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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOMALIA COUNTRY DIAGNOSTIC CASE STUDY

Somalia (officially the Federal Republic of Somalia) is the easternmost country in Africa and has the longest coastline on the African mainland, about 3,330 km long. Agriculture accounts for roughly 60% of the country's GDP, making it a vital part of Somalia's economy. Somalia is among the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, which is a major cause of food insecurity. The Somalia country diagnostic highlights the country's priorities, gaps, and opportunities to support climate-resilient, equitable, and inclusive food systems.

The Climate Resilient Food System (CRFS) Alliance launched country diagnostics in 2022, with the first batch of countries comprising Ethiopia, Fiji, Belize, and The Gambia. These reports aim to facilitate resource mobilization and the exchange of best practices amongst countries. These case studies consider the country's Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Food System Pathways, and other relevant national strategies relating to food and climate change.

The Somalia Country Diagnostic 2025 highlights the country's food systems by examining each stage, from production to consumption and distribution. Generally, agriculture in Somalia can be divided into four subsectors: crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries. The main bottlenecks in the production phase include limited access to agricultural inputs, restricted access to markets, and high post-harvest losses. Additionally, limited access to modern farming technologies and low levels of mechanization have constrained productivity. The sector also faces challenges related to limited skills in agriculture and livestock production. There is a widespread call to improve infrastructure and increase access to agricultural technology to boost Somalia's agricultural sector.

Climate change poses a significant threat to the economic well-being of the country. From increased flooding and prolonged droughts to desert locust outbreaks, heat stress, and rising sea levels, Somalia's food system has become increasingly fragile. Unsustainable natural resource management worsens the situation.

In recent years, the prolonged drought periods have made the country more susceptible to acute food insecurity. Limited resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation are a challenge for crop production in Somalia. Difficulty accessing reliable data on livestock and yields hinders efforts to assess impacts and develop adaptation strategies. Additionally, a lack of data has been identified as a problem in addressing the interconnected issue of food security.

Somalia has taken important steps toward climate resilience through frameworks such as the National Adaptation Plan 2022, the Nationally Determined Contributions 2025, the National Climate Change Policy, and the National Transformation Plan 2025-2029. The National Transformation Plan outlines Somalia's development outlook and envisions significant investments in the country's food systems. The NAP provides a framework for integrating climate adaptation into national policies, with a focus on agriculture due to its vital role in Somalia's economy.

A primary goal is to reduce climate-related risks in agriculture. The NDC states that Somalia's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is relatively low, but the agriculture, forestry, and land-use sectors are the main contributors. The adaptation measures outlined in the NDC for agriculture aim to increase crop and livestock productivity. While the mitigation strategy targets five key sectors, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), and Agriculture are among those identified.

Institutions like the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change demonstrate political commitment to food security and climate action. The government's dedication to tackling food security is seen in the formation of the Food Systems,

Nutrition and Climate Change Council (FSNCC), established in September 2023 and is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The council is tasked to address Somalia's urgent food security and nutrition challenges, and to ensure that related policies are regularly updated to reflect evolving priorities.

There has also been a significant presence of development organizations in the country supporting the government's food security programs. However, humanitarian efforts, a key component in addressing this issue, are currently affected due to the limited funding of key donors in 2025. One of the most impacted sectors of the current situation is the food systems one; the suspension of assistance has greatly affected humanitarian operations.

The implementation of climate-resilient food systems still faces various structural and systemic gaps. A comprehensive assessment in this Country Diagnostic Report highlights factors such as limited institutional capacity, coordination challenges, data and information gaps, infrastructure and technology deficiencies, financial and policy constraints, as well as socioeconomic and environmental stressors, as the main issues slowing the progress of food systems in Somalia.

The proposed entry points for the CRFS Alliance such as localizing training and continuous learning, strategic partnership, monitoring, evaluation, and institutional integration. To accelerate Somalia's climate-resilient food system, strategies such as coordinated governance, effective and long-term capacity building, and strengthened financial mechanisms to translate policy into programs and initiatives are needed.