

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Over the past decade, natural disasters triggered an average of 21.5 million new displacements each year—more than twice as many as those caused by conflict and violence.

Alight works to keep people from being displaced, and we co-create livelihood and education programs with those who are forced to migrate.

We also redesign settlements to focus on sustainability, introducing innovations such as solar power and water conservation solutions that protect the future of their regions.

DIGAALE: A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

Over 36-million people across Somalia and Somaliland have been impacted by prolonged drought and climate-related famine. Historically pastoralists, they have been forced to abandon their nomadic lives to settle near urban areas.

Around Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, more than 100,000 displaced individuals have settled across 18 internally displaced person (IDP) settlements. Digaale, one of the 18 allocated settlements, originally planned to host 800 households yet now shelters 1,400.

Alight and the City of Hargeisa have launched a partnership to build 400 climate-smart homes for Digaale residents.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The World Bank estimates ~216 million people will be internally displaced by 2050 due to increased extreme weather events. With most relocating to urban areas within their countries, city infrastructure and public services are quickly overwhelmed.
- Women are among the most vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change as they make up nearly half the agricultural workforce in low-and-middle-income countries yet lack access to credit, training, and support services
- Recurring drought and increased flooding drives food insecurity with 98 million people needing food assistance in 2025

CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE DESIGN

Working with leading architecture firms, Alight led co-creation workshops with Digaale residents – both men and women – to gather insights to modify our home designs. We have prioritized climate-smart materials and integrated solar power connections and rainwater collection into the overall designs to ensure long-term benefit.

By placing displaced people at the center of planning, Digaale Blueprint presents a new model of climate-adaptive development. It aims to restore dignity, enable integration, and build a scalable model for social and economic resilience in East Africa.



COLLECTIVE UTILITY

With 70% of Digaale residents lacking reliable daily access to water due to lack of city water pipelines reaching the settlement and inability to afford water delivery options, a central component of the Digaale development is the creation of the Digaale Water Cooperative and expansion of the city's water pipelines. This community-led, public-private initiative will ensure long-term water access and economic participation. Training in infrastructure management and entrepreneurship will help residents become self-reliant and active contributors.



INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Digaale is located roughly 10km from Hargeisa. Without a paved road, it's difficult for Digaale residents to commute into the city for employment. We're expanding the highway to reach Digaale, enabling residents to fold into the Hargeisa community. The development plans also include a marketplace to support local entrepreneurs, schools to ensure education for boys and girls, mosques, clinics, and community spaces.