

AT A GLANCE

LOCALISATION IN THE BORDERLANDS

MARCH 2026

AU-UN IST PHOTO

ABOUT THE PROJECT

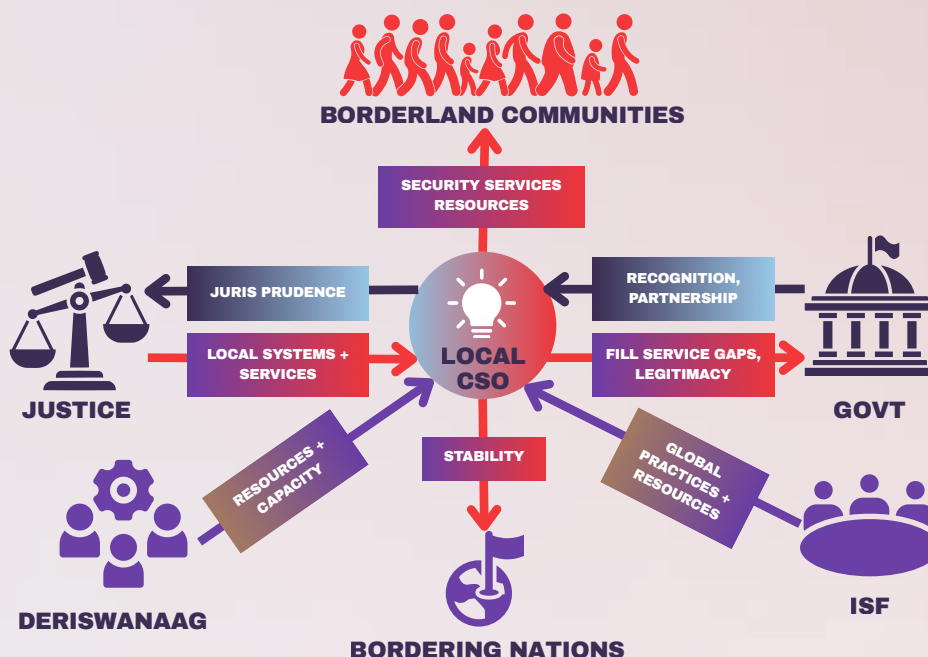
Deris Wanaag is a three-year programme (2023–2026) strengthening peace, security, and community resilience across the Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia borderlands funded by the UK and the Netherlands.

The programme addresses key drivers of instability and violent extremism through strategic engagement with local partners. Localisation is a core pillar to ensure that interventions are designed, led, and owned by communities and local organisations who understand the political economy and border dynamics best. Working with local organisations in border areas brings its own unique set of challenges and lessons learned that inform adaptation and strategic decisions.

LOCALISATION IN BORDER CONTEXTS

Partnerships with the right organisations must consider elements of local presence, community trust, cross-border access, and contextual understanding.

Engagement comes with a commitment to enable partners to deliver on strategic objectives while building their capacity to manage international funding and establish sustainable administrative processes to continue peacebuilding initiatives beyond the end of the project.



AT A GLANCE

78%



improvement in partner knowledge, skills and attitudes through post training evaluations

87%



of community members reported grants addressed priority needs

37



grants delivered by local NGOs across Kenya (48%), Somalia (42%), and Ethiopia (10%).



increased inclusion of women, youth and minority or marginalised groups in peace structures.



“Local actors understand cross-border tensions best and Deris Wanaag helped them strengthen our peace structures.”
Somalia Local Administrator

“Women are finally actively involved in shaping peace and security decisions in our area.”
Women leader, Mandera corridor

EVOLUTION FOR DERISWANAAG LOCALISATION



KEY LOCALISATION ACHIEVEMENTS

1



STRENGTHENED PARTNER CAPACITY

- 25% average increase in organisation capacity assessment scores across all partners.
- 108 participants from all local partners over six capacity building workshops.
- 78% of participants gained significant improvement in knowledge and skills for GESI, admin, MEL, and conflict sensitivity.

2



STRENGTHENED PEACE COMMITTEES

- Strengthened 41 peace committees to be more effective, inclusive and connected.
- Women, youth, PWDs, and minority clans increasingly represented. Local peace committees became more trusted and more responsive.
- Community intelligence from DW-partners supported interventions disrupted at least five militant activities.

3



IMPROVED COMMUNITY-SECURITY TRUST & EXPANDED GOVERNMENT PRESENCE

- Surveyed grant participants had 23% higher average trust in security actors than the wider population.
- Local officials visited communities in border areas of Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa where there was no previous government presence.

LOCALLY DRIVEN CHANGE

- 368 women enterprises supported and 1,100 women empowered through seed grants, beehive kits (200 households, 83 woman-headed), start-up kits, VSLAs, livestock support, and vocational training.
- More than 68,000 residents of at-risk border areas benefited from project grant activities.

YOUTH RESILIENCE & REDUCED VULNERABILITY

- Supported 48 schools, enabling 647 additional students to enrol and stay in school in high-risk areas.
- Improved resilience for 1,791 youth (1,283 female; 508 male), including 133 PWDs, through skills training in plumbing, electrical work, and other trades.

4



5



DERISWANAAG