

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Climate Adaptation and Innovation (CADI)

Author: Danish Refugee Council (2024)



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PROJECT	<b>Title:</b>	Climate Adaptation and Innovation (CADI)
	<b>Partner:</b>	Local community groups
	<b>Country:</b>	Somalia & South Sudan
	<b>Period:</b>	February 2024 – February 2025

CHANGE	<p>DRC empowered local communities in Baidoa, Somalia, and Bentiu, South Sudan, to design and implement climate adaptation strategies tailored to their specific needs. The CADI project drew on learnings from other resilience programming in the area, including the USAID-funded Complementary Action for Resilience Building Consortium project in South Sudan (2021-2024), and the Somali Resilience Program in Somalia (2012-ongoing). For the majority (75%) of the engaged informal community groups, the projects resulted in reduced negative economic impacts of climate-induced hazards. The project restored livelihoods, increased income, strengthened environmental protection and improved community-level response systems.</p>
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CONTEXT	<p>In Somalia, where livestock makes up 60% of GDP, five consecutive failed rainy seasons have devastated livelihoods, triggered famine and in 2022, displaced over 1 million people. In South Sudan, 60% of the population depends on humanitarian aid due to conflict, poverty, food insecurity, and ecological collapse. Seasonal flooding, especially in Unity State, has displaced millions, with total displacement projected to reach 4.2 million in 2025, according to DRC's Foresight Model. CADI's target locations are two climate vulnerable areas: In Baidoa, Somalia, recurrent droughts and flooding lead to crop failure, food insecurity, and disrupted access to agricultural processing. Inadequate rainfall further limits crop growth and water for livestock. In Bentiu, South Sudan, communities rely on low-productivity, rain-fed agriculture, which is increasingly disrupted by erratic weather, conflict, and displacement. Severe deforestation has worsened flood risks, and after the 2021–2022 floods, 90% of Unity State's farmland was destroyed, with many areas remaining permanently waterlogged.</p>
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CONTRIBUTION	<p>DRC supported 70 innovators from the local communities to develop, implement, and build community-selected innovative solutions that responded to the climate-related challenges they encountered in their local contexts. These initiatives enabled farmers to maintain or increase productivity despite environmental shocks such as floods and droughts, leading to more stable incomes, improved local food accessibility and greater self-reliance. DRC trained and equipped local actors with the tools and knowledge required for disaster risk management and strengthened preparedness and recovery systems. The efforts contributed to more responsive and resilient communities, paving the way for a scale-up and investment in locally-led adaptation strategies.</p>
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IMAGES	 <p><i>A Group presents their innovative solution to judges and an audience.</i></p>	 <p><i>Plastic waste repurposed into a canoe used for fishing.</i></p>
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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

After an initial assessment to identify climate-related challenges, 100 local innovators were trained in human-centered design. Out of these, 14 promising solutions were selected for pilot implementation with 9 solutions receiving financial and technical support and the remaining five receiving technical support only. In Baidoa, Somalia, initiatives included cultivating drought-resistant grass for livestock, the creation of a women-led model to provide drought-resistant seeds and animals for resilient agricultural resources, and an innovative irrigation system and grain grinding solution in the Yafatah internally displaced peoples (IDP) camp. In Bentiu, South Sudan, plastic waste was repurposed into life jackets, canoes, and roofing for flood-resistant homes, while fishing cooperatives gained access to boats, nets and a shared fish pond, creating sustainable livelihoods amid flooding. Additionally, a locally-led clean energy project in Mankui village produced bio-briquettes from reeds and cow dung, offering a safe and eco-friendly alternative to firewood

### LESSONS

The CADI project demonstrated the potential of investing in local humanitarian action to drive climate adaptation. The project devolved the task of intervention design to informal community groups who were already operating at the forefront of climate change and empowered them with new tools needed to identify climate-adaptive responses. The project demonstrated to DRC that training community groups in the skills of ideation, project planning, prototyping and sustainability planning can result in projects that are locally driven and for which there is significant community buy-in. While DRC hopes to continue iterating on this model, it is cognizant of the challenges that local humanitarian actors face in securing funding for concepts without funding from INGOs. CADI highlighted the importance of empowering local humanitarian actors, but also the limitations of the traditional humanitarian funding architecture that often lacks the flexibility or appetite to support early-stage, community-led innovation.

### EVIDENCE

DRC provided training to local innovators and supported them in the process from designing and testing their climate-adaptation initiatives to the final selection of ideas. Going through this process meant that the innovations had already demonstrated proof of concept. Consequently, most of the initiatives achieved their expected results. In addition, because the initiatives were driven by informal community groups and designed to address challenges identified by the communities themselves, the results were able to address priority needs as defined by the communities. This also improved the ownership of the initiatives and increases the likelihood of sustainability and scale-up opportunities to other informal groups in the communities.

### DOMAINS

*Development strategy priorities:*

*Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability*

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*Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights*

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*Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights*

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*Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights*

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*Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability*

X

*Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work*

X