



FOOD SYSTEMS
NDC SCORECARD

Somalia Assessment

October 2025

I. Introduction

Somalia is the easternmost country on the Horn of Africa with coastlines on both the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean ("[Country Profile](#)"). It sits just north of the equator and has multiple biomes, including tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests, mangroves, deserts, xeric shrublands, tropical and subtropical grasslands, and savannas (FAO, "[Land Cover](#)"; [UNESCO.com](#); [NairobiConvention.org](#); Abera et al., "[Impact of Rainfall Extremes on Energy Exchange and Surface Temperature Anomalies Across Biomes in the Horn of Africa](#)"; [WorldAtlas](#), "[Ecological Regions of Somalia](#)"). Somalia reports that it is a "water scarce country, with a daily consumption of only 14 liters per person, a per capita availability of 411 m³ per year, and water access at only 52%" ([Somalia's Third Generation Nationally Determined Contribution](#) [NDC], p. 14).

The UN has designated Somalia as a least-developed country (LDC) ([UN LDC list](#)), and it is a low-income country ([Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), Appendix II) that has high infant-mortality and low adult-literacy rates (NDC, p. 4). Somalia also faces extreme challenges with food security, which are exacerbated by "drought, localized flooding, conflict, high food prices, and insufficient access to lifesaving health and nutrition services due to severe funding shortfalls" ("[Somalia Humanitarian Crisis Projected to Worsen with 4 Million People at Risk of Hunger, Federal Government and UN Warn](#)" [UN Press Release]). In September 2025, the UN and the Somalian government warned that "4.4 million Somalis [are] projected to face acute food insecurity through the end of 2025" and "1.85 million children are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition" ([UN Press Release](#)). The NDC characterizes Somalia as "one of the most vulnerable countries to climate shocks"; it has undergone "six failed rainy seasons since 2000, which killed millions of livestock, decimated crops, and displaced millions, leading to food insecurity for over 8 million people" (NDC, p. 32). The agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sector is "the most critical" one in Somalia and receives 32% of the country's adaptation budget (USD 1.9 billion), and the NDC notes that "climate-resilient agriculture is a vital pathway to sustaining livelihoods, enhancing food security, promoting stability, and supporting peacebuilding efforts" (NDC, p. 13). The NDC describes a goal of having the adaptive capacity to protect food security from climate shocks by 2050 (NDC, p. 12).

Somalia submitted its updated [NDC](#) on September 8, 2025 ([UN NDC Registry](#)). The NDC states that Somalia's previous NDC goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% below 2015 levels by 2030 was constrained by "social and economic instability, and low partner support for the proposed conditional actions" (NDC, p. 2). It also states that Somalia's climate goals were adjusted according to "national circumstances and emissions profiles" (NDC, p. 2) and that Somalia plans to prioritize adaptation over mitigation measures when using domestic funds (NDC, p. 3). Somalia's 2035 mitigation target is 29.5 Mt (megatonnes) CO₂-e, or a 34% reduction from the emissions in the 2024 base year (NDC, p. 39). This target includes a 5% (4.2 Mt CO₂-e) unconditional emissions reduction and a 29% (25.3 Mt CO₂-e) conditional GHG reduction target, both relative to business as usual in 2035 (NDC, p. 39). Somalia's 29% mitigation target is contingent upon external funding—international grants, concessional loans, green climate finance, and carbon markets (NDC, p. 26). The NDC also states that Somalia relies economically on its agriculture and natural resources (NDC, p. 2) and that 65% of the country's population relies on traditional subsistence farming, which includes animals and crops (NDC, p. 4). Somalia reports high levels of gender inequality; climate shocks compound the effects of Somalia's gender inequality, disproportionately impacting women and girls who hold the primary responsibilities for food, water, and care but have the fewest resources to navigate such shocks in Somalia's food system (NDC, p. 5).

This NDC was evaluated according to the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#) using the documents below. All scores are based on evaluations of the NDC and documents cited within each area of the assessment. Where not specified, in this assessment "NDC" may refer to content within an NDC submission document or other documents analyzed as part of the NDC (see Appendix).

For Somalia, we analyzed the [NDC](#) and the [National Transformation Plan 2025–2029](#) (NTP). For additional information on policies considered within this evaluation, please see the Appendix.

Somalia

Overall Score: Very Strong

Specific to Food System

Scope of food systems coverage



Context-specific action



Promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation



Broader Considerations

Equity and inclusiveness in NDC development



Total Score

11/12

II. Scope of Food Systems Coverage (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2 POINTS (MEDIUM)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates whether the NDC or policies referenced within the NDC addresses each stage of the food system to assess the full extent of the country's climate mitigation and adaptation potential. The stages are as follows: (1) food production; (2) food loss; (3) food processing; (4) food distribution; (5) food consumption, including food access, diets, and nutrition; and (6) food waste. This area does not assess the policies' benefits or harms; these considerations are addressed in subsequent areas of this assessment. The NDC will receive a "strong" score of 3 points if it addresses all subareas; a "medium" score of 2 points if it addresses at least food production, food consumption, and either food loss or waste; a "weak" score of 1 point if it addresses at least one subarea; and an "absent" score of 0 points if no subarea is addressed.

Since Somalia's NDC demonstrates action at the food production, food loss, food processing, food distribution, and food consumption stages of the food system but does not demonstrate action at the food waste stage, the NDC received a **medium score of 2 points** for the scope of food systems coverage area.

(1) Food production

The NDC demonstrates action at the food production stage through investment in climate-resilient agriculture and measures to increase productivity, along with other policies. The NDC notes "over USD 1.9 billion in planned investments" for climate adaptation measures in the agricultural sector, including through crop diversification and the production of drought-resistant crops and seeds ([NDC](#), pp. 12–14). The NDC also describes approaches to bolster the productivity of animal agriculture and aquaculture ([NDC](#), p. 14) and increase production of cereals, meat, and dairy ([NTP](#), p. 115).

(2) Food loss

The NDC demonstrates action at the food loss stage through strategies to reduce postharvest losses, among other policies. The NDC expresses Somalia's plan to reduce food loss through interventions like improved irrigation systems and investment in cold-chain infrastructure to reduce losses in meat and dairy products ([NTP](#), p. 115).

(3) Food processing

The NDC demonstrates action at the food processing stage. For example, “entry point projects” (EPPs) 9 and 10 show plans to develop processing facilities and improve their production of high-value crops like sesame, sunflower, and spices ([NTP](#), pp. 115, 126). Strategies informing this development include reduction of losses and expansion of exports to boost economic growth ([NTP](#), pp. 27, 110).

(4) Food distribution

The NDC demonstrates action at the food distribution stage through goals to improve transportation networks, among other policies. The NDC states that Somalia aims to accomplish this by expanding trade networks, developing fishing ports, and establishing integrated marketplaces ([NTP](#), pp. 27, 116, 130). The NTP also describes enhancing cold storage, transportation, and quality assurance of dairy products such as yogurt, ghee, and milk powder “to meet local demand and reduce reliance on imports” ([NTP](#), p. 124).

(5) Food consumption

The NDC demonstrates action at the food consumption stage through increased consumption of fish and dairy products. For example, the NTP aims to increase household fish consumption from 3 to 5 kg per year by 2029 ([NTP](#), p. 131). Even if fish consumption is increased in accordance with this goal, Somalia’s consumption of animal products would remain a fraction of consumption in high-income countries.

(6) Food waste

Nothing in the NDC suggests action in this subarea.

III. Context-Specific Action (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the depth of food systems integration within the NDC through a framework of seven critical subareas for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the food system: (1) addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, (2) mitigating emissions in food production, (3) reducing fossil fuel use in the food system, (4) reducing agricultural deforestation, (5) shifting from high-impact dietary patterns, (6) reducing food loss and/or waste, and (7) enhancing climate-resilient food production. Subareas 6 and 7 are evaluated for all countries, and the other five are evaluated if applicable to a given country.

Subarea 1 is evaluated for all countries except high-income countries. Although food insecurity is present in high-income countries, this subarea is assessed only for low- and middle-income countries where the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition are associated with greater climate vulnerabilities. Subareas 2 and 3 are evaluated for high- and upper-middle-income countries only. Subarea 4 is scored for countries that are ranked among the 25 countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation according to Global Forest Watch data, and subarea 5 is evaluated for countries with a high-impact diet—countries whose consumption of animal-source foods (ASFs) exceeds EAT-Lancet recommendations by 25%.

The action in each applicable subarea is first assessed as strong, medium, weak, or absent:

- Actions are strong when a specific policy has been adopted or a plan to adopt a specific policy is in place.
- Actions are medium when an intent to take action is mentioned (i.e., no detailed implementation plan exists).
- Actions are weak if only a descriptive mention of it is included and absent when no action is mentioned.

On the basis of these assessments, the NDC will receive a strong, medium, weak, or absent rating for the area as a whole. (See more details in the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 7.)

Subareas 2 and 3 were not analyzed because Somalia is a low-income country. Subarea 4 was evaluated but not scored because Somalia is not one of the countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation. Subarea 5 was also not evaluated because Somalia is not considered to have a high-impact diet. Since Somalia's NDC demonstrates strong action in all three applicable subareas, the NDC received **a strong score of 3 points** for the context-specific action area.

(1) Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition

The NDC demonstrates strong action to address food insecurity and malnutrition through the NTP. For example, the NTP states that integrated water-management systems like dams and irrigation systems are being constructed to “ensure reliable water access for agriculture, reduce drought vulnerability, and enhance food security for millions” ([NTP](#), p. 27). The NTP also mentions the Building Climate Resilience for Food Security project and notes that it supports climate-smart agriculture and water management to enhance climate resilience and food security ([NTP](#), p. 129).

(2) Mitigating emissions in food production

Although this area was not scored, the NDC indicates that Somalia plans to make changes in food production to mitigate emissions, including through “improved livestock and manure management” ([NDC](#), p. 18) and “crop diversification and rotation” ([NDC](#), p. 14).

(3) Reducing fossil fuel use in the food system

This subarea was not analyzed for Somalia.

(4) Reducing agricultural deforestation

Although this subarea was not scored, the NDC indicates that Somalia is taking action to reduce deforestation and support reforestation efforts. The NDC states that one adaptation action is to reduce the amount of land under “slash-and-burn” agriculture, which should reduce “emissions from unsustainable LULUCF” ([NDC](#), p. 40). The NTP cites the policy Activating Climate-Smart Agricultural Livelihoods (2024–2032), which “focuses on reforesting 14,000 hectares” ([NTP](#), p. 127).

(5) Shifting from high-impact dietary patterns

This subarea was not analyzed for Somalia.

(6) Reducing food loss and/or waste

The NDC shows strong action to reduce food loss through the NTP. For example, EPP 2 addresses various measures to reduce food loss. These include improving irrigation systems and developing cold-chain infrastructure and integrated marketplaces to reduce postharvest losses ([NTP](#), p. 115). Nothing in the NDC suggests that Somalia is taking action to reduce food waste.

(7) Enhancing climate-resilient food production

The NDC demonstrates strong action to enhance climate-resilient food production. For example, one key intervention for building a climate-resilient food system is “RECOVER” (2023–2036), which will provide over one million people with access to water and support “6,500 farmers through climate-smart practices” to help strengthen their resilience to drought ([NTP](#), p. 128). (USAID was the primary funder of the RECOVER project [[FAO, “USAID-Funded Reducing Communities’ Vulnerability to External Shocks \(RECOVER\) Project”](#); [U.S. Agency for International Development](#)]. Decreases in international funding may reduce Somalia’s ability to respond to climate shocks and change.) The NDC also indicates that almost USD two billion in climate adaptation funds will support new agricultural practices, such as increasing the number of drought-resistant crops and seeds, diversifying crops, and agroforestry ([NDC](#), pp. 13–14).

IV. Promoting Synergies and Avoiding Maladaptation (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

Measures put forth in the NDC can promote synergies with other sustainability, social, and health objectives. These measures could also conflict with the same objectives. In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the extent to which the NDC has sought to promote synergies and avoid maladaptation or make trade-offs with other sustainable development objectives. This is a two-step evaluation process. The first step is an assessment of whether the NDC considers seven topics in relation to the food system that support sustainable development synergies: (1) nutrition; (2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare; (3) other health considerations; (4) human rights; (5) biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems; (6) gender; and (7) small-scale producers. For each synergistic subarea addressed 0.5 points are given, up to a maximum of 3 points.

Somalia's NDC **received 3 points in the synergies main subarea** because it addresses all seven synergistic topics.

The second step is an assessment of the NDC for risks of maladaptation related to the inclusion of five to eight high-risk activities: (1) expansion of agricultural frontier; (2) increasing production of crops such as soy, corn, rapeseed, wheat, and sugar cane for animal feed and energy; (3) increasing pesticide use; (4) intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers; and (5) increasing water consumption. The remaining high-risk activities are evaluated only for high- and upper-middle-income countries: (6) intensification of animal agriculture and/or expansion of animal agriculture subsectors, (7) increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption, and (8) increasing fertilizer usage.

Somalia's NDC **did not lose any points in the maladaptation main subarea** because although Somalia engages in activities that are typically considered high-risk, we identified the activities as contextually necessary for achieving critical policy objectives (e.g., food security) with no less harmful alternatives, as detailed in the methodology. (For more information, see [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 9.)

For each synergistic subarea, the NDC receives 0.5 points up to a maximum of 3 points. For each maladaptive high-risk activity, the NDC loses 1 point. The number of points subtracted from high-risk activities or policies *can equal but not exceed* the number of points gained for the synergistic topics mentioned.

The NDC was evaluated only on the first five high-risk activities because Somalia is a low-income country. Since the activities fall within an exception in the methodology, the NDC's synergies score of 3 points remains the same, resulting in **a strong total score of 3 points** for the promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area.

Synergies

(1) Nutrition

The NDC considers nutrition in various ways. For example, an initiative in the NTP, establishing a food security and nutrition monitoring system, intends to create a “data collection system to monitor food security and nutritional trends” and use that data to help with “disaster preparedness and response plans” ([NTP](#), p. 413).

(2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare

The NDC considers animal health in the context of food systems. For example, EPP 7, “animal wellness and genetics,” is a project that the NTP states will address the “weak veterinary infrastructure, inadequate disease control systems, and limited access to vaccinations and medications” in the livestock sector ([NTP](#), p. 125).

(3) Other health considerations

The NDC considers health several times in its policies, but only one mention relates specifically to food systems. Regarding an initiative about school enrollment and retention, the NTP indicates that one way the initiative will succeed is through improving health and nutrition in schools “by implementing home-grown school feeding programmes for children from low-income households, providing deworming for learners aged 4–17 in ECE, primary, and secondary schools, and [ensuring] student safety, protection, and well-being by implementing the 2022 National Policy on Safe Schools” ([NTP](#), p. 318).

(4) Human rights

The NDC considers human rights in the context of food systems. For example, one strategic initiative in the NTP is to institutionalize the National Zakat and Waqf systems—Islamic financial and land-endowment assistance for people in poverty. The NTP states that “Zakat will provide immediate cash assistance, food provision, and education for vulnerable populations” ([NTP](#), pp. 185–87).

(5) Biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems

The NDC considers biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems in relation to food systems. For example, the NTP states how measures like “land restoration, encompassing reforestation, controlled grazing, and sustainable agriculture” play “a pivotal role in stabilizing ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and securing food resources” ([NTP](#), p. 396). The NTP also notes the importance of using indigenous seed biodiversity to enhance food security and climate resilience ([NTP](#), p. 396).

(6) Gender

The NDC considers gender in relation to food systems. For example, the NDC states that women are disproportionately affected by climate change because of its impact on agriculture and the role women play in household food production ([NDC](#), p. 13). The NDC indicates that addressing obstacles such as “limited access to land, credit, agricultural inputs (seeds), information about climate adaptation strategies, and practices” is necessary to ensure an “effective and inclusive climate response” ([NDC](#), p. 13).

(7) Small-scale producers

The NDC considers small-scale producers in the food system. For example, access to finance is one of the challenges outlined in the NTP, which states that Somalia aims to “improve the connection between small holder farmers, livestock associations and microfinance institutions” ([NTP](#), p. 116).

Maladaptations

(1) Expansion of agricultural frontier

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Somalia engages in this high-risk activity.

(2) Increasing production of crops primarily for nonfood uses (animal feed and energy)

Although the NTP states that Somalia plans to increase its production of high-quality animal feed, we identified this as an exception because it represents a critical action toward food security and climate resilience in the country. Therefore, we did not deduct points ([NTP](#), p. 123).

(3) Increasing pesticide use

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Somalia intends to increase its chemical or inorganic pesticide use. Conversely, one of the initiatives in the NTP focuses on creating “eco-friendly pest management systems,” indicating a potential shift away from harmful pesticide use ([NTP](#), p. 130).

(4) Intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Somalia engages in this high-risk activity.

(5) Increasing water consumption

The NTP describes an initiative to increase dairy production ([NTP](#), p. 124), which is water-intensive and could be highly maladaptive without safeguards to avoid undermining climate resilience. The NTP indicates that Somalia is taking action to increase water efficiency and prioritize peoples’ water needs. For example, the NTP states that Somalia is integrating the use of geographic information systems and automated water-management systems, which “have facilitated the strategic deployment of water supplies to drought-affected areas, reducing humanitarian crises and enhancing community resilience” ([NTP](#), p. 9).

Additionally, projects “aimed at enhancing Somalia’s agricultural productivity, water access, and resilience to climate challenges” include the Jowhar Offstream Storage Programme (2024–2028), which “focuses on irrigating 7,500 hectares in Jowhar through reservoirs, upgraded irrigation, and climate-smart farming,” and the Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project (2023–2028), which “targets a 20% production capacity increase through sustainable farming, water and rangeland management, and governance improvement” ([NTP](#), pp. 126–27). In accordance with these water protections and prioritization of human needs, we identified the plan to increase dairy production as an exception under the methodology (for more information, see [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 9).

(6) Intensification of animal agriculture and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors

(7) Increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption

(8) Increasing fertilizer usage

Subareas 6–8 are not applicable to Somalia because Somalia is a low-income country.

V. Equity and Inclusiveness in NDC Development (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the NDC on the main subareas of equity and inclusiveness throughout the NDC's development. The NDC as a whole was scored on this area, not just the NDC's content concerning food systems. Each main subarea was scored up to 3 points, and the total score is the average of the two main subarea scores.

Somalia's NDC received **a strong total score of 3 points** in the equity and inclusiveness area.

Equity

The scorecard framework evaluates equity through (1) equitable 1.5°C alignment, (2) just transitions, (3) consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, and (4) equitable finance. Subarea 4 is evaluated only for high-income countries on whether they commit to financing for developing countries. The equity main subarea will receive a strong score of 3 points if all issues are addressed, a medium score of 2 points if two or three issues are addressed, a weak score of 1 point if one issue is addressed, or an absent score of 0 points if no issues are addressed.

Somalia's NDC received **a strong score of 3 points in the equity main subarea** because it addresses all applicable subareas.

(1) Equitable 1.5°C alignment

Somalia's mitigation contribution takes the form of both conditional and unconditional reduction in GHG emissions relative to a business-as-usual emissions baseline from 2025 to 2035. Somalia's NDC sets a target to reduce emissions by 34% by 2035—5% is unconditional and the remaining 29% is conditional on international support ([NDC](#), p. 53).

Equitable 1.5°C alignment is assessed according to the fair shares assessment approach of the Civil Society Equity Review (CSER), using the [Climate Equity Reference Calculator](#). Under this analysis, a country's emissions reduction is determined to contribute its mitigation fair share if the country meets either of two CSER benchmarks, each corresponding to different but reasonable visions of equity.

In the Climate Equity Reference Calculator analysis, Somalia's target emissions levels are adjusted according to the non-LULUCF portions of these emissions (for details on how the Climate Equity Reference Project framework considers emissions reduction from LULUCF and how this can affect a target's assessment, see the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 11).

The Climate Equity Reference Calculator notes: "Somalia's NDC from September 2025 expresses an unconditional mitigation target of 5% below baseline and [a] total unconditional+conditional target of 35% below baseline by 2035. These targets include emissions, removals, and avoided emissions from LULUCF. Our NDC assessments exclude LULUCF emissions/removals, so we re-calculated the targets as 3.1% and 18.7%, respectively, with the sectoral emissions data provided by Somalia in its NDC" ([Climate Equity Reference Calculator](#) for Somalia, notes on NDC qualification and LULUCF emissions).

Somalia's recalculated unconditional pledge exceeds the country's mitigation fair share by 0.1 t CO₂-e per capita according to the 1850 High Progressivity benchmark while meeting the 1950 Medium Progressivity benchmark. As the less ambitious of Somalia's targets satisfies both benchmarks, Somalia's mitigation emissions-reduction target achieves its fair share and is therefore considered equitably aligned with efforts toward 1.5°C.

(2) Just transitions

The NDC contains measures to promote just transitions and states that a "just transition is a cornerstone of Somalia's climate and development strategy" (NDC, p. 16). For example, Somalia's adaptation efforts include "targeted investments in green job creation and vocational training, with a focus on reskilling young people and women for emerging climate-resilient sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem restoration" (NDC, p. 16).

(3) Specific consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups

The NDC specifically considers the needs of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. For example, in its NDC, Somalia recognizes high levels of gender inequality and that the effects of gender inequality compound with climate shocks; this disproportionately impacts women and girls who hold the primary responsibilities for food, water, and care but have the fewest resources to navigate such shocks within Somalia's food system (NDC, p. 5). The NDC notes that among those disproportionately impacted are youth and Indigenous communities and describes goals and plans for addressing these impacts, such as strengthening youth advisory councils and expanding "gender-responsive climate finance and insurance mechanisms" supporting women farmers (NDC, pp. 30–31).

(4) Equitable finance

This area was not assessed as Somalia is not a high-income country.

Inclusiveness in NDC Development

Inclusiveness in NDC development was evaluated on whether the following groups were included in the NDC's development: (1) multiple government ministries, (2) departments and agencies of government, (3) subnational bodies, (4) the private sector, (5) academia, (6) civil society organizations, (7) Indigenous Peoples, and (8) other vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, earning 0.5 points for each for a maximum of 3 points.

Somalia's NDC received **a strong score of 3 points in the inclusiveness main subarea.**

The NDC states that its development followed "a whole of society and whole of government approach, which involved consultations with all government ministries, departments and agencies and federal member states," as well as civil society (NDC, p. 41). The NDC also notes that the process included the participation of subnational governments, academics, and research institutions (NDC, p. 42) and considered "gender, youth, persons with disabilities (PWD), and indigenous groups" (NDC, p. 2).

VI. Analysis and Conclusions (Total score 0–12 points)

SOMALIA'S NDC TOTAL SCORE = 11 POINTS (VERY STRONG)

Somalia's NDC received a **very strong total score of 11 points out of 12**. This score is based on evaluations of both the [NDC](#) and the [NTP](#).

In the **scope of food systems coverage area**, Somalia's NDC received a **medium score** because it demonstrates action at the first five stages of the food system, but nothing in the NDC suggests that Somalia has any policies that address food waste.

In the **context-specific action area**, Somalia's NDC received a **strong score** because it addresses all three applicable subareas, but it would still be beneficial for Somalia to implement specific policies addressing food waste.

In the **promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area**, Somalia's NDC received a **strong score** because it considers all seven synergistic topics, and although the NDC and policies indicate that Somalia engages in activities that would be considered high-risk in certain contexts, we identified them as exceptions under the methodology (see [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 9). In this exception, we recognize Somalia's UN designation as an LDC and its current challenges with food security.

In the **equity and inclusiveness in NDC development area**, Somalia's NDC received a **strong score** because it addresses all applicable equity subareas and its development included all the groups listed. We note that while Somalia has acknowledged gender inequity, it still has much to address in the needs of women as a marginalized group that bears many of the burdens and additional climate shocks associated with Somalia's food system.

While the NDC's score of 11 points leaves few areas to significantly improve the score, the following are some ways Somalia could improve not only its NDC score but its overall climate plans in accordance with this evaluation: (1) enhancing the techniques used to reduce postharvest losses before the retail stage, including solar drying and improved storage; (2) creating food-waste policies that aim to reduce postharvest losses from the retail stage onward, such as food banking or repurposing initiatives like composting, using food waste for energy, or upcycling; and (3) strengthening protections for pastoralists. Even though the NDC recognizes that about 60% of Somalia's population relies on pastoralism and states that pastoralism is "highly sensitive to climate variability and change" ([NDC](#), p. 9), current protections could be enhanced, which would not only benefit pastoralists but help with food security challenges (i.e., if pastoralists are adequately supported, they can continue to grow food).

Appendix

Documents Evaluated

- [Somalia's Third Generation Nationally Determined Contribution](#)
- [National Transformation Plan 2025–2029](#)

Document Selection

An NDC submission typically references a number of policy documents. In some cases, these policy documents are referenced to provide context clarifying the content of the NDC. In other cases, these policy documents are referenced because they form part of a country's contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Where a country considers the documents integral to its climate change response, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers the content of these documents, if adequately referenced in an NDC submission, to be part of the NDC.

As a reference's intended function is not always clear, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers it holistically:

- How the NDC discusses the policy document.
- Location of the reference. For example, if the reference is within the planning processes section of an “information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding” table, this is a strong indication that the policy was incorporated into the NDC.
- Content of the referenced policy document itself—namely, the extent to which it considers climate change and therefore constitutes part of the country's climate policy framework.
- The Party's overall policy framework—for example, whether a cited policy is active rather than obsolete or superseded by other policy documents and whether other policy documents should perform the same function.

For Somalia, the NDC submission and the National Transformation Plan 2025–2029, which the NDC submission describes as one of the key documents forming the basis of the NDC ([NDC](#), p. 41), were included in this analysis.

Scope of Assessment

This evaluation focuses on a food system perspective. While evaluating equity and inclusiveness more broadly, it does not specifically assess other sectors (such as energy) or indicate the quality of a country's climate policy overall. Additionally, the scoring reflects the presence or absence of particular types of action or consideration within the areas and subareas examined. This does not necessarily reflect ambition in the depth of action. For example, a policy to slightly mitigate food production emissions in a subsector will count equally in scoring to a policy to significantly mitigate emissions. The scores should be understood as indicators to consider alongside the fuller analyses. Finally, while NDCs are critical policy instruments, implementation is necessary to translate their ambition into action. Accordingly, an ambitious NDC alone does not guarantee effective action, just as the ambitiousness of action is not limited to the content of an NDC.



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Please contact the Food Systems NDC Scorecard project (info@foodsystemsndcscorecard.org) with any feedback, comments, or questions.