





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Restore Somalia Foundation played a highly visible and influential role at the UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, Brazil, showcasing the power of diaspora-led civil society engagement in shaping global climate policy. As one of Somalia's leading diaspora-driven organizations, the Foundation actively contributed to conversations on climate resilience, human mobility, climate finance, food security, and conflict prevention. Its presence helped elevate Somalia's perspectives on climate vulnerability while highlighting the critical role of displaced and conflict-affected communities within global adaptation frameworks.

Throughout COP30, the Foundation organized and co-hosted several prominent side events, delivered keynote remarks, and participated in numerous high-level panel discussions. It also took part in coordination meetings with Somalia's national delegation and engaged in bilateral consultations with international development partners. These activities not only amplified Somalia's climate priorities but also demonstrated how diaspora organizations can bridge local realities with global policy spaces, advancing more inclusive and effective climate governance.

A major highlight of COP30 was the flagship side event, "Climate Justice in Action: Diaspora and Community Leadership for Resilient Futures," organized in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). During this event, the Foundation emphasized the indispensable contributions of Somalia's diaspora to climate adaptation efforts, community resilience, and peacebuilding. Additional scholarly achievements emerged through collaborations with UPEACE, Sadar Institute, and Triple Nexus Consult, including two knowledge-driven events that explored pathways for linking research, data, and innovative financing to support climate resilience.

The Foundation's engagement extended further through participation in the Islamic Development Bank, IOM, Restore Somalia Foundation, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Somalia panel on climate-driven displacement, where it shared insights on resilience-building in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Another major milestone was the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the UN University for Peace (UPEACE) - Somalia, aimed at strengthening cooperation in research, training, peacebuilding, social cohesion, and policy dialogue. This partnership reinforces the Foundation's commitment to advancing evidence-based climate solutions grounded in peace and development.

By contributing to Somalia's Delegation Coordination Meeting with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), the Foundation also helped ensure its initiatives remain aligned with Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and broader climate priorities. Collectively, these achievements strengthened institutional partnerships, expanded scholarly collaboration, and cemented the Restore Somalia Foundation's role as a key civil society actor driving diaspora-led climate solutions and sustainable development for Somalia.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Restore Somalia Foundation is a registered non-profit organization with a broad mandate that spans education, climate resilience, peacebuilding, good governance, and the empowerment of youth and women. Through its integrated approach, the Foundation addresses the interconnected challenges facing Somali communities, particularly in regions affected by conflict, displacement, and climate-related shocks. Its work places strong emphasis on community-driven solutions, policy engagement, and long-term capacity building to foster sustainable development outcomes.

As a women-led institution with deep roots in both Somalia and the global Somali diaspora, the Foundation brings a unique dual perspective to its programming and advocacy. This position allows it to leverage global expertise, mobilize international networks, and attract funding and technical partnerships while remaining grounded in local realities. By bridging these two spheres, Restore Somalia Foundation ensures that global policy frameworks and development commitments translate into tangible, community-level impacts.



HANI MOHAMED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

These strengths make the Foundation highly relevant to global climate forums such as COP30. Its work at the intersection of climate resilience, governance, and human mobility directly aligns with the key themes addressed at the conference. Moreover, its diaspora-driven model demonstrates how transnational communities can contribute to climate adaptation, knowledge production, and inclusive policy processes. As a result, the Restore Somalia Foundation is well positioned to advance Somalia's climate priorities while elevating marginalized voices—particularly women, youth, and displaced populations—within global climate decision-making spaces.

The Restore Somalia Foundation’s mission is deeply aligned with the core themes of COP30, reflecting its commitment to advancing community-driven climate solutions, strengthening governance in fragile contexts, and ensuring that vulnerable populations are meaningfully included in global climate action. Through its work on climate resilience, education, peacebuilding, and diaspora engagement, the Foundation contributes to shaping a more just, equitable, and informed response to the climate crisis—one that prioritizes frontline communities, empowers women and youth, and bridges local realities with global policy processes.



Key alignment points include:

- **Advancing community-led climate adaptation**
- **Improving global governance for fragile states**
- **Strengthening climate education**
- **Amplifying displaced and marginalized populations**
- **Promoting inclusive, equitable, and gender-responsive climate action**



The Restore Somalia Foundation's delegation to COP30 brought together a cohesive team whose leadership, technical expertise, and partnership-oriented approach enabled the organization to contribute meaningfully to high-level climate dialogues, side events, and strategic bilateral engagements. Their collective presence highlighted the Foundation's capacity to bridge research, policy, and community needs while elevating Somalia's climate priorities on the global stage. By combining strong executive leadership, rigorous analytical insights, and dynamic partnership development, the delegation ensured that diaspora-driven perspectives and community-centered solutions were effectively represented throughout COP30.

Delegation members and titles:

- Ms. Hani Mohamed – Executive Director
- Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Nor – Research Lead and Economist
- Mr. Abdirizak Mohamed – Partnerships Coordinator

The team represented Somalia and the Somali diaspora in multiple spaces, offering strong technical and community-driven perspectives.



2. CONTEXT:

WHY RESTORE SOMALIA FOUNDATION'S WORK MATTERS AT COP30

Somalia's climate crisis exists within a broader environment of fragility where environmental degradation, recurring conflict, weak governance structures, and chronic underdevelopment reinforce one another. In this context, the Restore Somalia Foundation plays a crucial role in ensuring that climate action meaningfully reflects the needs and realities of frontline communities. As Somalia continues to experience some of the world's most devastating climate shocks, including prolonged droughts and catastrophic floods, the Foundation's work at COP30 was vital for elevating Somalia's concerns on the global stage.

COP30 provided a historic platform for countries like Somalia—often overshadowed in global climate debates—to articulate their priorities, build alliances, and advocate for equitable and people-centered climate solutions. The Restore Somalia Foundation leveraged this space to demonstrate how diaspora leadership, community knowledge, and evidence-based advocacy must shape international climate policy. Its presence ensured that Somalia's lived experiences were not only heard but recognized as central to global resilience and climate-justice conversations.

Somalia's Climate Vulnerabilities and Structural Risks

Somalia's climate vulnerability is shaped by a combination of extreme weather events and fragile political and economic systems. Repeated cycles of drought have devastated pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods, eroding the resilience of households and communities already under strain from insecurity and displacement. When floods often following prolonged drought periods—they destroy infrastructure, contaminate water sources, and trigger disease outbreaks, deepening humanitarian needs. In many regions, climate shocks arrive so frequently that communities have little time to recover, pushing them into chronic crisis.

These climate pressures intersect with conflict dynamics and weak governance, compounding the difficulty of implementing long-term adaptation strategies. Insecurity limits access to basic services and hinders investment in sustainable development, while fragmented governance structures make it challenging to coordinate large-scale climate interventions. As a result, climate impacts in Somalia cannot be separated from broader issues of state fragility and displacement. Recognizing this complexity, Restore Somalia Foundation advocates for integrated approaches that link climate action with peacebuilding, governance reform, and social development.

The Power and Potential of the Somali Diaspora

Somalia's global diaspora is one of its greatest assets, offering financial, intellectual, and social capital that supports development across all sectors. Remittances alone account for billions each year, stabilizing households, funding education, strengthening health systems, and enabling community-led projects. Beyond financial support, the diaspora brings global expertise in fields such as climate science, engineering, governance, humanitarian action, and technology—expertise that is critical to shaping effective climate adaptation strategies.

Despite their central role, diaspora contributions are often undervalued in formal policy discussions. COP30 presented an opportunity to shift this narrative by positioning the diaspora as strategic partners in climate resilience. Through Restore Somalia Foundation's leadership, the diaspora was elevated as a key actor capable of mobilizing resources, bridging global-local divides, and strengthening the legitimacy of community-driven initiatives. Highlighting this potential reinforces a more inclusive model of climate action that leverages transnational networks and community knowledge to address Somalia's most pressing challenges.



Why COP30 Was a Strategic Opportunity

COP30 marked a decisive moment for Somalia to assert its climate priorities within a global forum increasingly focused on justice, adaptation, and the needs of vulnerable states. With the growing recognition that traditional climate finance and governance structures often fail fragile contexts, COP30 provided the space to advocate for tailored mechanisms that reflect Somalia's realities. Restore Somalia Foundation used this platform to call attention to the urgency of addressing climate-induced displacement, strengthening early warning systems, and investing in community-led resilience initiatives.

For the Foundation, participating in COP30 was also a chance to reshape the narrative surrounding fragile states. Somalia is often portrayed solely through the lens of conflict or crisis, overshadowing innovation, resilience, and local leadership. By sharing evidence, research, and community stories, the Foundation illustrated how Somali civil society and diaspora actors are actively building climate solutions despite challenging conditions. This reframing helps ensure that Somalia's contributions and strengths are acknowledged in global climate diplomacy.

Aligning Evidence and National Climate Policy

Evidence-based policymaking is essential for countries like Somalia, where climate impacts are highly localized and vary significantly across regions. Restore Somalia Foundation plays a vital role in generating and disseminating research that supports national climate policies, including Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At COP30, its research partnerships with institutions such as UPEACE, Sadar Institute, and Triple Nexus Consult enabled it to present data-driven insights on climate finance, resilience, and adaptation pathways. Such evidence strengthens the credibility of Somalia's climate priorities and ensures they are grounded in community-level realities.

Moreover, aligning research with national policy helps bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical implementation. The Foundation's work emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches that connect climate science with governance, human mobility, and conflict prevention. This alignment empowers policymakers, provides clarity for development partners, and ensures that investments in adaptation and resilience are both targeted and effective. Through its research leadership at COP30, the Restore Somalia Foundation helped reinforce Somalia's capacity to shape climate policy based on strong, locally informed evidence.

Elevating Civil Society and Community Leadership

Civil society plays an indispensable role in delivering climate action in fragile contexts, where governmental systems may lack adequate reach or resources. Restore Somalia Foundation has consistently worked to elevate the voices of women, youth, pastoralists, displaced people, and other marginalized groups whose experiences are essential to understanding climate impacts. At COP30, the Foundation highlighted community-led innovation—whether in adaptation strategies, peacebuilding initiatives, or local governance reforms—demonstrating how grassroots leadership drives resilience.

This representation was especially important given that global climate processes often overlook frontline communities and civil society voices from fragile states. By ensuring that Somalia's civil society perspectives were prominently featured, Restore Somalia Foundation helped influence international debates on loss and damage, climate finance, and adaptation. Its efforts underscored the message that sustainable climate solutions must be rooted in local knowledge, inclusive participation, and gender-responsive approaches that leave no community behind.

Building and Strengthening Global Partnerships

Partnerships are essential for advancing climate action in Somalia, especially given the scale of investment and technical expertise required. During COP30, Restore Somalia Foundation strengthened its collaborations with major international organizations including IOM, Islamic Development Banks, UPEACE, Sadar Institute, and various civil society and academic networks. These partnerships create pathways for expanding climate finance, improving data systems, enhancing peacebuilding efforts, and building capacity for local institutions.

The MoU signed with UPEACE—focused on research, training, and policy collaboration—represents a significant achievement, cementing a long-term framework for advancing scholarly and community-based climate resilience. Such alliances help position Somalia within global knowledge systems and provide local actors with access to tools and expertise that can inform long-term adaptation strategies. These relationships also reaffirm Restore Somalia Foundation's role as a credible, trusted interlocutor between communities, national institutions, and international partners.



Launch of Scholarly Publications on Climate Resilience, Finance, and Sustainable Development In Somalia

The Launch of Scholarly Publications on Climate Resilience, Finance, and Sustainable Development... policymakers, researchers, and evidence-based solutions for Somalia's priorities. Through these scholarly works, we aim to strengthen policy dialogue, bring to the fore Somali-led contributions, and advance climate resilience and sustainable development.



Bringing Somalia's Realities into Global Climate Action

Ultimately, Restore Somalia Foundation's engagement at COP30 ensured that the realities of Somalia's climate crisis—its challenges, strengths, and innovations—were brought to the center of global climate discussions. By bridging diaspora expertise with community knowledge, the Foundation challenged narratives of fragility and highlighted the resilience and leadership emerging from Somalia's civil society. Its interventions reinforced the critical principle that climate action cannot be effective unless it directly addresses the needs of the most affected populations.

Through its research contributions, policy engagement, and partnership-building efforts, the Restore Somalia Foundation played a transformative role in reshaping how Somalia is perceived within global climate governance. Its work demonstrated that inclusive, evidence-based, and community-driven approaches are essential for building a climate-secure future—not only for Somalia but for all countries navigating the intersection of climate vulnerability and fragility.

3. THEMATIC AREA: ADAPTATION

3.1 EVENT 1 — CLIMATE JUSTICE IN ACTION: DIASPORA AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FOR RESILIENT FUTURES

Venue: IOM Pavilion

Date: 11 November 2025

Format: Panel Discussion + Video Presentation

Partners: Restore Somalia Foundation, Triple Nexus Consult, IOM

This flagship COP event showcased the transformative role of the Somali diaspora in advancing community-centered climate action. The session underscored the diaspora's unique capacity to mobilize resources, transfer knowledge, and catalyze locally led adaptation efforts across Somalia—particularly in fragile and climate-vulnerable regions. By bringing together practitioners, policy experts, and community representatives, the discussion illuminated how diaspora-driven initiatives are increasingly becoming essential pillars of national climate resilience strategies.

Panelists emphasized that diaspora networks, rooted in both global experience and deep cultural ties, are exceptionally positioned to identify local needs, mobilize flexible support, and champion innovative adaptation solutions.

Their engagement extends far beyond remittances: they drive climate literacy, introduce new technologies, and elevate the voices of frontline communities to international platforms. Across drought-affected and conflict-prone areas, diaspora-led initiatives have frequently been the first to pilot community-based resilience projects, demonstrating a strong capacity for rapid, trusted, and impactful action.

The session further demonstrated that diaspora participation is vital to strengthening and operationalizing Somalia's climate commitments, including its NDCs and National Adaptation Plan. Speakers called for structured mechanisms that enable diaspora organizations to align their work with national frameworks, partner with local institutions, and scale context-appropriate interventions. As Somalia faces intensifying climate risks, diaspora leadership is emerging as a strategic asset capable of bridging global climate discourse with grounded community action.



● Key Themes

- The diaspora as underrecognized yet powerful climate actors.
- Community-driven adaptation through Restore Somalia Foundation's "Our Land, Our Future – Climate Action for Peace in Somalia."
- Youth and women as frontline climate leaders in Baidoa and other regions.
- The importance of integrating diaspora initiatives into national climate frameworks, including NDCs and the National Adaptation Plan.

● Key Messages

- Diaspora-led projects demonstrate rapid, high-impact results even with limited resources.
- Deep community trust, cultural literacy, and access are critical to effective adaptation.
- Somalia's climate-resilient future depends on meaningful, structured diaspora engagement.

Expanded Insights

Participants emphasized that meaningful climate adaptation in Somalia must be deeply attuned to the country's complex social, cultural, and conflict dynamics. Speakers noted that communities experience climate impacts differently depending on factors such as displacement, clan structures, gender roles, and historical marginalization. As a result, adaptation efforts that overlook these dimensions risk reinforcing existing vulnerabilities or triggering new tensions. The discussion called for climate programming that is conflict-sensitive, people-centered, and grounded in the lived realities of communities—ensuring interventions contribute not only to environmental resilience but also to peace and social stability.

The Restore Somalia Foundation presented a compelling model of how such context-driven adaptation can be achieved. Their approach integrates peacebuilding, climate education, and inclusive community dialogues to create shared understanding and locally legitimate solutions. Through its "Our Land, Our Future – Climate Action for Peace in Somalia" initiative, the Foundation facilitates discussions that help communities navigate competition over natural resources while promoting collaborative approaches to land restoration and climate resilience. This method strengthens trust, reduces tensions, and encourages collective ownership of environmental stewardship.

A central focus of the Restore Somalia Foundation’s work is empowering youth and women—groups often disproportionately affected by climate shocks yet underrepresented in decision-making spaces. Through targeted capacity-building, leadership development, and practical climate skills training, the project equips these groups to take active roles in adaptation planning and community mobilization. This investment nurtures a new generation of climate leaders who can sustain positive change. As youth and women become more engaged, communities gain the social cohesion and innovative energy needed to manage environmental risks more effectively.

Across the event, one message stood out: the Somali diaspora is not merely a funding source but a strategic climate partner. Their ability to bridge global expertise with local realities positions them to support adaptation that is inclusive, culturally grounded, and community-driven. When diaspora actors collaborate with grassroots organizations and national institutions, they help shape a more just and climate-resilient future for Somalia—one in which communities are empowered, social harmony is reinforced, and climate action becomes a pathway to long-term peace.

3.2 EVENT 2 — LAUNCH OF SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE, FINANCE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Venue: Action on Food Hub

Date: 15 November 2025

Partners: Restore Somalia Foundation, UPEACE, Sadar Institute

This event marked a significant milestone in advancing Somalia's academic and policy landscape by celebrating the launch of new scholarly publications produced by Somalia-based researchers under Restore Somalia Foundation-supported programs. Bringing together academics, policymakers, development partners, and civil society leaders, the session highlighted the increasing importance of locally generated knowledge in shaping effective climate action and sustainable development strategies. The event demonstrated how new research—rooted in Somali realities and authored by Somali scholars—is helping to close long-standing information gaps that have hindered evidence-based policymaking.

Speakers emphasized that the publications showcased at the event represent a meaningful shift toward strengthening Somalia's intellectual and research capacity. For decades, the country's climate discourse has been dominated by external assessments, often lacking the cultural, political, and environmental nuance required for context-specific solutions.

The emergence of diaspora and local Somali researchers is now reshaping this landscape, offering insights that are both academically rigorous and grounded in lived experience. This new body of work stands to benefit ministries, universities, NGOs, and international partners seeking reliable and locally informed data for policy formulation and program design.

● Research Presented

- Climate-Induced Health Concerns in Southwest Somalia
- Women and Climate Fragility
- Diaspora Engagement in Climate Adaptation
- Food Security and Community Resilience

● Why This Matters

- Somalia's climate policy landscape lacks robust local scholarly research.
- Diaspora and local scholars are filling critical gaps in knowledge production.
- These publications will directly inform ministries, universities, and development partners.

Implications

Participants stressed that the newly launched studies significantly strengthen Somalia's evidence base for reporting progress on national climate commitments, including NDCs, adaptation communications, and long-term policy planning. As ministries work to align national priorities with global climate frameworks, access to high-quality research produced within Somalia becomes indispensable.

The event also highlighted how this work is helping to build trust and collaboration between ministries, academic institutions, and civil society organizations. By producing peer-reviewed research that responds to real policy needs, Somali scholars are contributing to a more transparent and informed policy environment—where decisions are grounded in evidence rather than assumptions.

Furthermore, the collaboration with UPEACE and the Sadar Institute is laying the groundwork for long-term research capacity in Somalia. Through training, mentorship, and institutional partnerships, these programs are helping to cultivate the next generation of Somali academics capable of leading climate and development research. This investment in knowledge production is creating a sustainable foundation for continuous learning, policy innovation, and resilience thinking across the country.



4. THEMATIC AREA: CLIMATE FINANCE

4.1 EVENT 3 — BRIDGING RESEARCH, DATA, AND FINANCE FOR A RESILIENT CLIMATE FUTURE

Venue: Action on Food Hub

Date: 14 November 2025

*Partners: UPEACE, Restore Somalia
Foundation, Triple Nexus Consult*

This high-level roundtable brought together experts in finance, research, and climate policy to explore innovative mechanisms for mobilizing climate finance for fragile and climate-vulnerable states like Somalia. The session underscored the urgent need to rethink traditional financing models, which often fail to reach frontline communities or address the complex interplay of conflict, displacement, and environmental stress. By centering the discussion on data-driven decision-making, inclusive financial instruments, and diaspora engagement, the event highlighted new pathways for unlocking funding streams that can accelerate resilience-building across Somalia.

Participants emphasized that fragile states face unique barriers to accessing climate finance, including limited data availability, governance constraints, and high perceived risk among potential investors.

The discussions demonstrated that bridging the gap between research and finance is essential to improving financing outcomes. High-quality, locally generated data can provide a clearer understanding of climate impacts, help investors assess opportunities, and ensure that funds flow toward the most vulnerable populations. Panelists also stressed the importance of designing investment vehicles that recognize the Somali diaspora as both investors and connectors to local innovation and resilience efforts.

● Key Recommendations

1. Create diaspora-friendly climate investment vehicles to enable Somali expatriates to collectively support adaptation and resilience programs.
2. Incentivize private sector participation through blended finance mechanisms, risk-sharing models, and public-private partnerships.
3. Leverage data and research to inform investment decisions, strengthen transparency, and enhance accountability in climate finance.
4. Strengthen climate finance governance within Somalia to build trust, improve coordination, and attract long-term investment.

Relevance to Restore Somalia Foundation



The roundtable highlighted the critical role Restore Somalia Foundation plays in bridging global climate finance with local community needs. The Foundation's unique dual structure—both diaspora-led and community-driven—positions it as an effective conduit for mobilizing and directing funds toward high-impact, inclusive climate initiatives. Participants noted that this positioning enables the Foundation to translate global financing opportunities into interventions that align with local priorities and deliver meaningful results in fragile contexts.



Speakers further emphasized that Restore Somalia Foundation is particularly well-placed to attract financing for gender-responsive programming, youth empowerment, community resilience, and conflict-sensitive climate adaptation. By combining local legitimacy with international networks, the Foundation has demonstrated an ability to convene partners, inspire investor confidence, and design programs that reflect community voices. Its transparent, participatory, and community-centered approach was highlighted as a model for channeling climate finance into fragile and conflict-affected states in a way that promotes accountability, trust, and long-term stability.

5. THEMATIC AREA: LOSS AND DAMAGE

5.1 EVENT 4 — DISPLACED BY CLIMATE: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE- DRIVEN DISPLACEMENT

VVenue: MDB Pavilion

Date: 13 November 2025

*Partners: Restore Somalia Foundation,
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), IOM*

This session addressed one of Somalia's most urgent and complex climate challenges: the widespread displacement of communities driven by drought, flooding, and recurring environmental shocks. Bringing together humanitarian actors, development institutions, and civil society leaders, the event explored how climate-induced displacement intersects with fragility, conflict, and long-term development needs. Restore Somalia Foundation's Executive Director, Hani Mohamed, emphasized the vital contributions of diaspora networks and local NGOs in supporting displaced populations—particularly in contexts where institutional systems are overstretched. Speakers noted that meaningful solutions must move beyond short-term emergency aid toward integrated strategies that strengthen resilience, restore dignity, and promote social cohesion.

Panelists underscored that climate-driven displacement in Somalia rarely occurs in isolation; it is layered atop pre-existing vulnerabilities, including food insecurity, resource competition, and limited access to basic services. As a result, effective interventions require peacebuilding approaches that address both the environmental triggers of displacement and the social dynamics that shape community resilience. Participants agreed that sustainable responses depend on partnerships that leverage the strengths of national institutions, international actors, civil society, and—critically—the Somali diaspora, which remains one of the most reliable sources of support for affected families.



● Key Points Raised by Restore Somalia Foundation

1. Diaspora networks often act as first responders, providing rapid and flexible support to displaced families.
2. Local NGOs and diaspora-led organizations, such as Restore Somalia Foundation, bring deep community access, cultural understanding, and long-standing trust.
3. Climate-induced displacement must be addressed through a peacebuilding lens, recognizing the risk of heightened tensions over scarce resources.
4. There is a need for centralized diaspora engagement and structured reintegration programs to ensure coordinated, long-term assistance.

Future Opportunities

The session highlighted a significant opportunity for expanded collaboration between Restore Somalia Foundation and IOM through the co-development of a Diaspora Engagement Program and Response Framework tailored to climate displacement. This proposed framework would connect diaspora remittances—one of Somalia’s most consistent sources of support—with structured humanitarian action, resilience-building programs, and early recovery interventions. By pairing diaspora-generated resources with IOM’s operational capacity and technical expertise, the partnership could create a more predictable, coordinated, and impactful support system for displaced populations.

Potential areas of focus include:

- Mechanisms to channel remittances into structured climate resilience programs
- Systems for rapid emergency support to newly displaced households
- Tools for mapping, tracking, and aligning diaspora-supported initiatives with national strategies

The program would also formalize the essential role the diaspora already plays in responding to displacement, shifting from informal assistance to structured, institutionally recognized mechanisms. This shift would help strengthen reintegration pathways, improve service delivery, and build long-term community resilience in Somalia’s most affected regions. By aligning the diaspora’s financial and social capital with national priorities and community needs, the initiative could advance transformative outcomes in areas such as:

- Sustainable reintegration and recovery for displaced families
- Community-led resilience initiatives that reduce climate and conflict pressures
- Gender- and youth-centered programming that empowers vulnerable groups throughout displacement and return

6. THEMATIC AREA: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

6.1 EVENT 5 — INTEGRATING CLIMATE INTO CONFLICT NAVIGATOR: BREAKING THE TRAP OF THEMATIC SILOS

Venue: Meeting Room 24

Date: 15 November 2025

*Partners: UNDP, Restore Somalia
Foundation, UPEACE*

This session convened UNDP, UPEACE, and Restore Somalia Foundation to explore how climate data, conflict analysis, and governance insights can be integrated into a single national-level decision tool for Somalia. The discussion focused on the persistent challenge of thematic fragmentation—where climate actors, peacebuilding specialists, and governance institutions often operate in parallel, rather than through coordinated systems. The proposed integration aimed to break these silos and create a unified Conflict Navigator approach capable of capturing the interconnected drivers of fragility, displacement, and environmental stress. Participants highlighted that combining datasets and analytical frameworks across sectors could significantly improve early-warning systems, inform more conflict-sensitive climate planning, and support evidence-based policymaking at national and regional levels.

The event emphasized that an integrated tool is urgently needed in Somalia, where climate shocks increasingly overlap with conflict dynamics, resource pressures, and displacement trends. Stakeholders noted that bringing together diverse actors and knowledge sources—including local communities, diaspora networks, researchers, and government ministries—is central to building a tool that is both credible and actionable. Restore Somalia Foundation played a crucial role in this discussion, offering firsthand insights drawn from field data, community engagement, and academic research, including evidence emerging from Dr. Mohamed's study in Baidoa. These contributions helped demonstrate how community-centered inputs can enrich national analytics and strengthen real-time decision-making.

Restore Somalia Foundation Contributions

Restore Somalia Foundation played an essential role in advancing the discussion by highlighting how diaspora networks provide rapid, reliable, and community-sourced data—particularly from rural and hard-to-reach locations where formal monitoring systems are limited. Participants emphasized that this ground-truth information is invaluable for validating national climate and conflict analyses, enriching early-warning systems, and ensuring that decision-making tools accurately reflect realities on the ground. The Foundation underscored how diaspora-connected communities often serve as the first source of alerts during emerging crises, offering insights that complement institutional data streams.

The Foundation also stressed the importance of involving women and youth in climate-conflict validation processes, ensuring that the perspectives of those most affected by climate stress are incorporated. Evidence drawn from Restore Somalia Foundation-supported research, including Dr. Mohamed's Baidoa study, demonstrated how climate pressures intersect with local peace dynamics and social tensions. This research provided a compelling example of how community-based data and academic inquiry can strengthen national analytical frameworks, improve conflict-sensitive planning, and guide more targeted adaptation interventions.

● Key Points

- Highlighted the diaspora's role in providing timely, ground-truth data from rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- Emphasized the importance of women and youth in validating climate-conflict indicators and identifying community-level risks.
- Shared evidence from Restore Somalia Foundation-supported research, including Dr. Mohamed Nor's Baidoa study, illustrating how climate stress intersects with local peace dynamics.



Impact for Somalia

The integration of climate and conflict data represents a transformative opportunity for strengthening Somalia's national risk management and planning systems. By merging these previously siloed domains, Somalia can develop a more responsive early-warning architecture capable of detecting emerging pressures—such as drought-driven displacement, resource competition, or localized insecurity—before they escalate into crises. This enhanced visibility allows decision-makers to anticipate threats, target interventions more effectively, and prioritize assistance for the most vulnerable communities. Importantly, it enables government and partners to understand climate shocks not as isolated events but as part of broader social, economic, and political dynamics shaping community resilience.

This integrated model further supports the development of conflict-sensitive adaptation strategies that prevent climate interventions from inadvertently exacerbating tensions. By fostering collaboration across ministries responsible for environment, interior, planning, and humanitarian affairs, Somalia can shift from fragmented responses to coordinated national action. Such alignment improves policy coherence, strengthens accountability, and increases the impact of adaptation investments. Ultimately, this approach not only enhances technical capacity but also contributes to building a more resilient, stable, and climate-secure future for Somalia.

● Key Points

- Enhances early-warning systems by integrating climate indicators with conflict monitoring.
- Strengthens conflict-sensitive adaptation planning to avoid exacerbating tensions.
- Promotes multi-ministry collaboration for coordinated national action.

7. BILATERAL MEETINGS AND PARTNERSHIPS

7.1 MOU SIGNING WITH UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE – SOMALIA

The signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Restore Somalia Foundation and the UN University for Peace (UPEACE) represents a major advancement in efforts to strengthen peacebuilding, climate resilience, humanitarian governance, and research capacity in Somalia. This partnership brings together a globally recognized academic institution and a trusted diaspora-led civil society organization, creating a powerful platform for addressing the interconnected challenges of fragility, climate vulnerability, and socio-economic marginalization. Both institutions share a commitment to elevating community voices, strengthening national systems, and advancing sustainable peace through evidence-based solutions.

Through this MoU, Restore Somalia Foundation is positioned to bridge global expertise with local realities, ensuring that peacebuilding and climate resilience efforts are grounded in the lived experience of Somali communities. The partnership also establishes a long-term framework for developing future leaders, enhancing institutional accountability, and promoting inclusive governance.

By formalizing collaboration across six key thematic areas, the MoU reinforces Restore Somalia Foundation's role as a central actor in shaping Somalia's resilience agenda—especially in the domains of women's empowerment, youth leadership, information integrity, and diaspora engagement.

Peacebuilding, Governance, and Social Cohesion

This collaboration will strengthen Somalia's efforts to build inclusive and resilient governance systems by integrating community-driven peacebuilding approaches with academic research and policy innovation. Through joint programming, training, and dialogue platforms, the partners will promote nonviolent conflict resolution, support local reconciliation processes, and enhance social cohesion across diverse communities. The partnership aims to ensure that national peacebuilding strategies are informed by both global best practices and localized insights into clan dynamics, displacement, and climate-related stressors.

Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience

Under this thematic area, the MoU will advance joint initiatives that link climate science with community adaptation strategies to support Somalia's national resilience agenda. This includes co-developing research on climate risks, piloting local adaptation models, and supporting policymaking processes aligned with the country's NDCs and National Adaptation Plan. The collaboration is designed to strengthen Somalia's ability to anticipate climate shocks, reduce vulnerability, and promote sustainable natural resource management through evidence-based and community-centered approaches.

Capacity Building and Leadership Development

This component focuses on cultivating a new generation of Somali leaders equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to drive peace, climate action, and governance reform. UPEACE and Restore Somalia Foundation will jointly facilitate leadership training, mentoring programs, and academic enrichment opportunities for youth, women, civil servants, and civil society actors. By investing in human capital, the partnership contributes to long-term institutional strengthening and empowers local actors to take ownership of Somalia's development trajectory.

Advocacy, Research, and Public Engagement

The partnership will amplify Somalia's voice in national, regional, and global policy dialogues by generating high-quality research and advancing advocacy initiatives grounded in local realities. Through co-authored publications, policy briefs, and public engagement campaigns, the collaboration aims to raise awareness of critical issues—including climate vulnerability, peacebuilding needs, and governance reforms—while promoting evidence-based decision-making. This joint effort will also help counter misinformation by ensuring the public has access to reliable, context-appropriate information.

Information Integrity Protection

Recognizing the growing challenges posed by misinformation and disinformation, this area focuses on safeguarding public trust and strengthening information ecosystems in Somalia. The partners will work together to design tools, training programs, and research frameworks that enhance digital literacy, counter harmful narratives, and build community resilience against information manipulation. By prioritizing information integrity, the MoU supports transparent governance, strengthens social cohesion, and reduces the risk of misinformation fueling conflict or undermining climate and peace initiatives.

Diaspora Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

This component leverages the Somali diaspora's expertise, financial capital, and global networks to support national development and resilience efforts. Through structured knowledge exchange programs, research partnerships, and joint initiatives, the MoU will enable diaspora professionals, scholars, and practitioners to contribute directly to peacebuilding, governance reforms, climate adaptation, and institutional development. By formalizing diaspora engagement, Restore Somalia Foundation and UPEACE aim to unlock a powerful resource for national transformation and long-term stability.



7.2 PARTICIPATION IN MOECC COORDINATION MEETING

Restore Somalia Foundation participated in the official Somalia Delegation Coordination Meeting chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), bringing together government officials, technical experts, and civil society representatives to refine Somalia's unified strategy for COP30. The session provided an important platform to harmonize national priorities, strengthen internal coordination, and ensure the delegation presents a cohesive and well-articulated climate narrative on the global stage. As Somalia continues to position itself as both climate-vulnerable and climate-innovative, these coordination meetings play a pivotal role in aligning policy objectives, messaging, and technical inputs ahead of major international negotiations.

The meeting underscored the essential role of collaboration between government ministries, civil society organizations, and diaspora-led institutions in shaping a shared national vision. Restore Somalia Foundation contributed perspectives rooted in community engagement, diaspora expertise, and research-driven insights, reinforcing the importance of inclusive climate diplomacy. Delegates acknowledged the Foundation's contributions as valuable additions to Somalia's broader climate strategy—particularly in areas related to resilience-building, communication, and representation. The meeting concluded with strengthened alignment on national priorities and a collective commitment to ensuring Somalia's voice is amplified at COP30.

Somalia's NDC Priorities

Discussions on Somalia's NDC priorities emphasized the need to center adaptation, resilience, and community-focused initiatives in the country's climate agenda. Participants highlighted the importance of integrating locally led data, gender-responsive approaches, and cross-sectoral collaboration into the next phase of NDC implementation. Restore Somalia Foundation contributed perspectives on how diaspora-supported programs and community-based initiatives can enhance the credibility, feasibility, and impact of national climate commitments. The conversation reinforced that Somalia's NDCs must reflect both national ambitions and the lived realities of climate-affected communities.

The Role of Civil Society at COP30

Participants agreed that civil society organizations—particularly those with grassroots and diaspora reach—play a critical role in strengthening Somalia’s presence at COP30. Civil society brings community insights, advocacy capacity, and global partnerships that help articulate Somalia’s priorities in a compelling and evidence-based manner. Restore Somalia Foundation highlighted the role of community networks, climate education programs, and research initiatives in elevating Somalia’s message and ensuring local voices inform global negotiations. This reinforced the view that civil society is not peripheral but central to Somalia’s climate diplomacy.

Strengthening Ministry–Diaspora Cooperation

The meeting emphasized the need for more structured and strategic engagement between MoECC and diaspora-led organizations. Restore Somalia Foundation underscored how diaspora networks contribute technical expertise, financial resources, and ground-truth data from remote regions—elements that are essential for accurate climate assessments and policy development. Strengthening these partnerships was seen as a pathway to building a more coordinated national response, enhancing innovation, and ensuring that Somalia leverages the full potential of its global diaspora community.

Strategic Communication for Somalia’s Global Climate Narrative

The delegation underscored the importance of refining Somalia’s global climate narrative to highlight both vulnerability and leadership. Restore Somalia Foundation stressed that Somalia’s story must shift from crisis-focused messaging to one that showcases resilience, youth leadership, women’s empowerment, and locally led innovation. Discussions highlighted the need for coordinated messaging across ministries, civil society, and diplomatic channels to ensure Somalia’s narrative is clear, compelling, and consistent. Strengthened communication strategies will enable Somalia to better influence global climate financing, partnerships, and policy discussions.



7.3 ENGAGEMENT WITH RWANDA PAVILION

Restore Somalia Foundation engaged with the Rwanda Pavilion to explore opportunities for collaboration and cross-learning between Somalia and Rwanda—two countries facing climate vulnerability but responding through different governance and adaptation pathways. The discussions highlighted Rwanda’s globally recognized progress in climate governance, institutional coordination, and community-centered resilience programming. These strengths offer valuable lessons for Somalia as it works to strengthen its climate architecture, expand its adaptation portfolio, and enhance national planning capacity ahead of COP30 and beyond.

The engagement underscored the importance of regional partnerships in accelerating climate action, promoting South–South cooperation, and fostering shared innovation across the Horn of Africa. Restore Somalia Foundation expressed interest in learning from Rwanda’s successes in community mobilization, environmental restoration, and data-driven climate planning—areas where Rwanda has made significant advancements. Both parties recognized the potential for a mutually beneficial partnership focused on knowledge exchange, governance insights, and collaborative engagement in regional and global climate forums. The initial conversations signaled strong openness to future joint initiatives that bridge climate resilience, peacebuilding, and development efforts across the region.

Climate Knowledge Sharing

Through this prospective partnership, Restore Somalia Foundation aims to learn from Rwanda’s proven climate strategies, including its nationally coordinated adaptation programs, community-based environmental management, and integration of climate action into development planning. Rwanda’s experience in mobilizing local communities for ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture offers practical insights for Somalia’s resilience-building efforts. This exchange would enable both countries to share tools, lessons, and best practices that strengthen their respective climate knowledge ecosystems.

Climate Knowledge Sharing

Rwanda’s strong climate governance architecture—including its centralized coordination mechanisms, performance-based accountability systems, and integration of climate priorities across ministries—serves as a model for countries seeking to improve institutional alignment. Restore Somalia Foundation identified several governance approaches that could inform Somalia’s ongoing reforms, particularly in transparency, national planning, and local government engagement. Through structured dialogue and study exchanges, the two sides can jointly explore how governance innovations can be adapted to Somalia’s unique context.

8. LESSONS LEARNED

Diaspora involvement has emerged as one of the most significant drivers of rapid, community-centered climate action in Somalia. With strong ties to both global networks and local communities, diaspora actors are uniquely positioned to respond quickly to emerging climate needs, especially in fragile or hard-to-access areas. Their interventions are often flexible, trusted, and informed by deep cultural understanding, allowing them to deliver support that aligns closely with community priorities. This dual identity—international reach coupled with grassroots credibility—enables the diaspora to create meaningful, localized impact at a speed and scale that many traditional institutions cannot match.

Diaspora-led climate programs have demonstrated that effective and contextually appropriate solutions do not always require large budgets or complex funding mechanisms. Instead, their success often comes from leveraging community relationships, traditional knowledge, and small-scale but highly targeted interventions. These programs tend to be low-cost, adaptable, and culturally grounded, making them particularly well-suited to Somalia's diverse, resource-strained environments. Whether supporting water access, local adaptation measures, or youth mobilization, diaspora-driven initiatives consistently show strong returns on limited investments.

Another critical dimension is the role of research and evidence in driving Somalia's climate response. Rigorous academic work—especially research produced by Somali scholars and diaspora researchers—helps validate local experiences and situates them within national and global climate frameworks. Evidence-based insights strengthen the legitimacy of civil society initiatives and create pathways for informed policymaking. As a result, scholarly research not only enhances credibility but also becomes a key tool for aligning community-driven actions with national adaptation and development agendas.

This connection between research and policy underscores the importance of embedding civil society organizations within national climate strategies. Groups such as Restore Somalia Foundation bring essential value to national planning processes through their community access, field-level data, and conflict-sensitive approaches. Their involvement supports greater transparency, improves data flow from rural areas, and ensures that policies reflect the realities faced by vulnerable populations. When civil society is meaningfully included, national climate strategies become more inclusive, accurate, and responsive.

The effectiveness of diaspora engagement also depends heavily on cross-ministry collaboration. Climate action touches multiple sectors—including environment, interior, planning, finance, humanitarian affairs, and local governance—making unified inter-ministerial coordination essential. Diaspora-supported programs often operate at the intersection of these sectors, requiring shared leadership and shared accountability from government institutions. Without aligned mandates and coordinated processes, the potential of diaspora contributions risks being underutilized.

For diaspora engagement to reach its full potential, government ministries must work together to create structured pathways that enable diaspora organizations to contribute strategically and consistently. This means harmonizing policies, streamlining communication channels, and jointly designing frameworks that connect national climate priorities with community-level action. When ministries collaborate effectively, diaspora involvement becomes not just a supportive element but a central driver of national climate resilience.

9. CONCLUSION

Restore Somalia Foundation's participation at COP30 marked a defining milestone in its ongoing work to advance climate justice, peacebuilding, and community-centered development in Somalia. The Foundation's presence across multiple high-level panels, coordination meetings, and partnership forums not only strengthened Somalia's global representation but also showcased the unique value of diaspora-driven institutions in shaping national and international climate dialogue. This engagement reaffirmed the Foundation's leadership in amplifying community realities, advancing evidence-based policy, and bridging local perspectives with global priorities.

Through its contributions, Restore Somalia Foundation successfully elevated the voices of groups often excluded from climate negotiations—especially women, youth, displaced communities, and rural populations. By prioritizing their lived experiences and solutions, the Foundation helped ensure that Somalia's climate narrative at COP30 was inclusive, community-rooted, and reflective of the country's diverse resilience strategies.

This commitment to representation positioned Restore Somalia Foundation as an essential conduit connecting vulnerable communities to global decision-making platforms.

Across sessions and bilateral engagements, the Foundation underscored the transformative role of the Somali diaspora in climate adaptation and resilience-building. Its interventions demonstrated how diaspora networks function as first responders, knowledge brokers, and resource mobilizers—filling crucial gaps in local service delivery and enhancing national capacities. These contributions highlighted that diaspora-led initiatives are not supplementary but central to Somalia's climate future.

The Restore Somalia Foundation's research leadership also contributed significantly to shifting the narrative around Somalia's climate challenges. By showcasing new scholarly work, field-based evidence, and community insights, Restore Somalia Foundation reinforced the importance of data-driven climate action and strengthened Somalia's credibility in global policy discussions. This research footprint demonstrated how civil society can provide knowledge that complements government efforts and guides strategic planning.

Ultimately, COP30 affirmed Restore Somalia Foundation's role as a trusted national partner, a diaspora leader, and a catalyst for community-driven resilience. Its contributions illustrated that meaningful climate action in Somalia requires inclusive engagement, strong evidence, and partnerships that bridge local realities with global support. As the country continues to confront climate fragility and chart a path toward sustainable development, the Foundation's work at COP30 stands as a testament to the power of diaspora leadership and community-centered advocacy.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Somalia's participation at COP30 highlighted the critical need for stronger coordination, deeper research partnerships, and more structured engagement between government institutions, civil society, diaspora networks, and international partners. Each stakeholder demonstrated unique strengths and comparative advantages that, when effectively aligned, can significantly accelerate Somalia's climate resilience agenda. To translate the momentum from COP30 into long-term impact, targeted and actionable recommendations are necessary to guide policy alignment, institutional collaboration, and program implementation.

The matrix below outlines a set of strategic recommendations tailored to key institutions: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), academic partners such as UPEACE and Sadar Institute, multilateral organizations including IOM and MDBs, and Restore Somalia Foundation. These actions aim to strengthen governance frameworks, expand research capacity, mobilize climate finance, and reinforce the central role of the diaspora and community-led initiatives in Somalia's climate future.

Recommendations Matrix

Stakeholder	Recommendation	Purpose / Expected Outcome
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)	Establish a Diaspora–Ministry Coordination Framework	Strengthens structured engagement, improves policy alignment, and streamlines climate action between ministries and diaspora organizations.
	Integrate diaspora-led projects into national NDC reporting	Ensures recognition of grassroots contributions, enriches national data, and strengthens Somalia's global reporting obligations.
	Create a National Climate Scholarship & Research Fund	Builds long-term research capacity, supports Somali scholars, and enhances evidence-based climate policymaking.
UPEACE & Sadar Institute	Expand research collaboration with Restore Somalia Foundation	Produces high-quality, community-grounded research that informs national climate and peacebuilding strategies.
	Co-develop a Climate Leadership Training Program for Somalia	Strengthens leadership pipelines for youth, women, and civil servants, enhancing national adaptation and governance capacity.
IOM & Islamic Development Banks	Support a Diaspora Emergency Response Framework	Accelerates rapid response to climate shocks using diaspora networks as first responders.

