



Somalia Resilience & Climate Action Initiative (SRCAI)

Women-Led Climate-Smart Micro-Gardens Initiative (WCSMGI)

Cover Page:

Name of Organization: Somalia Resilience & Climate Action Initiative (SRCAI)

Country: Somalia

Physical Address: Dabka Street, Olow Tower, Mogadishu, Somalia

Title of Proposed Project: Women Led Climate Smart Micro Gardens Initiative (WCSMGI)

Projected Budget: USD 48,700

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Summary of Action

The Women Led Climate Smart Micro Gardens Initiative (WCSMGI) empowers rural and peri urban women through climate smart micro gardening systems that improve food security, nutrition, and household income. The project trains women in sustainable, climate resilient agricultural practices, establishes micro gardens using affordable technologies, and provides continuous mentorship from agricultural experts. These gardens enable year round production of nutritious crops despite climate challenges such as drought and erratic rainfall. The initiative contributes to climate adaptation, local resilience, and women's economic independence.

Key Activities:

1. Training women in climate smart agriculture, water efficient methods, and soil health.
2. Establishing micro gardens with drought resistant crops and low cost technologies.
3. Providing ongoing mentorship through agricultural extension officers.
4. Creating market linkages for surplus produce.
5. Conducting community awareness campaigns on women's role in climate adaptation.

Goals:

- Expand adoption of climate smart agriculture among women.
- Improve household food security and nutrition.
- Strengthen women's economic empowerment.
- Support community level climate adaptation strategies.

Relevance

Women in Somalia's rural and peri urban communities face disproportionate impacts from climate change, including drought, soil degradation, and food scarcity. Many depend on traditional farming methods that are no longer viable under worsening climate conditions. This project responds directly to these challenges by equipping women with the skills and resources to adopt climate smart agriculture.

Community Needs Addressed:

- *Rising food insecurity in women led households.*
- *Lack of access to climate resilient agricultural knowledge.*
- *Limited income generation opportunities for women.*

Problems Being Solved:

- *Food Insecurity: Women will grow diverse, nutrient rich crops in small, controlled spaces.*
- *Climate Vulnerability: Climate smart practices will reduce risk and build resilience.*

Actors Involved:

- *Local women's groups and community leaders.*
- *Agricultural extension officers.*
- *Local NGOs and government departments.*
- *Private agricultural suppliers.*

Objectives & Expected Results:

- *Establish functional micro gardens for increased food production.*
- *Strengthen local capacity in sustainable farming.*
- *Improve household nutrition and income.*
- *Enhance community level climate resilience.*

Added Value:

- *Promotes women's leadership and gender equity.*
- *Scalable and easily replicable model.*
- *Utilizes small land spaces, making it accessible for marginalized households.*

Expertise and Operational Capacity

The project will be implemented in three phases:

Phase 1 — Community Engagement & Training

- *Mobilize local women through leadership groups and village forums.*
- *Conduct training workshops on climate smart agriculture, water management, and pest control.*

Phase 2 — Establishment of Micro Gardens

- *Provide seeds, tools, and garden materials.*
- *Support women in setting up water efficient, climate resilient garden beds.*

Phase 3 — Mentorship & Market Linkages

- *Continue technical support through regular follow ups.*
- *Link women with local markets to sell surplus produce.*

Partners and Their Roles:

SRCAI Research Division: *Provides evidence-based design from ongoing research including Farmer Adaptation Strategies to Water Scarcity and Climate Variability (Afgooye District) and Somali Youth Perceptions of Climate Change in Mogadishu.*

Elman Peace Centre (Proposed Partner): *Mobilization of target women, including widows and marginalized women; community engagement; psychosocial support integration where relevant.*

- *Agricultural Extension Services: Technical training and mentorship.*
- *Women's Associations: Mobilization and leadership.*
- *NGOs/Government Agencies: Advocacy, resource support, and policy alignment.*

- *Private Sector: Affordable supply of seeds and equipment.*

Sustainability Strategy:

Research-to-Action Approach: SRCAI will apply findings from its ongoing research (*Farmer Adaptation Strategies to Water Scarcity and Climate Variability – Afgooye and Youth Perceptions of Climate Change – Mogadishu*) to design context specific micro garden solutions. This ensures that each recommended technique is evidence based and grounded in local climate realities.

Pilot Implementation as Co Pilot Project: Research insights will inform pilot micro gardens, which will be tested, refined, and scaled in partnership with women beneficiaries. This co pilot model allows communities to validate recommended solutions before expansion.

Knowledge Transfer: Women trained in micro gardens will become community trainers capable of scaling knowledge across villages.

Economic Sustainability: Income generated from the sale of surplus produce will allow women to maintain and expand their micro gardens independently.

Environmental Sustainability: Evidence based climate smart techniques—such as water saving irrigation, drought resilient crops, and soil regeneration practices—will support long term environmental resilience.

1. *Knowledge Transfer: Women become community trainers.*
2. *Economic Sustainability: Income from produce supports continued farming.*
3. *Environmental Sustainability: Practices promote soil health and water conservation.*

Multiplier Effects:

- *Improved community nutrition and resilience.*
- *Gender empowerment and increased leadership roles for women.*
- *Scalable model for replication across Somalia.*

Expertise and Operational Capacity

SRCAI has extensive experience implementing community focused climate adaptation, food security, and women's empowerment initiatives. The organization maintains a strong project management structure with designated project managers, finance staff, and M&E officers. Past programs have successfully strengthened local agricultural systems, delivered training programs, and supported vulnerable populations.

Organizational Experience:

- *Management of multi-phase agricultural and climate adaptation projects.*
- *Capacity building programs targeting marginalized groups.*
- *Proven success in sustainable community development and resilience programming.*

Relevant Technical Expertise:

Collaborative Consulting Model: SRCAI works with external consultants and subject matter experts to expand its technical capacity when needed. These consultants support specialized areas such as agronomy, climate research, gender programming, monitoring and evaluation, and community-based protection.

This model allows SRCAI to remain flexible, evidence driven, and able to mobilize the exact expertise required for each project.

Technical Expertise Areas:

- *Climate smart agriculture and water efficient farming techniques.*
- *Gender inclusive community mobilization.*
- *Market linkage facilitation and agricultural value chain support.*

Partner Expertise:

SRCAI Research Team: Experienced in climate change research, field assessments, and community resilience studies—currently completing projects in Afgooye (water scarcity adaptation strategies) and Mogadishu (youth climate perceptions).

Elman Peace Centre: Strong experience in community mobilization, women's empowerment, protection-focused programming, and outreach to vulnerable women including widows and displaced populations.

Local Agricultural Experts: Technical support in soil health, climate-resilient crops, and water-saving techniques.

Women's Groups & Community Leaders: Trusted actors ensuring participation, community ownership, and sustained engagement.

NGOs/Government Agencies: Policy alignment, advocacy, and resource integration.

Private Sector Suppliers: Seeds, equipment, and market linkage support.

- Agricultural experts specializing in drought resistant crops and soil health.
- Women's groups deeply rooted in the community.
- NGOs and government agencies supporting policy advocacy and scaling.
- Private suppliers ensuring affordable and reliable inputs.