

UN SOMALIA newsletter

UPDATE ON OPERATIONALISATION OF THE NEXUS

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OVERVIEW

Implementing the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus continues to be a priority in Somalia. 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 short-term nexus taskforces with clearly defined purposes and will undertake light horizon scanning for new and practical nexus opportunities by identifying potential areas of joint work.

The Federal Government of Somalia, the UN SRSG and DSRSG/RC/HC have reviewed TORs for the Committee with the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic

Development (MOPIED) and Member States. The Committee will also include NGO representation and the Federal Member States in the membership, as well as donor countries and international financial institutions (IFIs).

Implementation of the nexus has been most successful where humanitarian, development and peace-building actors have a strong incentive to coordinate local activities. In this regard, the nexus taskforces for (1) Water Management – Droughts and Floods, (2) Durable Solutions for displacement-affected communities, and (3) Anti-Fraud & Anti-Corruption are building support and improving information sharing across stakeholders. Coordination across these taskforces is taking place.

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; and

3

Environmentally sound area-based Durable Solutions initially in Baidoa in South West State and Luglow in Jubaland.



THE UN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

Collective nexus priorities are being focused on across both the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-25 (UNCF) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Given the growing humanitarian needs, the 2021 and 2022 HRPs focus on immediate, life-saving assistance and protection. Resilience-building activities previously included in the 2020 HRP were 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, food security and safety net and protection interventions.


The 2022 HRP outlines linkages to development programmes and strategies for every cluster to identify operational complementar-

ity and advocate for specific development investments to reduce need. The Plan prioritises increased coordination with development actors for (i) durable solutions for displaced persons, (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 Cooperation Framework also captures nexus interventions. For example, WFP’s Urban Safety Net programme targets very vulnerable urban populations that were previously recipients of relief through a shock-responsive predictable safety-net. This is a borderline group that could fall back under a humanitarian caseload without such continued support. Similarly, FAO provides long-term cash assistance, supplemented with livelihood support and saving schemes. Mapping these longer-term resilience and durable solutions programmes (e.g. BRCiS and Saameynta) against related HRP projects will highlight gaps and opportunities, while contributing to disaggregation of humanitarian and development target populations.




NEXUS WATER MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE




SITUATION

Devastating floods and droughts are becoming more intense and frequent in Somalia, exacerbated by climate change and causing recurring displacement, income loss and property damage. The response led by the government and local authorities aims to address the most urgent needs with the support of approximately thirty donors, UN, IFIs and NGO entities. However, more focus is needed on root causes and longer-term development to enable sustainable solutions.




STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, the nexus 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 UNCF. 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 response priorities is also underway.




NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In August 2021, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) launched the new National Water Strategy and established a new National Water Taskforce. Led by the Ministry of 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. Discussions are currently underway about merging the national taskforce with the Nexus Water Management Taskforce.




OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The nexus taskforce is expanding operational work to fix riverbank breakage points on the Juba and Shabelle rivers. By simultaneously modelling long-term nature-based solutions to the flooding, it hopes to supply specific and practical models for sustainable solutions. During the Gu rain season of 2021 there was a reduced impact of the flooding on communities, in part due to the coordinated efforts of the Nexus program. 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). Drought planning and response are 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.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Nexus Water Management Taskforce, established in 2020, and led by the Integrated Office and FAO, is now working very closely with the FGS (who are now also co-chairs) 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 Federal Member State (FMS)-level plans of action to localise the implementation of the National Water Strategy.



JOINT PROGRAMMING

The UK FCDO 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. SCRIP and GIZ are also working collaboratively with the Government, as is UNDP which along with other partners is supporting the Ministry of Water. Finally, Italy and Sweden as well as Norway and OCHA are all funding programs 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



SITUATION

Finding durable solutions to internal displacement is a priority for Somalia - and for Somalia's nearly 3 million displaced people. In 2020 alone, 893,000 people were displaced – many by flooding. 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.



OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Together with the TWG, the nexus taskforce has provided durable solutions workshops in operationalizing the National Durable Solutions Strategy and is using the The National Durable Solutions Strategy M&E 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.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

A key milestone, the National Durable Solutions Strategy (2020-2024) launched in March 2021, sets out strategic objectives, operational guidance and an action plan for durable solutions. Developed through a highly consultative process supported by the UN, the strategy provides multiple entry points to foster a nexus-based approach and the attainment of collective outcomes.



COORDINATION

As the Somali-led aid architecture evolves, a reconfiguration of the FGS-led durable solutions mechanisms is anticipated. This should support further localisation 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 UNCF and the HRP continue to be addressed.



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 UN/NGO technical working group (TWG).



JOINT PROGRAMMING

A flagship UN 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. Implementation is expected to start in Q4 2021 in Baidoa, South-West State and will be extended to Bosasso, Garowe State and Belet Weyne, Hirshabelle State. Saameynta seeks sustainable programming solutions by leveraging land value increments for the delivery of services for displacement-affected communities, building accountability of administrations and increasing inclusion of displacement-affected communities in local governance.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

In September, a “Donor and Expert Review Group” comprising FGS, donors, NGOs and the UN identified short- and medium- term durable solutions programme priorities in the areas of (a) housing, land and property (HLP), (b) access to basic services, and (c) economic and financial inclusion.



NEXUS ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION TASKFORCE



SITUATION

Tackling the 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 peace-building gains made over the last few years.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The nexus taskforce continues coordination and consultations with IFIs. In the medium to long term, it aims to formalise UN-World Bank collaboration on anti-fraud & anti-corruption supported by the incoming UN-WB Liaison Officer (funded by the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership (HDPP) Facility, under the UN-World Bank Partnership team in DPPA). The nexus taskforce, together with the UN Risk Management Unit in the Integrated Office, is also supporting UN 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.



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 10th September. Somalia participated as a State Party in the 9th session of the (biennial) UNCAC Conference of State Parties (COSP) (13-17 December 2021) in Egypt. Together with the 187 other State Parties, Somalia will contribute to international anti-corruption policymaking. The UN will continue to support FGS and FMS with the implementation of the Convention, participation in UNCAC advisory groups and attendance at the COSP.



JOINT PROGRAMMING

In March 2021, the nexus taskforce endorsed the first proposal for a multi-year joint UN project 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 now been developed into a 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, includes strengthening a range of financial, judicial and oversight institutions, policies and procedures, public service delivery, and building integrity and combatting fraud in aid through comprehensive risk identification and mitigation. In parallel, the nexus taskforce continues to prepare – in collaboration with colleagues from the PBSO and PBF - a 2-year sub-proposal (\$2 million) geared towards the nexus between corruption, gender and the environment.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The UN’s own work on anti-corruption is guided by Somalia’s ninth National Development Plan as well as the 2020-2023 National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The internal UN nexus anti-fraud and anti-corruption taskforce is chaired by UNODC and UNDP and supported by the Integrated Office. With UN-wide membership, the taskforce promotes a multi-stakeholder dialogue on anti-corruption to address areas of concern within the UN family and aims to provide guidance both to Government and stakeholders.