



SIDRA
INSTITUTE



Annual Report 2021

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About SIDRA

SIDRA is a registered non-governmental, not-for-profit institution for research and analysis, policy support, development projects planning, and implementation based in Somalia. The Institute was established in 2015. SIDRA provides quality research and development services to the public and private entities in Somalia. It offers technical innovative solutions to key development issues facing Somalia through knowledge-based dialogue, research, independent analysis, insight, and expertise in development projects from needs assessment, planning, design, and implementation to output monitoring and impact evaluation. Our projects, research studies and policy support are centred on our three main thematic areas.



Vision

To generate knowledge, influential ideas, and solutions to contribute to the attainment of the sustainable development goals especially poverty reduction, peace and state building and social and economic transformation of Somalia through dialogue, research, civic engagement and evidence-based development programme design and implementation.



Mission

A centre of research that generates new knowledge that aims to be relevant, original, and excellent. Our work co-constructs knowledge, alliance, dynamic policy environment and institutional capacity to fit for purpose.

Strategic Objectives

Our work is aimed at having positive impact on the communities we work with in the three thematic areas of governance and rule of law, gender and women empowerment and socio-economic development by informing and influencing policy and best practice and implementing development projects with high standards of performance, value for money development and accountability.

Our Focus Areas

Gender and Women's Empowerment	Good Governance	Social Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Inclusion & Emancipation • Girl Child Education • Gender Equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy • Rule of Law • Participative Politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Eradication Education • Health • Education • Environment & Energy

Abbreviations

ABE	— Accelerated Basic Education
CBOs	— Community-Based Organizations
CEC	— Community Education Committee
CEPI	— Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
COVAX	— Vaccine Global Access
COVID-19	— Coronavirus Diseases 2019
CWC	— Child Welfare Committee
DHIS2	— District Health Information Software Two
DRM	— District Risk Management
ECW	— Education Cannot Wait
EHR	— Somali Electronic Health Record
EWARN	— Early Warning, Alert and Response Network
GAVI	— Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GCRF	— Global Challenge Research Fund
HADDA	— Health Alliance of Digital Development and Action
HADMA	— Humanitarians Affairs and Disaster Management Agency
HIS	— Health Information Strategy
HMIS	— Health Management Information System
IDP	— Internal Displaced People
LMIS	— Logistic Management Information System
MEAL	— Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MoEHE	— Puntland Minister of Education and Higher Education
MoIFAD	— Ministry of Interior Federal Affairs and Democracy - Puntland
MoPEDIC	— Ministry of Planning Economic Development and Cooperation - Puntland, Somalia
MoWDAFA	— Ministry of Women Development Family Affairs - Puntland, Somalia
MYRP	— Multi-Year Resilience Program
PE	— Primary Education
PRA	— Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRIME	— Program Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
RQ3	— Research Question Three
RQ4	— Research Question Four
SARS Cov-2	— Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
SIDRA	— Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis
SZOP	— Schools as Zones of Peace
UNICEF	— United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	— World Health Organization

Message from the Executive Director

In 2021, the challenges of COVID-19 were still lingering across the world, including Somalia. However, due to the dedication and hard work of communities worldwide, the struggle to move forward and implement plans vital for global prosperity and peace did not stop. SIDRA was part of these efforts, redoubling its contribution to addressing the obstacles to Somalia's development in its three thematic program areas: Gender and Women's Empowerment, Good Governance and Democracy, and Socio-Economic Development.



SIDRA published a research report titled "COVID-19 Rollout in Somalia: Experiences and Challenges in a Fragile Context", and played a vital role in advising on the best approaches to revive the Somali shilling, citing recommendations from the "Policy Brief on the Somali Shilling" issued in 2020.

We implemented programs that contributed to the school enrolment and academic attainment of Somali children and youth affected by drought and conflict. We reached 5,458 children and youth in urban, rural, and IDP areas, improving their access to education. To strengthen the government's ability to guide and lead education, SIDRA conducted capacity-building programs for 470 education committees and school management teams in Puntland. Additionally, we worked with the Puntland government to review and enhance education policies, including the gender policy of the Puntland Ministry of Education and the code of conduct. To ensure student safety, we helped schools create School Disaster Risk Reduction Plans tailored to their local contexts.

Moreover, 2021 was a significant year for SIDRA and its staff. SIDRA relocated to a new headquarters in Garowe, the first building built specifically for the institution.

Looking ahead, we will continue our efforts in strengthening Gender and Women's Empowerment, Good Governance and Democracy, and Socio-Economic Development. We plan to publish policy briefs, research studies, and development projects that will expand knowledge and help address societal challenges. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the SIDRA staff for their unwavering efforts that contributed to our achievements in 2021 and prior.

Prof Mohamed Said Samantar

Executive Director

Executive Summary

In this year, SIDRA implemented various research and program activities aligned with its focused thematic areas. SIDRA conducted a research study on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Somalia, assessing existing opportunities and challenges for mass vaccination. The study provided policy options and recommendations to address the identified gaps in the COVID-19 immunization rollout.

Additionally, SIDRA conducted a research study on the contextual analysis of barriers, laws, and policies related to safe abortion following rape in Puntland, Somalia.

A research project/consultancy was carried out to build disaster risk reduction capacities to minimize the impact of climate-related disasters, particularly droughts and floods. This project involved developing a ten-year community vision for disaster risk management (DRM) and an implementation strategic plan using the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Management. SIDRA also conducted an assessment using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to evaluate the significance of disasters, vulnerabilities, trends, stakeholders, current management mechanisms, and opportunities for improvement in DRM at the district level.

SIDRA was among the partners conducting the DiSoCo research project, a GCRF Protracted Displacement initiative aimed at helping Somali and Congolese displaced people access appropriate healthcare for chronic mental health conditions associated with protracted displacement, conflict, and sexual and gender-based violence. DiSoCo is a multi-sited project focusing on Somali and Congolese Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Somalia and Eastern DRC, as well as Somali and Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya and South Africa.

Among the significant projects SIDRA conducted as a research partner in 2021 was the HADDA Programme, a multi-partner and multi-year health system strengthening project. This program supports Somali health authorities in utilizing digital tools to improve the management, quality, and effectiveness of health data. The overall objective of the programme is to enhance the capacity of healthcare workers, policy, and decision-makers to plan, manage, and provide quality, accessible, and equitable healthcare for all in Somalia.

The remaining activities that SIDRA carried out in 2021 across its three thematic areas are described in this report.

Achievements



ECW Project

Program overview

The SIDRA Institute's PRIME unit is implementing the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP) in partnership with Save the Children International, CARE International, and the Puntland Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE). The program supports 24 schools across four regions in Puntland State, Somalia. The aim of the program is to contribute to improved learning outcomes for crisis-affected school-aged children, youth, and youth with disabilities by increasing access to quality, inclusive, gender-sensitive, child-friendly, and sustainable education through the effective delivery of Primary Education (PE) and Accelerated Basic Education (ABE).

The specific objectives of the project are to ensure that:

- Schools and learning spaces are safe and inclusive environments that promote the protection and well-being of learners, enhance their resilience, and support their ability to learn and develop their full potential.
- Children and youth have equitable access to inclusive, quality, accredited education from the onset of an emergency through to recovery, leading to increased school attendance and improved learning outcomes.

Key Achievements

The project strengthened equitable access to inclusive, quality basic education for crisis-affected children, youth, and youth with disabilities in Puntland State, Somalia. In 2021, a total of 5,458 children and youth (3,037 boys [56%] and 2,421 girls [44%]) were reached with ECW assistance across schools and ABE centers, including pre-primary education.

SIDRA conducted capacity building for 470 members of Community Education Committees (CECs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), and teachers (232 males [49%] and 238 females [51%]) through trainings on school management, first aid, hygiene promotion, gender mainstreaming, child resilience, school case management, and support referral systems. Additionally, 289 children forum members (138 boys [48%] and 151 girls [52%]) received training on child resilience, first aid, and life skills.

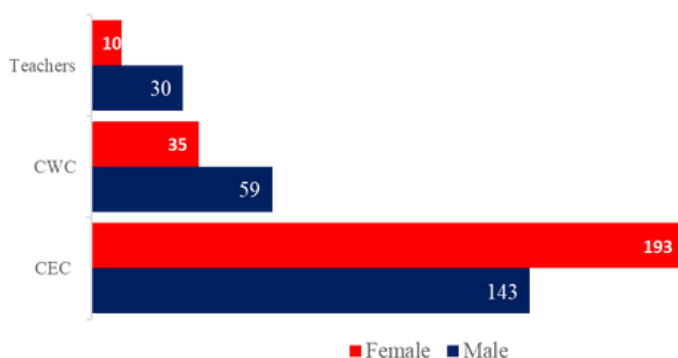
To increase school enrollment, the PRIME unit organized community mobilization and back-to-school campaigns, as well as community-level advocacy campaigns focused on inclusive education for disadvantaged children. Other initiatives included hygiene promotion campaigns and child safeguarding activities for ECW-supported schools in vulnerable, conflict-affected, disaster-prone, or gender-sensitive areas. These campaigns aimed to raise awareness among government officials, teachers, and CEC members about child safeguarding and the concept of Schools as Zones of Peace (SZOP). Furthermore, community engagement in the education sector was sustained by organizing communities through the establishment of CECs, which manage learning activities.

The project provided teaching and learning materials to 30,556 children (15,278 girls and 15,278 boys). Additionally, 1,050 solar lamps were distributed to 525 boys (50%) and 525 girls (50%) from Accelerated Basic Education (ABE) centers and learners in IDP schools. The project also printed and distributed 550 textbooks, covering levels one to three, to the supported ABE centers. Furthermore, it covered the national examination fees for 500 crisis-affected grade eight students.

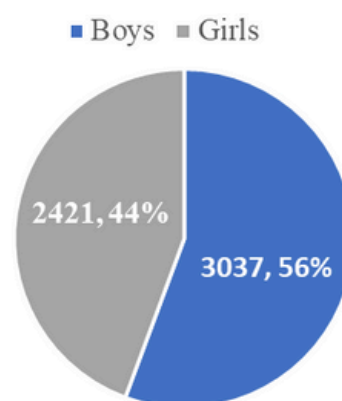
A mobile library service, referred to as "camel libraries," was introduced to deliver textbooks to project-supported schools, particularly those in rural areas. Pairs of first aid kits were also provided to all project-supported schools.

To strengthen education policies and domestic leadership, SIDRA supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Puntland in reviewing the Gender Policy and translating the Puntland School Code of Conduct, which was printed and distributed to ECW-supported schools. Additionally, SIDRA developed comprehensive School Disaster Risk Reduction Plans for all project-supported schools.

Education Committees and School Teacher Reached in 2021



Crisis Affected Children Reached in 2021



GCRF Protracted Displacement Project

SIDRA Institute engaged the Puntland Ministry of Interior and the Jubaland Commissioner of Refugees and IDPs to successfully carry out RQ3 and RQ4. They provided access to the selected IDPs in Garowe and Kismayo.

SIDRA recruited nine local research assistants from Kismayo and Garowe, who were trained in ethical and safeguarding practices, as well as qualitative and social connection workshop methodologies. SIDRA Institute pioneered the social connection methodology under the GCRF Protracted Displacement Project, piloting and testing this innovative, participatory approach for mapping social connections in displacement-affected communities. A total of 16 social connection workshops (8 for men and 8 for women) were conducted by the trained research assistants, with support from the research team.

The team employed a participatory approach to identify where IDPs in Garowe and Kismayo, as well as refugee returnees in Kismayo, seek help for physical and mental health issues, as well as for cases of sexual and gender-based violence. They also documented the pathways and motivations behind these help-seeking behaviors. The reported social connections were compiled into an Excel sheet, and a small team consisting of research assistants and the research team—who were familiar with the context—convened to distill the findings. The team identified duplicate resources, removed rarely reported connections, and combined relevant ones, ultimately narrowing the list down to approximately 30 social connections.

The RQ3 survey questionnaire was translated into Somali and contextualized. The structure, content, format, and flow of the questionnaire, as well as the clarity of the questions and their responses, were thoroughly examined to reflect the context of IDP settings in Garowe, Kismayo, and Somalia at large. The questionnaire included a master list of distilled social connection resources identified during workshops. Participants were asked about their use of these resources over the past six months, the level of trust they have in them, and whether they reciprocate (i.e., help these resources in return). The survey randomly recruited 800 individuals from households in IDP and formal settlements in Garowe and Kismayo.



District Disaster Risk Management

SIDRA Institute was commissioned by the Puntland Ministry of Interior to build the disaster risk management capacities of nine districts in Puntland (Burtinle, Qardho, Galkayo, Jariiban, Bossaso, Galdogob, B/Bayla, Eyl, and Garowe) to help them reduce the impact of climate-related disasters, especially droughts and floods.

District-level consultations were conducted for the five selected districts. The discussions utilized Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to identify significant disasters, vulnerabilities, trends, stakeholders, current management mechanisms, and opportunities for improvement in disaster risk management (DRM) at the district level. The main disaster risks identified were droughts, floods, cyclones, fires, environmental degradation, and human and animal diseases. Using the Sendai Framework for DRM, a ten-year community vision and implementation strategic plan were developed. The community plan was organized around the four themes of the Sendai Framework: disaster risk management; awareness and understanding; strengthening governance and management; investing in projects for resilience; and preparedness and response mechanisms.

SIDRA, with the support of the Ministry of Interior (Moi), convened representatives from five districts and key stakeholders, including MoPEDIC, MoIFAD, HADMA, MoW DFA, and other community-based organizations (CBOs), for a consultation and validation workshop in March 2021. During this workshop, the vulnerability assessment reports and the community vision action plan were validated.



Health Alliance of Digital Development and Action (HADDA)

The HADDA Program will utilize digital development tools for the planning, management, and strengthening of the health system in Somalia, aiming to increase the capacity and quality of health service delivery and support robust, evidence-based decision-making. The program will strengthen the Somali health system by using digital tools for data and knowledge sharing, which will enhance the capacity of healthcare workers and policymakers to plan, manage, and provide quality, accessible, and equitable healthcare for all in Somalia through collaboration and an interoperable systems approach.

SIDRA is managing the research component of the HADDA Program to identify, generate, and apply knowledge priorities and best practices in the design, decision-making, and implementation of the HADDA Program. This is achieved by conducting contextualized monitoring, evaluation, and learning through research embedded in the program, which is also a key strategy to invest in Somalia's research and innovation infrastructure, according to the HADDA Program proposal.

SIDRA conducted baseline and capacity needs assessments using a mixed-method approach that combined qualitative and quantitative methods. A total of 139 health facilities in Galmudug, Puntland, and Banaadir were assessed. The study revealed a total of seven Health Management Information System (HMIS) platforms: District Health Information Software (DHIS2), Logistic Management Information System (LMIS), Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN), ONA, Ogow EMR, Nyss, and Tuberculosis Reporting. The HMIS has standardized registers and summary forms, and there were three separate DHIS2 systems for Somaliland, Puntland, and South Central Somalia. However, the study found an absence of a Health Information System (HIS) strategy in Somalia and recommended developing one before the implementation phase.

SIDRA co-developed the implementation plan for the HADDA Program, which includes the development of the Health Information System (HIS) strategy, monitoring framework, and the creation of the Somali Electronic Health Record (EHR). SIDRA is monitoring the hiring process of the consultant who will develop the HIS strategy and the MEAL framework, and oversees the overall development of the EHR, including the selection process of the EHR platform, customization, interoperability with DHIS2, and continuity of care.

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout in Somalia: Experiences and Challenges in Fragile Context

The first case of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Somalia was confirmed on the 16th of March 2020, five days after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the disease “a global pandemic.” As of 16 June 2021, Somalia reported 14,841 confirmed cases and 775 deaths.

On the 15th of March 2021, Somalia became one of the first 12 African countries to receive COVID-19 vaccine supplies through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility. The COVAX initiative is supported by WHO, GAVI, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to improve equitable access to and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines around the world. It procures a supply of COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries under a pooled procurement mechanism equivalent to inoculating twenty percent (20%) of their population. UNICEF, WHO, GAVI, and other partners worked together to develop guidance, tools, and training resources to support countries in assessing their readiness and planning for the introduction and rollout of COVID-19 vaccination.

The Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis (SIDRA) conducted the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Somalia from April to June 2021. The study revealed that vaccine uptake in Somalia is very low, with significant disparities in vaccine access across gender, communities, and settlements. The study also highlighted limited vaccine supply and a lack of operational costs.

SIDRA used several methods and platforms to disseminate the findings of this study. The study was presented at the intragovernmental meeting of the Somali Ministries of Health at both state and federal levels. It was also presented at the Somali Studies conference in Jigjiga. Additionally, researchers spoke to both local and international media to advocate for the utilization of the COVID-19 vaccine.





Priority Areas in 2022

1. Gender and Women's Empowerment

SIDRA will continue to contribute to strengthening gender and women's empowerment in Somalia through research, policy formulation, and projects aimed at:

1. Supporting the elimination of harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriage, as well as female genital mutilation.
2. Ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
3. Promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
4. Advocating for reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land, other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
5. Informing policies to adopt and strengthen sound, enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

2. Good Governance and Democracy

SIDRA will continue to contribute to the strengthening of good governance and democracy in Somalia through research, policy formulation, and projects aimed at:

1. Seeking consultancies to build the capacity of government institutions to promote good governance and improve the skills of civil servants.
2. Advocating for the rule of law in both government and non-government settings.
3. Producing knowledge aimed at informing the interpretation and implementation of laws and other regulations.
4. Contributing to the strengthening of accountability through high-level forums like the Summer Dialogues, projects, and publications.
5. Advocating for transparency in governance and decision-making within both the public and private sectors to enhance sound decision-making and investments.
6. Continuing engagement and consultations with government and other non-state actors in the development of policies, decision-making processes, elections, and other democratic activities.

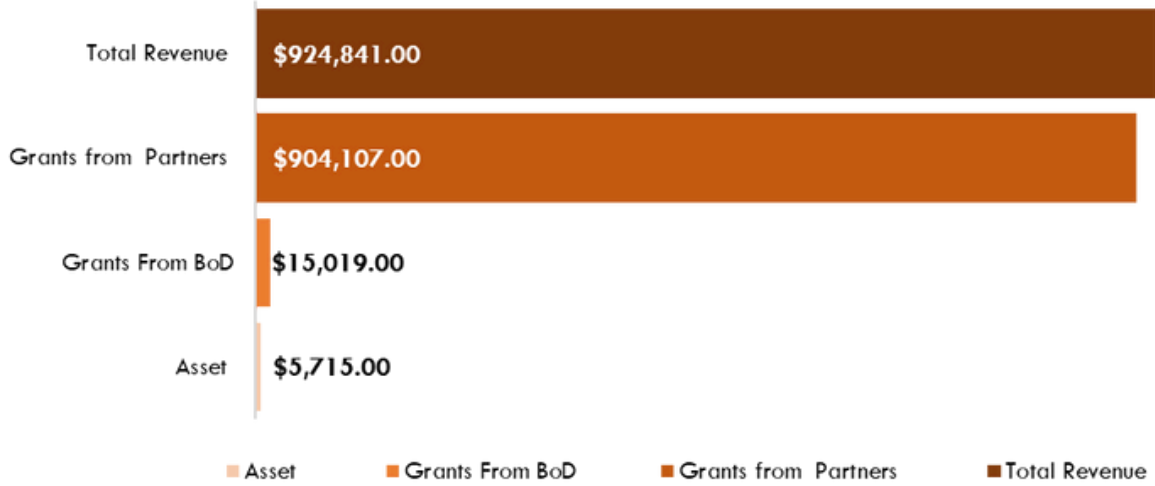
3. Social Economic Development

SIDRA will continue to contribute to the socio-economic development of Somalia through research, policy formulation, and projects aimed at:

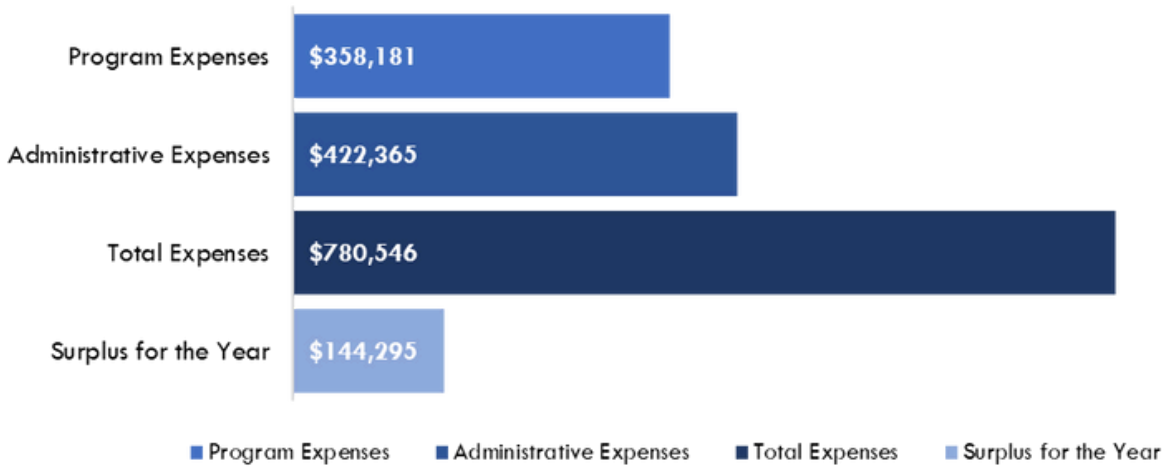
1. Promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all Somalis.
2. Continuing to advocate for full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, with equal pay for work of equal value.
3. Partnering with government and non-state actors, including international development partners, to combat climate change and its impacts by building capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in Somalia.
4. Strengthening the economic empowerment of women and youth and ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work.

Financial Summary

Revenue 2021



Expenditure 2021



SIDRA In Pictures



Partners and Collaborators

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