Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Quman Women Climate Resilience & Community Health Network

Jigjiga City, Fafen Zone & Jarar Zone, Somali Region, Ethiopia





Quman Women Development Association empowers vulnerable women and children in drought-prone pastoral communities across Ethiopia's Somali Region with clean water access, health services, and climate-adaptive livelihoods to build long-term community resilience

Challenge

Ethiopia's Somali Region is on the frontline of climate change, facing recurrent drought, water scarcity, and environmental degradation that disproportionately affect women and children. In Fafen and Jarar Zones, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities experience shrinking water sources, loss of livestock, and increased disease burden, including tuberculosis and waterborne illnesses, exacerbated by extreme heat and erratic rainfall. Women and children with special needs bear the heaviest burden, as resource scarcity deepens poverty, limits access to education and healthcare, and increases vulnerability to harmful practices such as FGM. The urgency is acute: without locally-led, gender-responsive adaptation, climate shocks will continue to erode livelihoods and human dignity in these underserved zones.

Solution

Since 2006, QWDA has built a community-driven resilience model that places women at the center of climate adaptation. Our approach integrates:

- Water, Sanitation & Health (WASH): Ensuring access to clean water and health services in rural and urban communities to reduce climate-sensitive disease.
- Climate-Adaptive Livelihoods: Income Generating Activities (IGA) that diversify household income beyond climate-vulnerable livestock.
- Social Protection: Targeted support for orphans and vulnerable children, and FGM prevention to safeguard girls' futures.
- Community-Led Implementation: All projects are designed according to local community needs, not external mandates, ensuring cultural relevance and long-term ownership.

What makes QWDA distinct is our deep geographic footprint across seven woredas and our dual-zone operational structure, with a main office in Jigjiga and a liaison in Addis Ababa. Our method is replicable because it is rooted in existing community governance structures and prioritizes equity, cultural diversity, and sustainable outcomes over short-term relief.

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Impact

QWDA has delivered measurable resilience outcomes across two zones since 2006:

- Geographic Reach: Active in seven woredas (Awbare, Jigjiga, Kebribayah, Babili, Gursum, Darwanaje, and Wajale Council in Fafen Zone; Degahbour in Jarar Zone).
- Health & WASH: Tuberculosis prevention project in Awbare woreda; COVID-19 response in Darwanaje, Awbare, and Wajale Council.
- Social Protection: Orphan support programs across four woredas in both zones.
- Economic Resilience: IGA projects implemented in four woredas, creating alternative livelihoods for women in drought-affected areas.
- Gender & Rights: FGM prevention and awareness project across three woredas (Babili, Gursum, Awbare).

Timeframe: 2006–present | Source: Quman Women Development Association organizational records.

Partners

- QWDA implements its projects through the support of funding and technical partners.
- Woreda Health & Women Affairs Offices, Government Co-implementer: Local coordination and community entry
- Addis Ababa Liaison Office, Networking & Advocacy Partner: Policy engagement and resource mobilization



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