

UN SOMALIA factsheet

Operationalization of the nexus

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UNITED NATIONS
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OVERVIEW

Implementing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is a priority in Somalia. Implementation has been most successful where humanitarian, development and peace actors have a strong incentive to coordinate local activities. In this regard, three nexus taskforces were established in Somalia in 2020 on the critical areas of (1) Water Management – Droughts and Floods, (2) Durable Solutions for displacement-affected communities and (3) Anti-Fraud & Anti-Corruption. These taskforces aim to better coordinate humanitarian, development and peace actors both within and external to the United Nations by building support and improving information sharing across stakeholders. Coordination and learning across these taskforces are also taking place.

In addition, a high-level Triple Nexus Steering Committee is being established alongside the Somalia Aid Architecture.

The committee will engage decision makers to advance nexus issues that require additional support. It will also oversee the work of the nexus taskforces and will undertake light horizon scanning for new and practical nexus opportunities by identifying potential areas of joint work.

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) for Somalia have reviewed Terms of Reference for the committee with the Prime Minister, Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MOPIED) and United Nations Member States. The committee will also include non-government organization (NGO) representation and the Federal Member States (FMS) in its membership, as well as donor countries and international

financial institutions (IFIs). The Steering Committee is expected to become operational following the formation of a new government administration.

Joint priorities across the taskforces include:

1

Anti-corruption and prevention of aid diversion in relation to “rents” and informal taxation imposed by gatekeepers and illegal checkpoints

2

Prevention of conflict related to water distribution (e.g. boreholes in settlements) and prevention of flood-related displacement

3

Environmentally sound area-based durable solutions, initially in Baidoa in South West State and Luglow in Jubaland

THE UNITED NATIONS COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

The United Nations in Somalia has made significant strides in adopting a nexus approach throughout its core frameworks in the country. Collective nexus priorities are being focused on across both the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-25 and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Given the growing humanitarian needs, the 2021 and 2022 HRPs have focused on immediate, life-saving assistance and protection. Resilience-building activities previously included in the 2020 HRP have since been shifted into the Cooperation Framework – for instance, activities targeting people experiencing food security “stress” (IPC Phase 2). This enables humanitarian actors to focus on the more urgent needs of people in “crisis” and “emergency” (IPC Phases 3 and 4).

There are many specific ‘touchpoints’ between the HRP and the Cooperation Framework that can facilitate strengthened complementarity and operational coordination of interventions, particularly in basic health and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) service provision, response and prevention of malnutrition, livelihoods, food security, and safety net and protection interventions.

The 2022 HRP outlines linkages to development programmes and strategies for every cluster to identify operational complementarity and advocate for specific development investments to reduce need. The Plan prioritizes increased coordination with development actors for (i) durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), (ii) water management to address

one of the key drivers of need in floods and droughts, and (iii) the complementarity of social safety nets and humanitarian cash response to provide the most vulnerable with predictable and shock-responsive assistance. The latter can also contribute to the enhancement of key water resources (e.g. through cash-for-work for water harvesting), which is particularly critical given the current drought.

The Cooperation Framework also contributes towards specific nexus interventions. For example, WFP’s Urban Safety Net programme targets very vulnerable urban populations who were previously recipients of relief through a shock-responsive predictable safety net. This is a food insecure group that could fall back under a humanitarian caseload without such continued support. Funding for the programme ended in December 2021, however a smaller caseload of 6,000 urban poor, vulnerable IDPs and host communities continue to be supported by the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA). Similarly, FAO provides long-term cash assistance supplemented with livelihood support and saving schemes, while cash-for-work targets water resource enhancement to provide short term assistance and create improved water harvesting for dry seasons. Meanwhile, mapping longer-term resilience and durable solutions programmes (e.g. the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia [BRCiS] consortium and *Saameynta* programme on scaling-up solutions to displacement) against related HRP projects highlights gaps and opportunities, while contributing to disaggregation of humanitarian and development target populations.

The United Nations Cooperation Framework, under its Social Development priority area, integrates four collective outcomes agreed jointly with the Humanitarian Country Team:

By 2025

- more people in Somalia, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from equitable and affordable access to government-led and regulated quality basic social services at different state levels
- the number of people impacted by climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation is reduced
- the proportion of vulnerable Somalis with scaled-up and sustained resilience against environmental and conflict-related shocks is increased, based on better management of life cycle risk, food security and better nutrition outcomes
- the capacities of local, national and customary institutions and communities are strengthened to achieve durable solutions and increase the resilience, self-reliance and social cohesion of urban communities affected by displacement



NEXUS WATER MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE

Co-chairs: United Nations Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC, FAO, Ministry of Energy and Water



SITUATION

Devastating droughts and floods are becoming more intense and frequent in Somalia, exacerbated by climate change and causing recurring displacement, income loss and property damage. In 2022, more than 6 million people^{*} have been affected by the drought emergency, with the country facing the longest sequence of poor rainy seasons since 1981. The government, local authorities and humanitarian actors aim to address the most urgent needs with the support of approximately thirty donors, the United Nations, IFIs and NGOs. However, more focus is needed on analysis, planning and implementation to address root causes and longer-term development to enable sustainable solutions. Moving forward, climate models predict Somalia will very likely experience high inter-annual variability in precipitation to 2080, meaning both more floods and more droughts.^{**}



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In August 2021, the FGS launched the new National Water Strategy and established a new National Water Taskforce. Led by the Ministry of Energy and Water, this will provide sustainable government leadership across the different contributing ministries (including Planning, Water, Agriculture, Environment and Humanitarian) in managing all work on drought and flooding. In February 2022, the Government announced the setting up of the National Water Management Task Force that will work very closely with the United Nations.

* As of May 2022.

** Weathering Risk (2022). Climate Risk Profile Somalia.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Nexus Water Management Taskforce is working very closely with United Nations entities and NGOs on the implementation of the National Water Strategy. It is supporting the Hirshabelle and Jubaland State Authorities to work with private sector, Chamber of Commerce, NGOs, community members etc. to prepare multi-sectoral FMS-level plans of action to localize the implementation of the strategy.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, the taskforce has developed a road map on flood responses and is working to improve humanitarian-development-peace coordination, including clarifying whether work is best reflected under the HRP or the Cooperation Framework. It is identifying best practices on river management and flood mitigation; waste and pollution management; and resource-related community peacebuilding. An assessment of future flood and drought response priorities is also underway.



OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The taskforce has expanded operational work to fix riverbank breakage points on the Juba and Shabelle rivers. By simultaneously modelling long-term nature-based solutions to flooding, it hopes to supply specific and practical models for sustainable solutions. During the *Gu* rainy season of 2021 there was a reduced impact of the flooding on communities, in part due to the coordinated efforts of the nexus approach. Flood protection work is ongoing in Hirshabelle State (Belet Weyne and Jowhar) on the flood relief canal to fix embankments and raise levees (Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions). Strategic water points along key human and livestock migration routes are in the process of being enhanced for greater storage capacity and for multiple use (human and livestock). Drought planning and response are also ongoing, including in regard to long-term solutions in underground water provision to vulnerable communities. Coupled with this is a focus on urban planning and waste management as part of the long-term approach to sustainability.



JOINT PROGRAMMING

The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has funded a joint FAO / UNEP project that is delivering a nexus response to flooding whereby short-term fixes are being implemented in combination with modelling of nature-based, long-term solutions. The World Bank's Somalia Crisis Recovery Project and the German development agency (GIZ) are also working collaboratively with the FGS, as is UNDP, which, along with other partners, is supporting the Ministry of Energy and Water. Finally, Italy and Sweden as well as Norway and OCHA are all funding programmes that are working at the community level to fix riverbanks and build community resilience. It is the coordination of these actors to ensure delivery success that is the key.



NEXUS DURABLE SOLUTIONS TASKFORCE

Chair: Durable Solutions Secretariat at MOPIED, supported by the United Nations Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC



SITUATION

Finding durable solutions to internal displacement is a priority for Somalia – and for Somalia’s 2.9 million displaced people. About

771,400 people* have been displaced internally since October 2021 by the current drought emergency (compared to about 1 million displaced during the 2016/2017 drought crisis). Looking forward, the number of Somalis displaced due to climatic shocks and political events is anticipated to increase. The same applies to other displacement-affected groups such as refugees, asylum seekers and returning refugees.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

A key milestone, the National Durable Solutions Strategy (2020-2024) sets out strategic objectives, operational guidance and an action plan for durable solutions. Developed through a highly consultative process supported by the United Nations, the strategy provides multiple entry points to foster a nexus-based approach and the attainment of collective outcomes. The operationalization of this Durable Solutions Strategy was recently launched on 22 May 2022. This process seeks to advance program development and fundraising efforts through an FGS Durable Solutions-led taskforce, supported by United Nations and multi-partner agencies, which prioritizes needs and capacities that have been identified from an FMS assessment.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Nexus Durable Solutions Taskforce is fully integrated and led by the FGS National Durable Solutions Secretariat in MOPIED. It aims to support the implementation of the National Durable Solutions Strategy at the strategic level and provide high-level political momentum to accelerate and complement the operational work of the existing United Nations / NGO technical working group (TWG).



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The FGS is operationalizing the National Durable Solutions Strategy, which was launched in March 2021. As part of this operationalization, alignment of the strategy with relevant development programmes has been prioritized. Annual workplans for FMS and BRA have been developed from August to November 2021. A next step will be consolidating a single national plan (from the FMS plans) that sets out the key priorities and gaps in each FMS/BRA aligned to the strategy’s objectives.



OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Together with the TWG, the taskforce has provided durable solutions workshops in operationalizing the National Durable Solutions Strategy and is using the strategy’s monitoring and evaluation framework to report on progress. The TWG – jointly with development and peacebuilding partners – also developed recommendations on how to mitigate possible election-related scenarios this year.



COORDINATION

As the Somali-led Aid Architecture evolves, a reconfiguration of the FGS-led durable solutions mechanisms is anticipated. This should support further localization and area-specific solutions. In addition to the National Durable Solutions Secretariat, the Nexus Durable Solutions Taskforce and the TWG, current stakeholder groups include the Durable Solutions Sub-Working Group of the Social Development Pillar and the Durable Solutions Donor Sub-Working Group. In the meantime, synergies and gaps between the Cooperation Framework and the HRP continue to be addressed.



JOINT PROGRAMMING

A flagship United Nations joint programme, “Saameynta: Scaling-Up Solutions to Displacement in Somalia,” was developed with local communities, private sector partners, Municipal Authorities, FMS and the FGS. The \$19 million, four-year pilot aims to provide a scalable model for further durable solutions work. The Saameynta programme was successfully jointly launched on the 20 March 2022 by MoPIED and United Nations consortia partners. The Saameynta programme response in Baidoa (inception district) has been updated using the Consolidated Action Plan to address recent drought displacement needs and mitigatory flood response actions. This aims to address agricultural production, enhanced access to basic service infrastructure and the immediate assistance and protection needs of displaced communities.

* As of May 2022.



NEXUS ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION TASKFORCE

Co-chairs: UNODC and UNDP, supported by the United Nations Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC



SITUATION

Tackling pervasive and systemic fraud and corruption is a cross-sectoral priority for Somalia and partners. Corruption is a threat to stability, justice and development as it exacerbates poverty and economic disparities, diverts aid, discourages direct foreign investment, and erodes the confidence and trust of Somalis in their leaders and institutions. Furthermore, it impacts the efficiency of the security and justice apparatus and plays into the hands of violent extremist groups, legitimizing their agendas and threatening the peacebuilding gains made over the last few years.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In a landmark moment, Somalia formally acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 11 August 2021, becoming the 188th State Party to UNCAC. The Convention became legally effective on 10 September 2021. Somalia for the first time participated as a State Party in the ninth session of the (biennial) UNCAC Conference of State Parties (COSP) (13-17 December 2021) in Egypt. Somalia will send – again for the first time – a delegation to the Implementation Review Group (IRG) of the UNCAC, to be held in Vienna on 13-17 June 2022. The IRG meetings will be an unprecedented opportunity for Somalia to share experiences and learn from challenges overcome by other jurisdictions in implementing the UNCAC. Together with the 187 other State Parties, through these subsidiary bodies and the primary mechanism of the COSP, Somalia will contribute to international anti-corruption policymaking. The Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) – of which Somalia is now a participating State – is a key driver of institutional change, with Somalia's first 'cycle' of the IRM now in effect. The Nexus Anti-Fraud & Anti-Corruption Taskforce is providing assistance to Somali stakeholders to manage the demands of the IRM and ensure that the Convention's Articles are implemented effectively. The United Nations will also continue to support the FGS and FMS through participation in UNCAC advisory groups and attendance at the COSP.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The United Nations own work on anti-corruption is guided not only by the UNCAC but also by Somalia's ninth National Development Plan as well as the 2020-2023 National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The Nexus Anti-Fraud & Anti-Corruption Taskforce has United Nations-wide membership. It promotes a multi-stakeholder dialogue on anti-corruption to address areas of concern within the United Nations family and aims to provide guidance both to Government and stakeholders.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The taskforce continues coordination and consultations with IFIs. In the medium to long term, it aims to formalize United Nations-World Bank collaboration on anti-fraud and anti-corruption, supported by the United Nations-World Bank Liaison Officer (funded by the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility, under the United Nations-World Bank Partnership team in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs). The Taskforce is also engaged with IMF in an effort to link IMF financial support to Somalia with conditionality that encourages anti-corruption and integrity-related development. This has the potential for strong synergies between the United Nations and IMF in this area, particularly in the context of the IMF 2018 Governance Framework.



OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The taskforce, together with the United Nations Risk Management Unit in the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC, is supporting United Nations compliance with the 2019 Public Financial Management Act and the Use of Country Systems, including by ensuring that support to the Federal Government ministries will be on-treasury and on-budget.



JOINT PROGRAMMING

The taskforce endorsed the first proposal for a multi-year joint United Nations project in 2021 to address anti-corruption issues, in line with the priorities set out in the 2020 National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Acknowledging that progress requires systemic inter-generational change, this proposal has since been developed into a multi-phase 10-year plan for anti-corruption development work in Somalia. With an estimated budget of \$25 million, the "Strengthening Integrity and Transparency in Somalia" project, to be delivered across the FGS and FMS, aims to: strengthen a range of financial, judicial and oversight institutions, policies and procedures, and public service delivery; build integrity; and combat fraud in aid through comprehensive risk identification and mitigation. In parallel, the taskforce continues to liaise with colleagues from the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and Peacebuilding Fund on proposals geared towards the nexus between corruption, gender and the environment.