# **1AC - A New Path Forward**

**We affirm.**

**With the Waddani party now in power, Somaliland has the potential to forge a new path for itself.**

**Al Jazeera 24** — (Al Jazeera [Al Jazeera English is a 24-hour English-language news channel operating under Al Jazeera Media Network, which is partially funded by the government of Qatar. Al Jazeera introduced an English-language division in 2006. It is the first global English-language news channel to be headquartered in the Middle East.], 11-19-2024, "Opposition’s Abdullahi wins presidential election in breakaway Somaliland", Al Jazeera, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/19/oppositions-abdullahi-wins-presidential-election-in-breakaway-somaliland, accessed 1-14-2025) //FK

Abdirahman Mohamed **Abdullahi**, leader of Somaliland’s opposition, **has been elected president** of the breakaway region of Somalia, according to reports. **Abdullahi** – also known as Irro – **of the Waddani Party received** close to **64 percent of the vote, beating** the **incumbent**, President Muse **Bihi** Abdi of the Kulmiye Party, the Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC) said on Tuesday, according to local media and The Associated Press news agency. The self-proclaimed republic sustains its own government, currency and security structures. However, it is not recognised by any country in the world, restricting access to international finance and the ability of its six million people to travel.

**In fact, the Waddani party is known for standing up to corruption.**

**Newsroom 24** — (Newsroom [no bio], 2-5-2024, "Waddani Party Levels Corruption Allegations Against Somaliland Administration", Mustaqbal Media - (English), https://mustaqbalmedia.net/en/waddani-party-levels-corruption-allegations-against-somaliland-administration/, accessed 1-14-2025) //FK

Hargeisa – Somaliland’s opposition party, **Waddani, has openly accused President Bihi’s government of engaging in corruption and looting while in power.** The allegations were presented by party spokesperson Mohamed Farah Abdi during a media briefing, where he also criticized the administration for what he deemed as “bringing destruction to Somaliland.” “They were given a united country and people, a nation built by the people of Somaliland, seen by all. Today, it stands in the valleys; see where he has taken the country,” remarked the spokesperson, highlighting his concerns over the current state of the administration . Accusing the president directly of corruption and wealth accumulation during his tenure, Abdi questioned the source of the president’s wealth, stating, “What we know is that he is one of the richest in the country. Is the wealth sent from heaven, and is it from heaven?” In addition to the corruption allegations, the Waddani Party spokesperson condemned what he described as the authorities spreading unproven lies and falsehoods. He refuted claims made by the government that the Chairman of the Waddani Party, Hirsi Ali Haji Hassan, had been arrested in London, dismissing it as false information.

**Thus, with Somaliland in good hands, and potential at its highest, our sole contention concerns the people.**

**There are two ways in which recognition of Somaliland by the African Union helps the people.**

## **First, by providing economic opportunities.**

**Somaliland’s economy is in a risky situation.**

**Ferragamo 24** — (Mariel Ferragamo [Mariel Ferragamo covers Africa and global health and edits the Daily News Brief. Her previous experience includes roles at the Energy for Growth Hub and in the U.S. Congress. Mariel holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental policy from Colby College and a certification in journalism from New York University.], 1-25-2024, "Somaliland: The Horn of Africa’s Breakaway State", Council on Foreign Relations, https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/somaliland-horn-africas-breakaway-state, accessed 1-14-2025) //FK

**A weak economy and limited opportunities** for foreign trade and investment **have stifled the government’s capacity to provide services to** its approximately **four million residents.** **Somaliland has a** gross domestic product (**GDP**) of about $2 billion, **most of which it receives in remittances from Somalilanders** working abroad. The area’s **unemployment remains very high**, particularly for youth, and officials worry about a potential “brain drain” phenomenon, with educated people migrating in search of opportunities elsewhere. Its main exports are livestock and animal products, which it ships to neighboring Djibouti and Ethiopia, as well as to Gulf states, such as Saudi Arabia and Oman. Its GDP per capita, in the hundreds of dollars, is one of the lowest in the world. If it were to gain independence, **Somaliland would become the eighteenth-poorest country** [PDF] today. Somalia, meanwhile, is the world’s fifth-poorest. Meanwhile, **the government is ineligible for loans from the World Bank and the I**nternational **M**onetary **F**und **as long as Somaliland is not an** internationally **recognized state** or reconciled with Somalia. President Muse Bihi Abdi, in an op-ed after his 2017 election victory, said that Somaliland’s exclusion from international markets “compounds the socioeconomic pressures that Somaliland faces,” and analysts say that **an anemic economy puts decades of** political **progress at risk.**

**Poverty is widespread.**

**The World Bank 14** — (World Bank [The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purposes of economic development. The World Bank is the collective name for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA), two of five international organizations owned by the World Bank Group. It was established along with the International Monetary Fund at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference. After a slow start, its first loan was to France in 1947. In its early years, it primarily focused on rebuilding Europe. Over time, it focused on providing loans to developing world countries. In the 1970s, the World Bank re-conceptualized its mission of facilitating development as being oriented around poverty reduction], 1-29-2014, "New World Bank GDP and Poverty Estimates for Somaliland", World Bank, https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/01/29/new-world-bank-gdp-and-poverty-estimates-for-somaliland, accessed 1-16-2025) //FK

Initial estimates suggest that **poverty in urban areas of Somaliland is 29%**, similar to Ethiopia (26%) but that **rural poverty at 38%** in Somaliland **is higher.** Although urban households are better off, inequality is high and similar to levels recorded in the 2005 household survey in Kenya.

**However, recognition would increase Somaliland’s economic mobility ensuring future growth.**

**The Economist 21** [The Economist is a newspaper published weekly in printed magazine format and daily on digital platforms. It publishes stories on topics that include economics, business, geopolitics, technology and culture, and is mostly written and edited in Britain. Based in London, the newspaper is owned by the Economist Group, with its core editorial offices in the United States, as well as across major cities in continental Europe, Asia, and the Middle East], 5-8-2021, "Somaliland deserves international recognition", https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/05/08/somaliland-deserves-international-recognition [DOA 12/11/24 YRM]

Somaliland’s first stab at independence lasted less than a week. Pipers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers were ordered to play the new state’s national anthem at a ceremony in Hargeisa, the capital, marking the end of British colonial rule in June 1960. On discovering that it did not have one, the bandmaster cobbled together a medley of local folk tunes, and conducted it with brio. A day later, however, Somaliland’s parliament passed an act of union with Somalia, a former Italian colony to its south, and Somaliland officially was no more. It was a catastrophic mistake. Within a decade the new Somali Republic had collapsed. Its president was assassinated by his bodyguards. A Marxist junta seized power, led by Siad Barre, a general-turned-dictator. He abolished democracy and wrecked the economy by nationalising nearly everything except camel herds. He also launched a disastrous war against Ethiopia. When the northerners rebelled, he bombed Hargeisa, killing thousands of civilians. As Somalia disintegrated into clan warfare, Barre refused to negotiate, saying: “When I leave Somalia, I will leave behind buildings but no people.” He was not far off the mark. By the time he fled, in 1991, the country had plunged into chaos from which it has yet to emerge. Somaliland unsurprisingly wanted out. Its elders agreed to break away from the rest of Somalia in 1991 at a “Grand Shir”, or gathering of clans, held in a small town in the desert. Since then, Somaliland has become a functioning state in all but name, with 4.5m people on an area bigger than Florida. It has been largely peaceful. It controls its borders and its territory, unlike Somalia’s government, which controls little more than its capital city, and that only thanks to 20,000 foreign peacekeepers. Whereas Somalia has not held a direct election since the 1960s, Somaliland periodically votes for its president and lawmakers, even if polls are marred by attacks on the press and take place less often than they should. Yet in the eyes of the world Somaliland remains part of Somalia. For longer than most of its people have been alive, **its pleas for recognition as an independent state have been ignored. The world defers on this to the African Union, the continental arbiter**. It, in turn, argues that Somaliland can win independence only with the consent of Somalia, which says no. The obvious objection to recognising Somaliland is that redrawing maps is perilous. This is especially so in Africa, where borders thoughtlessly imposed in colonial times separate countless clans and ethnic groups from their kin. Untangling this mess would be so tricky that a consensus long ago emerged: leave the map as it is. Once you start moving borders or creating new states for this or that group, others will demand their own homelands, too, and blood will surely flow. Witness Africa’s two newest breakaway countries, Eritrea and South Sudan, which have become a gulag state and a war zone. Were Somaliland to win independence, people in other bits of Somalia might try to break away, too, as would ethnic groups in Ethiopia, the regional power. For all these reasons, Somaliland’s case will not prevail soon. Yet it deserves a hearing. It is not seeking to redraw borders from scratch, but to revert to old ones. Some 97% of its people supported independence in a referendum in 2001. Scottish and Catalan nationalists can only dream of such unanimity. Most Somalilanders have known nothing but self-rule and would never consent to reintegrate with their bloody, anarchic suzerain. Meanwhile, **denying them recognition imposes severe human costs. Somalilanders cannot travel freely, since few countries accept Somaliland passports. They are poorer than they should be, since their government does not have the status to make trade deals or borrow directly from the World Bank or the IMF. Statehood would help fix some of these problems**. Ideally, Somaliland’s separation should be achieved with the agreement of Somalia. For the time being this seems far-fetched. **But Somalia should be encouraged to grant a divorce with promises of aid and debt relief from the donors who already bankroll its government and pay for the peacekeepers who prop it up**. If, like an abusive spouse, Somalia refuses to let go, Somaliland should not be held hostage. Other countries should recognise it, and international organisations should treat it like a state. Were Somaliland to win formal independence again, its road ahead would be hard. But the odds of flourishing would be much better this time. It now has not only a breezy national anthem but also a 30-year record of reasonably successful self-rule. To recognise that is to recognise reality.

**That’s critical, as these monetary organizations have specific lending programs to help vulnerable countries like Somaliland.**

**McNair 22** — (David McNair [David McNair is no longer with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. David McNair is executive director at ONE.org. Co-founded by Bono, it is a movement of millions of people fighting to end extreme poverty and preventable disease. He sits on the European Council on Foreign Relations Council and is a founding executive board member of the Africa Europe Foundation. Previously, he worked on successful campaigns to reduce child mortality and crack down on grand corruption and tax evasion. In 2012 he was named one of the ninety-nine top foreign policy leaders under 33. He holds a PhD in social geography from the Queen’s University of Belfast.], 4-19-2022, "How the IMF and World Bank Can Support African Economies Hit Hard by Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2022/04/how-the-imf-and-world-bank-can-support-african-economies-hit-hard-by-russias-invasion-of-ukraine?lang=en, accessed 1-15-2025) //FK

The one area of meaningful economic support from the multilateral system, **IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR)**, has seen glacial progress. An IMF reserve asset, SDRs **are** designed to **provide liquidity** in times of crisis. **They can be used to pay debt or** can be exchanged for hard currency **to support budgetary spending**. A general allocation was approved by the IMF board on August 23, 2021. Rapidly provide $100 billion SDR to support pandemic-related response and recovery. This should be provided through the IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the IMF’s Resilience and Sustainability Trust. SDRs should also be channeled through the World Bank and other multilateral development banks. Provide a comprehensive debt sustainability solution. Provide a debt standstill from all creditors upon country application to the Common Framework. Explore and provide concrete options to bring private creditors to the table, such as lending-into-arrears policies or domestic legislation. Push for publication of eligible debt relief, as estimated by the IMF and World Bank using their Debt Sustainability Framework, to incentivize participation of all creditors and borrowers. Set a time line and outline the process for treatment under the Common Framework to promote accountability and quick resolution. Support borrower countries to effectively negotiate for their interests. Instruct multilateral development banks to maximize the use of their balance sheets. **The World Bank** and other multilateral development banks should use their AAA credit rating to **borrow more money on capital markets to offer** up to $1 trillion in **increased lending for vulnerable countries.**

**And these initiatives have historically succeeded in growing African economies.**

**Padilla 23** — (Daniella van Leggelo-Padilla [Daniella is a communications professional with ten years of experience spanning journalism, diplomacy, public relations, and international development. She recently joined the World Bank’s Energy and Extractive Industries team as a communications officer covering issues related to energy access. For the past five years, Daniella worked on communicating the impactful work of the World Bank in Africa through engaging storytelling, high profile events, and online and multimedia mediums. Three of those years were spent in Dakar, Senegal, where she had a birds-eye view of operations across many sectors. Prior to the World Bank, Daniella worked in public affairs for the U.S. Department of State in Paris, France. Daniella received her M.A. from Georgetown University and a B.A. from Columbia University. She is fluent in French.], 12-13-2023, "IMF and World Bank Announce US$4.5 billion in Debt Relief for Somalia", World Bank, https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/12/13/imf-and-world-bank-announce-us-4-5-billion-in-debt-relief-for-somalia-afe-1223?utm\_source=chatgpt.com, accessed 1-16-2025) //FK

WASHINGTON, December 13, 2023—**The** Executive Boards of the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) **and** the **World Bank’s** International Development Association (IDA) have approved the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) **Initiative** Completion Point **for Somalia**, which **provides** total **debt** service **savings** for the country **of $4.5 billion.** Following HIPC Completion Point, **Somalia’s** external **debt has fallen from 64 percent** of GDP in 2018 **to less than 6 percent of GDP** by end 2023. This **debt relief will** facilitate access to critical additional financial resources that will **help Somalia strengthen its economy, reduce poverty, and promote job creation.**

**Moreover, recognition would also increase investment in Somaliland.**

**Ghwell 24** — (Hafed Al-Ghwell [Hafed Al-Ghwell is a Senior Fellow and Executive Director of the North Africa Initiative (IKSI) at the Foreign Policy Institute (FPI) of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington DC and the former Advisor to the Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group.], 12-14-2024, "Somaliland and its case for statehood", Arab News, https://www.arabnews.com/node/2583075, accessed 1-16-2025) //FK

Recent presidential elections in Somaliland, despite periods of tension and violence leading up to the vote, have sharply elevated the argument for an independent and sovereign country. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, also known as Cirro, of the Waddani party, secured the presidency with a strong mandate, securing nearly two-thirds of the vote in a poll that highlighted the resilience of Somaliland’s democratic institutions even amid regional instability. However, international recognition, particularly from a global power such as the US, would carry significant geostrategic weight. **Somaliland’s** quest for recognition carries a range of potential benefits and pitfalls. On the plus side, international **recognition would solidify its sovereignty, allowing for increased foreign investment and development assistance which would catalyze economic growth and improve infrastructure**. Recognizing statehood would also offer Somaliland the opportunity to join international organizations, further embedding it into the global diplomatic and economic system. However, pitfalls include the risk of heightened regional instability, as recognition might prompt a severe backlash from Somalia, which considers Somaliland an integral part of its territory. Recognition could also set a precedent for other separatist movements around Africa and beyond, potentially reigniting dormant territorial disputes, which might deter some countries from supporting Somaliland’s bid.

**Indeed, foreign investment empirically grows African economies.**

**Yusuf, 20** (*Hammed Agboola Yusuf, Department of Economics, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. Waliu Olawale Shittu, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia. Saad Babatunde Akanbi, Department of Economics, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. Habiba MohammedBello Umar, Department of Economics, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Nigeria. Idris Abdulganiyu Abdulrahman, Department of Economics, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. “The role of foreign direct investment, financial development, democracy and political (in)stability on economic growth in West Africa,” Economic growth in West Africa, International Trade, Politics and Development Vol. 4 No. 1, 2020 pp. 27-46,*<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ITPD-01-2020-0002/full/pdf?title=the-role-of-foreign-direct-investment-financial-development-democracy-and-political-instability-on-economic-growth-in-west-africa>) dwc 21

---“uses the dynamic fixed effects technique on the secondary data obtained from 1996 to 2016.”

In Table 6, even though no significant relationship is established in the short run, the **long-run coefficient of FDI is found to be significant and positive, at 5% and 10% levels**. This suggests that **a 1% increase in FDI inflow** (as a proportion of GDP) **into the West African subregion results in** (**a**n average of) **0.26% increase in** the subregion’s economic **growth**. For decades, FDI has been regarded as an essential source of capital accumulation, which inadvertently leads to economic growth in the West African economy. **This prompts** the region to put in place **all possible policies to attract more inward FDI**, through the removal of restrictions on foreign investment, promoting policies and regulations as well as conducive environment for foreign investment. Even though it is in a slight contrast to the finding of Tabassuum and Ahmed (2014), our finding is in consonance with those of Kalyoncu, Sekreter and Gursoy et al. (2013), Faruk (2012), Bayar (2014), Hassen and Anis (2012), as well as with those of Wakyereza (2017). As buttressed in several other studies, **FDI** is an important vehicle for the **transfer** of **technology and knowledge; it generates increasing returns in production via positive externalities and productive spillovers, which** potentially **enhance sustainable** economic **growth**. More so, it plays a complementary role in the overall capital formation, by **filling the gap between domestic investments and savings. It also raises the level of investment in the host economy, which (by multiplier effect) leads to increase in employment, income and savings, and thus it drives the growth** of an economy (Feenstra and Markusen, 1992; Singh, Chadha and Sharma, 2012.

**Overall, economic growth is critical to eradicating poverty.**

**Wu et al 24 continues** (*Dr. Haoyu Wu is an Economist in the World Bank’s Poverty and Equity Global Practice, where his work involves poverty and inequality analysis, welfare distribution, and data systems. His main research interest is empirical microeconomics with a focus on poverty, statistical and econometrical methodologies, and the development of computational tools for data analysis. He contributed to building analytical portals including the Poverty and Equity Briefs, Macro Poverty Outlook and managing the data harmonization and quality control process for the Global data Monitoring Database. Haoyu holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Clark University. 13 March 2024. “Economic growth and poverty reduction: Is Africa any different?” World Bank Blogs,*<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/africacan/economic-growth-and-poverty-reduction-africa-any-different-afe-0324#:~:text=In%20the%20overall%20sample%2C%20the,reduction%20in%20the%20poverty%20rate>). DOA: 5/30/24) LLO

Our [new paper](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/d3c1643c-c854-4e9e-b5d2-f2d3c4c4b201) aims to empirically test this hypothesis. Building on the work by World Bank Economist [Martin Ravallion](https://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/remembering-martin-ravallion) (1952–2022) and others, **we create a database of “spells” by combining each pair of consecutive and comparable household surveys within a country, arriving at a database of just over 1,604 spells.** As we are interested in estimating the association between economic growth and poverty (as measured by the Bank’s $2.15-a-day line) in countries that still have poverty, **we remove spells with poverty rates below 2%, largely excluding countries in North America and Western Europe. Our final sample consists of 575 comparable spells between 1981 and 2021, based on 715 nationally representative household surveys for 89 countries, representing over 92% of the population in the “developing world”.** The analysis indeed suggests that the extent to which economic growth translates into poverty reduction is lower in SSA, even after differences in initial characteristics are accounted for. In the overall sample**, the estimated elasticity between growth in GDP per capita and poverty reduction is 2.5 (indicating that a one percent growth in GDP per capita has on average been associated with a 2.5 percent reduction in the poverty rate).** However, in SSA it is only half that (the growth elasticity of poverty reduction is 1). To a large extent, however, this pattern could be expected: Countries with high initial poverty rates (many of which are in Africa) tend to have mechanically lower passthroughs between economic growth and poverty reduction. To avoid this bias, our analysis mainly focuses on the elasticity between growth in GDP per capita on the one side and growth in per capita household consumption (as measured by surveys) on the other, which does not suffer from the same base effects.

## **Second, by increasing food aid.**

**Somaliland is in a food crisis.**

**ACTED 24** --- (ACTED, [*We go the last mile: ACTED’s mission is to save lives and support people in meeting their needs in hard to reach areas. ACTED develops and implements programs that target the most vulnerable amongst populations that have suffered from conflict, natural disaster, or socio-economic hardship. ACTED’s approach looks beyond the immediate emergency towards opportunities for longer term livelihoods reconstruction and sustainable development.*]12-4-2024, "Somaliland: Enhancing resilience and food security through sustainable agricultural solutions", https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somaliland-enhancing-resilience-and-food-security-through-sustainable-agricultural-solutions) //doa1-3-2025 + master chen :)

Over the past three decades**, Somaliland’s agricultural sector has been hit by an increasingly weak and degraded natural environment and more recurrent and severe cycles of drought and floods. These harsh conditions have especially affected the productivity of the farmer communities who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods,** Increasing the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. For instance, **over 250,000 people in** Sool and Togdheer region in **Somaliland are facing acute food insecurity** (Phrase 3+) due to ongoing conflict and difficult weather conditions in 2024.

Consequently, several districts in Somaliland are still grappling with high levels of food insecurity and flooding, with women and children most affected. Acted, in partnership with Candlelight and BVO with the support from the French Embassy, implemented a one-year project titled “Nourishing Communities: Restoring Resilience Through Enhanced Food and Nutrition Security for Vulnerable Rural and Displaced Crisis-Affected Communities in Somaliland” from October 2023 to September 2024.

**Without recognition, food aid can only go to Somalia and doesn’t get to Somaliland.**

**Beaubien 17** --- (Jason Beaubien, [*Jason Beaubien is NPR's Global Health and Development Correspondent on the Science Desk. In this role, he reports on a range of issues across the world.*], 5-30-2017, "Somaliland Wants To Make One Thing Clear: It Is NOT Somalia", https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/05/30/530703639/somaliland-wants-to-make-one-thing-clear-it-is-not-somalia) //doa1-3-2025 //FK \*\*brackets in original

Foreign Minister Shire says **lack of recognition is impeding** what has already been a slow international response to **the food crisis in Somaliland. Aid from international agencies is** being coordinated and **routed through** war-ravaged **Mogadishu — the Somali capital 900 miles to the south.** "It is affecting us in many ways," Shire says. "We are not present in the forums in which these [aid efforts] are discussed. We cannot access bilateral aid. We cannot get loans. We cannot attract international investors." **When aid groups consider working in Somaliland, officials** at their head offices in Europe or the U.S. often **treat the project as if it's occurring in** Mogadishu. "For example a U.S. NGO will go to the State Department website," Shire says. "They look at the traveler advice [for **Somalia**] **and they would be dissuaded by what they see on the screen.** This really does not reflect what's on the ground in Somaliland." Africa specialist Bruton says Shire's frustration is justified. Somaliland, she says, has created a relatively stable enclave in a turbulent part of the Horn of Africa. "Somaliland gets a ton of good press for being stable and kind of a peaceful island in a sea of violence that is Somalia," Bruton says. "The reality is that unlike southern Somalia, where you have a lot of violence, Somaliland is essentially a single clan territory. And so what's happening is it's being run as a traditional clan democracy." This has its drawbacks if you aren't part of the dominant clan, she points out, but one of the upsides is stability. Foreign Minister Shire says what's dangerous for Somalilanders right now is to stay in international limbo. The lack of recognition is impeding international relief, he emphasizes, and stymying development.

**Despite the contrary, food aid doesn’t cause dependency.**

**Gautam 18** --- (Yograj Gautam, [*Corresponding author at: Department of Geography, University of Bergen, Fosswinckelsgate 6, 5020 Bergen, Norway.*], 12-26-2018, "“Food aid is killing Himalayan farms”. Debunking the false dependency narrative in Karnali, Nepal", https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X18304297) //doa1-4-2025 + master chen :)

nInherent with the dependency narrative is also a critical conceptual fallacy associated with its emphasis on food need only, and the neglect of all other (non-food) livelihood needs. Food is only one of several needs of a farming family and therefore their economic decisions are guided by the consideration of how balance can be maintained between competing needs. This sometimes leads non-food goods and services to be prioritized over food (De Waal, 2005, Maxwell and Smith, 1992, Maxwell, 1996, Pinstrup-Andersen, 2009) leaving food resources (such as food aid) a secondary role to play in their decisions. Arguably, the condition and process through which food aid is considered to induce laziness among farmers mirrors grave misunderstanding of their livelihood needs and priorities. This is particularly important in Humla’s case where 56% households rely directly on natural springs and rivers for drinking water, 46% lack access to an improved cooking stove, 53% to latrine and 47% to electricity.10 In the entire fieldwork, we observed that a family rarely has separate beds for all; rather the whole family lays thin mats or handmade carpets on the floor to use as beds. Households lacking access to electricity collect small woods of Chir Pine (Pinus roxburghii) which they burn one after the other to provide indoor light in the evening (see also McKay, Zahnd, Sanders, & Nepali, 2007). **In such a situation where** the local **people lack** even very **basic** livelihood **needs** and facilities, **it is implausible** to argue that a support scheme **that** provides **limited food ration**, just 20% of the total need, **can induce** **moral hazard** **to such an extent that they give up farming, the mainstay of their livelihood**s. Food aid constitutes a heated debate in development discourse. In Nepal’s Himalayan region, it is blamed for aggravating food insecurity by inducing dependency and negatively affecting local agriculture and diet patterns. Transferring large amount of rice, a grain scantily produced locally, food aid is considered to have worsened human nutrition by directing the traditionally diverse diet to rice-based monotonous diet. The aid dependent farmers are alleged to have given up cultivating land for less preferred local grains, ultimately reducing local food production and reproducing the need for more aid. Therefore, the removal of food aid is considered indispensable to the achievement of self-sustained food security. This paper examines the dependency narrative in light of empirical data produced by a mixed-method study conducted in Humla, a highly food insecure district in western Nepal. The results show no indication of ‘dependency’ as alleged in the narrative. Despite the free/concessional food transfers, the local farms have not only maintained diverse traditional crops, recent agricultural innovation has actually increased on-farm crop diversity. On average, the local grains contribute about 65% of the total local consumption signifying a diet pattern well embedded with the local food system. Food aid transfers cover about 20% of the total food need and constitute an important resource for households suffering high food scarcity. **Therefore**, we argue that the idea of **removing food aid in the guise of “dependency”** **will** directly affect many poor farmers’ food access, and will also **leave an increased** **number of** Himalayan farmers **vulnerable to food insecurity** in the face of emerging environmental and socio-economic stresses.

**Thus, food aid is effective at addressing crises – South Sudan proves.**

**Reid 23**--- (Kathryn Reid [no bio], 10-19-2023, "South Sudan crisis: Facts, FAQs, and how to help", https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/south-sudan-conflict-facts) //doa1-10-2025 + master chen :)

World Vision has worked in South Sudan since 1989. We were one of few humanitarian agencies to provide assistance during the war in what was then southern Sudan. **After independence in 2011,** we concentrated on recovery and community development. Here are some highlights from our response to the crisis since December 2013: 2013 to 2014: Creating a lifeline for families World Vision’s response included health, food security, child protection, access to clean water, and education. In January 2014, we delivered the first **food aid** and household supplies to families trapped by conflict at the Malakal U.N. site. In May 2014, we distributed relief goods and established Child-Friendly Spaces in three states. Our food and nutrition programs served 36,000 children. 2015: Adapting programs to address new needs We **supported nearly 420,000 people in South Sudan** with food, water, sanitation services, and household essentials such as blankets and mosquito nets. We equipped farmers with agricultural training, supplied fishing nets, and vaccinated cattle. In response to a cholera outbreak near Juba in June, World Vision trained faith leaders as well as local and state public schools on cholera prevention and management.

**Otherwise, hundreds of thousands are at risk of death.**

**Ross 24** [Steven Ross, Public health reporter @ US News, 1-29-2024, Food Insecurity Tied to Shorter Life, Early Death, US News & World Report, https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-01-29/study-food-insecurity-tied-to-shorter-life-early-death]

People who experience food insecurity are at greater risk of **dying prematurely** and living a shorter life after age 50, researchers say, underscoring how a fairly prevalent problem can impact individual health. The federal government says food insecurity refers to “limited or uncertain access to adequate food” – an economic and social condition that can lead to hunger. In an analysis published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine, researchers found 78.4% of more than 57,400 U.S. adults included in the study were fully food secure, compared with 8.5% who had marginal food security, 7.4% who had low levels of food security and 5.6% who experienced very low food security. Researchers also found estimated life expectancy at age 50 was 32.5 years among individuals with full food security, compared with 29.9 years among adults with marginal food security, 30 years among those with low food security and 28 years among individuals with very low food security. That means adults with very low food security lived 4.5 years less once they turned 50 than those with full food security, and researchers said about half of the lost life expectancy could be attributed to deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer. The analysis, based on survey data from 1999 to 2018, additionally found an association between **even marginal food security and a 50% higher risk** of premature mortality, defined as a death occurring before a person turns 80. “The present findings may have a great public health implication,” researchers wrote. “Our results suggest that in addition to encouraging people to improve their lifestyle and cardiovascular health, improving food security may also be a way to curb the stagnant life expectancy of U.S. residents.” The new findings come on the heels of provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing average life expectancy in the U.S. rebounded in 2022 by a little over a year following two straight declines, fueled largely by a drop in mortality tied to COVID-19. Overall life expectancy at birth rose from 76.4 years in 2021 to 77.5 years in 2022. By gender, the new study found women with very low food security lived an average of 5.8 years less at age 50 compared with women with full food security. Men with very low food security, meanwhile, had a life expectancy three years shorter than men with full food security at that age threshold.

**Thus, to forge a new path for Somaliland, we affirm.**