**About Us**

Minority Rights Organizations (MRO) Consortium is a pioneering minority-led organization based in Somalia, dedicated to championing the rights and interests of marginalized communities. Founded and operated by minority groups themselves, our consortium serves as a crucial platform for advocacy, support, and collaboration.

Our mission is to empower minority communities by addressing systemic injustices and promoting equitable treatment and promote social justice, equality, and inclusion for marginalized groups, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights protected.

Minority Rights Organizations (MRO) focuses on influencing policy reforms, providing resources and training to minority-led organizations, and fostering a collaborative environment to tackle common challenges. Through our initiatives, we work to amplify the voices of those who are often unheard and to drive meaningful change at both local and national levels.

We offer a range of services, including advocacy campaigns, NGO certification, coordination of joint efforts, and representation in key forums. Our goal is to build a more inclusive society where minority groups can thrive and fully participate in all aspects of public life. Through collective action, we envision a Somalia where diversity is embraced, and all individuals can live with dignity, free from discrimination and inequality.

**Our Core Values**

At the Minority Rights Organizations (MRO) Consortium, which is exclusively owned and managed by minority groups in Somalia, we are committed to:

* **Inclusivity**: Embracing the diversity of minority communities and ensuring all voices are represented.
* **Empowerment**: Supporting minority groups in asserting their rights and identities.
* **Integrity**: Upholding transparency, accountability, and ethical practices in all Consortium activities.
* **Solidarity**: Promoting unity among organizations and communities in the pursuit of justice and equality.

**Consortium Mandate**

The Minority Rights Organizations (MROs) Consortium in Somalia is committed to advocating for the rights and dignity of minority communities across the country.

The MROs Consortium in Somalia aims to build a powerful coalition that amplifies the voices of minority communities and drives meaningful change. Through collective action, we envision a Somalia where diversity is embraced, and all individuals can live with dignity, free from discrimination and inequality.

The MRO Consortium is dedicated to addressing and advancing the rights of minority groups in Somalia. Our mandate includes:

* **Advocacy for Minority Rights**: Promoting and defending the rights and interests of minorities in national and local contexts.
* **Support for Minority-Led Initiatives**: Offering resources and assistance to organizations and projects led by minority communities.
* **Strengthening Minority Voices**: Ensuring that the voices of minorities are heard and represented in decision-making processes.

**Objectives**

1. **Advocacy**: To champion the recognition and protection of minority rights within local, regional, and national frameworks.
2. **Collaboration**: To foster cooperation among member organizations to share resources, strategies, and best practices in addressing minority issues.
3. **Capacity Building**: To enhance the skills and effectiveness of member organizations through training, workshops, and support initiatives.
4. **Awareness Raising**: To educate the public and policymakers on the challenges faced by minority communities and the importance of cultural diversity.
5. **Research and Policy Development**: To conduct research on minority rights issues in Somalia and develop actionable policy recommendations.

**Consortium structure and management**

The Consortium will operate with the following governance framework:

* **General Assembly**: Comprising all member organizations, responsible for strategic planning and decision-making.
* **Steering Committee**: Elected representatives from the General Assembly who oversee the Consortium’s activities and initiatives.
* **Regional coordinators**: promote and protect minority rights in Somalia. Through their localized approach, they help ensure that the Consortium's initiatives are responsive to the unique needs of minority communities across different regions.
* **Working Groups**: Focused teams addressing specific areas such as legal advocacy, cultural preservation, education, and health.
* **Support team**: Help in operation of the consortium in areas of logistics, procurement, Finance and Grants etc

**Strategy**

The Minority Rights Organizations (MROs) Consortium in Somalia aims to address the unique challenges faced by minority communities in the country. This strategy outlines our approach to promoting and protecting minority rights through advocacy, collaboration, and capacity building.

The MROs Consortium strategy in Somalia aims to create a cohesive and effective network dedicated to advancing minority rights. Through collaboration, capacity building, and targeted advocacy, we strive to ensure that all minority communities are recognized, protected, and empowered to contribute to a more inclusive society.

**Strategic Goals**

1. **Strengthen Advocacy Efforts**
   * **Objective**: Amplify the voices of minority communities and influence policy changes.
   * **Actions**:
     + Develop a comprehensive advocacy plan focusing on key issues such as land rights, access to education, and political representation.
     + Engage with local, regional, and international stakeholders to build support for minority rights.
     + Organize campaigns that highlight specific injustices faced by minority groups.
2. **Enhance Collaboration Among Members**
   * **Objective**: Foster a united approach to address minority rights challenges.
   * **Actions**:
     + Establish regular communication channels among member organizations to share updates and resources.
     + Organize joint workshops and training sessions to build skills in advocacy and community engagement.
     + Create a platform for sharing successful case studies and best practices.
3. **Build Capacity of Member Organizations**
   * **Objective**: Strengthen the operational and advocacy capabilities of member organizations.
   * **Actions**:
     + Conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in skills and resources among members.
     + Provide training on advocacy, legal frameworks, and human rights standards.
     + Facilitate access to funding opportunities and technical support for grassroots initiatives.
4. **Raise Awareness and Mobilize Communities**
   * **Objective**: Educate the public and mobilize support for minority rights.
   * **Actions**:
     + Launch awareness campaigns utilizing social media, community events, and local media.
     + Develop educational materials that highlight the rights of minority groups and promote cultural diversity.
     + Organize community forums to engage minority populations in discussions about their rights and challenges.
5. **Conduct Research and Monitor Policy Developments**
   * **Objective**: Inform advocacy efforts with evidence-based research.
   * **Actions**:
     + Undertake research projects focusing on the socio-economic conditions of minority communities.
     + Monitor and analyse local and national policies that impact minority rights.
     + Publish reports and policy briefs to disseminate findings and recommendations.

**Activities**

**NGO-Certification**

The NGO-Certification program is designed to:

1. **Validate Standards:** The Consortium ensures that organizations claiming to be minority-led are genuine and adhere to the highest ethical standards and best practices. This validation process guarantees that these organizations truly represent and serve minority communities.
2. **Certification Process:** The certification process involves a thorough review of each organization's practices, governance, and impact. A panel of experts conducts this evaluation to ensure transparency and integrity. This rigorous process ensures that only organizations meeting the criteria are recognized as minority-led.
3. **Benefits of Certification:** Certified minority-led organizations gain several key advantages:

* **Credibility:** Enhanced reputation and trust among donors, partners, and beneficiaries.
* **Access to Resources:** Increased opportunities for funding, partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives.
* **Networking Opportunities:** Greater access to a network of like-minded organizations, enhancing collaboration and impact.

**Coordination**

Coordination activities include:

* **Collaborative Projects**: Organizing joint initiatives and programs that leverage the strengths of multiple minority-led organizations.
* **Resource Sharing**: Facilitating access to tools, knowledge, and best practices among consortium members.
* **Event Management**: Coordinating events such as conferences, workshops, and forums to foster dialogue and collaboration.

**Representation**

**We represent minority communities in the following areas:**

1. **Humanitarian Working Groups:**

Actively participating in cluster and sector-specific working groups to ensure that minority communities are considered and prioritized in humanitarian planning and response efforts.

1. **National Forums:**

Engaging with Somali governmental bodies and national institutions to advocate for the rights, protection, and inclusion of minority communities in policy-making and national initiatives.

1. **International Platforms:**

Taking part in global discussions, forums, and conferences to raise awareness and bring attention to the challenges and rights of minority groups in Somalia, ensuring they are visible on the international stage.

1. **Public Advocacy:**

Leveraging media platforms and public speaking opportunities to advocate for the rights and needs of minority communities, aiming to influence public opinion and promote social justice.

**Information Sharing**

We ensure that valuable information is shared through:

* **Newsletters**: Providing regular updates on consortium activities, advocacy efforts, and relevant issues.
* **Reports and Publications**: Sharing research findings, impact reports, and policy papers.
* **Online Resources**: Maintaining a digital platform with access to essential documents and information.

**Working Groups**

Our working groups focus on:

* **Human Rights Monitoring**: Tracking and reporting on human rights conditions affecting minority groups in Somalia.
* **Legal Support**: Offering legal assistance and advocacy to address rights violations.
* **Cultural Preservation**: Working to safeguard and promote the cultural heritage of minority communities.

**Twinning Program**

The Twinning Program aims to:

* **Enhance Collaboration**: Pair minority-led organizations with other entities to share knowledge and expertise.
* **Strengthen Capacities**: Support the development and effectiveness of participating organizations through mutual learning.
* **Foster Innovation**: Encourage new approaches and solutions to common challenges faced by minority communities.

**Additional Services**

We provide a range of additional services including:

* **Training Workshops**: Offering sessions on advocacy, organizational management, and other relevant skills.
* **Consulting Services**: Providing expert advice and support for program development and implementation.
* **Resource Development**: Creating and distributing tools and materials to support the work of minority-led organizations.

**Membership**

Membership is open to:

* Organizations committed to promoting minority rights and social justice.
* Groups actively engaged in advocacy, research, or community service for minority populations.
* Entities that adhere to the values and principles of the Consortium.

**Join**

**Current Members**

View our current members to see who is part of the consortium:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Access for Relief and Development (ACRED) | [www.acred.org](http://www.acred.org) |
| Daami Youth Development Organization (DYDO) | [www.dydo.net](http://www.dydo.net) |
| International Development Association of Africa (IDAA) | [www.idaainternational.org](http://www.idaainternational.org) |
| Juba Valley Development Center (JVDC) | [www.jvdc.org](http://www.jvdc.org) |
| Livelihood Relief and Development Organization (LRDO) | [www.lrdo.org](http://www.lrdo.org) |
| Marginalized Communities Advocacy Network (MCAN) | [www.mcan-africa.org](http://www.mcan-africa.org) |
| Puntland Minority Women Development Organization (PMWDO) | [www.pmwdo.org](http://www.pmwdo.org) |
| Save Minority Women and Children (SMWC) | [www.smwc.site](http://www.smwc.site) |
| Voice of Somali Minority Women Organization (VOSOMWO) | [www.vosomwo.org](http://www.vosomwo.org) |

**Feature Stories**

Read about the impact and success of our work and that of our members:

* **Case Studies**: In-depth stories of successful initiatives and projects led by consortium members.
* **Member Spotlights**: Highlights of achievements and contributions from individual members.
* **Impact Narratives**: Accounts of positive changes and outcomes resulting from our collective efforts.

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