

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Call for Somali SMEs & Distributors in Agriculture,
Fisheries, Livestock, and Renewable Energy**

FOR SOMALI EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

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1. Introduction

The Somali Development and Reconstruction Bank (SDRB) is pleased to launch its inaugural Investment Readiness Program to identify, support, and finance small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across four pivotal sectors: Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, and Renewable Energy.

The Investment Readiness Program (IRP) is designed to prepare high-potential Somali businesses for investment by equipping them with the technical capacity, business model strength, and governance frameworks needed to access capital. Participants of the IRP will be supported to access capital from SDRB. In addition, participants will gain access to SDRB's growing network of partners.

The program includes support in areas such as business model refinement, financial documentation, compliance, and climate-smart practices, critical capabilities for operating successfully in fragile and frontier markets like Somalia.

Through the IRP and complementary programming, SDRB seeks to prioritize enterprises that demonstrate potential to:

- **Improve sectoral value chains**
- **Deepen climate resilience**
- **Create inclusive employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth.**

By partnering with SDRB, selected SMEs will gain more than just capital, they will join a national movement to reimagine Somalia's development story through strategic, high-impact investment.

SDRB is issuing this Call for Applications to build a dynamic investment pipeline of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) operating in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and renewable energy.

2. What We're Looking For:

Through this call, SDRB is seeking to identify and support Somali SMEs that:

- Are delivering innovative solutions or demonstrating strong operational performance in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, or renewable energy.
- Are contributing to key value-chain gaps, from production to processing, distribution, and market access.
- Require capital or technical support to scale climate-friendly or sustainable operations.
- Have been excluded from traditional financing due to collateral or market constraints.

3. Focus Sectors and Illustrative Value-Chain Interventions:

To support prospective applicants, the following section outlines examples of the types of SMEs and interventions SDRB is particularly interested in through this program. These illustrative

Value-chain opportunities are not exhaustive but serve to guide eligible enterprises in understanding the kinds of activities that align with SDRB's investment priorities.

Agriculture:

Somalia's agriculture sector remains a cornerstone of the economy yet struggles with inadequate irrigation, insufficient mechanization, and pervasive climate shocks. We welcome SMEs involved in:

- Climate-smart irrigation (e.g., solar-powered pumps, drip systems).
- Post-Harvest Management and Agro-Processing (refrigeration, packaging, milling).
- Improved input supply (quality seeds, fertilizers, mechanized services).
- Agro-Tech innovations that help farmers and cooperatives boost productivity and market access.
- Support for export-oriented and commercial farming (including quality standards, certifications, export logistics, and access to regional/international markets).

Fisheries:

With one of the richest fishing grounds in the region, the Somali fisheries sector is held back by limited cold-chain logistics, weak certifications for export, and infrastructural gaps. SDRB especially seeks:

- Cold Storage and Processing Facilities (canning, freezing, value-added filleting).
- Boat-making and repair services to modernize local fleets and capture offshore opportunities.
- Sustainable Fishing Technologies (traceability, eco-friendly gear, or improved post-catch handling).
- Seafood Export Enablement (quality management, marketing, certification for regional/global markets).

Livestock:

Livestock is a pillar of Somalia's export economy but remains vulnerable to climate variability and market fluctuations. SDRB is interested in SMEs that focus on:

- Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Services (innovations in animal health, feeding, and disease control).
- Value-added processing (meat, dairy, hides, or leather goods) with potential for robust export linkages.
- Commercial fodder production (especially climate-resilient cropping or feed alternatives).
- Cold Chain, Transport, and Market Access for Livestock Producers in Remote Regions.

Renewable Energy:

Somalia's heavy reliance on diesel-based generation underlines an urgent need for cleaner and more cost-effective energy solutions. We seek SMEs offering:

- Solar home/business systems to boost household electrification rates.
- Solar and Wind Power Systems for farming, fishery refrigeration, or general grid expansion.
- Mini-Grid or Micro-Grid Solutions that harness local resources to boost rural electrification and manufacturing.
- Waste-to-Energy Projects (livestock waste biogas, agricultural residue energy). ➤ Solar-Powered Irrigation Pumps and cooling systems that reduce post-harvest losses.

4. Climate and Green Financing Emphasis

To support prospective applicants, the following section outlines examples of the types of SMEs and interventions SDRB is particularly interested in through this program. These illustrative value-chain opportunities are not exhaustive but serve to guide eligible enterprises in understanding the kinds of activities that align with SDRB's investment priorities.

5. Distributors Focus

Distributors play a vital role in enabling SMEs and end-users across Somalia to access essential goods, technologies, and inputs. Recognizing their strategic position in value chains, SDRB welcomes applications from businesses that distribute products supporting productivity, sustainability, and climate resilience.

As enablers of scale and market access, distributors are often the link between innovation and impact—particularly in fragile and hard-to-reach areas. These may encompass, but are not limited to, the following categories:

- Climate-Smart Agricultural Inputs: Seed varieties with higher drought tolerance, eco-friendly pesticides and fertilizers, and solar-powered irrigation pumps.
- Renewable Energy and Green Technologies: Solar panels, wind-powered generators, battery storage systems, and low-voltage rural mini-grids.
- Improved and Clean Cookstoves: Energy-efficient stoves designed to reduce emissions and reliance on biomass fuels.
- Livestock and Fisheries Support Tools: Cold-chain equipment, water-efficient livestock feeders, and solar-chilled refrigeration systems.

SDRB's focus on distributors stems from the recognition that SMEs often depend heavily on strong supply networks to expand their operations. A reliable pipeline of equipment, inputs, and related green-smart products is critical for SMEs seeking to transition to more sustainable, cost-saving, and market-competitive practices. As a key enabler, your distribution business can help rural producers and urban markets alike to access and adopt new technologies, paving the way for inclusive growth.

Interested distributors—particularly those providing climate-smart or energy-efficient solutions—are encouraged to apply.

6. Why Participate?

Participating SMEs and distributors will benefit from:

- **Access to Future Capital:** Inclusion in SDRB's investment pipeline with potential for financing
- **Investment Readiness Support:** Access to SDRB's Investment Readiness Program (IRP), offering tailored technical assistance to strengthen business models, governance, and operational resilience.
- **Export and Market Expansion Support:** Advisory services and strategic linkages to help SMEs meet quality standards, enter new markets, and scale operations.
- **Climate and Innovation Opportunities:** Connection to green finance, Agri-tech solutions, and resilience-building innovations across target sectors.
- **Technical Assistance:** Support in financial documentation, compliance, risk management, and ESG practices—essential for securing institutional funding.
- **National Recognition:** Align with Somalia's National Transformation Plan and contribute to inclusive, private sector-led development.
- **Visibility and Strategic Partnerships:** Exposure to SDRB's ecosystem of partners with priority access to upcoming guarantee schemes and Islamic finance pilots.

7. Eligibility Criteria

Applications are open to SMEs that:

- 1) Are registered or in the process of formalizing within Somalia (including sole proprietors, cooperatives, partnerships, and limited companies).
- 2) Demonstrate growth potential or innovation in tackling sector challenges.
- 3) Have a physical presence (i.e., office) in Somalia.
- 4) Is currently operational
- 5) Operate fully or partially in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, or renewable energy value chains.

NOTE: We encourage applications from SMEs that have a clear commitment to social inclusion (e.g., women-owned, youth-owned, or employing women and youth) or a willingness to develop such programs.

8. Application to Expression of Interest

Interested SMEs (including distributors) are encouraged to complete the following online submission form, which takes 10 minutes to complete.

APPLY HERE

9. Selection and Next Steps

All applications will undergo an initial screening by SDRB to assess alignment with the Bank's sectoral focus and strategic development goals. Shortlisted SMEs will be invited for follow-up discussions or site visits. Please note that an application does not constitute a guarantee of funding or technical assistance at this stage.

About SDRB

The Somali Development and Reconstruction Bank (SDRB) is Somalia's national development financial institution, mandated to drive economic recovery and sustainable development. SDRB plays a pivotal role in fostering private sector growth by providing catalytic financing solutions that unlock investment, strengthen key industries, and promote financial access and inclusion. Established in 1968, SDRB was created to provide medium- and long-term financing for private enterprises. After decades of disruption, the Bank has been revitalized with a renewed focus on financing high-impact projects that align with Somalia's National Transformation Plan. SDRB supports businesses and infrastructure projects that generate employment, enhance productivity, and contribute to long-term economic stability.

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