

SOMALI GLOBAL DIASPORA FUND

Volunteers of Somalia (VOS)

AI & Technology Startups for Somali Youth Entrepreneurs Positioning Somalia Among Africa's Top 5 AI Nations by 2030

Minneapolis, MN • 2025-2030

Executive Summary

Africa's AI economy is projected to add \$1.5 trillion to the continent's GDP by 2030. Nations that seed their youth with AI skills and startup capital today will define that future. Somalia — with over 2 million diaspora worldwide and 65% of its population under age 30 — cannot afford to watch from the sidelines.

The Somali Global Diaspora Fund (SGDF), established under Volunteers of Somalia (VOS), is a structured investment vehicle that transforms diaspora capital into technology equity.

\$5M Target Fund Size

100+ Youth Startups Funded

2M+ Global Diaspora

2030 Vision Horizon

Fund Pillars

01 AI & Tech Startup Grants

Seed funding from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for Somali youth building AI, fintech, agritech, edtech, and healthtech solutions.

02 Diaspora Investment Network

Structured giving circles, donor-advised funds, and equity pools connecting 2M+ diaspora worldwide.

03 Somalia AI Innovation Hub

Physical and virtual accelerator co-located in Mogadishu & powered by mentors from Minneapolis to Dubai.

04 Policy & Ecosystem Building

Partnering with government, universities, and global tech firms to create a nationally enabling AI environment.

Investment Tiers

ð – Startup Tier: \$250 â \$2,499 / Year

â€¢ Co-funds one startup grant annually

â€¢ Quarterly impact reports

â€¢ Named recognition: VOS Wall of Builders

ð Builder Tier: \$2,500 â \$24,999 / Year

â€¢ Sponsors one full entrepreneur cohort

â€¢ Invited to virtual pitch days

â€¢ Access to Somalia AI Hub network

ð Visionary Tier: \$25,000+ / Year

â€¢ Lead sponsor of Somalia AI Summit

â€¢ Board advisory seat on fund committee

â€¢ First right of equity co-investment

â€¢ Legacy naming rights

Theory of Change

The Fund operates on a simple thesis: the Somali diaspora already cares deeply about Somalia's future — evidenced by billions in annual remittances. By redirecting even a small fraction of that capital into structured startup grants and mentorship, we create a multiplier effect that remittances alone cannot achieve.

Six Impact Areas

• Close the AI Skills Gap — 10,000 Somali youth enrolled in AI bootcamps and curriculum by 2028

• Build Indigenous AI Models — Somali-language NLP, agricultural AI, and climate resilience tools

• Reverse the Brain Drain — Startup infrastructure and incentives that reward building at home

• Establish Global Tech Partnerships — Microsoft, Google.org, Mastercard Foundation co-investment

• Put Somalia on the African AI Map — Top-5 AI readiness ranking on the continent by 2030

• Female Founder Priority — 40% of all fund grants reserved for women-led AI startups

Grant Eligibility

AGE: 18 — 35 years old at time of application

IDENTITY: Somali national, diaspora member (1st or 2nd generation), or resident of Somalia

FOCUS AREA: AI, machine learning, robotics, fintech, edtech, agritech, healthtech, or digital infrastructure

STAGE: Idea stage through early revenue; pre-Series A

TEAM: Solo founder or team of 2 — 5; at least one Somali co-founder required

COMMITMENT: Must enroll in 12-week VOS Accelerator cohort and submit quarterly impact reports for 2 years

Strategic Roadmap

PHASE 1 2025-2026: Foundation & Launch

- Establish fund legal structure as a sub-fund under VOS 501(c)(3)
- Launch diaspora giving campaign targeting Minneapolis, Columbus, and Toronto Somali communities
- Seed first 10 startup grants
- Host inaugural Somalia AI Summit in Mogadishu

PHASE 2 2026-2027: Scale & Ecosystem

- Expand to 50 funded startups
- Open Somalia AI Innovation Hub - physical space in Mogadishu, virtual access globally
- Partner with 3 African universities for AI curriculum
- Launch Somali-language AI literacy program with 5,000 learners

PHASE 3 2028-2029: National Integration

- Advocate for national AI policy framework
- Pilot AI solutions in Somali schools, hospitals, and agricultural systems through portfolio startups
- Attract co-investment from the African Development Bank and international tech philanthropies

PHASE 4 2030: Somalia on the Continental Stage

- 100 funded and active AI startups
- Somalia ranked among top 5 AI-ready African nations
- Annual fund value exceeds \$5M
- First VOS portfolio startup reaches \$1M ARR
- Somalia hosts the Africa AI Summit

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Somalia's AI Future Is Diaspora-Funded

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