

# UN SOMALIA factsheet

Operationalization of the nexus

Update April 2023



UNITED NATIONS  
SOMALIA



## 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-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, there are plans to establish a high-level Triple Nexus Steering Committee alongside the government-led Somalia Aid Architecture, which is currently being revised. The committee will engage decision makers to advance

nexus issues that require additional support. It will also help guide the work of the nexus taskforces and undertake light horizon scanning for new and practical nexus opportunities by identifying potential areas of joint work. The membership is expected to include high-level representation from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS), United Nations, donor countries, non-government organizations (NGOs) and international financial institutions (IFIs). It is anticipated the Steering Committee will become operational following the formulation of the new Aid Architecture.

A critical approach to implementing the nexus is to increase the Government of Somalia's capacity to deliver social services, increase human development and build resilience to reduce the reliance on external partners. The United Nations commitment to the Use of Country Systems is a critical step to reduce 'off system' delivery, to build capacity and government systems to deliver for Somalis. The United Nations is partnering closely

with FGS and the World Bank in bringing more sustainable, government-led delivery models to scale.

### Joint priorities across the three nexus taskforces include:

1

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

2

Assisting the government in achieving the goals of the National Water Resources Strategy, and achieving wider natural resource-related sustainability and reduced tensions or conflict over natural resources

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 employs a nexus approach across its core frameworks, with a focus on collective priorities highlighted in both the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-25 and annual Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs).

The Cooperation Framework supports nexus interventions that contribute to government efforts to build state capacity and deliver services. For example, WFP's intervention in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs aimed at implementing and scaling up national safety nets during periods of shocks has contributed to building the government's national image as duty bearer. The *Baxnaano* ("Uplifting") safety net project<sup>1</sup> has provided investments benefitting 3.1 million people, with over 1.4 million receiving shock response safety nets. In addition, FAO provides long-term cash assistance supplemented with livelihood support and saving schemes to access credit, while cash-for-work targets water resource enhancement to provide short-term assistance and create improved water harvesting for dry seasons.

The 2023 HRP aligns with relevant resilience and durable solutions frameworks to reduce humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities in the medium to longer-term. Synergies and complementarities with development, resilience and peace initiatives will be strengthened by: (i) existing durable solutions programmes with a focus on strong area-based and spatial approaches to local integration processes; (ii) complementarity of social safety nets and humanitarian assistance, particularly cash; and (iii) leveraging the water and flood management programme to scale up joined-up responses to flooding and future droughts<sup>ii</sup>.

Mapping longer-term resilience and durable solutions programmes against HRP projects remains underway, including through the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortium and *Saameynta* ("Impact") programme on scaling-up solutions to displacement. This is highlighting gaps and opportunities, and contributing to disaggregation of humanitarian and development target populations.

## 2023 Somalia HRP: Complementarity of Social Safety Nets and Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian partners are supporting government-led mechanisms like the *Baxnaano* Safety Net for Human Capital Project to strengthen the nexus approach through cash-based interventions. Through additional financing in the context of shocks, *Baxnaano* can respond to households in the safety net scheme before climate-related emergencies occur, helping them diversify income sources and meet long-term food security needs. Cash transfer interventions will support *Baxnaano* objectives, protecting against food insecurity and malnutrition risks, developing key social safety net delivery systems and strengthening institutional capacity-building. Additionally, the Transitional Cash and Livelihoods Assistance Programme (TCLP) addresses food insecurity and sustainable livelihoods through a multidimensional methodology that layers four complementary components of emergency response and early recovery. This includes 12 months of unconditional cash assistance, livelihood inputs, extensive skill training and community-led nutrition education. Village Savings and Loans Associations will be established in target districts to diversify income sources. TCLP aims to improve the ability of households to adapt to recurrent shocks and seeks ways to prevent people from remaining dependent on humanitarian assistance.

## The 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

<sup>1</sup> *Baxnaano* is a government-led safety net programme financed by the World Bank that works with different government ministries and United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes to ensure efficient delivery of cash transfers.

<sup>ii</sup> OCHA (2023). Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.





## NEXUS WATER MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE

Co-chairs: Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MOEWR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC).



### 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. With five consecutive poor rainy seasons, the longest and most severe drought in Somalia's recent history is devastating the country. About 8 million people lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services<sup>iii</sup> while pasture and water are close to complete depletion in key pastoral areas<sup>iv</sup>. Along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, water levels have been consistently below their historical minimum. The government, local authorities and humanitarian actors aim to address the most urgent needs with the support of 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 support community adaptation and 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<sup>v</sup>.



### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The FGS National Water Resources Strategy 2021-25 and accompanying Roadmap provide a pathway to achieving sustainable water management in Somalia. The Roadmap contains 12 Flagship Projects which have a range of goals, from the development of financing frameworks to interventions to improve water security for the agriculture sector. The achievement of the Strategy will be led by MOEWR, which also aims to provide a framework for how United Nations partners can practically support the Strategy's goals. In September 2022, MOEWR organized a Water Sector Investment Coordination Group to support the realization of the targets within the Strategy. The Minister chaired the event, highlighting that emergency programmes could not address Somalia's current challenges. Development water programmes should be implemented alongside the humanitarian response to reduce risks, improve livelihoods and enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities.



### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In March 2023, the government launched the National Coordination Facility to support implementation of the National Water Resources Strategy and achieve sustainable government leadership across the different contributing ministries and entities. The Facility, led by the MOEWR, is a platform where all relevant water-related actors can convene to discuss and achieve the goals of the Strategy. The Nexus Water Management Taskforce has been formally incorporated into the Facility, where United Nations actors continue to provide sustained support and advice to the government on water and natural resource-related issues. MOEWR is also implementing a training programme to ensure government staff have full capacity to take the Strategy forward.



### STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, the Taskforce has developed a roadmap 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 drought response and sustainable natural resource management.



### OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Taskforce supported coordinated mapping across FAO, IOM and UNICEF in Baidoa, including field visits to generate details on borehole yields. It also contributed to approaches linking long-term urban planning for water provision to existing humanitarian needs and advocated for water to be a more central element of security planning in Baidoa. More broadly, through Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), the Taskforce is mapping critical boreholes across the country, measuring their functionality and salinity levels, which will be the basis of future water management and natural resource-related activities. Additionally, in March 2023, the United Nations organised a Leadership Lab focusing on water management in Somalia, alongside donors, NGOs and other humanitarian and development organizations. The Lab encouraged holistic approaches to water management.



### JOINT PROGRAMMING

The EU has funded a joint UNEP and IOM project, "Breaking the Climate-Conflict Cycle in Galmudug State", which aims to reduce environmentally-induced displacement and conflict, and support communities to sustain climate-conscious conflict mitigation strategies. By recognizing the interlinked nature of climate change, natural resource scarcity (particularly water management) and security issues, the project uses a nexus approach by employing sustainable natural resource-related protection and regeneration structures alongside peacebuilding and mitigation activities.

<sup>iii</sup> OCHA (2022). Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.

<sup>iv</sup> According to SWALIM data.

<sup>v</sup> Weathering Risk (2022). Climate Risk Profile Somalia.



## NEXUS DURABLE SOLUTIONS TASKFORCE

Co-Chair: Durable Solutions Unit of the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (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 approximately 3 million<sup>vi</sup> displaced people. About 1.4 million people<sup>vii</sup> have been displaced internally by the current drought emergency (compared to 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 the Durable Solutions Strategy was launched on 22 May 2022. This process seeks to advance programme 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 Secretary-General’s Action Agenda calls for all governments to bear the primary responsibility to provide sustainable solutions to internal displacement. In response, the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC has formed a national-level United Nations Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement to work towards strengthening the Action Agenda commitments. This involves working through existing government and United Nations coordination mechanisms, and bringing together multi-sectoral partners including the newly appointed global Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the private sector to ensure collaboration at national and local levels. The Steering Group members include the core United Nations agencies and MoPIED (Durable Solutions Secretariat).



### STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

Somalia is a selected Member State to pilot the Action Agenda and will seek to benefit from the establishment of a thematic window on Solutions to Internal Displacement within the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund. This presents a joint opportunity for both MoPIED and the United Nations Steering Group to mobilize funding to respond to the negative effects of climate change that drive rural to urban displacement, provide sustainable and long-term solutions to urbanization by contributing to the integration of displacement-affected communities, reduce displacement-related vulnerabilities and promote human rights. This fund will complement ongoing humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities currently being implemented.



### 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 United Nations / NGO Technical Working Group, 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

The *Saameynta* Durable Solutions Joint Programme continues to contribute towards mitigating climate risk in the target locations, strengthening local authorities’ capacity to adapt to climate change and reinforcing the roles of national and local actors in the delivery of coordinated assistance. The programme is supporting community-identified priorities through cash-for-work modalities, livelihood diversification, scaling up social safety net programmes, investments in renewable / clean energy technologies, and scaling up resilient urban infrastructure projects for IDP returns and local integration.

<sup>vi</sup> UNHCR (2023). Somalia Operational Update 1-28 February 2023.

<sup>vii</sup> OCHA (2023). Drought Response and Famine Prevention: Somalia 15 January – 15 February 2023.



## NEXUS 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

Somalia formally acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 11 August 2021, becoming the 188th State Party to UNCAC, and 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. The Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) – of which Somalia is a participating State – is a key driver of institutional change. Somalia's first 'cycle' of the IRM is now initiated, with Equatorial Guinea and Belize as reviewing States. The Nexus Anti-Corruption Taskforce is providing assistance to Somali stakeholders to follow the steps of the IRM and ensure that UNCAC's standards are effectively implemented. The United Nations will also continue to support Somalia through its participation in the COSP subsidiary bodies and attendance at the 10th session of the Conference (to be held in Atlanta, USA, 11-15 December 2023), which will mark the 20th anniversary of its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly and provide opportunities for setting new milestones in international anti-corruption policy-making.



### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The United Nations' own work on anti-corruption is guided not only by UNCAC but also by Somalia's ninth National Development Plan and the 2020-2023 National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The Taskforce has United Nations-wide membership and promotes a multi-stakeholder dialogue to address areas of concern and develop capacities within the United Nations family. It also aims to provide guidance to government and other anti-corruption stakeholders in Somalia. As part of the implementation of the United Nations Integration Review, a Facilitated Leadership Dialogue took place in Somalia from 25-29 September 2022 with a focus on anti-corruption. The Dialogue allowed United Nations senior leadership to discuss how integrated or collaborative approaches can enhance work on anti-corruption. It confirmed significant consensus in favour of integrated approaches to enhance analytical, operational and programmatic work, and underscored that further efficiencies can be achieved by increasing the level of integration among relevant United Nations partners. The Dialogue also highlighted the key role of the Taskforce in developing collective approaches in programmes, operations and advocacy.



### STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Taskforce is linking its efforts more directly with the other Nexus Taskforces, ensuring strong alignment with the Cooperation Framework.



### OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Taskforce, together with the United Nations Risk Management Unit (RMU) 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 Federal Government ministries is on-treasury and on-budget. Analytical work was led by the RMU to identify lessons learned on aid diversion between 2010 and 2023, including on corruption practices. A training was also organized in March 2023 to raise awareness and build capacities of United Nations personnel to prevent and fight corruption.



### 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. As a first step in this longer endeavour, the Taskforce has been liaising with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and Peacebuilding Fund to develop a proposal geared towards the prevention of corruption and the building of a culture of integrity in Somalia, including the role of women and youth.