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Adeso’s 30 Years in Review: A Timeline

1991
Fatima Jibrell establishes the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization in Connecticut, USA, amid Somali civil war.

1996
Fatima Jibrell starts advocacy to end Charcoal Trade in Northeast Somalia.

1998
Now simply known as Horn Relief, the flagship Pastoral Youth Leadership Program begins in the Sanaag region, Somalia. See page 15.

2001
Horn Relief holds the first Camel Caravan in Somalia. See page 16.

2002
Fatima Jibrell wins the Goldman Environmental Prize in recognition of her leadership in creating a social and environmental movement in Somalia, including her role in getting the charcoal trade banned in 2000.

2003
Degan Ali, Fatima Jibrell’s daughter, joins Horn Relief. Horn Relief designs and administers the first large-scale cash transfer for drought relief. See page 17 and 27.

2006
Fatima Jibrell retires and Degan Ali is appointed new Executive Director. Horn Relief expands work into Lower Juba, South Somalia.

2007
Horn Relief publishes a cash transfer implementation manual and begins offering cash transfer trainings to the greater humanitarian aid community. See page 27.

2008
Fatima Jibrell receives international acclaim by winning the National Geographic Society/Buffett Awards for Leadership in African Conservation.
2010

2011
In addition to celebrating 20 years of direct programming, Horn Relief begins its first program outside the Horn of Africa, in South Sudan.

2012
Horn Relief is renamed Adeso. Adeso continues to develop its cash-based response training curriculum and delivers training to 150 humanitarian and development practitioners across the African continent. See page 27.

2014
Founder Fatima Jibrell is awarded the Champions of the Earth Award – the United Nations Environment Programme’s highest environmental honor – for her tireless effort to protect Somalia’s fragile pastoral environment.

2016
In the lead up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), Adeso’s leadership on the localization efforts established the target that eventually resulted in the Grand Bargain commitment of directing 25% of all humanitarian resources to local actors by 2020. At the WHS, Adeso founds and launches the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR). See page 32.

2018
Adeso completes two successful Rural Innovation Lab programs in Kenya. Globally, NEAR continues to expand and more members join the network of local civil society organizations in the Global South.

2019
Together with 8 Somali organizations, Adeso co-founds Nexus, a platform for locally-led change that builds partnerships between communities, civil society and the public and private sectors.

2020
Pledge for Change is created by Adeso and Centre for Humanitarian Leadership to bring together the CEOs of INGOs to decolonize their organizations and sign on to a series of pledges that will be published in late 2022. See page 33.

2021
In Adeso’s 30th year, it becomes one of the 286 trailblazing organizations awarded financial support from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The game-changing unrestricted donation will be invested to create an endowment for Adeso to help sustain the organization’s future and more. The KujaLink online platform is created. See page 36.
Three decades ago, my mother founded Adeso (then known as Horn Relief), amid the Somali civil war. The aim? Mobilize local and international resources to protect the fragile—and increasingly depleted—grasslands on which Somali pastoral communities rely for food and income. And protect that environment by harnessing the power of the very communities most impacted by its degradation. For 30 years, across our myriad programs and initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa, Adeso has stayed true to that aim—a bedrock built on trust in local communities—to foster self-reliance, sustainability, and productivity. That trust is embodied in our pioneering work in cash-based assistance, which empowers those in poverty to prioritize their own needs and use cash flexibly to meet those needs.

We understand that the needs of individuals and communities and the drivers of poverty are complex and fluid. We work in partnership with communities to identify and get them what they need, when they need it, and how they need it.

Adeso has learned much over our 30 years. Many expected us to fail when we launched large-scale cash transfers in the wake of the 2003 Somali drought. But we succeeded. We built a robust (and replicable) targeting and monitoring system and helped lead the transition to global acceptance of cash assistance in lieu of food and other commodities. Our successes led us to expand our programming and organization into Kenya and South Sudan, bolstered by bi-lateral funding. But when the humanitarian aid paperwork threatened to overtake the critical humanitarian and development work we set out to do, we eventually realized (painfully) that to achieve our long-term aims, we needed to scale down and zoom out.

Those aims include building a Global South that does not depend on foreign aid and the strings attached to it, but rather is self-determining and emboldened to utilize resources and skills from within. In addition to running direct programs in Africa, over the last five years Adeso has taken a global leadership role advocating for decolonizing the current aid and philanthropy systems. This report highlights Adeso’s role in making such transformation possible—through our game-changing work at both the advocacy and policy level and the “how do we do this” operational level. We are using technology to effectively connect financial support to communities and grassroots and civil society organizations to spur lasting change. And we are working on innovative, ethical business ventures toward supporting Adeso’s financial independence and shifting resources and power to local actors.

On that note, we hope to invest the transformative, fully flexible gift philanthropist MacKenzie Scott awarded us in 2021 to establish and build an endowment that offers a solid foundation for the future.

Looking back, we are immensely proud of what we have achieved over the last 30 years. We have made a difference, reaching nearly 8.7 million people in Somalia, Kenya, and South Sudan.

We thank you for joining us. And we look forward to evolving and working together toward a more just and peaceful global society.

With profound gratitude,

Degan Ali
Degan Ali, left, with her mother, Fatima Jibrell, the founder of Adeso.
Thirty years ago, Adeso was founded as Horn of Africa Relief and Development working in one small area in Somalia. Fatima Jibrell, Adeso’s founder, mobilized local and international resources to protect Somalia’s fragile pastoral environment. The impact of the civil war led to the breakdown of natural resource management systems, jeopardizing a traditional way of life. It was Fatima Jibrell who saw the connection between peace, women’s empowerment, resource protection, and skills development – an understanding that continues to drive the work of Adeso today.

Over the last three decades, Adeso has helped unleash the power of individuals and communities in Africa so they can live productive and self-sufficient lives. Informed by community-focused work, Adeso aims to transform the global humanitarian and development infrastructure by addressing inequalities and resource deficits impacting civil society from the Global South. Over the last five years, Adeso has concurrently implemented direct programs in the Horn of Africa and taken on a global leadership role in decolonizing the current aid system.
OUR ROLE
Founded in 1991 originally as Horn Relief, Adeso is an African-led humanitarian and development organization that is changing the way people think about and deliver aid. Headquartered in Kenya with offices in Somalia, Adeso is close to the issues at the grassroots, particularly in remote and challenging operating environments.

OUR VISION
Our vision is a world that is not dependent on foreign aid and which relies on the resourcefulness and capabilities of local communities and its people.

OUR MISSION
We work locally on the ground, at the roots of communities to create environments in which people can thrive.

OUR VALUES

EFFICIENCY – We do exactly what’s needed, where it’s needed. This often means breaking the mold and seeking community-driven solutions.

HUMILITY – We don’t have all the answers. We know that listening is sometimes better than talking.

COLLABORATION – We work with our communities to co-create programs.

INTERCONNECTION – We recognize that our work is only as effective as the relationships we build and maintain.

CONVICTION – We do and say what’s needed, not necessarily what’s expected.
Adeso’s Four Strategic Pillars

PILLAR ONE: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT
Goal: To continue to support and empower communities to be self-reliant and self-sustaining.

PILLAR TWO: SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN GLOBAL & LOCAL ADVOCACY
Goal: To re-imagine and reshape the current aid ecosystem by incubating and accelerating new initiatives and start-ups that will shift power and resources to local actors.

PILLAR THREE: INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Goal: To transition into an innovative and entrepreneurial organization with diverse funding sources, repositioning Adeso as a financially independent organization.

PILLAR FOUR: CLIMATE ACTION
Goal: To enable healthy environments for communities to thrive and promote climate action and awareness.
Over the last 30 years, Adeso’s humanitarian and development efforts have reached nearly 8.7 MILLION people in Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan.

**Our Impact:**

- **2.33 million** people benefitted from livelihood projects, from acquiring skills for life and a living wage from our Cash for Work projects, to access to trainings, seeds, tools and more for increasing agricultural yield.

- **2.26 million** people received unconditional cash transfers, with another **460,000** people receiving other emergency response services.

- **1.44 million** people mobilized to rehabilitate their environment.

- **2 million** people gained access to clean drinking water, hygiene and sanitation through trainings and building of new facilities.

- **159,033** people had improved access to education, many of whom benefited from a flexible curriculum that suits the pastoralist lifestyle.

- **460,000** people receiving other emergency response services.
Over the last 30 years, Adeso’s humanitarian and development efforts have reached nearly 8.7 MILLION people in Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan.

Where we have worked from 1991 until 2021:

**KENYA**
- Fafi District
- Marsabit County
- Wajir and Garissa Counties
- Isiolo County
- Adeso’s Headquarters in Nairobi
- Turkana County

**SOMALIA**
- Sool
- Sanaag
- Bari
- Nugaal
- Mudug
- Galguduud
- Bakool
- Bay
- Gedo
- Lower Juba

**SOUTH SUDAN**
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal
- Mudug
- Galguduud
- Bakool
- Bay
- Gedo
- Lower Juba
For 30 years, Adeso’s work in Somalia has reached more than six million people throughout the country. Adeso is currently working in Sanaag and Puntland Regions, partnering with local communities on projects ranging from environmental protection and rehabilitation, economic sustainability, and water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

Our Impact in Somalia

443,680 people through emergency projects
1,166,757 people through livelihoods projects
862,532 people through environmental protection projects
156,169 people through education projects
1,632,453 people through water sanitation and hygiene projects
Helping young people and adults develop the skills they need to lead more productive, peaceful, and self-sufficient lives has been at the core of Adeso’s work over the last 30 years. Whether by boosting literacy and numeracy among adults, or helping students transition to formal schools, our work equips people with the skills they need to become self-reliant.

Pastoral youth represent a large percentage of Somalia’s children. Without access to education, they become powerless, marginalized, and invisible. In the late 1990s, against the backdrop of civil war, Adeso began work to build the foundations for peace and sustainable development in Somalia, starting with its young people. Fatima Jibrell asked pastoralist community members: “If Horn Relief were to do an education program what would you want your children to learn?” The community voted on thematic areas, including animal health and husbandry, environment, leadership skills, governance, and basic human health.

This work evolved into our unique non-formal education program: the Pastoral Youth Leadership (PYL) program. The PYL program was based on the belief that bottom-up development at the community level is crucial to overall economic recovery. And it was designed to empower Somali youth, including young women, to create a peaceful and sustainable future.

Today, many PYL graduates play leading roles in community-driven initiatives that address local challenges, including emergency situations. Equipped with new knowledge, these graduates are helping shape Somali society for the future, built on values learned in the PYL classroom: democracy, human rights, and environmental protection.
Camel Caravans

Nomadic communities are an important part of Somalia’s history and its future. But they are also amongst the hardest groups to reach and to help. Adeso is one of the very few organizations that has been able to gain the trust of and work with these extraordinary communities.

Adeso has been working to promote nomadic education in Somalia since 1996. This began by helping pastoral children from different villages access education and creating a unique curriculum that suited their needs, called the Pastoral Youth Leadership Program (PYL). Fatima Jibrell took the concept of nomadic education one step further and created the ‘Camel Caravan’ in 2001, running them nearly every year until 2010.

In the Camel Caravans, Adeo’s PYL students traveled with camels and tents for several weeks to visit nomadic settlements and share their new knowledge – about animal husbandry, animal and human health, peacemaking and natural resource management. In turn, the pastoralists shared with the PYL students their own knowledge of the land, the animals, and the nomadic way of life. The students collected information from the pastoralists orally, then returned to their own camps and recorded in writing all they learned.

Given the challenge of data collection with hard-to-reach community members, this effort was extremely valuable and informed Adeso’s programs, as well as that of other organizations. Just how valuable that information was became clear in 2003, when students returning from that year’s Camel Caravan alerted Adeso to the fact that many thousands of nomadic pastoralists were at risk of dying from hunger as a result of severe drought. Adeso quickly trucked in water and launched a large-scale cash transfer program to meet immediate needs, saving the lives of thousands. The Camel Caravan helped save thousands of lives.
Oxfam began its partnership with Adeso in the mid-1990s. With Oxfam support, Adeso expanded their reach in Somalia, staying true to Ms. Jibrell’s vision of a holistic humanitarian response focused on the needs and rights of affected people and led by women. As Adeso grew, Somalia was experiencing repeated humanitarian crises in the wake of civil war and recurring drought. The international community invested substantial resources in relief – largely by distributing commodities.

Adeso saw a better way forward. With Oxfam’s support, Adeso developed and implemented the first large-scale cash transfer program in response to the 2003 drought in Somalia. At the time, cash-based humanitarian assistance was viewed as a risky modality of humanitarian assistance. Skeptics viewed cash as insecure, vulnerable to diversion, and susceptible to the exclusion of women. To address these concerns and maximize the effectiveness of its program, Adeso developed a sophisticated set of targeting criteria, mobilized communities to participate, and rigorously monitored. The cash transfer helped 97,000 Somalis in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance.

Abby Maxman, President & Chief Executive Officer
Oxfam America
Grassland Rehabilitation Project

Land is a fundamental resource for producing food, feeding livestock, preserving biodiversity, and facilitating natural flows of water systems in Somalia. Desertification, land degradation, and drought have increased across the country due to issues including overgrazing, overharvesting and climate impacts.

With the intention of restoring productive rangelands, but with only short-term humanitarian funding to do so, Adeso implemented Cash-for-Work programs tapping the very communities relying on these resources to construct rock dams that help divert, spread and detain water to restore pasture.

News spread of the success of these efforts when a donor told Adeso that growing swaths of greening grasslands were visible in satellite imagery from space. This discovery helped Adeso receive a four-year development project with the European Union called “Deegaankaagu waa noloshaada” in Somali (translating to “Your Environment is Your Life”). This project grew to more than 100 sites across Puntland and helped restore and improve thousands of hectares of grassland. The project sought to reduce hunger and food insecurity by promoting sustainable use of the region’s natural resources, including reducing gully erosion and surface runoff, which can cause poor pasture in grazing areas.

The restoration of thousands of hectares of grazing land in Somalia significantly reduced the impact of recurrent droughts and contributed to the health of livestock on which pastoralists communities rely to meet their food needs. In sum, this project helped spark a virtuous cycle. Better environment. More reliable food and income. Less need for humanitarian assistance. More self-sufficiency.
In the arid lands of Somalia, communities struggle to access clean, potable water. Water shortages, exacerbated by drought, compromise access to clean water and increase risk of diseases such as cholera. Water scarcity also puts women and youth at greater risk because of the longer distances they need to walk to access clean water sources. To address these challenges, Adeso designs innovative water management and treatment interventions tailored to meet local needs.

With the support of our partners, Adeso has increased access to adequate and safe water for drought affected households across Somalia through contractual-based emergency water trucking, fuel subsidy provision and rehabilitation of communal water sources (including boreholes, shallow wells and dams).

Developing a comprehensive, long-term approach to water security is essential, particularly for drought-prone communities. In practice, Adeso is in the process of procuring a high-efficiency drill rig, with the intention of operating and managing a water drilling and water supply social enterprise. The aim is to disrupt the current system that allows the powerful elite with the drilling rig and water equipment to charge extortionist prices.

Adeso is constantly trying to address critical problems with creative and sustainable solutions. This enterprise is one solution that Adeso hopes will have a long-term positive impact on addressing critical water needs in Somalia.
Our Impact in Kenya

From 2010 to 2020, Adeso worked with communities in six districts in Kenya: Fafi, Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir, reaching two million people over a decade.

- 575,898 people through Environmental Resiliency Programs
- 343,911 people through unconditional cash transfers
- 206,500 people through water, sanitation and hygiene activities
- 780,522 people through livelihoods projects
- 2,837 people through education projects
Pictured here is the Mobile Non-Formal Education (MNFE) Center in Kutura, Marsabit County, in Kenya, a village close to the Ethiopia border that is home to 950 pastoralists. For generations, Kutura residents have depended on livestock to earn a living. Since animals need water and pasture to thrive, communities move in search of these precious resources, which often means children and youth are unable to attend school. Adeso and the community created the MNFE Center to address this reality.

Like Adeso’s Pastoralist Youth Leadership Program (PYL) in Somalia, this effort built on Adeso’s belief that the best way to support peace and sustainable development is to educate the young minds of the next generation.

To reduce the conflict between livelihood activities and education, the center provided flexible learning schedules, with classes taking place when pupils were free. Some girls started their lessons as early as 6am so they could tend the goats during the day; others caught up with the day’s lessons at night. For even more flexibility, the school calendar was built for the wet seasons, when labor demand on children is low and community movement is minimal. Over the two and a half year project duration (launched in 2014), the MNFE educated nearly 400 youth, 70% of whom were girls.
Disaster Risk Reduction programs strive to help communities be more prepared to respond to disasters and crises, while also creating coordination mechanisms between government, non-governmental institutions, and affected communities.

Adeso set up the Maarifa kona Labs as an innovation project in rural Kenya. Local spaces where residents came together to discuss viable local solutions that enhanced disaster preparedness, the labs empowered residents to be change agents, tackling local problems through local solutions. Adeso facilitated this process by providing residents the space to develop and collaborate on ideas and then offering technical support to ensure practical outcomes.

Adeso’s intentionally grassroots approach is focused on empowering communities to design, learn, and build on local knowledge to address their actual needs - and ensure their full ownership of both the process and outcomes.

**Maarifa kona** is a Swahili term that refers to a place where people come together and share ideas about a common problem.
Adeso programs in South Sudan reached nearly 500,000 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State from 2011 to 2017.

- **15,828** people through emergency projects
- **171,616** people through cash transfers
- **312,058** people through livelihoods projects
Livelihoods Programs

Since South Sudan’s independence in 2011, large numbers of returnees settled in villages across the young country. Adeso’s work in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal State of South Sudan launched at this time. Adeso helped both residents and returnees meet their immediate food needs and recover productive assets so communities could start to reunite and build resilience for the future.

The work included direct cash assistance, Cash-for-Work temporary employment options, livelihood support grants combined with skills training, diverse agricultural support, and livestock restocking.

Many returnees lacked vocational training or needed refresher skills training. To help people regain their livelihoods and start to earn an income, Adeso offered apprenticeships and vocational training to members of the returnee community who already had a trade or entrepreneurial skills. By working closely with the local people as they restored the regional infrastructure and rebuilt their communities, Adeso focused support to match their immediate and long-term priorities.
Expanding Our Cash Transfer Expertise to South Sudan and Across the African Continent

Cash-based responses are a flagship Adeso approach to emergency and development work because cash has many advantages over other types of aid. It is cost effective, often leads to better resource use, and helps local economies. Most importantly, cash is a flexible resource and empowers those in poverty by allowing them to prioritize their own needs. In this way, it is a much more humane and respectful form of aid – two qualities that define everything Adeso does.

During a drought in 2003, Adeso designed and administered the first large-scale cash transfer in the Horn of Africa, developing a cash training curriculum that same year for internal use.

Adeso leveraged its pioneering cash transfer success and became a recognized thought leader in cash-based programming, documenting its 2003 intervention in Somalia and identifying areas for further research and improvement from 2007 onward. The heart of Adeso’s model is the Inclusive Community Based Targeting (ICBT) methodology, designed and developed by Adeso and has been proven to be effective.

In 2012, Adeso finalized its practical training guide on cash-based response and trained 150 humanitarian and development practitioners across the African continent, including UN agencies, international NGOs, and local NGOs. Translating all training materials into French expanded Adeso’s reach to more countries and humanitarian workers than ever before.

Cash-based assistance is now the default modality for aid delivery in place of food and other key commodities – a development that would have been unthinkable just 20 years ago. Adeso is a pioneer in leading this transition to the global acceptance of cash assistance.
Pillar Two: Systemic Change in Global and Local Advocacy

Standing Tall: Decolonizing Aid
Adeso is joining forces with others around the world as part of a concerted effort to reform development aid, working with partners and allies to reshape the current aid ecosystem towards an emergent system where civil society in the Global South operates independently, sets their own priorities and puts the communities they serve first. Executive Director, Degan Ali, has been a leading voice in this movement, speaking at the #ShiftThePower Summit in Johannesburg in 2016 and the Pathways to Power Symposium in London in 2019, which brought together a range of development actors from across the system. Here, she highlighted the inequities and neocolonial structure of the aid paradigm. Recognizing the need to work strategically with partners that support their cause to shift power, Adeso has largely shifted from traditional donors and bilateral funding.

Jenny Hodgson
Executive Director
Global Fund of Community Foundation
A Leader of the Localization Movement

Adeso is a leader of the localization movement and led advocacy efforts during the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016. Adeso was the first organization to advocate for a target to be established on the percentage of humanitarian funding that goes directly to local organizations and established a 20% target by 2020. Donors who adopted the Grand Bargain agreement increased the commitment to 25%. This was one of the most important advocacy wins for grassroots organizations and the beginning of a coordinated campaign in support of localization.
Emergence of NEAR: connecting civil society organizations across the Global South

For the first time in the history of humanitarian aid, Adeso built a grassroots movement across continents through the major convenings of the World Humanitarian Summit. During those two years where Adeso was leading this work, they simultaneously established the first global south civil society network for local organizations working in the humanitarian space. In April 2013, Adeso commissioned a feasibility study on the viability of this network to gauge whether there was interest and need from global south civil society.

To ensure ownership of this network, Adeso called for a meeting of key global south civil society organizations - including SEEDS India - to Nairobi, Kenya. Adeso invited all the attending organizations to become founding members in establishing the network. With seed funding secured, the group under the leadership of Adeso was able to successfully launch the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) in May 2016 in Istanbul at the WHS.

I am proud to witness the evolution of NEAR from a mere idea by Adeso to one of the leading global south networks in the humanitarian system. NEAR is a thought leader in the localization agenda and the shift the power movement. evolving to a vibrant organization independent of Adeso with its own secretariat and governance structure.

Manu Gupta
Co-founder
SEEDS
Rethinking and Decolonizing the Global Aid System

Recognizing the large role International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGOs) play in humanitarian and development assistance— and their ability to take immediate action and affect large-scale change—Adeso convened the leaders of a dozen INGOs and challenged them to re-imagine their roles through the lens of a paradigm shift in how global aid operates.

Since early 2021, the leaders of the Pledge for Change coalition have worked to develop a series of public commitments in three key areas - Equitable Partnerships, Authentic Storytelling and Influencing Wider Change – to move toward a decolonial and anti-racist system. They will make their Pledges for Change public by the end of 2022.

"One of the things that has attracted me to this process is that we are a small group of organisations who are trying to push the envelope and demonstrate change in the areas we have been working on. If we come up with something that our Boards or peers can easily sign up to without blinking, we will have missed the chance to challenge them - and ourselves. We want to lead by example, and raise some eyebrows."

Danny Sriskandarajah
Chief Executive Officer
Oxfam UK
Decolonizing Philanthropy

With the success that Adeso has seen in shifting rhetoric and practice with INGOs through the Pledge for Change journey, Adeso sees an opportunity and momentum to create similar space for foundation leaders in the philanthropy space.

Adeso has led various meetings with foundations and organizations facilitating dialogue to move towards a more decolonized approach to philanthropy. We are also creating a donor education curriculum for decolonizing global funding, reconsidering how decisions are made and funds are allocated with the aim to change the status quo in the global philanthropy sector.
Pillar Three: Innovation & Enterprise Development
Standing Tall: Ethical Business Ventures

Photo by Riccardo Annandale on Unsplash
KujaLink - A Marketplace for Organizations and Donors to Make Lasting Connections

KujaLink is an online platform connecting local and national civil society organizations to donors around the world. KujaLink enhances the visibility and credibility of these organizations through robust searchable profiles. Once donors use KujaLink to find these organizations, the platform facilitates networking and discussion, ideally leading to more direct funding channeled to the organizations with the knowledge, relationships, and skills necessary to serve their communities’ needs. The platform is designed with and for civil society leaders. KujaLink is currently being piloted, with an expected public launch in early 2023.

KujaLink operates like a more equitable and inclusive roadway system that can handle increased traffic and new modes of transportation, helping more local and national organizations receive donor support and helping increase the amount of donor support that gets channeled to them directly.
**CORE: Transforming Local Civil Society Organizations in the Global South into Trusted Partners**

Drawing on robust firsthand experience and insight, CORE is a private management services company providing back-office services that help local organizations meet the stringent control and compliance requirements of donors.

CORE removes a hurdle that inhibits donors and international NGOs’ ability to partner with local organizations in the Global South. It does this by improving local organizations’ back-office capacities in a sustainable and cost-effective manner, easing the burden of due diligence requirements so that these organizations can focus on their core work of serving their communities.

Adeso is designing and developing CORE as a social enterprise and expects to pilot it in 2023.
Pillar Four: Climate Action
Standing Tall: Enabling Healthy Environments for Communities to Thrive
From the very beginning, Adeso, with Fatima Jibrell at its helm, mobilized local and international resources to protect Somalia’s fragile pastoral environment. One of her most notable accomplishments was ending the charcoal trade in Northeast Somalia. Fatima united people and groups that crossed clans and regions in Somalia. She tirelessly advocated for an end to the charcoal trade, which used the region’s acacia trees to make charcoal destined for the Middle East. Through her efforts, the Puntland Government prohibited the export of charcoal through the Bosaso Port in 2000.

Fatima’s work to build peace, advocate for better environmental practices, and protect the livelihoods of Somalia’s pastoralists was recognized in 2002 when she was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, the most prestigious grassroots environmental award. In 2007, her work earned her more international acclaim and she won the National Geographic Society/Buffet Award for Leadership in African Conservation. Most recently, she was awarded the 2014 United Nations Environmental Programme’s Champions of the Earth award for her tireless effort to protect Somalia’s pastoral environment.

With Climate Action as the fourth pillar, Adeso continues its environmental work today to restore Somalia’s severely degraded coastal ecosystems and fisheries by working closely with communities to better manage their marine and timber resources as they adapt to a changing climate. With the longest coastline in Africa, Somalia’s coastal habitats, particularly its mangrove forests, are critical for improving livelihoods, food security, trade and culture. True and lasting success in restoring ecosystems are achieved when initiatives are community-led. Adeso will continue to educate, empower, and support the local communities to be the guardians of their environment, and be a partner in developing programs to drive the necessary change.
Climate Action and Habitat Restoration Program

Somalia has the longest coast in continental Africa. As such, its coastal habitats are critical for ecology, livelihoods, food security, trade, and culture. Today, many communities engage in environmentally harmful coping mechanisms, such as overfishing and charcoal burning. This happens because of a lack of knowledge about the importance of environmental stewardship and because of the crippling lack of viable economic opportunities.

Adeso has been working with coastal communities in Northern Somalia for years, promoting more sustainable livelihoods and strengthening their resilience to climate change.
All of Adeso’s work is driven by the needs of the communities it serves. This work would be impossible without the funds from private foundations, government agencies and individual donations from around the world.

On behalf of the communities we have served for the past 30 years, we say thank you. And we hope you will stay with us for the next 30 years.

*This financial data is from 2010 - 2020.*
THANK YOU!

Adeso’s work over the last 30 years would not be possible without the support and generosity of our donors and partners.