

The Impact of Foreign Food Aid on Agricultural Development in Southern Somalia, A Case of Mogadishu, 2011-2015

*¹Najah Mohamed Ahmed, ²Dr. Adan Jarso Golole

¹Department of Languages and Humanities, Mount Kenya University, Thika, Kenya

²Department of Languages and Humanities, Mount Kenya University, Thika, Kenya

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Abstract: Food aid makes a country dependent on foreign support rather than making it an agriculturally independent society with a stable, accessible, sustainable, and sufficient food supply. Food aid injected into the countries on the receiving end has been a destructive result on their food basket, bringing food deficit to the country. This study examines the effect of food aid on agricultural development in Mogadishu. This paper exposes the impact of food aid on production incentives, market prices, and the behaviour of farmers. The main objective is to identify the major contributing factors to food aid dependence in Mogadishu, assess its impact on agricultural development, and ultimately provide alternate solutions for food insecurities. This study employs the Dependency theory to explain the negative relationship between food aid and agricultural development. The study is made in Mogadishu, as most INGOs are there. A population of 600 respondents is targeted, of which 30% (180) are sampled using mugenda and mugenda sampling techniques. The study uses a questionnaire to collect data from respondents, analyzed using SPSS 19 version. One of the study's main limitations of this research is the respondents' unwillingness to respond to research questionnaires and questions due to imaginary fear of giving the information. Most were afraid of disclosing information touching on the government, which has consequences. Despite the many expected challenges, the researcher tried to entice respondents to give tangible details. The researcher provided anonymity to respondents who were afraid of providing information due to security issues. This paper presents the causes of food insecurities, donors' influence, and other contributing factors, offers theories for explaining it and uses appropriately analyzed quantitative research. It shows how food aid can discourage local produce and its value in the local markets. The evidence has demonstrated that donors' inconsistent timing of food aid and lack of coordination between them and the government is also an issue for the local farmers. There is excellent potential for further research because minimal studies exist.

Keywords: *Foreign, Food Aid, Agricultural, Development, Southern Somalia*

1.0 Background of the Study

The World Food Summit of 1996 provided a definition for food security, which entails the continuous ability to obtain sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that satisfies individuals' dietary requirements and preferences, enabling them to lead active and healthy lives. In the absence of these conditions, food insecurity arises. The four aspects of food security encompass food availability, food accessibility, food utilization, and food stability. Foreign food aid is the provision of food supplies by governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international agencies in response to a humanitarian crisis such as war or natural disasters like drought, floods, or earthquakes to support the affected population.

Food security in a humanitarian setting includes guaranteeing a good food stock and addressing nutritional necessities and social expectations. Food secure societies, especially those dependent on local produce to earn a living, require a good ecosystem in pursuing agricultural growth and development in Mogadishu; donors search for and invest in strategies to enhance outcomes. For food aid programs to be effective, it is crucial to have a good agricultural policy (Izobo, 2020). According to Gate (2006), the flow of food aid in developing countries such as Somalia affects the country's agricultural production and food security. In general, foreign food aid harms agricultural development through numerous mechanisms: Foreign food aid increases the absence of agricultural investment; it decreases the ability to import capital goods or technology; foreign food aid damages investment and savings; it also decreases agricultural productivity (FAO, 2017). Burnside and Dollar (2000) thoroughly investigated this claim, concentrating on the policy's

effect on foreign food aid viability. The writers utilized an interconnection term between food aid and a file on the rural strategy to examine the food aid-strategy development relationship. They expect that joining impacts between food aid and strategy is fruitful. The portion of invested food aid or the subsequent expansion inefficiency is vast in good policy condition (UN, 2007). According to Stephen and Philip (1997), a high level of food aid lowers agricultural quality, increases corruption, and has a negative impact on agricultural growth. Another issue with food aid is conditionality, which limits agricultural development in recipient countries. Traditionally, a strong and a weak party are involved in the donor-recipient relationship. The stronger party dominates the political and economic structures giving the weaker party little to no space to choose. (Murshed & Khanaum, 2013). Research indicates that food aid has a detrimental impact on Africa, leading to the current situation where Africans struggle to establish their own path towards progress, free from external obstacles. Additionally, the lack of commitment and accountability on the part of the recipient countries hampers agricultural development. Strong rulers have authority over how food aid gets utilized. Since they don't need to be answerable to anybody, they exploit their ability to get food aid assets (Murshed 2012). At long last, the connection between foreign food aid and agricultural advancement fluctuates across the areas. Sub-Sahara is the locale with benefactors' most significant food aid, yet agricultural productivity remains moderately poor. The reason might be the lack of fittingly planned programs, timely and adequate agricultural projects post food aid, and reluctance or less effort of the great authorities in devising dependable agricultural policies. Food aid added to loosening up government budget limitations and, in this way, expanding government usage (Boussard,2006). Foreign food aid is a fundamental part of control and power. Food has affected power relations by taking lands and controlling food aid as a feature of an arrangement of political support and through plundering, dislodging, and redirection of aid by troops, warlords, and militia. It has influenced how nations are run and who benefits from starvation and relief. Simultaneously, starvation or extended emergencies frequently result from the marginalization, discrimination, and double-dealing of specific populace bunches. For instance, nomadic communities residing in the Bay and Bakool districts of Somalia and riverine farmers living along the Juba and Shebelle rivers have encountered extreme malnutrition and drought in both 1992 and 2011, as documented by Jaspars et al. (2019). Foreign food aid has inherited problems in Somalia, such as a fierce battle for the massive food aid budget, primarily to blame for the government's collapse. In addition, foreign food aid in Mogadishu has powered the lack of transparency and impeded the city's agricultural productivity. The Public Management Unit reported that approximately USD 30 million from fiscal reserves and USD 70 million from Arab donors disappeared from Somalia's treasury in 2011. Additionally, the UN Group on Somalia and Eritrea (SEMG) disclosed that between 2009 and 2010, 70% of the humanitarian food aid intended for Mogadishu was subject to theft, according to Izobo (2020). Instead of improving Somalia's citizens' lives and boosting agricultural growth, the administration has used the country's dire situation to profit from international food aid. Political instability, in addition to corruption, is a constant in Mogadishu. Throughout the last 30 years, Somalia has had nine recognized presidents, eighteen prime ministers, and constant changes in government power. These frequent changes in administration have resulted in agricultural development practices that do not meet the requirements of the people. There exists an absence of skill and strategic initiatives to do the said agricultural strategies by successive governments. The political instability has likewise caused gross unaccountability in agricultural growth. This illustrates how corrupt leadership and political elites take control of food aid. Most food funds get wasted by corrupt politicians and never reach the recipients. Tragically, foreign food aid consistently shipped off to Mogadishu, empowering reluctance to undertake agricultural initiatives (Izobo, 2020).

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Foreign food aid is provided when people are affected by natural or artificial disasters to sustain them. However, there is a need to critically examine the long-term impact of foreign food aid on the region's agricultural development and food security. Foreign food aid does help to a certain extent, but the problem arises when food aid is provided continuously. It creates dependent people and hinders their productive capabilities, thus affecting the agricultural produce of those communities. Another problem is when the food is provided at the wrong time, such as during harvest, it devalues local produce and demoralizes farmers. The relationship between foreign food aid and agricultural development varies across African regions. Sub-Sahara is the region highly affected due to the high number of food aid donors provided. For instance, the fall of Siyad Barre's regime in 1991 caused prolonged civil unrest. Since then, Somalia has been one of the countries in a near-constant state of food insecurity. This insecurity is driven by continuous political instability and low rainfall, leading to droughts and starvation. The absence of coordinated food aid in Somalia has aggravated the dangers and vulnerabilities of local farmers. Without pertinent information on the condition of food aid, it is impossible to measure to what degree uncoordinated food aid negatively affects society's food security. Despite numerous studies addressing the challenges of food aid, few studies address the impact of foreign food aid on agricultural development, particularly in Somalia and Mogadishu. Understanding the effects of food aid interventions on local farming practices, market dynamics, and overall food security is crucial for designing effective strategies that promote sustainable agricultural development and reduce dependency on external assistance. Therefore, this research paper aims to study the root causes of food insecurities and find more efficient alternate ways to counter food insecurities without hindering the country's agricultural development.

1.2 Research Objectives

This research aims to provide insights into food aid's impact on Mogadishu's agricultural development. Specific objectives:

The study attempts to achieve the following specific goals:

1. To investigate the primary elements contributing to Mogadishu's reliance on foreign food aid.

2. To evaluate the impact of foreign food aid on agriculture and food security in Mogadishu.
3. To assess other solutions to Mogadishu's food insecurity.

2.0 Literature Review

The section presents the theoretical framework and empirical literature.

2.1 Theoretical framework

This study employs the dependency theory developed in the late 1950s by Argentinian economist and statesman Raúl Prebisch. Prebisch and his partners were pained by how economic growth in the high-level industrialized countries didn't support rapid growth in the developing and third-world countries. Their study argued that economic activity in wealthy nations regularly prompted significant financial issues in poorer countries. Prebisch's primary clarification for this theory was unambiguous: developing countries sent raw materials to the rich nations and then manufactured and sold them. The profit value-added always costs more than the original raw materials. Therefore, developing countries could never profit enough from their export earnings to pay for their imports, thus remaining poor. As we know, food aid is thought to be a solution to food insecurity in the impact of food aid on agricultural development. Whenever there is food scarcity in Mogadishu, a call for help to the foreign aid programs is made, and food is brought. Everyone gets fed for the day, but the root causes remain unsolved; the cycle continues. The dependency theory pointed out that it would have been far more beneficial for developing nations to get industrial investments than manufacturing goods. The same goes when it comes to food aid and agricultural development. Dependency theory argues that food aid slows agricultural growth and perpetuates a dual economy. Dependency theory suggests imposing tariffs and quotas to protect local producers from countering this issue. It is important to note that dependency theory is not without criticism, and the effects of foreign food aid can vary depending on the specific context and how programs are designed and implemented. However, understanding the potential implications of dependency is crucial in ensuring that foreign food aid programs promote sustainable agricultural development, empower recipient countries, and foster long-term self-sufficiency rather than perpetuate dependency cycles. There is a need to determine the impact of donors' aid on agricultural production and the root causes of food insecurities in Mogadishu. Therefore, the study analyzed food aid's effect on Mogadishu's agricultural production.

2.2 Empirical Review

The review examines the history of food aid programs in Africa, focusing on Mogadishu, Somalia. Its inherent causes explain how this has become acceptable even under Somalia's massive development. The second aspect of the review looks at the effects of foreign food aid in Africa, focusing on Somalia, particularly Mogadishu, agriculture, economy, government policy, and livelihoods. Finally, the review points to the research gap that led to this paper's birth. Africa has recorded 15 years of consistent economic development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. However, notwithstanding this outstanding financial development, it faces difficulties; for example, increasing population growth, environmental challenges, food scarcity, especially in Somalia and Sudan, dry season, youth unemployment, and food frailty. Food aid from UN agencies has alleviated food shortages in North, West, Central, and Southern Africa. Figuring out the food security condition in Africa and tending to the difficulties referenced above should be the most noteworthy need for Africa's political administration. Unsuccessful leadership will everlastingly cause Africa to fail to accomplish economic and social stability and make comprehensive shared prosperity for Africa's populace (Dodo,2020). In recent years, the African Union (AU), member governments, regional associations, and the international community have started multiple policy initiatives directed toward tending to and understanding the causes of Africa's food insecurity. Despite the endeavours and responsibilities of the different partners, much still needs to be accomplished. Somalia has been in a nationwide conflict for twenty years, and the ensuing brutality and commotion have contributed to starvation (Dodo, 2020). Somalia has relied heavily on imported food—commercial imports and food aid for many years. During the 2010-2012 famine, conflict and opposition existed between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab. This conflict had a detrimental impact on the famine, leading to its prolonged duration and affecting approximately 3.1 million individuals. In the early 1990s in Somalia, approximately 20-80% of food aid was looted, stolen, or confiscated by armed militias while in transit (Barnet, 2011). According to Seal &Bailey (2013), the United States — Somalia's leading food donor, stopped supplying aid in 2009 because they believed they were feeding Al-Shabaab families. Based on a recent report by the United Nations Security Council in 2010, foreign assistance provided to Somalia has been misappropriated for military purposes. This occurred when Somali aid contractors established a cartel, gaining influential positions and channeling aid directly to armed opposition groups (United Nations Security Council, 2010). The UN first announced famine in Somalia's Southern Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions under Al-Shabaab's rule (UN News,2011). The group rejected the claim that there were food shortages in the area, denied famine victims from escaping, and prohibited humanitarian agencies from working in the regions under their rule. In response, the Obama administration granted waivers to aid associations to protect them from oppression. All blame for food aid blockages was shifted to Al-Shabaab, prompting a massive withdrawal of public support for the group. Al-Shabaab withdrew from Mogadishu, the capital city they had controlled since the beginning of 2008, after losing public support and control (LeGagnoux, 2014). The move showed that food aid gets used as a weapon for counter-terrorism. At the same time, the civilians in dire need of it are considered collateral damage. The US providing food aid after public support for the group deteriorated is quite interesting. Food aid should be delivered when people need it the most. Still, it just shows how the timing of food aid is sometimes a political move and is only brought when it is convenient and serves the image of the donor country. Mogadishu's reliance on foreign

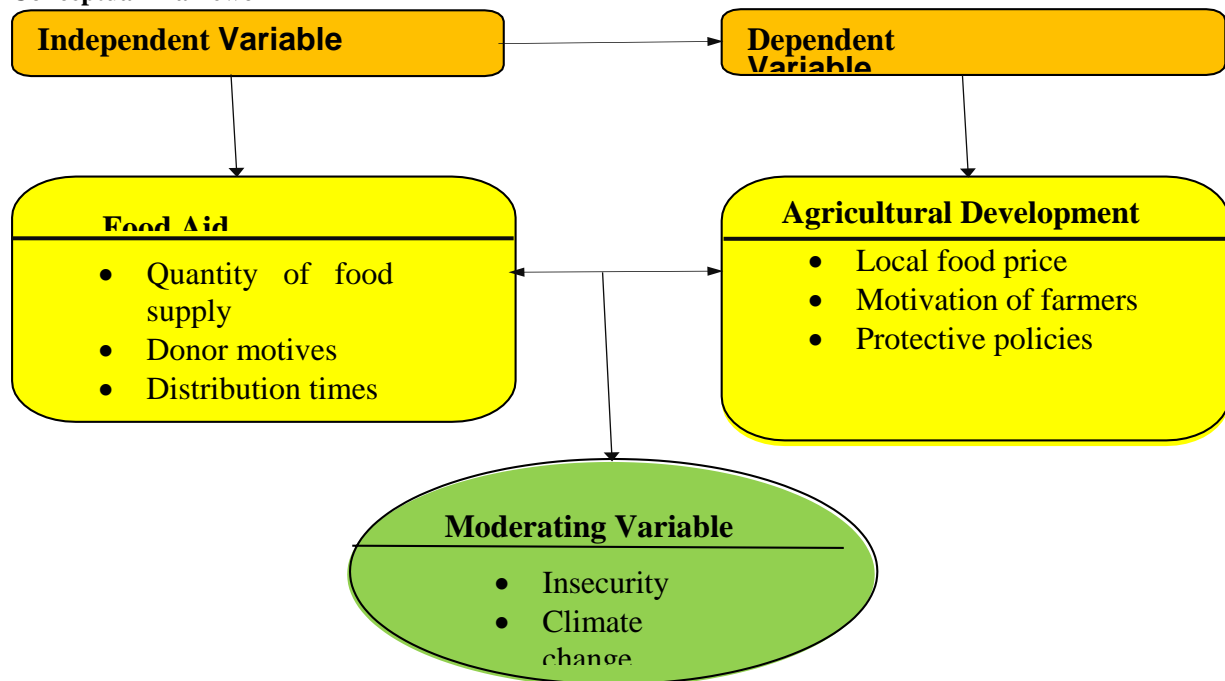
food aid is attributed to multiple factors, including protracted conflict and political instability that have disrupted agricultural activities, caused food insecurity, and displaced thousands of people (FAO, 2021; WFP, 2021). The absence of effective governance and the lack of necessary infrastructure for food production, storage, and transportation contribute to these challenges. Additionally, limited agricultural productivity due to harsh weather conditions, traditional farming methods, and limited access to modern farming techniques has led to decreased food production and increased food aid reliance (World Bank, 2020; WFP, 2021). Displacement and rapid urbanization, coupled with rising living costs and income inequality, also contribute to increased food aid dependence (FAO, 2020; World Bank, 2020). Disruptions in trade routes and market systems due to ongoing conflict, insecurity, and weak regulatory frameworks exacerbate food insecurity and hinder market participation (FAO, 2021). The impacts of climate change, such as increased droughts, erratic rainfall, and environmental degradation, negatively affect agricultural productivity and food security. Lastly, the city faces significant economic challenges with limited employment opportunities, a high poverty rate, and limited formal job opportunities, which all exacerbate food insecurity and increase reliance on food aid (World Bank, 2020; UNDP, 2020; WFP, 2021).

Since the inception of food assistance programs under the Marshall Plan and in India (1955-1970), the economic impact of foreign food aid has been a contentious subject (Farzin 1991). Though initially conceived as temporary relief for crises, food aid involves complex elements, such as allocation and management. US Public Law 480 (PL 480) of 1954 introduced three distinct types of assistance: program, project, and emergency food aid. The distribution method of aid can influence production decisions and performance, and while it may not directly influence agricultural growth, it has multifaceted effects, as exemplified by the situation in Mogadishu, Somalia. In Mogadishu, food aid has resulted in the disruption of local agricultural markets and dependence on external assistance, both having detrimental consequences. The influx of free or subsidized food aid undercuts local farmers, distorts market dynamics, reduces demand for locally produced food, and threatens the sustainability and resilience of local food systems (FAO, 2021; World Bank, 2020). Long-term reliance on external aid hinders self-sufficiency, local agricultural growth, and creates a cycle of dependency that erodes community resilience (World Bank, 2020). Addressing these challenges requires a balanced approach, promoting agricultural development and targeted aid distribution, while also investing in agricultural infrastructure and sustainable farming practices (FAO, 2021; World Bank, 2020). Foreign food aid in Mogadishu, while providing essential support during crises, can distort local food systems and negatively impact agricultural development. Uncoordinated distribution and abundance of aid can disrupt market dynamics, discouraging local farming due to unfair competition. Moreover, aid can lead to an oversupply in markets, reducing demand for locally-grown produce, and potentially causing socio-economic upheaval in communities. In the long-term, an overreliance on aid might impede local agricultural productivity and resilience. It is necessary to manage food aid effectively to strengthen local agricultural systems and reduce market distortions. Investments in local agriculture, capacity-building programs, and fostering partnerships between different stakeholders can help mitigate these effects (FAO, 2021; World Bank, 2020). The distribution of food aid can also cause social disruptions and increase inequalities. This is especially true when aid is unevenly distributed, not reaching the most vulnerable populations, exacerbating social tensions and potentially destabilizing food security. Moreover, the introduction of low-cost foreign food aid can strain local markets, thereby limiting opportunities for small-scale farmers and traders, leading to economic disparity. To alleviate this, aid organizations should prioritize equitable distribution, support local agriculture, and promote local markets through targeted investments and training programs (FAO, 2021; WFP, 2021; World Bank, 2020). The relationship between food aid and agricultural development has both positive and negative aspects, which need to be carefully managed for long-term sustainability and self-reliance (FAO, 2006).

2.3 Conceptual framework

This section presents the relationship between the study variables between independent and dependent variables.

Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework



3.0 Research Methodology

The study employed a quantitative research approach to measure the relationship between the two variables. Mogadishu, with a population of approximately 2.5 million individuals (World Population Review, 2022), has a significant portion of its population, over 710,000 people, in need of food assistance (UN, 2011). To ensure a focused study, purposive sampling was employed to select 600 participants, who were further sampled using the techniques proposed by Mugenda and Mugenda. The research primarily focuses on three key groups: government representatives, recipients of food aid, and representatives from FAO and WFP, who all have a vested interest in the research paper. The study utilized 30% of the data, resulting in a sample size of 180 (600 * 0.3). The researcher used a questionnaire to collect primary data from participants. The researcher used SPSS statistical software to analyze the research data professionally.

4.0 Findings and Discussion

The study aimed to find the impact of food aid on agricultural development in Southern Somalia. The study found a negative correlation between the two variables, as 66.67% of the respondents said it does not positively impact agricultural development. The study has also found a lack of coordination between the INGO and the government regarding when to provide food aid. This was shown when the respondents were asked when food aid was typically provided. The majority responded that it is unspecified; this creates the problem that, in some cases, it coincides with the harvest time of the local people, devaluing the local produce and discouraging farmers from producing.

According to respondents, the study also found that the Somali government's food aid policy is ineffective in protecting and prioritizing local produce, setting the price for food aid, and scheduling the correct timing with the donors when it is most needed. The study also discovered that it is far more beneficial that donors provide agricultural investment in southern Somalia as opposed to providing food aid. The adage goes, "Give a poor man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime". This leads us to the concept of dependency; continuous provision of food and not providing durable solutions creates a whole community that depends solely on food aid, which this research has proven to be valid, given that 54.44% of the respondents answered that food aid results from dependency. The effects of food aid on the recipient country's agriculture are shown in this study, as it causes labor disincentives, reduces or destabilizes local food prices, and creates uncertainty for producers. When we asked the respondents if aid donors encourage the development of local produce, the majority rejected the claim, which was 61.11% of the respondents.

The two major contributing factors to dependence on food aid that the respondents have pointed out are the draughts and floods; the country occasionally suffers a lack of rain throughout the year, which affects the nomad people and the livestock, which is the backbone of Somalia's economy and a livelihood to so many people, without government proper forecasting and preparation a lot of people suffer malnutrition, and the second thing which are the floods that are caused by the intense rainfall causes many to be displaced from their homes. Overall, the study has found that setting an excellent agricultural development budget is the most effective strategy to reduce

food insecurity in southern Somalia. Food aid has become accepted as a way of alleviating hunger and malnutrition in particularly conflict Affected Nations due to droughts, floods, and insecurity. Although food aid offers some relief, its over-dependence and reliance have far-reaching consequences, destabilizing agriculture and affecting livelihoods.

5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the urgent need for sustainable approaches to address food security in Mogadishu cannot be overstated. The challenges faced by the city, including protracted conflict, political instability, limited agricultural productivity, and reliance on external assistance, require holistic and long-term solutions. Sustainable approaches take into account the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of food security, ensuring that current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability in food security requires a shift from short-term emergency responses to long-term strategies that focus on building resilience, promoting self-sufficiency, and preserving natural resources. It involves addressing the root causes of food insecurity, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to resources and opportunities. This study emphasizes the importance of investing in local agricultural infrastructure, diversifying agricultural production, and strengthening governance and policy frameworks. These measures enable smallholder farmers to increase productivity, enhance market access, and improve their livelihoods. Additionally, promoting climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable natural resource management contribute to long-term resilience, ensuring that agriculture can adapt to the impacts of climate change while minimizing environmental degradation. By investing in local agriculture, promoting climate-smart practices, empowering communities, and fostering partnerships, the city can break the cycle of food insecurity and reduce its reliance on external assistance. The challenges may be complex, but with a sustainable approach, Mogadishu can build a future where food security is achieved and sustained for generations. Collective responsibility is to work towards this vision and ensure a food-secure and prosperous future in Mogadishu.

6.0 Recommendations

Addressing food insecurity in Mogadishu requires a comprehensive approach that tackles the underlying causes and incorporates sustainable strategies. It is important to note that no single solution will work for everyone. The best approach will vary depending on the specific circumstances of each community. Implementing these solutions makes it possible to mitigate the challenges associated with food aid and promote agricultural development in Mogadishu. These strategies aim to empower local farmers, enhance market access, strengthen resilience to climate change, and foster an enabling environment for sustainable agricultural practices. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure long-term food security and self-sufficiency for the population of Mogadishu. Implementing these solutions requires long-term commitment, stakeholder collaboration, and sustained investment in agriculture, infrastructure, and social development. By adopting a holistic approach, Mogadishu can work towards achieving food security, reducing vulnerability, and building a resilient and sustainable food system. To mitigate the challenges associated with food aid and foster agricultural development in Mogadishu, implementing these solutions in a coordinated and sustainable manner can improve food security in Mogadishu, ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food for its population.

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