agreements can be negotiated with regional gene banks to obtain plant genetic resources:** As reported in the previously submitted reports, the restrictions of COVID-19 resulted in travel restraints for the CSBs committees and authorities to access regional gene banks. As a substitute, the partners facilitated connections between the CSBs committees and farmers in the South and Central Somalia so that CSBs committees could collect some of the varieties that can be adopted in their respective environments.
- **Climatic conditions allow for varieties to be grown in PVS trails:** As reported at outcome level, partners considered to provide technical trainings related with PVS trails based on the farmer seasonal calendars; CSBs, had then continued using plans initiated during the capacity building and/or trainings.
- **CSB management committees can dedicate time and are motivated to develop procedures, manuals and business plans:** This assumption was positive and intactly, partners used this as an opportunity to ensure that the procedures manuals and business plans are developed according.
- **Cash for work enables more vulnerable households (including female-headed) to participate:** This assumption proved valid and partners observed that cash for work was a key factor to increasing gender equity throughout the project period.
- **Government, NGOs and other actors have interest to learn about ITPGRFA and can dedicate time to participate in field visits/exchanges:** Government entities and NGOs were broadly represented in the ITPGRFA trainings and were participated actively in field visits and exchange of experience events.
- **Openness and trust can be established to allow for multi-stakeholder policy dialogues:** Partners engaged and involved relevant stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring to enhance participation in the policy/advocacy work.

### 3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

The project's aim at impact level is to contribute to 'reduced poverty through improved seed, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralist families in Somaliland and Puntland'. As detailed in the previous sections, significant results were achieved at both the output and outcome level, suggesting that project design and activities are relevant and effectively contributing towards the stated impact. As DF and partners prepare for and implement the following scaled-up phase (Darwin 28), the intention is to systematically gather additional data and evidence concerning positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation. Contribution to biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation is described below:

**Biodiversity conservation:** The project intended to contribute to the conservation of agricultural biodiversity primarily through the collection of at least 71 seed varieties from 24 crops conserved

in the project CSBs (Output 2.) To date, 71 seed varieties from 24 crops are conserved.<sup>9</sup> The project enabled sustainable on-farm use of these crop varieties by making them accessible to local communities via loans from the CSB as Somalia does not have a national gene bank.

The CSBs are thus expected to play a central role going forward in building up germplasm collections in the country and encouraging their sustainable use. The soil and water conservation (Output 3) improved soil health and helped maintain a diverse soil biota and productive capacity. In the medium- to long-term, the awareness raising and policy work (Output 4) contributed to relevant government policies, strategies and programmes that support the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The advocacy-related effort will be continued in Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project.

The project continued to contribute to the higher-level impact by strengthening the communities' capacity to protect their genetic resources from pests and diseases. As reported earlier, PGR collection activities have made significant progress throughout the project period. Here, the efforts made to clean the CSB seed collections from pests and diseases have been of critical importance, ensuring that the crop varieties at the CSBs have been properly selected and maintained (for further details, please see Crop Seeds and Varieties Register in **Annex 7**).

Notably, the Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 project will continue scaling up the investments made throughout the project period: trainings in seed handling, commercialization, and further strengthen the communities' ability to maintain their collections, while increased focus on quality testing, the persisting strong engagement of farmers for the soil and water conservation activities, as well as the advocacy related work.

**Human development and wellbeing:** Wellbeing and the opportunity for personal development are basic human rights that every human being should enjoy. At its outset, the project expected that women and men farmers in the participating communities would enhance their food and livelihood security in the following ways:

- Increased knowledge and skills through participation in the SSAs (Output 1), PVS trials (Output 2), farmers' rights/ITPGRFA trainings, and exchange visits (Output 4);
- Increased quantity and quality of household seed and grain stocks, through improved postharvest management, and improved access to quality seeds through strengthened functioning of CSBs, and other seed security initiatives;
- Improved productivity of agricultural land through land reclamation efforts; and
- Improved productivity and diversity of crop production (as a result of the above).

It was also expected that the quality and breadth of these results would be extended as actions are more fully integrated into the programs and policies of communities, governments and NGOs.

At completion, the project contributed towards these objectives by capacitating **2376 (1148 F 1228 M)** women and men farmers to combat pests and disease, on one hand, and on the other, by rehabilitating degraded land and increasing agricultural productivity. As reported previously, the authorities in Somaliland and Puntland lack resources to support the communities through agriculture extension services. The project's support to a comprehensive multistakeholder seed policy dialogue, with active participation of farmers and their representatives, is critical to the promotion of farmers' rights and to facilitate their involvement in decision-making. Concerted effort during the project period resulted in formal plans to test and certify seeds imported into the country, an initiative that will be further developed in the upcoming Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 project.

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<sup>9</sup> Please be advised that the last annual report stated that 91 seed varieties had been identified. However, further analysis has since revealed that this figure is incorrect. The issue will be further studied in the context of Darwin 28.

## 4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

### 4.1 Contribution to Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

As detailed in the latest annual report, the SDGs most relevant to the project are SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger). The project also contributed to SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG15 (Life on Land). The evidence base for contribution is strongest in regard to SDG 2, as shown below:

SDG target	Project contribution
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased productivity linked to land rehabilitation (Output #3)</li> <li>-Improved knowledge of techniques to reduce post-harvest losses (Output #2)</li> </ul>
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Access to a diversity of adaptable crop varieties in CSBs and plans to introduce other seed security measures (Output #2)</li> <li>-Reduced gully erosion to help maintain agroecosystems (Output #3)</li> <li>-Plans to develop flood control measures (Output #3)</li> <li>-Policy initiatives to increase quality of imported seed (Output #4).</li> </ul>
2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Genetic resources maintained in CSBs, despite problems with pests and diseases)</li> <li>-Work initiated to increase the diversity of crop varieties in CSBs</li> </ul>

### 4.2 Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (e.g. CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNFCCC)

As mentioned in section 1 above, the project contributed to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) (see also Annex 4). Specifically, the project's contribution to the treaty is as follows:

#### ***Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterization, Evaluation and Documentation of PGRFA***

At present, there is no national gene bank in Somaliland, Puntland nor elsewhere in Somalia. The project contributed to article 5 by conducting germplasm collections in the three target regions and repatriating adaptable crop varieties from regional gene banks. These are preserved in the community seed banks established by the project and characterized and evaluated by agro-pastoralists and farmers through adaptation trials and participatory varietal selection. Through its promotion of community seed banks, the project supported local communities' efforts to manage and conserve on-farm their Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).

#### ***Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources***

The project has contributed to article 6 through testing and promoting sustainable farming systems and policies that enhance the sustainable use of PGRFA and applying techniques designed to rehabilitate farmland and ecosystems. The project had also increased the genetic

diversity available of farmers (ref clause 6.2.d). The sustainable use of PGRFA has, in particular, been promoted through seed security assessments which identified specific constraints and opportunities to improve the seed security of agro-pastoralists.

### **Article 9: Farmers' Rights**

The project contributed to the implementation of farmer's rights as set out in article 9 by enabling farmers to realize their right to save, use, exchange and sell seeds and their right to participate in decision making on plant genetic resources. The project followed the recommendations of the resolution on farmers' rights adopted by the 7th Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, which encourages the type of activities promoted by the project, such as community seed banks, participatory variety selection and seed fairs. The project had also contributed to the revision of seed policies in order to ensure their consistency with Farmers' Rights, in line with the GB7's resolution. Although Somalia (including Somaliland and Puntland) is not as of today a contracting party of the ITPGRFA, the project increased awareness and knowledge of the treaty among regional authorities and promoted strategies and policies that are in line with the Treaty's objectives.

Multiple government entities benefited from training on farmers' rights intended to strengthen coordination and enhance awareness of farmers' rights. As reported earlier, Somalia is not yet a party to the ITPGRFA and has therefore not appointed a focal point to the treaty. The relevant government bodies are the Ministries of Agriculture of Somaliland and Puntland, respectively. The project facilitated 6 ITPGRFA workshops (**Indicator 4.1**) during the project period and provided support to officials from the Ministries of Agriculture in Somaliland and Puntland to carry forward seed policy dialogues (**Indicators 4.3 and 4.4**). These events engaged a total of **167 (39 F)** farmers, government officials, NGO staff and representatives from learning institutions (**Indicator 4.2**).

With reference to the last annual report, practical experience from Somalia contributed to DF's work in the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights of the ITPGRFA, in which a DF representative participates as an observer. The Expert Group continued its work throughout the project period on options for guidance, encouraging and promoting the farmers' rights agenda.

### **4.3 Project support to poverty alleviation**

Overall, the project targeted a total of 1,100 agro-pastoralist households in Somaliland and 500 households in Puntland, corresponding to about 9,600 people. The project prioritized resource-poor and female-headed households. Women and men agro-pastoralists learnt and exchanged knowledge with other community members, government agencies, NGOs and other actors through participation in the SSAs (Output 1), PVS trials (Output 2), SWC community learning (Output 3), the trainings on farmers' rights/ITPGRFA, and exchange visits (Output 4).

Approximately **768** women and **844** men were supported by project activities to improve seed quality and postharvest management thereby contributing to increased households' seed stocks and improved agricultural productivity. In general, the improved CSB management systems increased access to quality seeds for at least 1280 households, whereas 240 households were assisted in rehabilitating degraded land. It is intended that the new Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project will further develop CSB capacity and scale up the approach to other areas.

In terms of indirect impacts, awareness raising on farmers' rights, seed security and the ITPGRFA (Outputs 1 and 4) ensured the extension of the quality and breadth of livelihood impact, as actions are now better integrated in programmes and policies of communities, governments and NGOs.

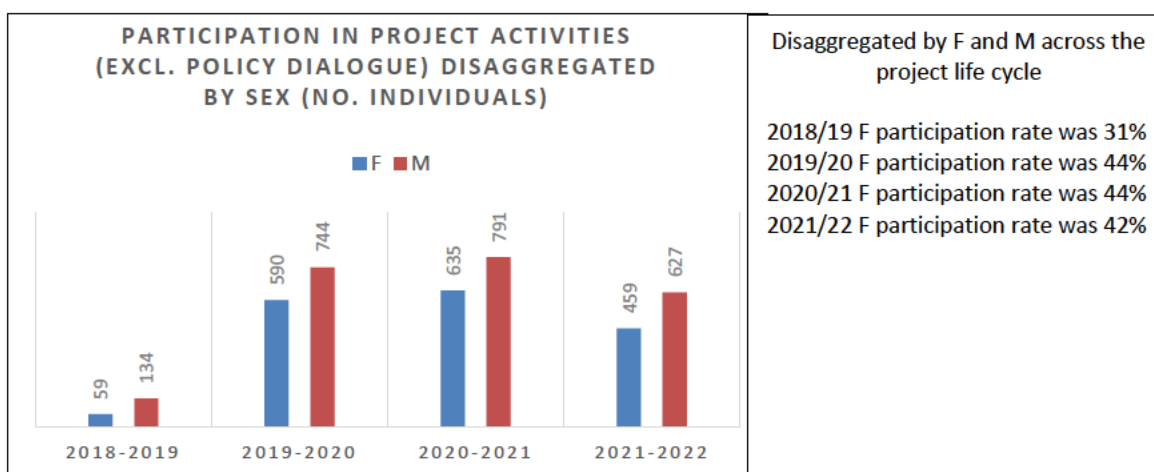
As of the reporting period, the following achievements are noteworthy: training of **1608** farmers in seed handling and post-harvest management (**Indicator 2.3**) and the rehabilitation of **300** ha of land (**Indicator 3.2**). In addition, critical investments have been made in the CSBs and related farmers' organizations (**Indicator 2.4, 2.6, 2.7**). These are now functional and have increased farmers' access to quality seeds.

#### 4.4 Gender equality

In reference to the proposal and project progress reports, the project contributed to gender equity by actively promoting women's participation in activities, strengthening their influence in decision-making, particularly in terms of CSB management and the development of seed security action plans. The project also improved food and livelihood security by recognising women's knowledge and addressing their strategic needs and priorities, including through support for female-headed households for rehabilitation of degraded land. The project also contributed indirectly to gender equality through extensive advocacy and policy-related work.

In terms of women's participation, DF and partners established a standard for the project period that at least 40% of beneficiaries should be women. In analysing the monitoring data for the last three years, it is noted that this standard has been achieved, with some exceptions.

While participation of female farmers in the SSAs was relatively strong (24 vs 36 male), policy workshops and ITPGRFA trainings had weaker participation of women overall, due especially to the paucity of women from NGO, Government and international organizations (about 20-30%). Nevertheless, as demonstrated in the graph below, women's participation in project activities increased up to the final year of the project. Women's participation has been particularly high in the following areas: post-harvest management and farmers rights trainings and development of the CSB Action Plans.



#### 4.5 Programme indicators

- *Did the project lead to greater representation of local poor people in management structures of biodiversity?*

Although the majority of the community members dwelling in Somaliland and Puntland are categorised as agro-pastoralists, the project targeted geographic locations where the livelihood of most of the households is heavily dependent on agriculture and small-scale livestock production. On the basis of criteria defined by government agencies, DF and project partners engaged with local communities to identify and prioritise the most vulnerable households.

- *Were any management plans for biodiversity developed and were these formally accepted?*

Seed Security Assessments (SSAs) were conducted at the beginning of the project period as the basis for developing community-led Seed Security Plans (SSPs), which, amongst others, made possible the collection, conservation, and dissemination of 71 seed varieties. The authorities participated in the process and formally accepted these plans (reference section 3.1 and output 2.5). It is intended that the SSPs will be implemented in the context of the upcoming Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project.

- *Were they participatory in nature or were they 'top-down'? How well represented are the local poor including women, in any proposed management structures?*

Implementation of project activities was highly participatory throughout the project period. Vulnerable community members, public officials, civil society and learning institutions worked hand-in-hand to promote seed security. Gender equity was also prioritized across the project, CSBs management committees consist of **(20 F and 23 M)**

- *How did the project positively influence household (HH) income and how many HHs saw an increase?:* This impact indicator will be measured post-completion.
- *How much did their HH income increase (e.g. x% above baseline, x% above national average)? How was this measured?:* This impact indicator will be measured post-completion.

#### **4.6 Transfer of knowledge**

The project directly contributed to the transfer of knowledge in the context of technical support to public officials involved in the formulation of seed policy (ref section 3.1 and output 4.2 and 4.3). The transfer was facilitated by formal structures for multistakeholder dialogue on this key sustainability issue. The project did not involve the issuance of any formal qualifications or academic credentials.

#### **4.7 Capacity building**

Not applicable under the project (Darwin 24). It will be considered as part of the new Darwin 28 project.

### **5 Sustainability and Legacy**

As referenced in previous annual reports, the project's intervention logic and sustainability relied crucially on efforts to strengthen local ownership and capacity to manage CSBs. Specifically, the project was designed to:

- Strengthen community members' capacity to manage community seed banks to ensure their continued functioning after the end of the project, including the development of business plans to support their financial sustainability.
- Raise awareness and build capacity in the management and conservation of agrobiodiversity at community and government level in order to ensure that increased diversity of plant genetic resources is maintained and further promoted.
- Promote national policies for the sustainable use and conservation of plant genetic resources.
- Promote land and conservation measures that can easily be adopted, sustained and replicated.
- Sign MoUs with relevant ministries to strengthen relevant capacities.
- Strengthen the capacity of the 3 partners and ensure transfer of knowledge and expertise.

This strategy remained valid throughout the project period and has informed plans for the new project under Darwin 28, which will involve the same partners and project areas (and additional villages). A community needs-based approach – facilitated through SSAs and a better understanding of farmers' choice for crops – increased the engagement of farmers and community members and the relevance of the project.

- Strengthened management and capacity of CSBs exemplified by a selection of 71 adaptable seed varieties, no diseases, no pests and business plans, as well as increased visibility of the CSBs and their products to improve market access, generate income and strengthen commercial viability (various government agencies and INGOs have become reliable customers).

- Upstream policy engagement (field visits, dialogue between farmers, Government Officials, NGOs and other stakeholders) increased the possibilities of governance and service provisions that are supportive to CSBs and related activities.
- Soil and water conservation structures and improved access to new and better crop varieties have increased yields among farmers in the project. Farmers from different communities are observing other farmers, having a cascading effect whereby other farmers (outside the project area) have attempted to replicate the technologies and test new seed varieties.

## 6 Lessons learned

To date, the project has recorded the following **key recommendations and lessons learned**, which have informed design and planning for the new, scaled-up Darwin 28 project:

- 1) Technical training and skills demonstrations helped equip the targeted disadvantaged smallholder farmers with techniques that will help strengthen food production systems. In addition to contributing to poverty alleviation goals, this has also changed the strategic thinking of government actors. A positive indication is that the relevant stakeholders are motivated to interact with the CSBs (Outputs 1 and 2).
- 2) Water is a key resource in arid environments such as Somalia that needs to be tightly integrated in all projects in such contexts. Communities have shown very strong engagement for the soil and water conservation activities, which farmers report has contributed to improved yields. The establishment of irrigation structures to increase the CSBs' capacity for seed multiplication was also a very clear and strong need expressed by communities. Mitigation measures for flood control are also essential for Cuun village.
- 3) It is a very good idea to include an activity such as 2.7 (pilot other initiatives to improve seed availability, access and quality based on priorities/opportunities identified in the SSAs), which is not clearly defined from the start. This approach meant the project could respond in an agile and relevant manner to emerging needs and priorities identified by communities, such as the irrigation structures mentioned above.
- 4) Seed security assessments are very useful for strengthening work on seed systems and agrobiodiversity. However, this was a challenging exercise for the local partners to implement, that required repeated and close follow-up and assistance from DF. In the future, a simpler methodology would be more appropriate for SSA exercises led by local NGOs. Alternatively, the assessments should be coordinated by a specialized research institute.
- 5) Certain activities have taken longer than expected or required additional financial resources, which should be taken into account in future planning. For example, the procurement of seed cleaning equipment took longer than expected because such machines are not available in Somalia or neighbouring countries. Similarly, the seed policy process required time and more resources than initially planned.
- 6) COVID-19 has affected multiple activities such as procurement and trainings. In response, implementing partners commenced procurement earlier so that once funds were availed, they could immediately contact selected bidders.
- 7) The annual report review has been very helpful, especially by signalling the possibility of requesting a project extension. This allowed DF and partners to compensate for delays experienced in the project start-up and put the project back on track. The project team may not have identified this option, had it not been for the external review. Useful suggestions were also made to improve the log frame.
- 8) Attention to M&E processes and close coordination with partners improved the quality of implementation. Exercises such as joint field monitoring, regular review of implementation plans, and identification of corrective actions were especially important in this regard.
- 9) The results of Seed Security Assessments (SSA) provided high quality information about farmers' needs, which was essential to tailoring the plans for strengthening CSB management and operations. This was exemplified by a marked increase in the number of varieties in CSB and successful efforts to combat pests and disease.



- 10) Efforts to effectively engage the project communities through training, information provision, and visibility of the CSBs resulted in increased commercial interest in the CSBs and the products they can offer. This generated viable opportunities for commercial activities by the CBSs, which has significant implications for their financial sustainability.
- 11) A better understanding of women's priorities, needs, preferences and practical use of crop varieties and production methods enabled the project to properly tailor activities and increase the project's relevance for women, which are preconditions to increased engagement participation by women.
- 12) Policy and advocacy efforts are more effective when they are evidence-based and follow an upstream policy approach. Increased awareness among farmers about their rights and how they determine access to seeds and other productive resources, greatly increased the relevance of the policy process for participating farmers and fostered their active engagement in these processes. Joint exchange events and field visits between farmers, Government Officials, NGOs and other stakeholders provided crucial space for dialogue and demonstration of the relevance of CSBs and other project interventions. This increased the prospect that improved governance and service provision will be supportive to CSBs and related activities going forward.
- 13) The development of a remote monitoring tool proved to be very useful in following up the project in a context where restrictions due to COVID-19 compromised field monitoring. The inclusion of a question-and-answer section enabled DF to give timely and relevant support and advice. It is intended that the tool will be fine-tuned for application in the next DI phase.

## 6.1 Monitoring and evaluation

As reported during previous reporting cycles, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tasks were continuously coordinated by DF's Somalia M&E advisor, in close collaboration with partners. The M&E plans for the Darwin Initiative project were discussed and reviewed with the implementing partners at the inception phase of the project. As a result, detailed plans for implementation, supervision and monitoring were developed to ensure that the activities were delivered with the expected quality. This also ensured that any changes attributable to the project were systematically documented throughout the project period.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions from 2020 and onwards, DF and partners developed a monitoring and mitigation report template to ensure sustained project implementation and quality assurance (ref the monitoring and mitigation report template listed in **Annex 7**). In addition, community-based monitoring teams were established in an effort to consolidate project progress at regular intervals. To complement this, DF held more frequent review meetings with partners (quarterly) to ensure effective and efficient project management and follow up.

To establish contribution/attribution of activities and outputs to project outcomes, the project used several standardised, proven approaches. Focus group discussions – as well as participatory rural appraisal (PRA/RRA) techniques – with participants in the soil and water conservation activities were carried out to document the changes they had observed in the rehabilitated lands. Moreover, DF continued to utilize two narrative-based monitoring techniques that proved effective for documenting changes perceived by beneficiaries and programme staff. These are Most Significant Change and a simplified version of Outcome Harvesting, developed by [Safer-World](#).

On the basis of experience under Darwin 24, DF and partners intend to strengthen the M&E framework for the new Darwin 28 project.



## 6.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

Reviewer comment/queries	Response
1) The reviewer encourages the project to consider submitting a change request to extend project implementation by 6-12 months to mitigate delays experienced during year 1.	DF submitted a change request and obtained approval for a 12-month extension of the project (to December 2021). DF thanks the review board particularly for this suggestion, which increased the likelihood of success.
2) Internal audits raised questions about the procurement practices of a key project partner, ADO, and, in line with Norway's anti-corruption policy, funds to ADO have been frozen while the organisation is under investigation. While the report states that ADO are updating their procurement manual, and hopes to implement activities in 2019-2020, what assurances can the project provide? If it remains impossible to work with ADO, how will the project adapt?	The issues raised by the audits were addressed by ADO, and work was resumed. See half-year report for details.
3) During 2018, progress towards the target identified under Indicator 0.1 was supported by NORAD, prior to Darwin funding. The project states this progress represents an updated baseline which is already close to the target in terms of diversity of varieties (48 of 55 targeted). The project should consider submitting a change request to Darwin to identify a new baseline and target which can be measured according to Darwin funding.	A revised LFA was included as part of the change request submitted in December. This included a revised baseline and targets for Indicator 0.1, clarification of methods for indicator 0.2, as well as inclusion of a new indicator (0.3) to complement indicator 0.2.  In addition, DF included a table with timebound (annual) targets ( <b>Annex 2b</b> in the 2020/21 annual report), as the review also noted that progress was otherwise difficult to assess. DF inserted annual targets in the LFA presented in <b>Annex 1</b> .
4) For indicator 0.2, the project states that other quantitative and qualitative baseline measures on access to seed diversity will be collected during seed security assessment but no further details are provided. This mean that, going into year 2 of the project, baselines and appropriate targets are not fully understood. Please identify specific measures.	Note that a few data entry errors were made when submitted the revised LFA in the change request. These have been corrected in the current report ( <b>Annex1</b> ).
5) The report claims the Darwin logo was used in all Education, Information and Communication materials and that in all gathering and meetings the UK government contribution is announced and that the project is using a banner printed with the Darwin logo. Unfortunately the report provides no evidence for this. Please provide evidence with the next report if possible.	Evidence of the use of the Darwin Initiative logo in all Education, Information and Communication materials and in all gatherings and meetings, including on banners is provided in <b>Annex 7</b> .

## 7 Darwin identity

As referenced in previous progress reports, the Darwin Initiative logo was used in all Education, Information and Communication materials related to the project. During the launching event of the project, a very clear introduction to the Darwin Initiative was provided publicly to all relevant stakeholders, including government, CSB representatives and farmers. Also, in all gatherings and meetings facilitated by the project, the Darwin Initiative (and UK funding) was showcased with banners with the Darwin logo on full display (ref section 6.2 above).

DF clearly distinguished the contributions made by the Darwin Initiative project vis-à-vis contributions from DF's other projects (funded by Norad and the EU) in reports to other donor partners. The Darwin Initiative project had a clear identity because of its specific focus on biodiversity and seed systems, which is unique and underrecognized in Somaliland and Puntland. DF's website and [social media channels](#) recognised results of the project and plans to further develop the outreach and communications approach under the new Darwin Initiative Extra Round 28 Project.

## 8 Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

In the project areas COVID-19 negatively affected the local livelihoods and food systems as movement and trade was increasingly limited. The project arguably offset some of this by supporting smallholder farmers to cultivate new marketable crops which generated income that they were not making and improve the nutrition of their vulnerable groups (Children, Pregnant and lactating women).

COVID-19 also posed serious operational constraints to the project that threatened the implementation schedule. Training, workshops, meetings, and community gatherings were not conducted as planned, also follow-up meetings to supplement trainings to ensure that skills are transferred effectively were limited because of social distancing practices. In addition, monitoring exercises did not occur as projected during COVID-19. In addition, the project also faced challenges related to international procurement for the CSBs (e.g. procurement of a threshing machines, and seed cleaning machines). Lastly, collection of PGRS from the national gene bank of Ethiopia was not possible due to international travel restrictions.

In response to these COVID19-related restrictions, various mitigation measures were introduced, including remote field monitoring, virtual communication platforms with partners, trainings and social gatherings practising social distancing. Since partners and CSB committees were not able to access regional gene-banks, they prioritised locally available PGRSs. Due to the lessons that partners learned from supply chain challenges, partners revised their procurement procedures and planned to start procurement process as early as possible. DF and partners intend to replicate innovative field monitoring and the revised procurement approach under Darwin 28.

Regarding health and safety, project staff, relevant beneficiaries and stakeholders were given an orientation on all COVID-19 preventive measures, and they were supported to set procedural steps in organizing and managing the different activities of the project (training, workshops, meetings, and related social gatherings). Partner staff members were also encouraged to take tests and ensure vaccination for relevant staff.

## 9 Finance and administration

### 9.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative since last annual report)	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	██████████	██████████	116%	More technical support was needed from Oslo to support the project.
Consultancy costs				

Overhead Costs				Bank charge was booked to overhead.
Travel and subsistence			68%	Due to the COVID 19 restrictions travel from HO was somewhat reduced.
Operating Costs			102%	
Monitoring and evaluation			105%	
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	£96,086.10	£98,788.63	103%	

<b>Staff employed (Provide name and position)</b>	<b>Cost to IWT/Darwin (£)</b>
Mustafe Abdilahi (ADO DI Project Officer)	
Mohamed Aden Abdi (HAVOYOCO DI Project Officer)	
Abdullahi Abdi Hirsi (KAALO DI Project Officer)	
Nafisa Abdirahman (DF CO MEAL & Documentation Advisor)	
Maryam Mahamoud Ibrahim (DF CO Admin and Finance Manager)	
Elin Cecilie Ranum (Project Lead)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

<b>Capital items – description</b>	<b>Capital items – cost (£)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	

<b>Other items – description</b>	<b>Other items – cost (£)</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	

## 9.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
Norad	██████████
<b>TOTAL</b>	██████████

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
Darwin Extra R-28	██████████
Norad Project	██████████
<b>TOTAL</b>	██████████

## 9.3 Value for Money

Value for money measures have been undertaken by all partners and DF. Some of the measures are: 1) using community and government contributions, 2) coordinating and collaborating with different government and non-government organizations working in the program areas, 3) using the ToT approach where farmers are trained and pass on the knowledge to follower farmers, 4) trainings are conducted at village level using schools, cooperative offices and similar to avoid hall rental, per diems and transportation costs for the participant farmers, 5) where possible, training courses were merged to save cost, and 6) procurement adhered to competitive bidding principles to ensure value for money and to obtain the best quality material/services at least cost.

## 10 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Please refer to section 3 above for full elaboration on project achievements.