



Initiative
for Relief and
Climate Action

Organizational Profile for Initiative for Relief and Climate Action (IRCA).

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I. General Background

I.1. Organization & Establishment

Initiative for Relief and Climate Action (IRCA) is a Somali based, non-political, not-for-profit, and non-governmental humanitarian relief- and development organization established in 2018 by a local Somali Intellectuals that focuses to save lives, battling climate change- related issues by promoting Environmental sustainability and livelihood interventions, promote the path to self-reliance and dignity through human transformation going beyond relief and development. The purpose is to provide sustainable Environmental friendly basic services and livelihood opportunities to support the most vulnerable communities in hard to reach areas both in the urban and rural areas of Southern Somalia consequently to have access to better education, adequate primary health care, and employment opportunities, respect the ideals of human rights, peace, good-governance and eventually improved sustainable community development through Environmental and climate friendly approaches while ensuring environmental sustainability through conservation and improvement of livelihoods in the communities.

The vulnerable communities in IRCA targeted areas live in extremely poor and under-developed conditions and are faced with many challenges over and above climate change induced crisis. These challenges include, though not limited to livelihood (crop and animal production); health, including those related to water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition; and poor school enrolment by children of school going age. Successive conflicts leading to internal population displacement, and frequent droughts leading to famine have aggravated the challenges.

IRCA's humanitarian and development intervention programs are holistic, people-centered, community-based, and sustainable. Therefore, sustainable livelihoods approaches are adopted for all IRCA strategic and short-term program focus in Somalia.

IRCA sustainable livelihoods program interventions only add to the current humanitarian and developmental commitments in Somalia, by utilizing principally home-ground solutions to vulnerable community challenges and needs. IRCA corresponds to the existing international and national humanitarian and development strategies.

The organization puts into operation in participatory approaches, strategic planning, and community mobilization to find solutions to community problems. It offers a range of programming and support in: **Emergency Relief Response, Food Security, Agriculture and Livelihood Development, Health & Nutrition, Education, WASH, Protection and Climate change mitigations.**

I.2. Legality Status

Initiative for Relief and Climate Action (IRCA) was registered by Southwest Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (**Registration number 513**) as a National Organization in under (**NGO**) **Law #2** and is certified to carry out multi-sectoral projects in Somalia. It falls under The Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development which coordinates and monitors all humanitarian and development activities in the State.

I.3. IRCA Vision Statement

To see climate resilient Somali communities with equitable Solutions to climate change with improved resilience and having sustainable means of livelihood.

I.4. IRCA Mission Statement

To engage extensively on a multi-faceted sustainable development programs and Climate Change Action-related activities that would help bridge poverty gap, mitigate Climate Change, and empower communities in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure holistic sustainable development in Somalia.

I.5. Objectives

- Designing and implementing appropriate strategies and program activities addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Promoting environmentally sustainable and productive agricultural activities
- Reduce malnutrition and food insecurity that cause irreparable damage to livelihoods through introducing sustainable food security and livelihoods improvement initiatives.
- Undertaking the mobilization of natural resource conservation activities including awareness raising against timber cutting and charcoal business.
- Establishing and supporting access to basic social services (like Inclusive basic Education, Health care, Nutrition, and WASH) mainly for children, women, and persons with disabilities (PwD) with protection mainstreaming.
- Increase access to education for children from poor and vulnerable groups while strengthening the quality and capacity of teachers, teaching/learning environment and institutional structures.
- To promote youth empowerment and ensure their meaningful participation in their communities towards poverty reduction by introducing and supporting feasible income generation schemes including skill training for youth and women and other vulnerable community members.

- Strengthen community capacity to cope with future shocks in disaster preparedness and management.
- Promote and advocate for gender sensitive approaches to enhance women’s rights and girl-child education and strengthen the participation and involvement of women and vulnerable groups in programs and organization.
- Improve the protection of and respect for the human rights and dignity of vulnerable populations – with a special focus on IDPs, women, children, and marginalized groups (PwD and minorities) – through effective advocacy and the application of a rights-based approach across all sectors.

1.6. Core Values

- Integrity
- Solidarity with the Vulnerable
- Transparency and Accountability
- Environmentally conscious.
- Gender sensitivity
- Equity & Inclusion

2. Program Interventions

2.1. IRCA Specific Area of Operation

IRCA operations concentrate on districts of Southwest State of Somalia. The organization headquarter is in Baidoa and plans to open other sub-offices in the main towns in other southern states of Somalia. It currently directs its programs mainly in Southwest State of Somalia.

Target Groups

IRCA humanitarian and development programs aim for the most vulnerable community groups including: IDPs, poor host communities, pastoral dropouts and people with disabilities (PwD) and other vulnerable groups in Somalia.

Development Challenges of the area:

- Due to recurrent shortage of rainfall, and hence crop failure, the area is mostly characterized by chronic food insecurity.
- High prevalence of socio- economic marginalization, harmful traditional practices, and gender-based violence affecting the life women and children.
- Unpredicted climatic elements variability and change has made the livelihood means of the people so insecure that leads to poor resilience to any further change. Climatic hazards are becoming so frequent in the area.

- Natural environment has also been alarmingly degraded due to excessive human actions for earning livelihood.
- The area is also characterized by underdeveloped social services like safe drinking water, health and Inclusive Educational provisions.
- The area is also characterized by prolonged conflicts and disputes and that caused massive internal displacement, illegal youth migration and joining armed groups.

2.2 Major/Core Programmatic Areas

IRCA Programs will be targeting the most vulnerable communities. IRCA considers Climate Change as an issue of highest relevance and works in its direction both in a full-fledge manner or as a cross-cutting theme in its other projects. IRCA will be striving to achieve its specific objectives in six (6) programmatic areas of:

- I. Environmental Education, conservation, and rehabilitation
- II. Food security, Agriculture and Livelihood Development
- III. Inclusive Basic Education
- IV. Health & Nutrition
- V. Water, Sanitation and Promotion of Hygiene (WASH)
- VI. Protection

2.2.1. Environmental Education and Conservation

Environmental Education includes creating awareness through community discussion, intensive trainings and workshops about the need and ways of environmental protection for all stakeholders including community, private sector, government bodies and students. As part of environmental conservation IRCA works holistically to enhance and increase agricultural production through the promotion of farming skills and climate change adaptation, and improved farming methods. IRCA promotes increasing the understanding of the community on the impact of climate change and what actions they can take to build resilience. We Mobilize public support for environmental protection and compliance with laws to prevent violations of human and environmental rights through local leadership and county campaigns.

Environmental Conservation and Rehabilitation incorporates promotion of integrated environmental activities carried out through the participation of different stakeholders (i.e. IRCA, school Community, Farmers Group and Private Nurseries) like re-afforestation of degraded areas by planting trees, enabling regeneration of natural vegetation.

Environmental advocacy includes mobilizing and networking with organization and groups with same mind to push environmental issues to better policy and decision makers focus.

2.2.2 Food security, Agriculture and Livelihood Development

IRCA shall work in partnership with various agricultural developmental partners to help improve agriculture in Southwest State of Somalia by venturing and employing better agricultural techniques that suits the areas ecological conditions and assisting the communities to adopt for the better of their livelihood. IRCA provides food assistance to prevent loss of life and to contribute to promoting inclusive market systems that improve agricultural productivity, incomes, and nutrition. We promote livelihood strategies that protect, recover, and strengthen individuals' and households' abilities to earn a living. To prevent repeated displacement, we support engagement in social and economic opportunities that reinforce the adaptive capacity of systems, individuals, families, and communities affected by displacement. Our livelihoods and food security work focuses on the following thematic areas:

- ✓ Household and livelihood vulnerability analysis
- ✓ Emergency Cash and Voucher Assistance
- ✓ Asset creation (creating local assets that reduce food insecurity and build livelihood opportunities)
- ✓ School Feeding program
- ✓ Nutritious food production systems
- ✓ Integrated natural resource management.
- ✓ Employment and income generation and/or diversification-TVET Skills training
- ✓ Credit and finance facilitation
- ✓ Disaster Risk Reduction

We work in areas of (Livelihood provision, Livelihoods protection & Livelihoods promotion) to enable livelihoods that are in support of durable solutions:

2.2.3. Education

IRCA believes that Education is central to the development of the individual and the progress of society at large and thus has established a high-quality program for Education focusing Primary Education. In Somalia the organization is one of the local organizations working with Inclusive Education focusing on Special Needs Education, which is not necessarily limited to physical disabilities.

IRCA's main objectives on Inclusive Basic Education are:

- Increase enrolment and retention of school going population (aged between 5-18 years) with emphasis on gender equity and inclusiveness; while address socio-cultural barriers that hinder the enrolment of girls and children with special needs through community mobilization and sensitization, and by combating violence in the school place.
- Improve teacher competence through in-service training, mentoring and provision of basic incentives.
- Provide psychosocial training to teachers in IDP sites and other emergency affected areas and psychosocial outreach to children through child-friendly spaces.

- Facilitate the availability of adequate and relevant basic education materials, kits and supplies.
- Organize peer education sessions in schools by promoting formation of clubs in Schools in target locations.
- Campaign against traditions that hinder education especially for the girl in Somalia.
- Promote feeding programs in schools.
- Spearhead the development of a policy and a manual on IE focusing on SNE.

2.2.4. Health (PHC)

Sector objectives:

- Improve availability of and access to health care services for IDPs and most vulnerable host communities, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women and children, through mobile clinics or strengthening of existing services, as well as through the promotion of health-seeking behavior.
- Improve quality of health care and treatment, with special focus on health infrastructure (physical equipment and supplies, including post exposure prophylaxis [PEP] kits, etc.) and human resource capacity.
- Improve health information management system to ensure availability of reliable data on the health status of the population.
- Ensure availability of health education material on prevention of targeted diseases (malaria, TB, AWD, measles).

2.2.5. Nutrition

The overall objective of Nutrition program is to lower the incidence of malnutrition, avert excess mortality due to malnutrition and promote better nutritional status among populations in the affected areas.

Specific objectives:

- Initiate and facilitate intensive SFPs, including community-based nutrition actions, to the access of nutritionally vulnerable populations to emergency nutrition response.
- Promote appropriate infant and young child feeding practices.

2.2.6. Water, Sanitation and Promotion of Hygiene (WASH)

Sector Objectives

- Increase access to sustainable water and sanitation services to reach the most vulnerable targeted areas and population.
- Increase awareness among target population and support in connection with safe environment and hygiene issues to reach them.

- Empower local community institutions and WASH authorities in target areas in managements of water and sanitation facilities.

2.2.7. Protection

Sector Objective

- In close collaboration with key stakeholders, prevent and minimize as much as possible any unintended negative effects because of intervention which can increase people's vulnerability to both physical and psychosocial risks.
- To work with relevant actors to promote and support the identification, assistance, and protection of the most vulnerable individuals/groups as part of Emergency Preparedness, response, and recovery interventions.
- Organize for people's access to assistance and services – in proportion to need and without any barriers (e.g. discrimination). Pay special attention to individuals and groups who may be particularly vulnerable or have difficulty accessing assistance and services.
- Set-up and encourage the use of appropriate mechanisms through which affected populations can measure the adequacy of interventions, and address concerns and complaints/Feedback.
- Support the development of self-protection capacities and assist people to claim their rights, including – not exclusively – the rights to shelter, food, water and sanitation, health, and education.

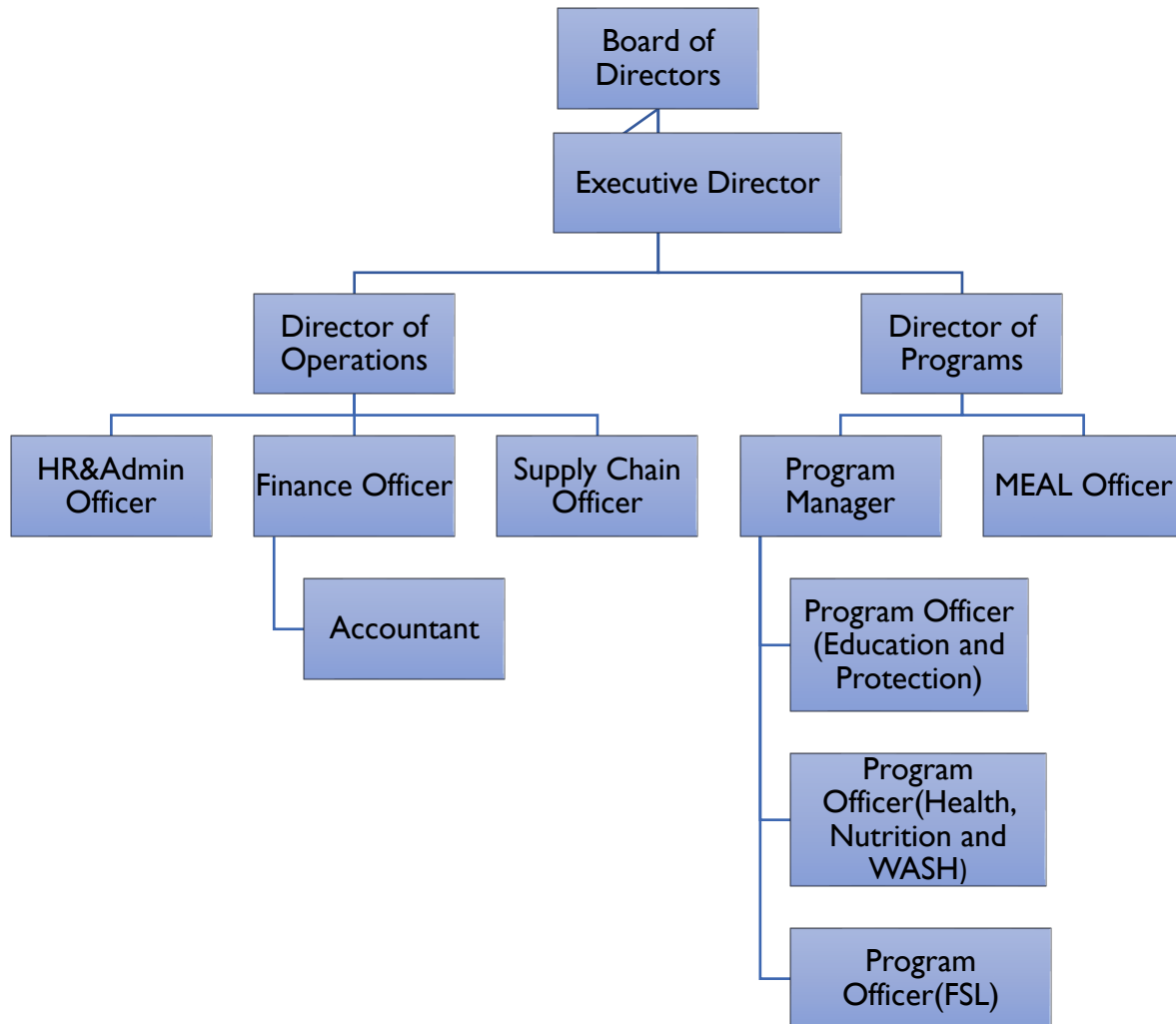
2.3. Program strategies

- Full Community involvement at all levels
- Mainstreaming gender across programs and projects
- Networking with stakeholders
- Empowering participants in decision making and management
- Passing on gifts
- Building the capacity of stakeholders

3. Organ Structure and Management

IRCA is governed by statute that sets down all the organizational affairs. The Board of Directors safeguards the assets of the organization, carries out fund raising and works out the policies, oversees regulations of the organization. The day-to-day management of the organization is conducted by management team led by the Executive Director.

ORGANOGRAM



a. Governing Body Profile

Governing body of IRCA consists of 5 active and highly experienced and prominent members of the Somali community, having long years of experience in the development field with national and international exposures and experience in working with international and donor organizations.

b. Staff Structure and Profile

IRCA has three (3) senior management team from various technical backgrounds, i.e. executive, programs and Operations Directors. In second line, IRCA has more than 10 active volunteers, each have several field skilled and experience. The Executive Director is responsible for the

facilitation of organizational growth as a team leader and participates in programs and other activities within the organization. He is instrumental in policy advocacy and liaison; agency policy and strategy change management and head the program quality development and implementation cell.

4. Networking and Collaborations

IRCA already created and maintains the collaboration of governmental, private, non-profit institutions and communities at large in the targeted areas in Somalia to promote sustainable livelihoods among the most vulnerable communities in both urban and rural areas. IRCA is a member of both national and zonal sector clusters in Food Security and Livelihoods, Health, Education, Nutrition, WASH in Somalia. It has established cooperation with several Network and Coalition bodies in the region.

Partners

IRCA is working to gain the trust and confidence among the humanitarian actors in Somalia and trying to attract funds from various donor and INGOs. So far IRCA has the following partners;

- Southwest State Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Southwest State Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
- Southwest State Ministry of Livestock, Range and Forestry
- Southwest Ministry of Environment and Wildlife.
- Baidoa International University (BIU)
- Southwest State of Somalia Diaspora

Funding Sources

The organization strives to rise funding from both the international and local donors to sustain its objectives and activities. It has developed accountability and transparency mechanisms in conducting in its own projects. The organization has very strict financial management policy, systems, and control mechanisms. It creates cooperation and working relationship with the local businesspersons and the international donor agencies.

It has fund-raising strategy plan that through program development proposals has so far attracted funds from:

- Somali Diaspora Communities
- Southwest Ministries of: Health, Agriculture, and Irrigation/Labor and social affairs
- Individual Donors

Organizational Strengths

IRCA organizational strength lies within the skills, knowledge, and experiences of its member organizations.

- Sound-vibrant and dynamic BOD and managing team.

- Dedicated experienced members and volunteers.
- Fully equipped head office in Baidoa
- Good relations and cooperation with the government, private and non-profit institutions.
- Support of well-wishers like renowned lecturers, doctors, teachers and professionals, etc.

Governance and Management Instruments

IRCA is having separate policies on the following issues:

- Human Resource [HR Policy]
- Safeguarding Policy
- PSEA Policy
- Board Governance Policy
- Volunteers Management Policy
- Financial [Financial Management Policy and Accounting System Guideline]
- Gender [Gender Policy]
- General Office Procedures
- Program implementation policy and procedures manual