

# TAAKULO'S IMPACT 2023

# CONTENTS

Our impact in 2023	1
2023 at a glance	3
A word from the director	4
About us	5
WASH: transitioning from emergency interventions to building resilience	6
FSL – transitioning from aid dependency to self-reliance	8
Protection and Inclusion	10
Health	12
Financial summary	14
Our partners	15
Areas of operation	16
Our networks	17

# OUR IMPACT IN 2023

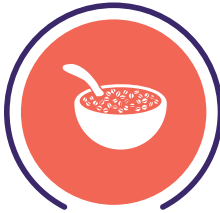
Taakulo is making a significant impact in Somalia and Somaliland, reaching nearly half a million people through our programs in 2023. Our efforts are improving the lives of countless individuals in need, and it's inspiring to witness the positive change we are creating.



### WASH

275,831+ people

benefited from Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes.



### FSL

89,224 people

were assisted through food assistance, cash voucher & livelihoods programmes.



### PROTECTION

20,930 people

were reached through protection activities

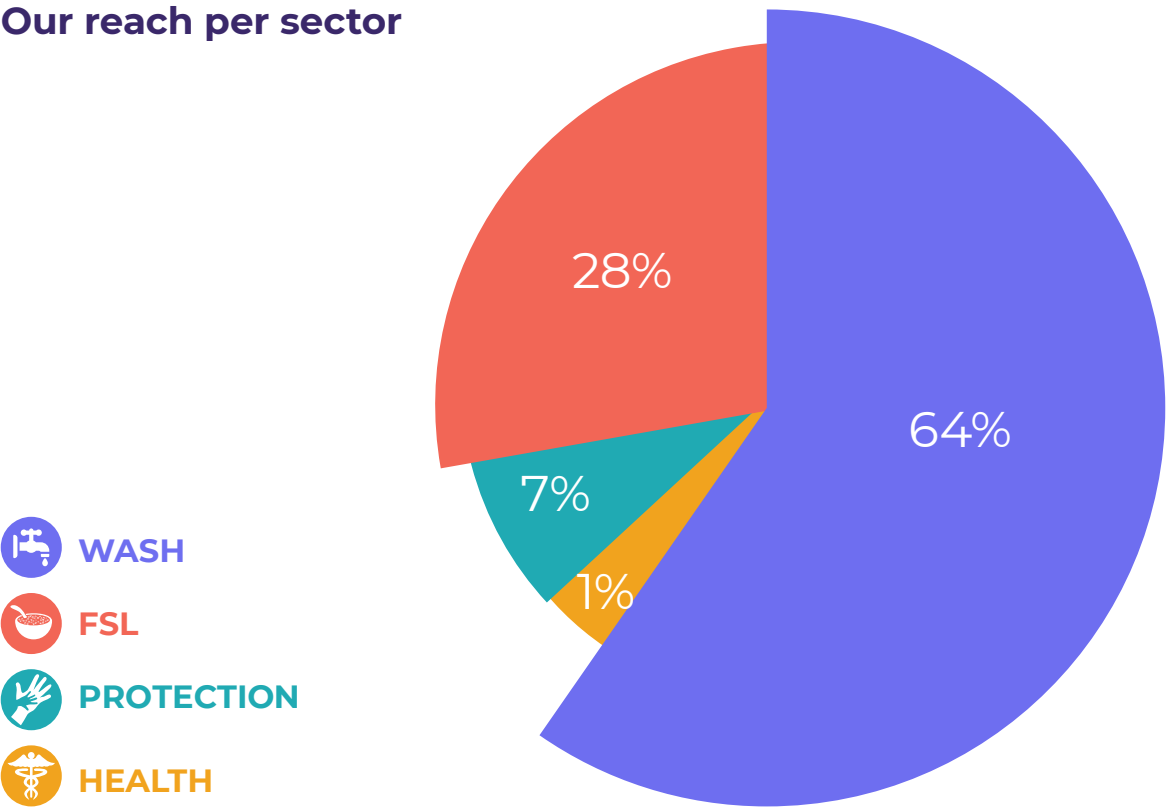


### HEALTH

10,031 people

benefited through cataract & orthopaedic campaigns & other health services as well as scholarships for medical doctors

## Our reach per sector



WASH



FSL



PROTECTION



HEALTH

The FSNAU/WFP warns that lives and livelihoods of Somalians are in jeopardy, projecting that ±4.3 million people – a quarter of Somalia's population – may face crisis-level hunger or worse by the end of 2023 and beyond. This perilous situation persists amid ongoing challenges of insecurity, conflict, under-development, and weak institutions.



# 2023 AT A GLANCE

**2023 was another challenging year for many people in Somalia as they were grappling with public health threats, conflict, and climate shocks. These factors led to high levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, outbreaks, and massive displacement.**

The food security and nutrition analysis in the first quarter of the year was showing concerning outcomes concluding that between January to March 5 million people were classified in crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). These numbers include 1.4 million people in IPC Phase 4 and 96k people in IPC Phase 5 (catastrophe).

During the same period, the nutrition situation was critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). Projections indicated the same food insecurity and malnutrition phases but with higher numbers – more people would face famine if conditions deteriorated. However, the humanitarian partners and the government upped their efforts to avert this scenario.

The deteriorating food security situation is attributed to:

1. drought that led to low crop production, declined saleable livestock holding;
2. high food and water prices that constrained poor households access to basic needs; and
3. conflict that disrupts markets, challenges people's access to livelihood opportunities and humanitarian assistance.\*

Urgent multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance including food, cash and vouchers was recommended to prevent famine scenarios to happen in the projected population groups and the districts.

As Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2023 was launched in February 2023, similar recommendations came out, prioritizing urgent multi-sectoral response. The Food Security cluster targeted 6.7 million people with immediate life-saving humanitarian food and cash assistance as well as emergency livelihood support.

The WASH situation in Somalia and Somaliland was critical, particularly in terms of access to safe drinking water, due to prolonged droughts. Limited access to sanitation facilities and proper hygiene practices further compounds the issue. The situation worsened significantly following the El Niño-induced heavy rains and river overflows in October and November 2023, which damaged or contaminated water points, destroyed latrines, and forced people to rely on unsafe water sources or practice open defecation.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification – Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN)



During this time, a cholera outbreak affected many regions, with a high number of cases reported among children under five and women. This outbreak was linked to the scarcity of safe water and inadequate sanitation facilities.

The displacement crisis in Somalia remains complex and multifaceted, driven by conflict and climate shocks. Displaced populations face significant protection risks, including discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, services, and humanitarian access, as well as forced recruitment and association of children with armed forces and groups. Additional risks include gender-based violence, and the forced separation of children from their families.

\* SOMALIA: IPC Food Security and Nutrition Snapshot January – June 2023

# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



2023, like previous years, has been a challenging time for humanitarian actors, particularly due to recurrent droughts that severely impacted most of our thematic regions. Vulnerable communities across Somalia, Somaliland, and Ethiopia's Somali Region have been the hardest hit. Over the past 17 years, Taakulo has continuously responded to the humanitarian needs in Somalia and Somaliland.

In 2023, with support from our generous partners and donors, Taakulo took a leading role in addressing poverty, limited access to education, water, food insecurity, and recurring disasters like the droughts in Somaliland's eastern and northern regions, the Somali Region of Ethiopia, and South-Central Somalia. Our focus has always been on establishing sustainable infrastructure to support resilient communities and achieve sustainable livelihoods. Throughout this year, we implemented both lifesaving interventions and resilience-building programs aimed at providing long-term opportunities for the affected populations.

Our work spans four key sectors: Food Security and Livelihoods, WASH and Resilience, Gender and Inclusion, and Health. In 2023, we continued to implement resilience projects across all of these sectors. As we faced severe droughts, armed conflicts, flooding in riverine and lowland areas, displacements, and other climate-driven disasters, we reached 390,985 individuals – primarily from marginalized communities – through lifesaving interventions, followed by recovery and resilience programs. These efforts have enabled the beneficiaries to better adapt to disasters.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and partners for their continued support. I also want to express my appreciation for the knowledge, dedication, and tireless hard work of Taakulo's staff and volunteers, whose enthusiasm has been invaluable.

Sincerely

**Mohamoud M. Duale**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Our focus has always been on establishing sustainable infrastructure to support resilient communities and achieve sustainable livelihoods.**

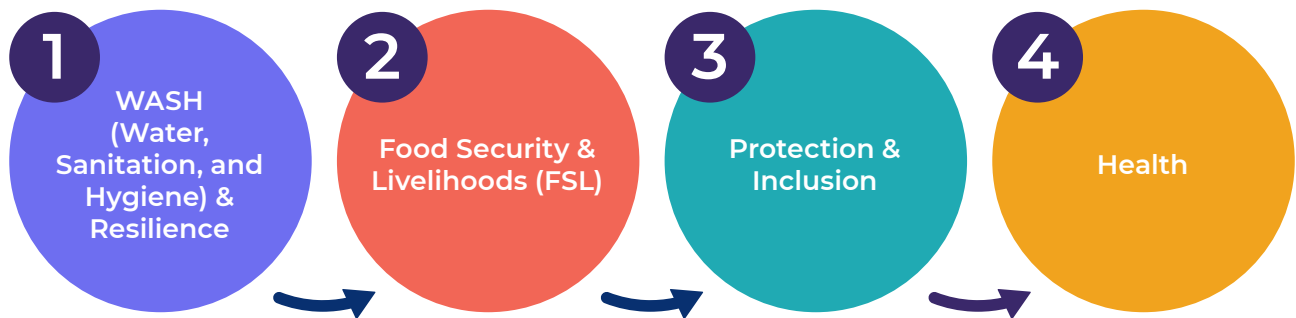
# ABOUT US

Taakulo Somali Community, widely known by the acronym “Taakulo,” is a dynamic non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, and non-partisan organization. Established in 2007, Taakulo is headquartered in Hargeisa, Somaliland, with regional offices across Somaliland, Somalia, and the Somali Region of Ethiopia. The name “Taakulo” means “helping” or “aiding” in Somali language, reflecting our core mission of supporting disadvantaged communities.

Taakulo is dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable populations throughout Somalia, Somaliland and Somali regional state of Ethiopia by providing emergency relief, promoting sustainable development, building resilience, and encouraging

local community engagement. Our programs are designed to foster self-reliance while preserving the dignity of those we serve. The organization was founded in response to the immense challenges facing the Somali community – drought, famine, war,

and conflict have severely impacted their livelihoods and economies. Our projects are community-driven, ensuring that beneficiaries actively participate in the planning process to address their specific needs. Taakulo focuses on four key thematic areas:



## Mission

We are committed to improving the standard of living for affected communities by building resilience, providing lifesaving emergency response, mobilizing resources, advocating for the voiceless, and addressing deprivations at all levels.

## Vision

Our vision is for all Somalis to enjoy a better life, with access to opportunities, dignity, and the resources needed to flourish in strong, resilient communities.

## Core Values



Access to clean water improves community health and empowers local populations by involving them in water management, fostering ownership and responsibility.



275,831 Individuals have benefited from WASH interventions during 2023



16,270 people have received safe drinking water through water trucking amid of droughts.



247,021 individuals were reached through sustainable water sources, and construction of water reservoirs.



10,800 displaced people received hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities



1,740 people have access to sanitation facilities.



# WASH: TRANSITIONING FROM EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS TO BUILDING RESILIENCE

**2023 was a remarkable year for Taakulo's WASH sector as they successfully implemented emergency interventions followed by resilient measures to mitigate the impact of drought during dry seasons.**

Investing in sustainable water sources and rainwater harvesting infrastructure for rural pastoralists has been a game changer. It significantly enhances resilience and livelihoods. It ensures a reliable water supply, crucial during dry seasons, and improves livestock health and productivity, which are essential for their economic well-being. Such investments reduce conflicts over water resources, promote environmental sustainability, and support agricultural diversification.

Additionally, access to clean water improves community health and empowers local populations by involving them in water management, fostering ownership and responsibility. Overall, these initiatives transform rural pastoralist communities by addressing immediate water needs and contributing to long-term sustainability and prosperity.

Over 275,831 people benefited from various activities in the WASH sector, including emergency water trucking, construction, and rehabilitation of water sources such as boreholes, mega-sized earth dams, and Berkads (traditional water reservoirs), as well as the construction of shallow wells, latrines, hand washing facilities, and provision of hygiene kits.

These resources have alleviated the long-standing strain on water sources, offering a lifeline during droughts and other climate-related challenges. Our efforts have transformed hundreds of thousands of households, enabling them to recover from acute water shortages and become more resilient in the face of environmental crises. Through the implementation of boreholes, Berkads, improved shallow wells, and water wells powered by renewable energy, we have ensured that communities have access to clean water, even in the most challenging conditions.

In rural Somaliland, where rainfall is unpredictable, Taakulo has invested in durable solutions to help pastoral communities withstand droughts and natural disasters. One such solution is the construction of earth dams, which efficiently store large volumes of rainwater, exceeding 500 cubic meters. These dams serve as vital reservoirs, meeting the water needs of both humans and livestock. Water is pumped into elevated concrete reservoirs and distributed to communal kiosks and livestock troughs, ensuring access to safe water for all.



**We were aimed to build resilience among communities by helping them prepare for, mitigate, and withstand the impacts of natural and man-made disasters.**



**44,006 people**  
benefited from Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance



**33,674 individuals**  
received food vouchers



**10,104 individuals**  
have been assisted by  
business grants &  
Self Help Groups (SHGs)



**1,200 people**  
have received  
cash for work done



**2,400 farmers**  
were reached by smart  
agriculture training & inputs



**89,224 beneficiaries**  
in total received a wide  
range of FSL interventions  
during 2023

# FSL – TRANSITIONING FROM AID DEPENDENCY TO SELF-RELIANCE

**Our Food Security and Livelihoods programs have been designed to address the immediate and long-term needs of vulnerable populations, particularly children and their families facing food insecurity during and after disasters. We focus on ensuring access to adequate and nutritious food, often through food and cash transfers, especially for those affected by prolonged droughts.**

Taakulo made significant contributions to preventing the projected famine in 2023 by reaching over 89,224 beneficiaries with food assistance, unconditional cash transfers, multi-purpose cash transfers and food vouchers during their times of need.

The recurrent droughts, conflicts and insecurity of many parts of Somalia and Somaliland has impacted by these crises have migrated to IDP camps in major towns such as Burao, Hargeisa, Ainabo, Buuhoodle, and Baidoa. As part of our commitment to finding durable solutions for displaced persons, Taakulo has introduced kitchen gardening programs for IDPs. This initiative, integrated into our resilience programming, aimed to empower displaced populations by providing them with the means to grow their own food, improved their access to fresh produce and contributing to their long-term food security.

The success of the kitchen gardening pilot in the IDPs meant a significant improvement in the nutrition status of children as they consume the crops they grew in their backyard. This also created income for the beneficiary families as they sell the surpluses in the local markets. This initiative also attracted other households in the camp that benefited from the practical trainings and the continuous coaching. These households in turn started to grow crops.

In agro-pastoral areas, our livelihoods programs are geared towards improving household food security by utilizing local resources. We provided agricultural communities with climate smart agriculture training and agricultural inputs to enhance their farming practices, including the installation of solar panels to improve access to sustainable energy sources.

Moreover, we focused on creating economic opportunities for women, equipping them with entrepreneurship and business management skills. These programs not only enhanced employability but also enabled women to access income, contributing to their economic empowerment.

In addition to these efforts, we were aimed to build resilience among communities by helping them prepare for, mitigate, and withstand the impacts of natural and man-made disasters. Through these holistic approaches, Taakulo works towards sustainable solutions that address the diverse needs of vulnerable populations.

**Taakulo remains steadfast in ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of all individuals in its programs, striving to leave no needs unmet. The organization focuses on changing cultural norms that undermine the rights and protection of women and children.**



**20,930  
people**

have benefited Taakulo's protection stand along interventions.



**11,733  
people**

have access to information regarding GBV & the protection principles of the survivors of GBV



**4,573  
children**

have access to child-friendly spaces, where they become safe from violence that risks their safety and well-being.



**4,624  
individuals**

received information on the essential services for survivors of GBV.

# PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

**Protection for women, girls, and children falls short of required standards within the country, where incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection risks have significantly increased. In 2023, droughts exacerbated these issues, along with internal conflicts that led to widespread displacement of women, girls, and children, further compromising their protection.**

Taakulo have reached 20,930 individuals through operations aimed at ensuring the protection of women and children across its operational areas, despite concurrent activities in other organizational thematic sectors. These individuals, severely affected by the droughts, received assistance from Taakulo, enabling them to overcome barriers and contributing factors that escalated GBV and child protection concerns in their respective locations. Taakulo's assistance created safe environments and strengthened their capacity to cope with shocks by developing new coping mechanisms.

11,733 individuals received information on GBV and the protection of GBV survivors. This has significantly influenced the community's understanding, beliefs, and attitudes, prompting them to unite in the commitment to eradicate all forms of GBV. 4,624 individuals received detailed information on essential services available for GBV survivors. This knowledge enables displaced survivors to stay connected with services, thereby reducing the risks of further harm.

Additionally, 4,573 children now have access to child-friendly spaces where they are safe from violence that threatens their well-being. These spaces allow children to exercise their right to enjoy, learn, and interact with each other through sessions on child rights and protection risks, which are linked with the importance of education. This facilitated the adoption of new coping strategies during crises and disruptions experienced during droughts. As a result, there has been an increase in school enrolment due to the safe environment provided.

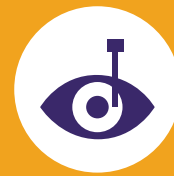
Taakulo remains steadfast in ensuring that children's rights are always upheld, and education is a priority. In addition to providing child-friendly spaces, Taakulo sponsors the education expenses of 100 orphaned children in Somaliland. This sponsorship has turned the dreams of these financially disadvantaged children into reality, motivating them to pursue their aspirations with new-found confidence.

## **Cross-cutting protection interventions for safe programming**

As protection is fundamental across all targeted thematic sectors of our organization, Taakulo ensures that comprehensive measures for protection are implemented. Moreover, Taakulo mainstreams protection across all other sectors of our programs to ensure its integration throughout our work.

We also capacitate community-based structures on issues related to protection. This includes capacity building for community-based structures on issues related to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Harassment, and Abuse, along with community sensitization during mobilizations and engagements. Additionally, establishing accessible and multi-approach community complaint and reporting mechanisms is crucial for addressing incidents related to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Harassment, and Abuse.

**This intervention not only restored vision but also significantly enhanced the quality of life for many, underscoring the program's profound impact on individual well-being.**



**5,266 people**  
were screened  
**4,750 people**  
received consultations  
**303 people**  
benefited from  
cataract surgery and  
treatment



**2 x 40-foot**  
containers  
of medical  
equipment  
were provided to  
Somaliland hospitals and  
maternal and child health  
(MCH) clinics



**15 recipients**  
4 females and 11 males,  
received scholarships to  
study Medicine

# HEALTH

**For the past decade, Taakulo has been a cornerstone in the health sector, consistently providing medical equipment to hospitals and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres to enhance service delivery.**

The organization has also prioritized education by offering scholarships primarily in the fields of orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery, and paediatrics. Additionally, Taakulo has conducted annual orthopaedic and cataract surgeries, significantly impacting community health.

In 2023, Taakulo's commitment to combating vision impairment continued with a comprehensive cataract surgery initiative. A total of 5,266 individuals were screened, resulting in 4,750 receiving essential medical consultations. This effort exemplifies Taakulo's unwavering dedication to providing vital healthcare services to the community. A remarkable aspect of this initiative was the provision of eye cataract surgeries and treatments to 303 individuals. This intervention not only restored vision but also significantly enhanced the quality of life for many, underscoring the program's profound impact on individual well-being.

Moreover, the healthcare infrastructure in Somaliland received a substantial boost with the delivery of two 40-foot containers filled with advanced medical equipment. These supplies were distributed to various hospitals and MCH centres, equipping them with the tools necessary to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes across the region. In addition to these immediate healthcare benefits, the initiative also prioritized the future of medical care by awarding scholarships to 15 aspiring medical doctors. Among the recipients were 4 female and 11 male doctors, highlighting a commitment to promoting gender diversity and empowering the next generation of healthcare professionals.

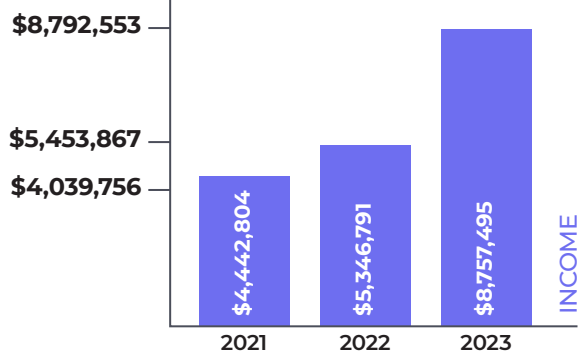
Taakulo also plays a significant role in preventing communicable diseases through massive awareness-raising campaigns, provision of hygiene kits, and hygiene promotion activities. These efforts are crucial in preventing or reducing the spread of communicable diseases that vulnerable populations are exposed to.

Our efforts have not only addressed urgent healthcare needs but has also laid a foundation for sustained medical advancement in Somaliland. By providing critical treatments, enhancing medical facilities, and supporting the education of future doctors, Taakulo has made a lasting and transformative impact on the community.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

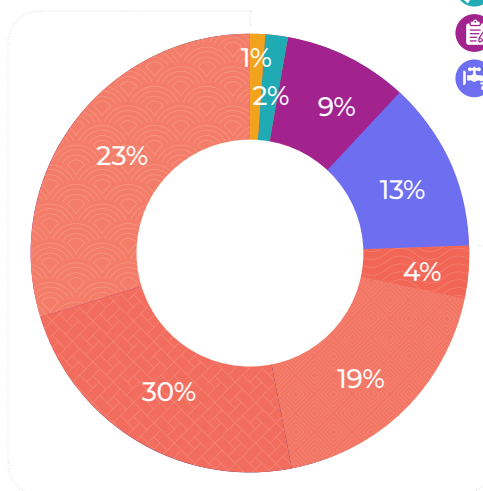
## SPENDING AND INCOME

### SPENDING



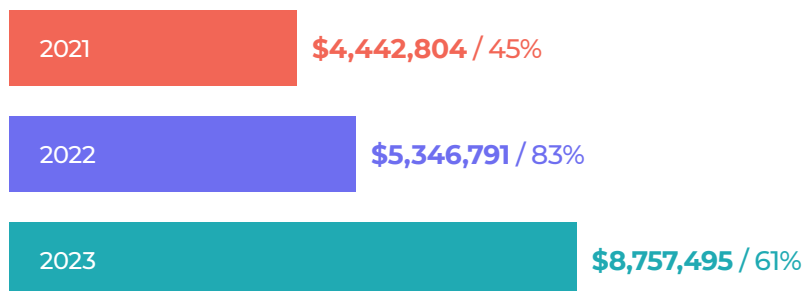
## SPENDING BY SECTOR – 2023

- FSL
- NON CASH (FSL) **\$350,098**
- CASH TRANSFER **\$1,637,273**
- IN KIND **\$2,031,760**
- VOUCHER **\$2,613,040**



- HEALTH **\$98,821**
- PROTECTION **\$168,678**
- ADMIN **\$783,425**
- WASH **\$1,109,458**

## INCOME INCREASE

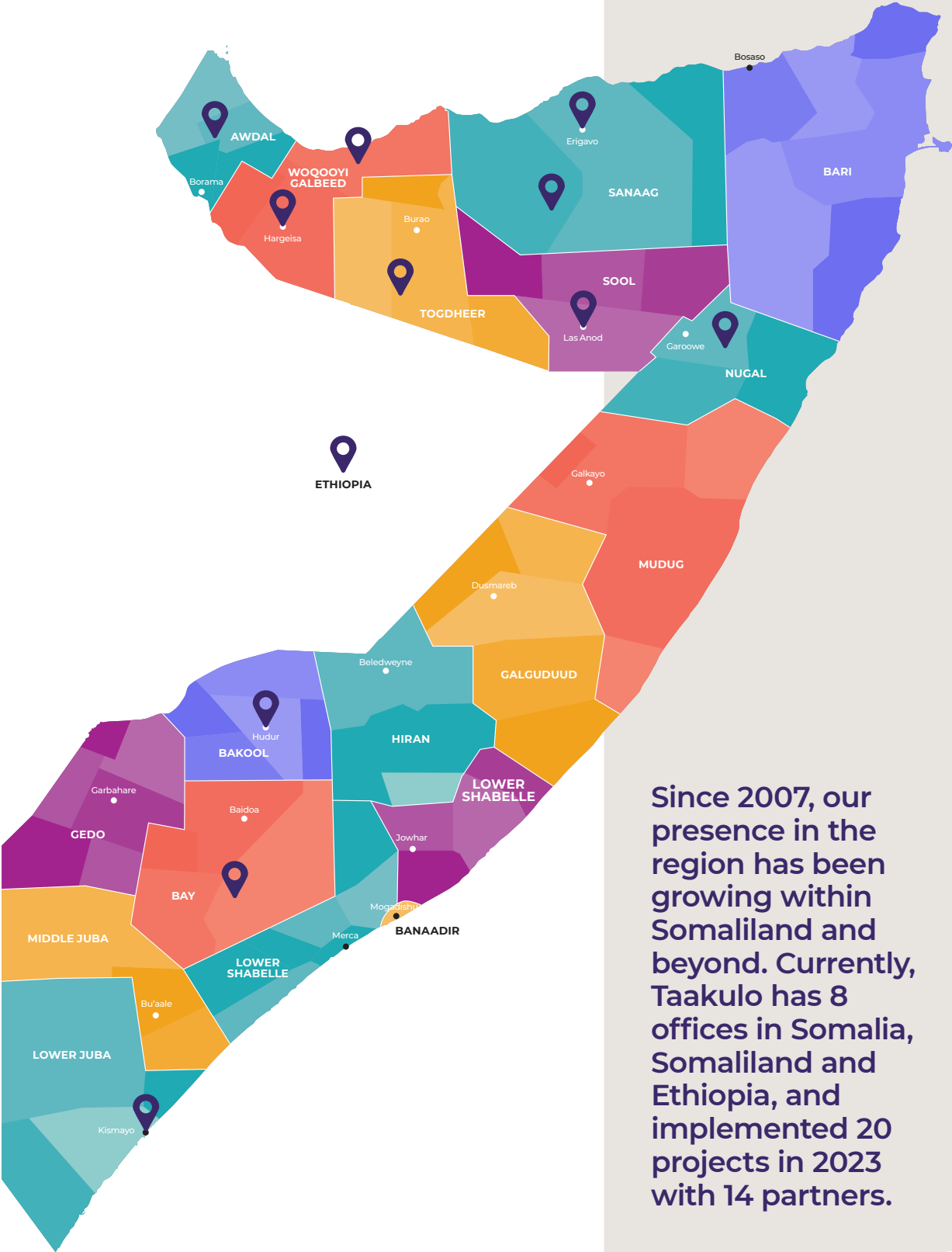




# OUR PARTNERS



# AREAS OF OPERATION



Since 2007, our presence in the region has been growing within Somaliland and beyond. Currently, Taakulo has 8 offices in Somalia, Somaliland and Ethiopia, and implemented 20 projects in 2023 with 14 partners.

# OUR NETWORKS





**Head Office** Behind Sa'ad ad-din Building,  
Ileys School, Hargeisa, Somaliland  
**Email** [info@taakulo.org](mailto:info@taakulo.org)  
**[www.taakulo.org](http://www.taakulo.org)**