



Annual Report 2024

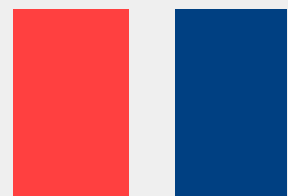




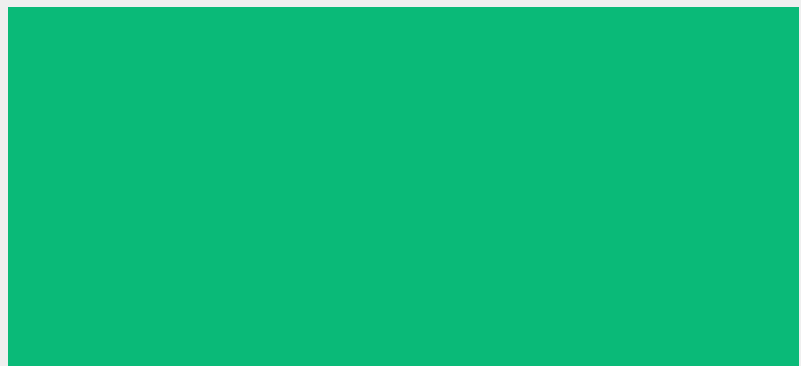
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About the Restore Somalia Foundation

The Restore Somalia Foundation (RSF) is a dynamic and dedicated organization committed to fostering positive change within Somali communities both in Canada, Somalia and across the diaspora. Established with the vision of addressing critical socio-economic challenges, Restore Somalia Foundation focuses on key areas such as healthcare, education, climate resilience, youth engagement, and anti-racism advocacy. Our mission is to harness the collective potential of the Somali diaspora and local stakeholders to create sustainable development pathways that empower individuals and communities alike. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we work to promote good health and well-being (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and climate action (SDG 13).

Through innovative programs, strategic partnerships, and community-driven initiatives, Restore Somalia Foundation continues to bridge gaps, build capacities, and advocate for equitable opportunities. In 2024, we expanded our reach, welcomed new team members, strengthened collaborations, and laid the groundwork for transformative projects. Collaboration and coordination remained at the heart of our initiatives as we welcomed new team members, expanded our partnerships, and set ambitious goals for 2025.

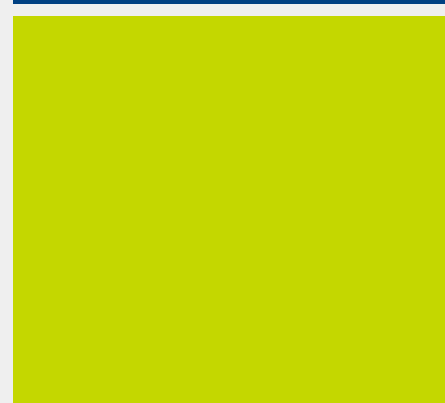


Message from the Board of Directors'

As we reflect on 2024, the Board of Directors is proud to share the journey of growth, resilience, and impact that the Restore Somalia Foundation has undertaken over the past year. Despite challenges, the complexities of operating in fragile contexts, and global economic pressures, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to fostering development and unity within Somali communities.

This year marked significant progress for the Restore Somalia Foundation. We successfully implemented programs that addressed critical issues, including healthcare accessibility, education development, climate resilience, and youth empowerment. Our collaborations with international organizations, government entities, and community leaders have been instrumental in advancing our shared goals. Notably, our partnerships with the Government of Canada, the Foundation For Black Communities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, the Ministry of Rural Development and Resilience of the Southwest State of Somalia, IOM Somalia, and the African Union have aligned our strategies with both national and international development frameworks, amplifying our impact. These efforts contribute directly to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring our initiatives are both impactful and globally relevant.

The successes of 2024—from hosting the 3rd Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum, the 30th Anniversary of the Elif Maay Language in Istanbul, the Youth Leadership Forum in Toronto, and our participation at COP29 in Baku—demonstrate our ability to drive meaningful change. These events showcased our commitment to preserving cultural heritage, empowering youth, and contributing to global discussions on climate resilience and sustainable development.



However, these achievements are only possible through the dedication of our team, our donors, the trust of our partners, and the unwavering support of the communities we serve.

As we look ahead to 2025, our focus remains on scaling our initiatives, deepening partnerships, and aligning our strategy with Canada and Somalia’s development priorities. By fostering greater collaboration and leveraging the strength of the Somali diaspora, we are confident in our ability to address pressing challenges and create lasting opportunities. Central to our vision is the continued alignment with the SDGs, particularly quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), Climate Action (SDG13) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to our mission in 2024. Together, we will continue to empower communities and build a brighter future.



Programs and Achievements

1. Diaspora Knowledge Transfer Initiative

In January 2024, Restore Somalia Foundation held a one-day training on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Mogadishu, conducted by Restore Somalia Foundation board advisors Dr. Hassan Ibrahim, a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology based in Vienna, Austria, and Dr. Faduma Sheekh Ali, a psychiatrist with extensive experience in trauma care. The training targeted over 24 healthcare professionals from hospitals and clinics across the Southwest State of Somalia, equipping them with tools and knowledge to address PTSD, a critical issue in post-conflict Somalia. The workshop received positive feedback for its practicality and relevance. Looking ahead to 2025, we aim to scale up mental health training programs to include additional regions contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).

Dr. Hassan Ibrahim conducted hands-on training sessions on February 2024 for healthcare providers in Mogadishu and Baidoa cities in Somalia, focusing on advanced obstetrics and gynecology techniques. He spent two weeks providing patient consultations at Bay Regional Hospital and Bayhaaw General Hospital in Baidoa, where he treated over 67 patients and mentored local doctors. The program showcased the immense potential of diaspora contributions to improving Somalia's healthcare system. In 2025, this initiative will be expanded to include sectors such as education and entrepreneurship, further fostering Somalia's growth and development.



Dr. Hassan Ibrahim
Consultant for Obstetrics and
Gynaecology
Member of the Austrian Medical
Chamber





2. Advancing Somalia's National Diaspora Policy

Executive Director Hani Mohamed met with Deputy Isaak Mohamed Mursal and the Director of the Department of Diaspora Affairs Ibrahim Gure, in Mogadishu in March 2024 to discuss the diaspora's role in national development. As a result of these discussions, RSF signed a partnership agreement with the Ministry's Department of Diaspora Affairs to advance the Somali National Diaspora Policy (SNDP). This policy aims to harness the skills and resources of the diaspora for sustainable development. Moving into 2025, we plan to leverage diaspora expertise to implement diaspora-led projects in agriculture, education, climate resilience and healthcare, ensuring their contributions are effectively utilized.



3. Language Inclusivity Advocacy

In May 2024, the Restore Somalia Foundation participated in the launch of the Demac Real-Time Report (RTR), where our Executive Director, Hani Mohamed, was a panellist advocating for language inclusivity in humanitarian efforts. This event was organized by Demac in partnership with the IOM UN Migration, with numerous participants, including representatives from INGOs, government agencies, and linguistic experts. Our advocacy efforts led to the RTR report being published in the Maay and Maha languages, ensuring broader accessibility and inclusivity. For 2025, we aim to extend this initiative to educational materials and government publications, bridging language barriers and promoting social equity.





3. The 3rd Annual Peace & Sustainability Forum - Human Capital Development

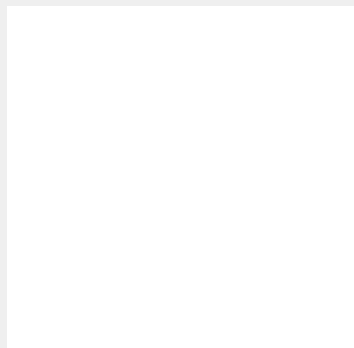
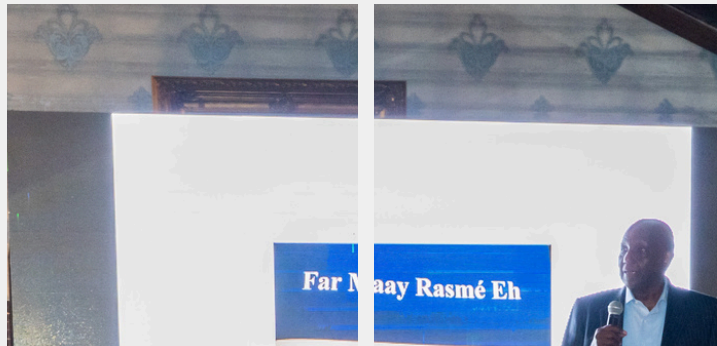
The third Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum took place in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 6-7, 2024, under the theme "Human Capital Development." This two-day forum was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, IOM Somalia, the African Union, and the African Development Banks. The event attracted over 100 participants from countries including the USA, Canada, UK, Qatar, Kenya, Egypt, Sweden, and Somalia. We were honoured with the participation of Deputy Minister Isaak Mursal Mohamud, the Somali Ambassador to Qatar Ambassador Mohamed Ali Sheekh, the Somali Ambassador to Turkey, Ambassador Fathi Ospite, and IOM Somalia Programme Manager Sikhulile Dhlamini. The forum featured groundbreaking presentations and dynamic panel discussions on governance, economic development, and diaspora engagement. For 2025, we plan to focus on transformative innovations, aligning with Somalia's development priorities.





4. Elif Maay Language 30th Anniversary

In July 2024, the Maay-speaking community entrusted us with hosting the 30th Anniversary of the Elif Maay Language in Istanbul, Turkey. This milestone event celebrated the language's rich history and cultural significance. Previous anniversaries were hosted in Toronto, Canada, and Gothenburg, Sweden. The event in Istanbul featured performances, scholarly presentations, and cultural exhibitions, with over 100 attendees, including linguists, cultural ambassadors, and Somali diaspora members. For 2025, RSF aims to create a digital repository to preserve Somali languages and promote cultural awareness globally.





5. National Somalia Diaspora Conference - Doha, Qatar

Our Board of Directors and Board of Advisors played an instrumental role in the first National Somalia Diaspora Conference in Qatar, serving as keynote speakers, panelists, and moderators. Through engaging presentations and discussions, Restore Somalia Foundation highlighted key areas such as diaspora contributions to Somalia’s economic growth, fostering innovation, and building institutional capacity. The Board actively shared insights on leveraging collective resources and expertise within the diaspora to address Somalia’s pressing challenges. These efforts exemplify our commitment to unified diaspora engagement as a cornerstone for national development. In 2025, we aim to expand our contributions to similar conferences, driving impactful collaborations and strengthening the Somali diaspora’s role in shaping the country’s future.



6. Climate Resilience and Research

In partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development and Resilience of the Southwest State of Somalia, the Restore Somalia Foundation launched the report "Effects of Climate-Induced Recurring Droughts on the Rural Economies of Southwest Somalia" in Baidoa in November 2024. This report highlighted the severe impact of climate change on rural livelihoods and provided actionable recommendations for resilience. Attendees, including local officials, community leaders, and researchers, participated in the launch. In 2025, we plan to expand climate research and pilot adaptation projects to strengthen rural communities.



7. COP29 - Baku, Azerbaijan

In November 2024, the Restore Somalia Foundation proudly participated in COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The team delivered a presentation and participated in a panel discussion on the topic "Empowering Somalia's Food System through Diaspora Engagement." This event was organized in partnership with Action On Food, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, Development Transformations, and the Ministry of Rural Development and Resilience of Southwest Somalia.

The discussions at COP29 focused on adaptation finance, the critical role of diaspora engagement in food systems, and the intersection of gender and climate education. These initiatives emphasized the importance of multilateral collaborations in tackling climate change and advancing sustainable development goals. The Restore Somalia Foundation's presence at COP29 highlighted the potential of inclusive dialogues to create innovative solutions for climate resilience in Somalia.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Restore Somalia Foundation is committed to advocating for Somalia's inclusion in global climate dialogues and driving impactful projects that address the pressing challenges of climate change.





8. Pathway Towards Sustainable Development Education

In January 2024, RSF initiated the "Pathway Towards Sustainable Development - Education" program, an intermediate-level weekly English class designed to enhance participants' language proficiency. Under the expert instruction of Hafsa Khan, the program focuses on practical conversational English, interview preparation techniques, reading comprehension strategies, and confidence-building exercises.

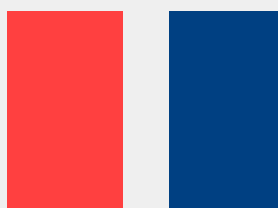
This tailored initiative has enrolled 11 committed students, equipping them with essential linguistic and professional skills to thrive academically and in their careers. The program's success underscores the Restore Somalia Foundation's dedication to education as a cornerstone for sustainable development.

Moving forward, the Restore Somalia Foundation aims to broaden the program's reach by including more students and introducing advanced-level instruction in 2025.





First cohort of attendees at our office in Baidoa, Somalia
January 2024, Baidoa, Somalia



9. Youth Leadership Forum Toronto, Canada

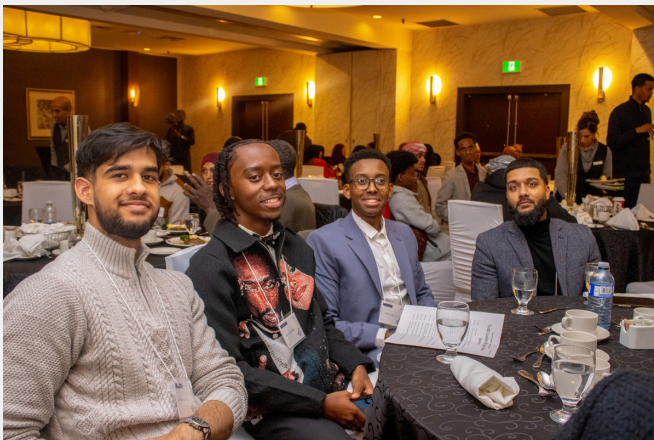
In December 2024, we held the Youth Leadership Forum in Toronto, Canada. The event was a success, attracting over 80 youth from diverse backgrounds. The forum aimed to empower young leaders, promote inclusivity, and combat systemic racism while addressing the pressing social challenges faced by youth in education, employment, and community participation.

Keynote speakers included Kofi Achompong, a lawyer and anti-racism advocate; Amira Elghawaby, Canada’s Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia; Mark Persaud, Senior Legal Counsel; and Ilhan Abdullahi, a social innovation leader.

The forum hosted dynamic panel discussions, including those led by university students from the University of Toronto, McMaster University, and Waterloo University, who shared their experiences navigating systemic barriers within the education system. Another panel delved into resilience and innovative business initiatives launched by young entrepreneurs.

The discussions highlighted how systemic racism and social inequities impact youth opportunities and explored actionable strategies for addressing these issues. Attendees engaged in interactive discussions focused on leadership development, community advocacy, and creating inclusive spaces for marginalized voices.







Advisory Board Update

Congratulating Dr. Abdullah Mohamed Sheikh Abdullah.

In 2024, Restore Somalia Foundation’s Board of Advisors, Dr. Abdullah Mohamed Sheikh Abdullah was appointed as the Ambassador of Somalia to Kuwait. Dr. Abdullah has tirelessly devoted his time and resources to supporting his community, contributing significantly to Somalia’s socio-economic development. His leadership and dedication serve as an inspiration, and his new role reflects his unwavering commitment to representing Somalia on the global stage. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Abdullah and wish him success in this esteemed position.



Welcome Dr. Omar Abdurahman.

The Restore Somalia Foundation welcomes Dr. Omar Abdurahman as a Board of Advisors. Dr. Omar is an experienced researcher in veterinary and food security. His knowledge and experience add value to our mission and strategic objectives. This development reflects our commitment to strengthening leadership for impactful programming. In 2025, we look forward to engaging our advisors in more specialized projects to further enhance governance and development.

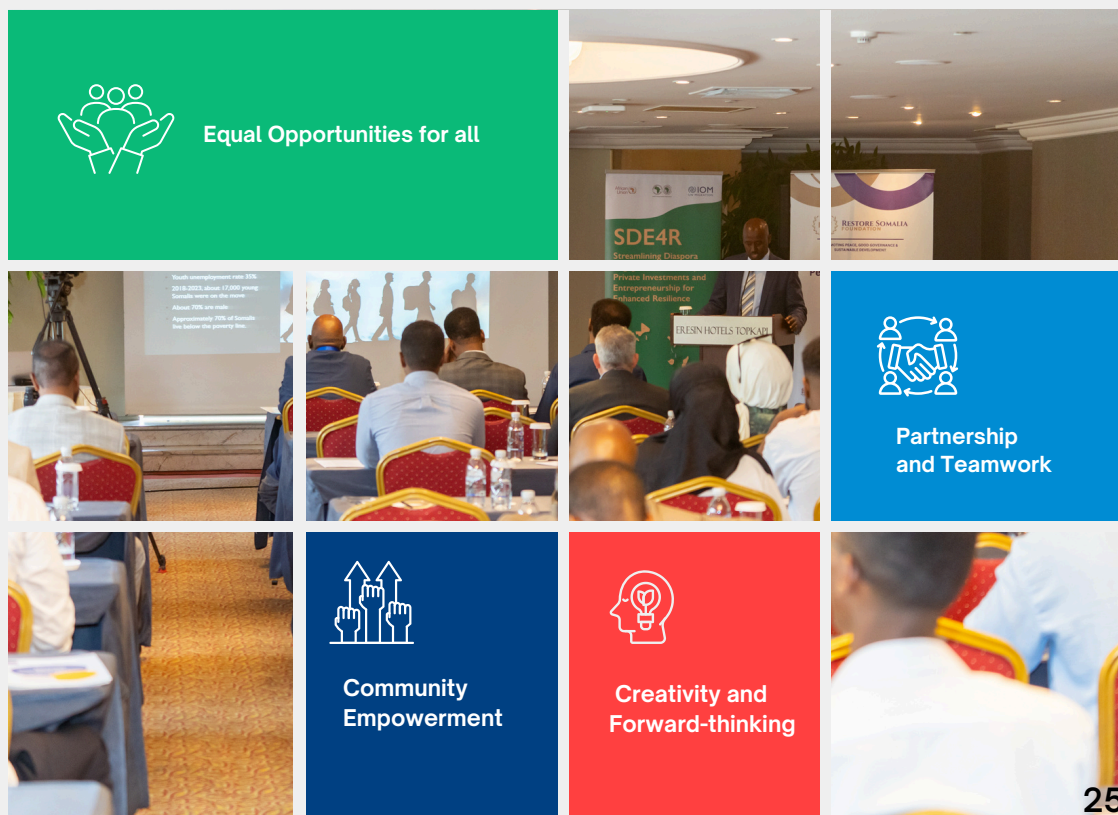


Core Values

The Restore Somalia Foundation is guided by four core values that reflect our commitment to creating a positive impact for Somali communities worldwide. These values are the foundation of our mission and influence every aspect of our work:

- **Inclusivity:** We strive to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, fostering an environment of respect and understanding.
- **Resilience:** We are committed to empowering communities to overcome challenges and build sustainable futures through innovative and adaptive solutions.
- **Collaboration:** Partnership and teamwork are central to our approach, enabling us to work effectively with stakeholders to achieve shared goals.
- **Integrity:** Transparency, accountability, and ethical practices define how we operate, ensuring trust and credibility in all our initiatives.
- **Innovation:** We embrace creativity and forward-thinking strategies to develop impactful solutions that address complex social, economic, and environmental challenges.

These core values underpin our efforts to drive sustainable development and improve the quality of life for Somali communities.



Impact

The impact of the Restore Somalia Foundation's work in 2024 has been transformative across various sectors. Our programs directly reached hundreds of beneficiaries, improving access to healthcare, advancing education, and addressing climate resilience. Through strategic partnerships and community engagement, we created platforms for meaningful dialogues and actionable outcomes.

Notably, 2024 saw a significant increase in youth and women's participation across our initiatives. The 3rd Peace and Sustainability Forum featured a record number of young leaders and women as participants, panelists, and contributors, highlighting the growing inclusivity within our programs. This trend reflects our commitment to empowering underrepresented groups to drive sustainable development.

Our advocacy for language inclusivity also left a lasting impact. By ensuring Somalia's Maay and Maha languages were included in key development reports. Furthermore, our diaspora engagement efforts strengthened connections between Somali communities worldwide, fostering unity and collaboration to address shared challenges.

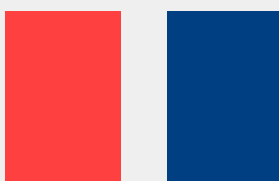
Looking ahead to 2025, the Restore Somalia Foundation aims to build on these achievements by expanding outreach, enhancing program inclusivity, and implementing innovative solutions. By focusing on youth leadership, women's empowerment, and community-driven development, we remain dedicated to creating a brighter future for our diaspora and local communities.



Looking Ahead to 2025

As we look to the future, the Restore Somalia Foundation aims to expand its activities both in Canada and Somalia. In Canada, we envision creating stronger community engagement programs to connect the Somali diaspora and amplify their contributions. In Somalia, we hope to implement more impactful initiatives in healthcare, education, and peacebuilding, ensuring inclusivity and sustainability in all our endeavours.

We remain optimistic about building stronger partnerships and embracing innovative solutions to address the challenges Somali communities face. Together, we strive for a resilient and prosperous Somalia.




Our Partners






Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and members for their unwavering dedication and encouragement. Your support provides us with the opportunities to make a meaningful change, and we look forward to continuing this journey of hope and progress for our communities.

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