

STREAM

Somalia Resilience Action Consortium



RESILIENCE STRATEGY

2019-2021

Introduction to STREAM

Stream is a resilience consortium, formed in early 2013 by three NGOs: ACTED, SADO and ADESO, with a primary objective of supporting the development of resilient communities in crisis-affected regions of Somalia. STREAM's unique approach to resilience-strengthening in Somalia is focussed on social protection, with layered multi-sectoral interventions built around this central tenet.

Since 2015, the consortium has been supported by the European Commission, to implement a resilience-strengthening programme focussed on social protection in Jubaland, reaching 5,000 vulnerable households with regular and predictable cash transfers. Alongside these cash transfers, STREAM has been providing livelihood support to communities, including through the formation and training of livelihood groups, and provision of small business grants. In an additional layer of intervention, the same communities have also been supported with Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) activities, strengthening their capacity to identify, prepare for, and absorb shocks and stresses.

It is key to STREAM's area-based approach that these activity sets are layered, and provided in a holistic package to one community. In this way, the consortium is able to address multi-faceted needs and vulnerabilities, in a more impactful and sustainable way.

The area-based approach represents a move away from separated sectors of activity and work streams, and puts the community at the centre of the intervention. Through a holistic analysis of context, needs, and priorities, STREAM's area-based approach emphasises the inclusion of a wide-range of stakeholders (including civil society; local and federal government actors; the private sector etc.), to deliver a multi-sectoral and integrated package of support, which aims to address all of a community's priority needs.

STREAM's central hypothesis is that by providing a layer of social protection which contributes towards meeting the basic essential needs of vulnerable households, and by simultaneously layering this social protection with livelihood and CBDRM support, these households will have a greater capacity to diversify and strengthen their livelihoods and incomes, in a sustainable way, and will be better able to respond to shocks and stresses in the long-term.

In order to test this hypothesis, and ensure that STREAM interventions and approaches are entirely data-driven and evidence-based, the consortium has a core focus on learning. Over the past three years, STREAM has worked to gather evidence on the impact and effectiveness of social protection and resilience programming in Somalia, learning from past successes and shortcomings. The current strategy has been designed based on these learnings.

STREAM Objectives

The STREAM consortium aims to support the development of sustainable, replicable models of resilient communities, engendering a transformative capacity among crisis-affected households. STREAM defines resilience as the ability (of an individual, household, community, society, country, or region) to anticipate, absorb, and adapt from shocks and crises, in a timely and efficient manner, in ways that preserve integrity and do not deepen vulnerability. STREAM aims to achieve this through working closely with and through relevant government ministries and civil society, in an area-based approach.



STREAM Approach to Resilience

In order to achieve the STREAM objectives outlined above, the consortium's approach to resilience in Somalia includes four essential components. These have been established based on evidence and learnings generated over several years of implementing social protection and resilience programmes in Somalia:

- ♦ STREAM's vision for resilience in Somalia is centred on the development of a sustainable, and eventually government-managed, social safety net system. To this end, STREAM has worked to develop a set of recommendations to support the establishment of such a system (please refer to 'A STREAM Vision for Social Protection in Somalia' – January 2018). STREAM believes that the consortium can help remove impediments to the establishment of a Somali social protection system, by acting as an honest broker bridging Somali and international interests. This includes supporting the articulation of the Somali vision of a social protection system, based on the National Development Plan (NDP). Crucially, STREAM can ensure that the design of a social protection system will be a collaborative effort, and one which can transition current humanitarian prerogatives and investments into appropriate developmental initiatives
- ♦ STREAM believes that resilience in Somalia can be best achieved through integrated, and multi-sectoral, holistic programming, implemented through an area-based approach. In this way, multi-faceted community priorities can be addressed through coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders, and communities can receive a comprehensive package of support that addressed the range of their priority needs
- ♦ In order to maximise the impact and effectiveness of resilience initiatives underway in Somalia today, STREAM believes it is essential to strengthen the capacities of relevant government authorities to replicate the model across different areas of Somalia. This entails support for data collection and monitoring, to enable relevant authorities to make informed decisions on resource allocation and planning, and technical support in sectors such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and the implementation of a Social Safety Net (SSN) system in the long-term
- ♦ In the specific context of Somalia, STREAM believes that resilience can only be achieved in a meaningful way through targeting the most vulnerable, and ensuring that markets work for the poor (M4P). While it is essential that livelihoods training and mentoring are tailored to the specific contexts and needs of each targeted group or individual, it is key that striving for meaningful results does not inadvertently exclude the most vulnerable. To this end, STREAM is committed to focusing on the most vulnerable households and individuals within each community, and supporting these people to graduate from extreme poverty to a resilience goal where they are able to cope without a social safety net.



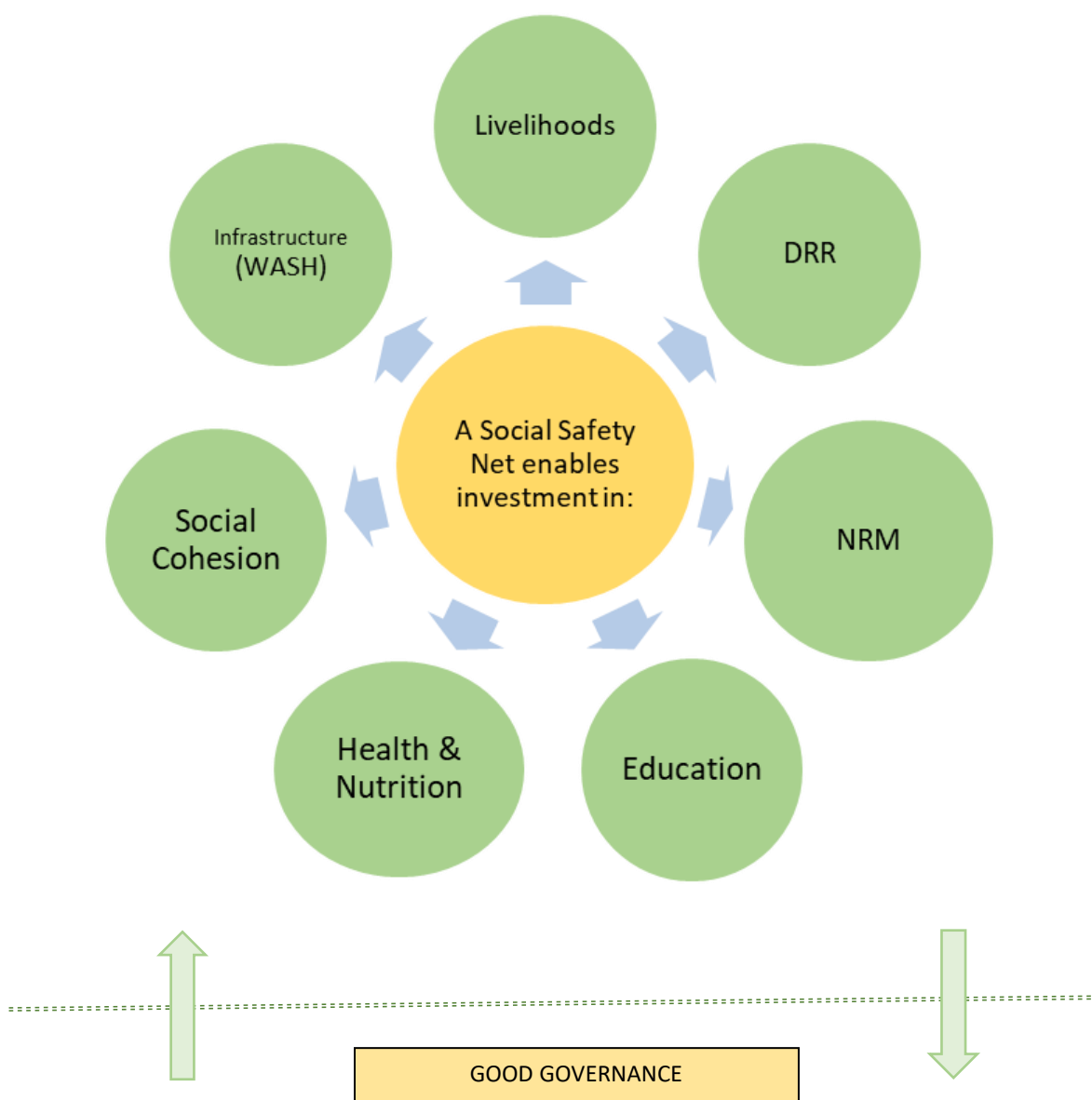
While STREAM believes that these four components are essential to the development of resilient communities in Somalia, the consortium acknowledges that sustainable resilience can only be achieved if the following are in place:

- ⇒ Stable and sustainable livelihoods opportunities
- ⇒ Accessible healthcare
- ⇒ Accessible quality education
- ⇒ Safe and dignified WASH infrastructure
- ⇒ Costed and implementable CBDRM plans
- ⇒ Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- ⇒ Effective and representative grassroots governance
- ⇒ Community cohesion
- ⇒ Acceptable nutrition standards



As it exists today, the STREAM consortium does not have capacity to ensure the provision of health and nutrition services for crisis-affected communities in Somalia. In order to ensure that STREAM is able to comprehensively implement an integrated and holistic approach to addressing community needs, a core priority for STREAM going forwards is to identify potential partners who can be engaged through the area-based approach, to support the provision of essential health and nutrition services in STREAM's areas of intervention.

STREAM Programmatic Model



The STREAM programmatic model has a social safety net at its centre, with layered interventions including diversification and strengthening of livelihoods; community-managed DRR; sustainable and regenerative natural resource management; education; health & nutrition; social cohesion; and infrastructural development activities all growing from this core. These multi-sectoral activity sets will be underpinned by a foundation of good governance, both among community groups and leadership, and the relevant government authorities.

STREAM Approach to Livelihoods



STREAM has a dual approach to livelihoods, based on the objectives of targeting the most vulnerable, and of diversifying and strengthening livelihoods in an impactful way.

Initial engagement in livelihoods activities focuses necessarily on productive engagement with the local economy, for the poorest (M4P). This entails supporting local livelihoods groups with trainings (including on literacy, financial literacy, business development planning, and saving) and with livelihoods grants. Livelihoods groups will be supported to exercise collective bargaining power to increase their access to markets.

Further along the graduation model, livelihoods groups – once established, successful, and sustainable – will be supported to go further in their engagement in formal markets, and in value chain development, through the provision of technical trainings. In this way, the programme will target the poorest, whilst simultaneously supporting those capable of achieving the most significant and impactful progression.

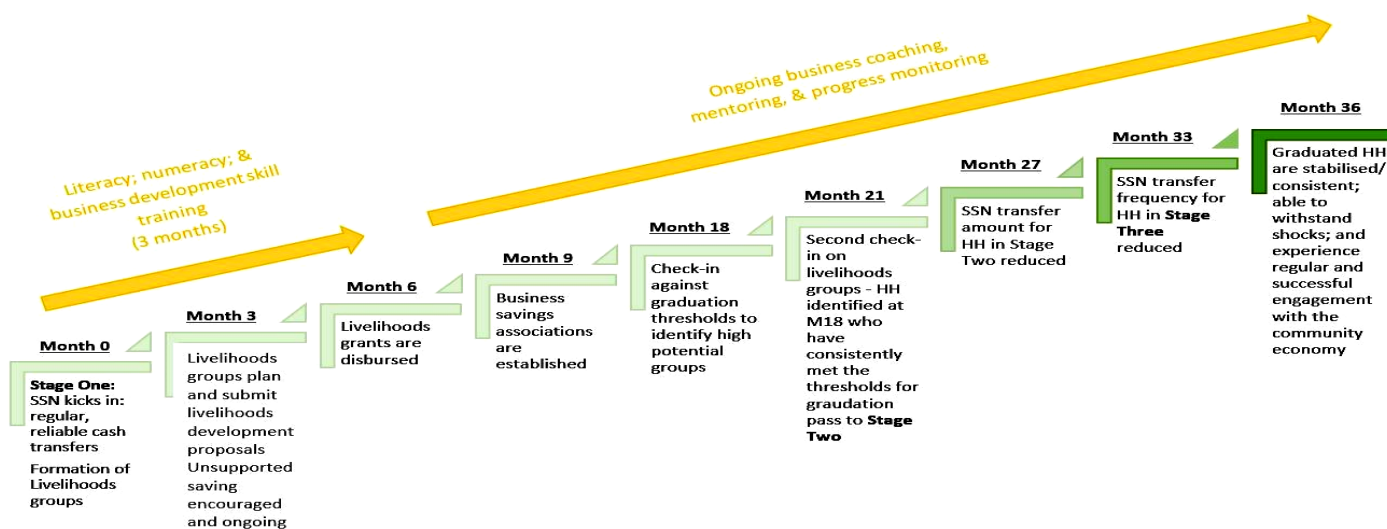
STREAM Graduation Model

The STREAM graduation model aims to graduate people from a level 0 – where they have no engagement with the community economy; are very poor; and are food insecure; to a resilience goal where they have sufficiently robust livelihoods and disaster management strategies in place to be able to cope without a social safety net.

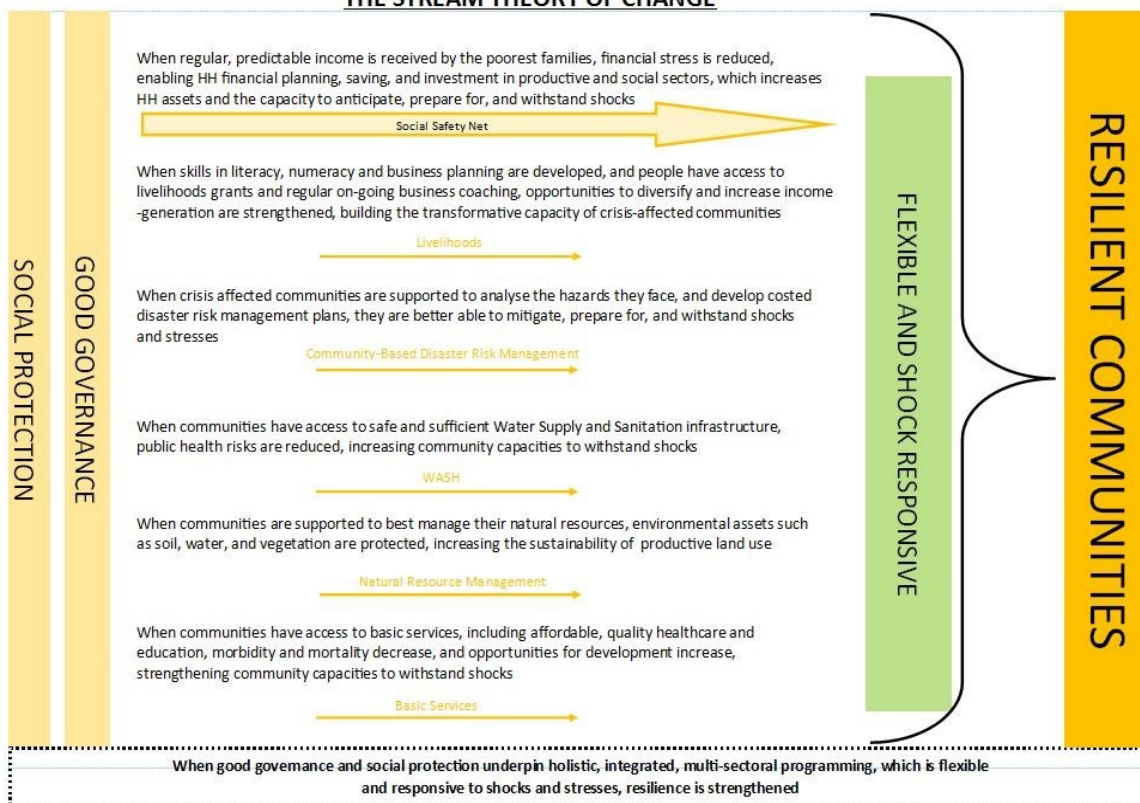
At this stage of resilience, people will enjoy regular and successful engagement with community markets; will have costed and implementable CBDRM plans; will have sufficient savings and/or household assets to act as an “internal crisis modifier” (linked to costed CBDRM plan); and will have improved food security.

In order to measure successful graduation, the following thresholds/indicators will be taken:

- ◆ Number of shocks experienced
- ◆ Number of months above x level of HH income
- ◆ Use of crisis modifier? (Y/N)
- ◆ Use of SSN (how has SSN cash been invested/spent)?
- ◆ Existence of costed and validated DRM plan? (Y/N)
- ◆ Existence of validated business plan? (Y/N)
- ◆ Change in number of children attending school (increase/decrease)
- ◆ Change in household assets (increase/decrease)
- ◆ Presence of chronic illnesses within the household
- ◆ Household dietary diversity score



THE STREAM THEORY OF CHANGE



STREAM Priorities Going Forwards

- ◆ Further build working relationship with Federal Government of Somalia to support the development of a national Social Safety Net system.
- ◆ Scale-up STREAM to implement the model in one additional region of Somalia by 2020
- ◆ Identify and engage health and nutrition partners to ensure a comprehensive package of support is available to meet community resilience needs
- ◆ Refine and deepen the STREAM graduation model and its measurement, contextualised to the Somali context





STREAM

Somalia Resilience Action Consortium

