



**SOMALIA JOINT FUND**  
TUBTA HORUMARKA

# 2023 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

**UNITED NATIONS SOMALIA JOINT FUND  
TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT**



**UNITED NATIONS  
SOMALIA**



The **SOMALIA JOINT FUND**'s mission is to provide an impactful and collectively owned contribution to Somalia's recovery and development by resourcing clear United Nations (UN) strategies and leveraging distinct UN comparative advantages in the country. As such, its ambition is to be a platform for joint policy and strategic dialogue that is translated into an informed by high-quality and flexible programming.

This report showcases what the SJF has achieved through its programmes structured around the seven funding windows. It also outlines its partners, the financial overview, what has been learned and plans to move forward.

In the first half of 2023, the SJF managed and implemented 13 programmes thanks to the generous contribution of the following countries and donors:

- ◆ **Denmark**
- ◆ **European Union**
- ◆ **Finland**
- ◆ **Germany**
- ◆ **Italy**
- ◆ **Netherlands**
- ◆ **Norway**
- ◆ **Sweden**
- ◆ **Switzerland**
- ◆ **United Kingdom**
- ◆ **United States of America**

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**“I want to express my gratitude to Norway and Switzerland for being the first donors to make contributions to the SJF’s new phase. I also want to appreciate the Netherlands and the European Union for preparing for their first new contributions. I trust that other partners will follow suit and look forward to engaging through the SJF’s governance structure.”**

George Conway  
Deputy Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian  
Coordinator for Somalia



# FOREWORD

Dear partners,

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2023 semi-annual report for the Somalia Joint Fund (SJF) – my first report since being appointed Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia on 18 August 2023. I am deeply honoured by this appointment and for the opportunity to return to serve Somalia.

I am encouraged to see the progress made on Somalia's state-building and peacebuilding process, including the peaceful transfer of power in 2022, newly recovered areas, steps toward debt relief, and landmark local elections in Puntland in 2023. However, many of the challenges that continue to face Somalia are recurrent. As previously in 2017-18, famine was again narrowly averted in 2022-23, and the situation is still dire across many parts of the country, further exaggerated by an escalating climate crisis and inadequate investment in resilience-building and productive sectors. Displacement remains at alarmingly high levels, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized groups. The absence of basic services and local governance in large parts of the country continues to hamper peacebuilding, recovery, and the restoration of a social contract.

Government leadership in coordinating international development support to Somalia is critical. The mid-term review of Somalia's National Development Plan (NDP) underlines this point, and I am looking forward to the resumption of government-led coordination under the Somalia Renewed Partnership. The mid-term review further highlighted the progress made in implementing the NDP, but also stressed the need for more focused investment in resilience, climate adaptation, economic development, and support to newly recovered areas. These priorities were discussed at the first Joint Steering Committee meeting for the UN Cooperation Framework, held between the Government and the UN in Mogadishu on 9 August.

The SJF is an important tool to steer the UN's collective support to Somalia toward these, amongst other priorities, and to further deepen an already collaborative partnership between Somalia, the UN, and contributing donors. While the SJF has its own governance structure, it will use the coordination structure under the Somalia Renewed Partnership to ensure alignment with national priorities, to seek synergies with other actors, and to strengthen the quality of its investments.

To realize the ambition of the SJF and to ensure the Fund becomes a driver of partnership, integration, and collective prioritization, we are keen to engage with international partners to ensure the necessary funding. The SJF's fundraising ambitions are modest in the perspective of the overall aid flows to Somalia. For 2023, we are aiming at raising USD 35 million to resource the new portfolio. For subsequent years leading up to the SJF's end date of 31 December 2030, it requires at least USD 60 million annually to viably cover its current scope across seven funding windows.

I want to express my gratitude to Norway and Switzerland for being the first donors to make contributions to the SJF's new phase. I also want to appreciate the Netherlands and the European Union for preparing for their first new contributions. I trust that other partners will follow suit and look forward to engaging through the SJF's governance structure.

Kind regards,

George Conway  
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General,  
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia



# HIGHLIGHTS



The SJF was officially launched by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development in Mogadishu on 10 May.

The SJF Secretariat led the development of four strategy notes for the Inclusive Politics, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender, and Climate and Resilience funding windows. These notes were developed through a consultative process involving the UN, donors, and the Government.

The first SJF Partner Forum was held on 13 June. Norway and Switzerland were selected to be the first donor representatives on the SJF Management Group.

The SJF launched the first two programmes under the new phase of the Fund: the Joint Justice and Corrections programme (implemented by UNDP, UNODC and UNSOM) and the State-building and Reconciliation Support Programme (implemented by UNDP and UNSOM).

A Programme Specialist was recruited for the SJF Secretariat in May, joining from a previous position with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in New York City. This addition bolsters the Fund's overall capacity to realise its objectives.

# DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**5** active donors to the SJF based on commitments and deposits during the reporting period.

**\$20.8 M** donor commitments during the reporting period with a deposit rate of 46.1%.

DONOR	Commitments (in \$)	Deposits (in \$)	Deposit rate
 SWITZERLAND	7,156,500	2,368,250	33
 FINLAND	5,861,665	0	0
 NORWAY	3,684,078	3,684,078	100
 DENMARK	3,557,044	3,557,044	100
 NETHERLANDS	563,063	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,822,350</b>	<b>9,609,373</b>	<b>46.1</b>

## Overall contributions from inception through to 30 June 2023

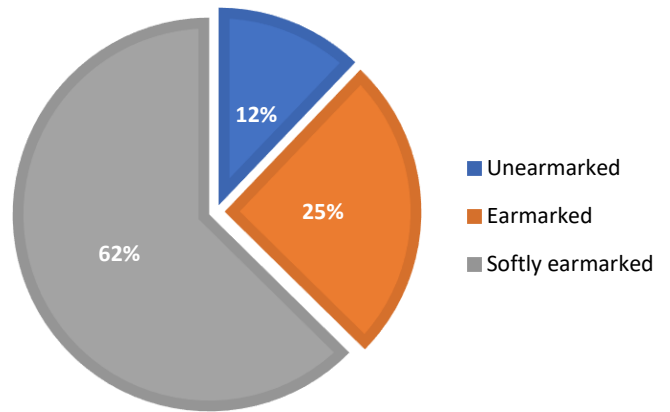
DONOR	Commitments (in \$)	Deposits (in \$)	Deposit Rate
 SWEDEN	136,540,957	136,540,957	100
 EUROPEAN UNION	79,790,868	79,083,353	99
 NORWAY	65,052,482	61,003,431	93
 SWITZERLAND	57,139,610	47,663,260	83
 DENMARK	42,682,217	42,682,217	100
 FINLAND	36,884,372	25,161,043	68
 UNITED KINGDOM	36,236,007	35,976,001	99
 GERMANY	32,807,500	32,807,500	100
 ITALY	30,538,518	30,538,518	100
 NETHERLANDS	22,105,038	21,541,975	97
 USA	5,535,000	5,535,000	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>545,312,569</b>	<b>518,533,255</b>	<b>95</b>

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The SJF received **USD 9,609,373** in deposits in the first half of 2023, a **52 percent** decrease from the same period in 2022. This decline is attributable to the winding down of several programmes in the SJF's portfolio. The Fund has issued a new call for proposals, following its official launch, for the development of a new portfolio of programmes. The Fund's deposits are expected to increase as these programmes come online and donors enter into new contribution agreements with the SJF.

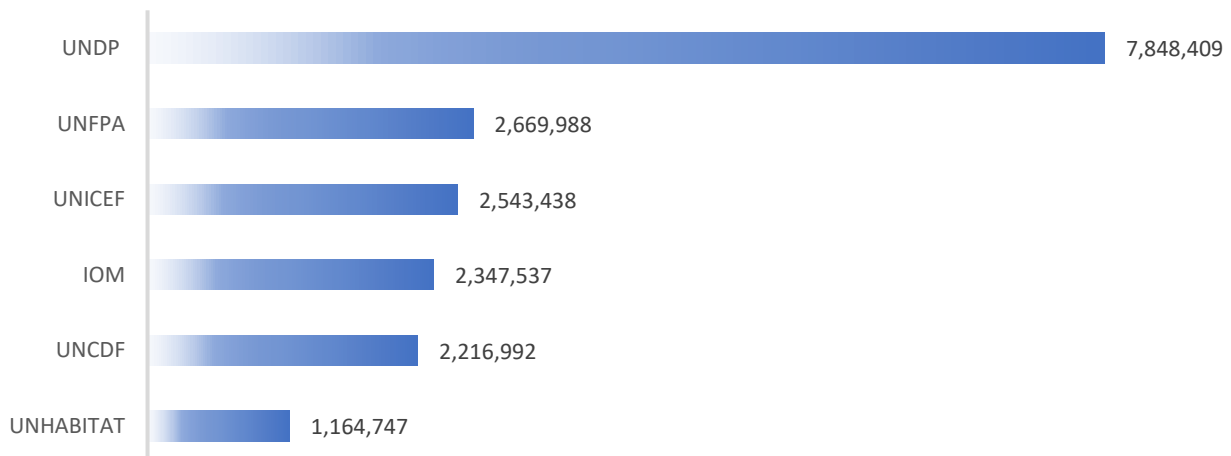
As anticipated, contributions to the SJF have declined steadily since the reform process began. However, with the reforms now complete, agreement on new Terms of Reference, and a new portfolio of programmes underway, we are optimistic that contributions will gradually rebound to our target of USD 60 million annually.

## Unearmarked contributions as a percentage of overall contributions:



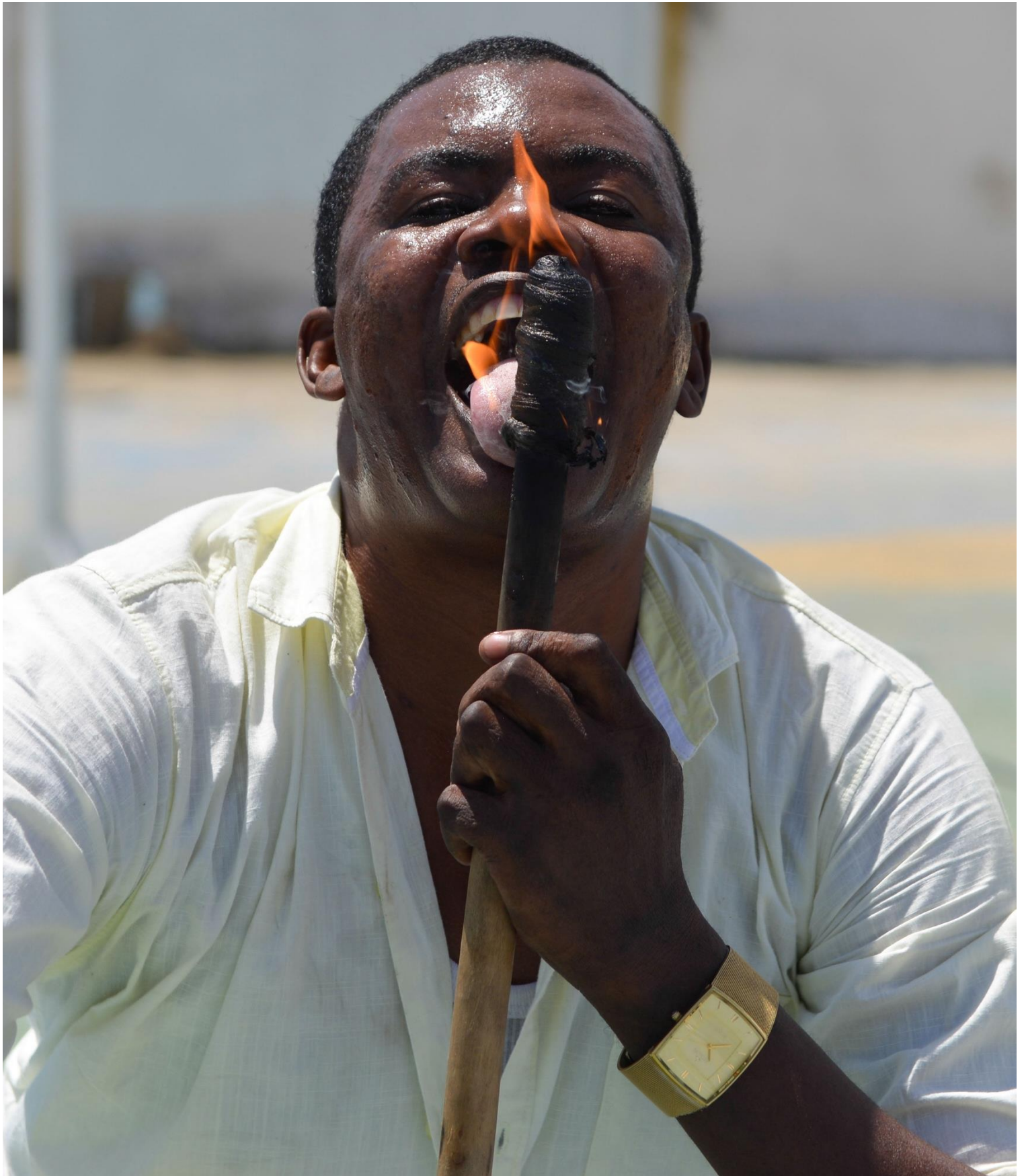
The SJF Real-time financial information can be accessed on the [MPTF Gateway](#).

## **\$9,609,373** transferred to PUNOs\* in the first half of 2023.



Financial data source: MPTF Gateway on 30 June 2023 – \*PUNO: Participating UN organisation





# OUR ENGAGEMENT

The SJF facilitated the development of strategy notes for the Inclusive Politics, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender, and Climate and Resilience funding windows in the year's first half. These notes were the product of collaborative efforts between the UN, donors, and the Government of Somalia. The strategy notes will guide the design of new programmes through the new governance structure and call for proposals process.

The SJF was officially launched on 10 May 2023 at an event officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia. The event was also attended by the Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, the Director-General of the Ministry of Finance, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula, representatives of Somalia's international partners, and members of the UN Country Team. The launch of the SJF was the culmination of a two-year reform process that redesigned the Fund and brought consensus on a host of issues, including a new earmarking policy. This policy aligns the SJF with global best practices and enhances its ability to support Somalia's national development priorities.

**The SJF was  
officially  
launched on 10  
May 2023 in an  
event officiated  
by the Deputy  
Prime Minister  
of Somalia.**

The SJF's first Partner Forum was held on 13 June 2023. The Partner Forum serves as a platform for strategic dialogue between the UN and SJF donors. The first meeting focused on the State-building and Reconciliation Support Programme (SRSP) and the Joint Justice and Correction Programme (JJCP). These two programmes exemplify how UNSOM collaborates with other entities within the UN system in Somalia. UNSOM is critical in guiding the programmes' design and providing an advisory function throughout implementation, closely linked to the UNSOM mandate.

The SJF Secretariat continued its regular donor outreach. Special recognition goes to Norway and Switzerland for being the first two donors to contribute to the new phase of the Fund and agreeing to be the first two rotating members of the SJF Management Group.

The Secretariat developed terms of reference for procuring services to bolster fund management and performance. This includes a third-party monitoring agent, grant management platform, and external peer review capacity.

# INCLUSIVE POLITICS

Lead organisations

**UNDP**  
**UNSOM**

Number of projects

**1**

Allocations

**\$26.2 M**

Related SDGs



## SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE ELECTIONS IN SOMALIA

The Joint Electoral Support Programme, implemented by UNDP and UNSOM, supported Somalia's state-building and democratisation process. As part of this commitment, the UN extended its electoral support to the electoral processes of Federal Member States. This support was aimed at generating momentum for one-person, one-vote elections and fostering inclusive decision-making at all levels of governance.

The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG), through the Joint Programme, provided the Transitional Puntland Election Commission (TPEC) with capacity development support, including electoral technical advice and budgetary assistance to help build a solid and credible independent electoral institution capable of planning and managing electoral processes according to its mandate and its strategic plan.

During the reporting period, the UN's support to Puntland yielded significant results, as it facilitated the delivery of district-level elections where citizens were able to exercise their voting rights for the first time since 1968. By strengthening TPEC, the UN played a pivotal role in enhancing the commission's operational capacity, thereby contributing to the realisation of the Somali citizens' aspirations for democratic participation.

The Joint Electoral Support Programme supported TPEC in conducting local elections in 30 of the 34 planned districts on 25 May 2023. From January to March 2023, TPEC registered 401,120 voters across 34 districts in nine regions. The final count of eligible voters published by TPEC was 387,094. TPEC also collaborated with civil society organisations and other electoral stakeholders to raise awareness and educate the public about the voter registration process and elections, emphasising the importance of participation in the elections.

Of the 774 local council seats available in the 30 districts that held elections, 129 (17%) were won by women candidates.

TPEC received 3775 nominations from seven political parties for local council elections. Rigorous vetting procedures were implemented to ensure the compliance of nominated candidates with legal criteria through the Joint Programme support.

71.9% of voters who collected their voter registration cards voted in 30 districts on election day.

The UN made significant efforts to provide technical assistance to bolster the capabilities of TPEC in effectively meeting the operational requirements of elections. This includes the support for the establishment of a call centre, hotline and WhatsApp messaging system to increase public awareness and access to information to voters throughout the electoral process.

Fifty-one trainings were conducted during this reporting period, with 483 participants (cumulative) taking part (368 men and 115 women) through virtual platforms.

IESG conducted several institutional capacity-building workshops on electoral capacity development and supported TPEC in developing project and operational documents that helped ensure the project's smooth and efficient implementation. These documents include plans for operation, procurement and logistics, timelines, guidelines, and policies such as financial, procurement, travel, risk management, and others.

Election equipment and supplies were fundamental to TPEC's smooth implementation and accurate conducting of district council elections. The UN supported in identifying and drafting the specifications of essential election equipment and supplies, including sensitive and non-sensitive supplies, by creating a comprehensive list of required items determining specifications for each item. This could include physical dimensions, materials, and technical requirements.

The office rental and utilities for TPEC have also been supported through the Joint Programme. Currently, the headquarters, nine regional offices, 29 district offices and a central warehouse are supported.



# RULE OF LAW

Lead organisations

**UNDP**

**UNODC**

**UNOPS**

Number of projects

**4**

Allocations

**\$13.1 M**

Related SDGs



## CONSTRUCTION OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR ENHANCED PROVISION OF RULE OF LAW SERVICES

In December 2022, the steering committees of the Joint Corrections Programme and Joint Justice Programme approved a 24-month extension of the programmes to allow UNOPS to redesign and construct a correction facility in Kismayo and finalise the Bossaso Courthouse with continued support from the SJF.

The detailed design phase for the Bosaso Courthouse was completed in July 2023. The Ministry of Justice in Puntland provided the technical endorsement for the detailed design, while UNOPS approved the internal design. The procurement process (bid, tendering, solicitation) was initiated in July on the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) eSourcing System. The bid evaluation process is planned for early September 2023, and construction activities will begin in early October 2023.

Similarly, the detailed design phase for the Kismayo Prison Project was finalised in early August 2023 and shared with the Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs in Jubaland for their technical review and endorsement. Upon concluding the detailed design review and approval procedures, the construction activities for the Kismayo Prison Project are slated to commence.

On the other hand, UNDP supported the rehabilitation of the Baidoa prison, a critical correction facility in South West State, to improve the facility's functionality and ensure basic human rights standards for prisoners.

During the reporting period, a site survey and assessment for the provision of a borehole for fresh water was completed, and the borehole works, including the installation of pump equipment and training of operators, are expected to be completed by the end of September 2023. A generator to ensure consistency of electricity supply was procured and delivered in July 2023. A contract for the civil works procurement for the operationalisation of the prison has been awarded, and the construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Procurement and interface modification of the Biometric ID System, including the addition of the Somali Language and clan information from the UNHRS System for Kismayo Prison

**Advancement of 75% of the detailed design package completion for Bossaso Courthouse and Kismayo Prison**

# CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE

Lead organisations

**IOM**

**UNDP**

**UN-Habitat**

Number of projects

**1**

Allocations

**\$5 M**

Related SDGs



## SAAMEYNTA JOINT PROGRAMME

Saameynta is an enabling programme that aims to develop solutions through a structured approach to land management and urban planning in Somalia. The programme has positively impacted employment and broader socioeconomic benefits, such as stimulating local economies and fostering community growth.

One of the primary transformations has been the increase in job opportunities, primarily due to local enterprises' support in improving their credit access. With increased financial resources, businesses can invest in growth – purchasing more inventory, upgrading equipment, investing in technology, or hiring more employees.

The implemented activities have also led to meaningful changes within the community, influencing economic decisions and civic engagement through financial feasibility studies. The programme provided valuable information to individuals and businesses about prospective investment opportunities, enhancing the understanding of local economic dynamics and potential returns on various investment forms.

Through the ongoing development of a Citizen Engagement Platform, the government and communities will have a forum to interact. The e-platform will encourage more significant citizens' participation in decision-making, especially from often marginalised voices, and at the same time, it will offer the government a more efficient means to listen to their constituents. This enhanced dialogue will lead to more democratic and responsive governance, contributing to community cohesion and development.

Saameynta has supported the development of owner-driven durable solution housing models. The programme supported the construction of four housing prototypes, and the best typologies were selected through a technical evaluation. The prototypes successfully identified will be used to develop 1,100 houses under Danwadaag, a World Bank-funded durable solutions programme.

Saameynta also supported operationalising the Urban Land Management Law (ULML). With the assistance of Saameynta, the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing of South West State chaired the inaugural session of the Land Management Steering Committee. The committee includes members from state ministries and civil society. The involvement of civil society increased the participation and empowerment of different sections of the population, and the high degree of cooperation among local and state authorities contributed to a greater trust in these institutions and a sense of inclusion in the political process.

The ULML enabled the creation of land departments, which enhanced tenure security for 748 persons in 2022 and 351 people by February 2023 through the issuance of property documents. A scoping mission was carried out by a Global Land Tenure Network expert in April to assess the institutional capacity to operationalise the law, monitor the process of formal land registration and the different registries, and develop the context-specific application of the Social Tenure Domain Model.

The programme provided two training sessions to 50 participants (ten women and 40 men). The trainees were mainly focal points providing technical backstopping to the inter-ministerial committee of the South West State. Comprehensive training workshops enabled the focal points to understand better individual articles of the law, their legal scope, areas of application, and alignment with the federal legal architecture. A second training was held to identify challenges and develop a detailed roadmap for implementation. The inter-ministerial approved the roadmap in May 2023.

The ULML enabled the creation of Land Departments, which enhanced tenure security for 748 persons in 2022 and 351 people by February 2023 through the issuance of property documents.

Fifty participants were trained to technical backstopping to the inter-ministerial committee of South West State.



# COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

## Lead organisations

ILO

UNCDF

UN-Habitat

UNICEF

UNDP

## Number of projects

1

## Allocations

\$85.2M

## Related SDGs



## LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALISED SERVICE DELIVERY

During the reporting period, the Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLG) made progress in harmonising and strengthening spatial planning practices across national, regional, and district levels in Somalia. District engineering units' capacity was enhanced through hands-on training covering spatial planning, placemaking, urban road and transport standards, and differential GPS operations. The primary goal was to ensure consistent urban planning practices and bolster effective urban development management at the district level.

The programme provided training to a total of 102 participants, including district engineers, public works staff, and personnel from government ministries. These training sessions encompassed various aspects of spatial planning, land use planning standards, placemaking, and differential GPS operations. Participants were equipped with the necessary skills to undertake essential urban planning tasks, ranging from evaluating existing policies to devising city extension plans in rapidly growing districts. On-the-job coaching provided by technical experts further empowered public authorities to perform crucial urban planning functions.

As part of this initiative, the programme supported the creation of transformative urban spaces.

In Garowe, a public park underwent renovation with a focus on ecosystem restoration. Simultaneously, Mogadishu witnessed the development of a new public space and the renovation of the historic Arba'a Rukun area.

To enhance urban cleanliness, sanitation equipment was procured for the rapidly growing cities of Hargeisa and Mogadishu. The primary aim was to cultivate healthier living conditions for urban residents, demonstrating a strong commitment to effective local governance. The Somali government collaborated with the Association of Local Governments of Somaliland to revise and validate a strategic plan for the years 2023-2027. This strategic move aimed to empower local governments, enabling them to actively participate in both local and national initiatives and better address the needs of their communities.

Inclusive training sessions were conducted for over 210 local councillors and government officials across various locations. The training emphasised local leadership management, conflict resolution, and gender mainstreaming.

A focus on maximising domestic revenue was evident with the integration of property registration into local government operations. This step led to the registration of 846 properties in Hargeisa's sub-district, with the promise of increased tax revenues in the upcoming years.

Technological advancements were embraced, including the full implementation of the Integrated Financial Management Information System in additional districts and the pilot testing of mobile tax payments.

A focus on education and healthcare was evident, with infrastructure investments benefiting students and communities. Renovations and expansions of schools, health centres, and water points were undertaken in Somaliland and Puntland, enhancing access to essential services for thousands.

The period also witnessed the transfer of primary education management and development responsibilities to local governments in Somaliland. This phased approach aimed to enhance local ownership and quality assurance within the education sector.

In Puntland, successful local council elections were held, promoting democratic participation at the grassroots level. Efforts to involve children's rights in local governance were also prioritised through training and policy integration.

Construction commenced on the child-friendly park in Hargeisa, addressing a key need identified during the city's visioning workshop and contributing to the well-being of children.

The programme facilitated the deployment of 15 trained Trainers of Trainers (ToTs), enhancing capacity-building efforts in districts.

The second Somali Mayors Forum convened in Mogadishu, providing a platform to amplify the voices of local governments. The forum's final statement reaffirmed Somalia's commitment to constitutional, vibrant, and functional local governments, aligning with the ongoing constitutional review process.

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER

Lead organisations

**UNICEF**  
**UNDP**  
**UN WOMEN**  
**UN SOM**

Number of projects

**2**

Allocations

**\$6.2M**

Related SDGs



## PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY IN SOMALIA

Somalia has made important progress in its ongoing efforts to strengthen its human rights landscape. Legislative developments include the review of the revised Sexual Offences Bill (2018) by the Ulema Council and the Somali Women and Development Centre, with UN collaboration to ensure human rights compliance. Pending reviews include the Child Rights Bill and Anti-FGM bill, while the Juvenile Justice Bill, endorsed in 2021, awaits reconsideration before parliamentary submission.

The Joint Programme on Human Rights, phase 2 (JPHR-2), is supporting stronger protection of children's rights. This includes the development of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) tool, which specifically addresses serious violations against children. Somalia has further embraced the MRM Information Management System (MRMIMS+) to enhance the monitoring and reporting of human rights concerns.

At the federal level, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights (MOWHR) has facilitated inter-ministerial quarterly meetings on child rights and the development of the national plan of action for children (NPA/C). Efforts are now focused on prioritising resource allocation and budgeting for children's rights.

Capacity-building initiatives across the Federal Member States have led to the establishment of workshops on human rights, local platforms for addressing violations, and effective monitoring and reporting systems. Puntland State's Office of the Puntland Human Rights Defender has played a crucial role in improving human rights conditions during local elections, including legislative improvements, participation assessments, and training workshops for human rights monitors.

UNICEF, OHCHR, and other UN entities collaborated to document and verify information on grave violations against children for the UN Secretary-General Report on Children and Armed Conflict.

Despite the ongoing conflict, drought, and hazards, Somalia's grave child rights violations rate remained distressingly high, with thousands of violations affecting both boys and girls.

The Women's Peace and Protection (WPP) programme, co-funded with the UN Peacebuilding Fund, facilitated the development of national and subnational action plans for UNSCR 1325 in Somalia, serving as a framework to enhance women's inclusion in governance, peace, and security processes. More than 500 advocates, comprising traditional leaders and women representatives, actively participated in community outreach initiatives to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and ensure accountability. These advocates were provided with the necessary tools to effectively counter misunderstandings and advance the promotion of women's leadership.

Seventeen women's peace networks were operationalised for engaging with justice, security, and administrative bodies, while Parliamentary Women's Caucuses were established in the Upper House and in the House of the People. The programme supported the Somalia chapter of the African Women Leaders Network, enabling strategic discussions on political and security concerns. Coordination and capacity among state and civil society actors improved in GBV prevention and response, with a focus on conflict-related sexual violence.

Additionally, the programme created an evidence base for women's participation in political and peace processes, guiding gender-responsive policies for peace promotion in Somalia. In sum, the program advanced gender equality, women's participation in leadership, and the prevention of GBV, contributing to a more peaceful and inclusive society.

The recommendations from the Committee Against Torture will encourage the Government of Somalia to improve the country's human rights legal and policy frameworks and tackle the issue of torture by Government agencies.

The JPHR-2 supported capacity-building initiatives across the Federal Member States have led to the establishment of workshops on human rights, local platforms for addressing violations, and effective monitoring and reporting systems.

Through the WPP programme, seventeen women's peace networks were operationalised for engaging with justice, security, and administrative bodies. At the same time, Parliamentary Women's Caucuses were established in the Upper House and the House of the People.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lead organisations

**FAO**

**ILO**

**UNIDO**

Number of projects

**1**

Allocations

**\$46.8 M**

Related SDGs



## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN SOMALIA

The agricultural aspect of the project focused on training 40 women farmers from six established cooperatives with the aim of enhancing the productivity of smallholder farmers. This training was specifically designed to share knowledge with the remaining women within these cooperatives. To boost the productivity and post-harvest management skills of 200 women from these cooperatives, farm tools were procured for imminent distribution.

The fisheries component was primarily focused on the final analysis and the drafting of chapters for the Fisheries Master Plan. Capacity-building efforts included a workshop on fisheries management planning held in February 2023.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) achieved significant progress in implementing Occupational Safety Health (OSH) Conventions, particularly those ratified by the Somali government, including C.155 and C.187 pertaining to Occupational Safety and Health Policy and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health.

In response to requests from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Federation of Somalia Trade Union, and the Somalia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ILO played a pivotal role in crafting national OSH policies. ILO's OSH technical specialist facilitated a workshop with participation from 15 individuals (three women and twelve males).

During the reporting period, a notable achievement was the promotion of constructive and open dialogues among tripartite-

committees while effectively implementing the ratified conventions, particularly C.155 and C. 187.

In the fisheries component of the programme, significant progress was made through the collaboration with FAO. A key milestone was reached with the completion of a draft of the Fisheries Master Plan. To empower women within fisheries cooperatives in Marka and Jazira, FAO provided training to 20 women, equipping them with valuable skills. These women groups were also equipped with solar fridges and fish processing kits, which are pivotal for their fish processing and trading businesses.

Moreover, the programme laid the foundation for training staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy. The training is centred on crucial fisheries management, monitoring, control, and surveillance aspects. This proactive preparation will contribute to the development of capable and knowledgeable personnel within the fisheries sector.

Preparation of the draft Fisheries Master Plan was completed.

Training to 20 women within fisheries cooperatives in Marka and Jazira was concluded to equip them with valuable skills.

Three women groups were also equipped solar fridges and fish processing kits, which are pivotal for their fish processing and trading businesses.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Lead organisations

**UNFPA**

Number of projects

**1**

Allocations

**\$96.8M**

## Related SDGs



## UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

During the reporting period, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported the advancement of maternal and newborn healthcare services and reproductive health initiatives in Somalia. Through operational efforts, important maternal and newborn care services facilities have been established, including six mobile outreach units. These units offer behavioural change communication, outpatient care, and referral services throughout the country, effectively reaching a substantial number of women and girls and providing them with essential services and information.

A notable achievement is the successful launch of five Mobile Maternity Clinics (MMC) aimed at improving maternal and newborn care access for vulnerable women and girls. Despite transportation challenges to allocated locations, the first MMC has been operationalised, benefiting 340 women and adolescent girls with services like skilled birth deliveries and maternal and newborn care.

Efforts to enhance family planning have also yielded positive outcomes, with over 29,000 women receiving modern family planning methods in the first half of 2023. These services have been integrated into sexual and reproductive health facilities and mobile outreach initiatives. Particularly successful are the family planning outreach campaigns in the Bardhere district of the Gedo region, which have reached thousands with family planning messages and services.

UNFPA's commitment to family planning extended to the private sector through a public-private partnership program. The organisation has selected 25 private hospitals, training 30 health workers to

provide family planning services in the Banadir region. This initiative recognises the preference for private healthcare facilities in Somalia. A postpartum family planning program has also been introduced to promote birth spacing, maternal and newborn well-being, and reduce maternal mortality rates.

A landmark achievement is the formulation of the first-ever Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan for 2023-2028, signifying a comprehensive strategy for advancing family planning initiatives in Somalia and Somaliland.

UNFPA's dedication to reproductive health is evident in the procurement of crucial supplies like Emergency Reproductive Health Kits, rape kits, Dignity kits, and Menstrual Hygiene Management kits. These supplies elevate the quality of services in government emergency obstetric care facilities and mobile outreach services.

Beyond clinical initiatives, UNFPA's involvement in education is seen in its support for 15 midwifery schools across Somalia. These institutions are nurturing 721 midwife students from rural backgrounds, providing them with free midwifery education aligned with global standards. This addresses the shortage of skilled midwives, ensuring quality maternal and neonatal healthcare access.

The capacity-building efforts of three Somali midwives' associations underscore UNFPA's commitment to women's empowerment and the midwifery profession. These associations, led by women, have honed their leadership, advocacy, and organisational management skills, enabling them to influence policy decisions and promote midwifery excellence.

Furthermore, UNFPA-supported youth centres have provided crucial sexual reproductive health services, information, and vocational training to thousands of adolescents and young adults, fostering positive attitudes towards youth engagement.

The organisation's contributions extend to data management and statistics. UNFPA facilitated training for the Regional Health Management Information System (HMIS) managers and staff from the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics. These efforts enhance data quality and compilation, with resulting reports submitted to relevant offices.

In collaboration with statistical offices, UNFPA supported the adoption of ArcGIS Enterprise technology, aiding census and official statistics activities, aligning with the Official Statistics Modernization Programme.

A total of five Mobile Maternity Clinics (MMC) aimed at improving maternal and newborn care access for vulnerable women and girls.

Over 29,000 women have received modern family planning services through the UNFPA programme in Q1 2023.

In an innovative approach to youth engagement, UNFPA developed a midwife-led mobile app tailored for Somali youth. This app offers comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, contributing to better health outcomes for young people.

## CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES



# PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Through the PSDP programme, eight women out of 40 trainees were trained in tractor maintenance.

The Joint Electoral Support Programme provided capacity-building support to the Transitional Puntland Election Commission on the role of gender in elections through training workshops and technical assistance in drafting policies and guidelines. This support contributed to the promotion of Women's participation and gender mainstreaming in the electoral process. TPEC maintained the 30 percent quota, and the guidelines adopted required the inclusion of a woman among every three candidates in the list of candidates.

The PSDP programme promoted sustainable agricultural practices and gender inclusion. The training of 40 lead women farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) equipped them with technical knowledge to enhance productivity and ensure sustainable agricultural production. These lead farmers were trained in various aspects of GAP, and a workshop was conducted for ten women cooperative representatives, including a field study tour that aimed to familiarise them with vegetable production skills.

The programme prioritised gender inclusion in the development of strategic documents for policies and programs. The recently developed Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy and program emphasises gender inclusion in the productive sector as a top priority.

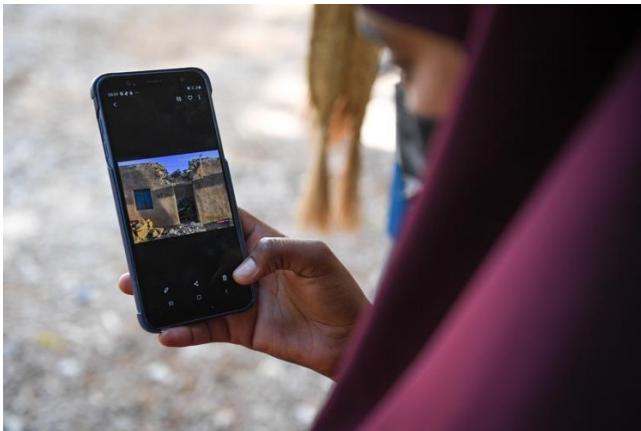
Through the EDU network, UNIDO provided business counselling to entrepreneurs and MSME owners. Over the reporting period, 67 entrepreneurs were counselled, including 17 women.

UNFPA's support to the coalition for gender-sensitive legislation significantly strengthened the legislative framework for protecting women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV) in Somalia. Furthermore, UNFPA's initiatives improved access to family planning services and health advice, including pilot GBV/SRH integration at women's and girls' safe space service sites. UNFPA's support to the Bureau of Forensic Science improved the chances of prosecution while expanding legal services and information for survivors of GBV and accelerated access to justice.

The Saameynta programme actively pursued gender mainstreaming in its activities and reporting. The programme aims to increase gender visibility by providing safe spaces for engagement, enhancing women's agency by improving access to opportunities and adopting a systems approach to influence behavioural change that positively impacts women's societal position.

# CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

## SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS



UNFPA supported field officers from various clusters to undergo training to effectively handle GBV disclosures from vulnerable women and girls, adhering to non-discrimination and harm reduction principles.

A meticulous community segmentation approach ensured that consultations and dialogues were attuned to specific age and gender groups, enabling beneficiaries to express their concerns more freely.

JPHR-2 programme introduced new and innovative human rights-based activities that give survivors and marginalised communities a voice and expressive channel. For instance, the opinions of Displacement Advisory Committees (DACs) influenced the selection of housing prototypes in the Baidoa district.

With support from the Sameeynta programme, the relocation of IDPs will be guided by community consultations and informed consent, adhering to the principles of voluntariness, safety, dignity, informed decision-making and household rights to essential life necessities.

JPHR-2 has undertaken a range of innovative initiatives aimed at amplifying the voices of survivors and marginalised communities, thereby shedding light on the experiences of those most susceptible to human rights violations.

UNFPA, through its Gender-Based Violence (GBV) programme, adopted a survivor-centred approach to ensure that survivors' rights and preferences are paramount in service delivery. The programme administered Clinical management of rape (CMR) services according to rigorous safety and confidentiality protocols to safeguard survivors' anonymity. Furthermore, the program prioritised the distribution of dignity and menstrual hygiene kits, enhancing the physical integrity and mobility of vulnerable individuals seeking assistance against GBV.

Through community mobilisation strategies, UNFPA continued to encourage the inclusive participation of all members, including those with disabilities and from minority backgrounds. This bolstered the program's ability to identify and rectify barriers to service access, ultimately fostering equitable representation and provision.

The Saameeynta programme, aligned with a human-rights-based perspective, emphasises community-driven implementation to empower vulnerable groups and amplify their influence on public service delivery decisions. Particularly noteworthy is the involvement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in developing integrated community action plans, where their preferences for prioritised projects are considered, enhancing their civil and political rights.

# CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

The Somalia Joint Fund has six overarching themes that joint programmes must consider when developing and reporting on their programmes.

These themes are: 1) **promoting gender equality and empowering women**, 2) **ensuring inclusivity and leaving no one behind**, 3) **upholding social contracts and legitimacy**, 4) **capacity building and developing exit strategies**, 5) **preventing corruption**, and 6) **prioritising environmental and climate security**.

These cross-cutting priorities identified in the UN Cooperation Framework serve as crucial contributing factors to the underlying causes of fragility in Somalia and as practical tools to reinforce the UN's assistance in realising the objectives outlined in the National Development Plan.

**In addition to safeguarding human rights, gender equality, and women empowerment, below are some highlights from the joint programmes on the cross-cutting themes:**

## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Joint Justice Programme's Community Conversations initiative empowered marginalised communities to address their security and justice concerns through engagement with local authorities. It also supported their efforts to access community-led justice solutions, legal aid, mobile courts, and ADR centre services.

## PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

To maintain neutrality in fund administration, UNDP implemented the elections programme using a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). This meant disbursing funds to partner institutions through Letters of Agreement (LOAs) to reduce the risk of fraud and diversion. Before providing cash advances, UNDP conducted a micro-assessment of the NIEC in 2018 and rated it as a medium-risk entity. UNDP performed a similar assessment of the OPM in 2020

## SOCIAL CONTRACT AND LEGITIMACY

The Saameynta programme was crucial in promoting the Urban Land Management Law in the South West State, resulting in the city mayor's appointment of land management committees to address land disputes. In addition, the program implemented social accountability platforms and toolkits to monitor the implementation of the Integrated District Community Action Plan.

## CAPACITY SHARING AND EXIT STRATEGY

The JP on Elections helped build the institutional capacity of TPEC by establishing systems, structures and procedures, contributing to the commission's ability to manage all aspects of the local elections in Puntland.

## HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACE NEXUS

IDPs are supported through recovery and transition interventions that enhance service provision, including resilience, livelihood, education, health, reconciliation, and peaceful community coexistence through Saameynta.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE SECURITY

JPLG has supported the development of climate change adaptation planning and disaster management guidelines with training modules to enable local governments, as first responders, to plan for, mitigate and deal with climate change risks and shocks.

# RISK MANAGEMENT

Amid unprecedented levels of risk and limited human resources, the Risk Management Unit (RMU) in Somalia continued to improve the efficiency and accountability of aid delivery in the country. The RMU offered a wide range of services to the UN, development, humanitarian and peacebuilding partners, including increased frequency of sanction updates to enhance compliance.

The RMU also replicated its functionality in other countries like Afghanistan and Libya, applying lessons learned and good practices with stakeholders across Somalia. The formation of new strategic partnerships with organisations such as USAID's Integrity Unit and the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) was a significant milestone in the RMU's efforts to improve aid delivery efficiency and accountability.

In response to Somalia's increasingly complex operations, the RMU streamlined its screening of vendors through the Partner Verification Report (PVR). The RMU also made substantive progress in the technical upgrade of CIMS systems to enhance the systems' usability. The release of four data analysis reports, including two Capacity Injection Reports for 2021 and a Contractor Information Management System (CIMS) Report, were noteworthy achievements for the RMU in the reporting period.

The RMU continued to engage with existing collaborative mechanisms such as the UN Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance (RMAQA) Working Group and the UN Procurement Working Group (PWG). Furthermore, the RMU established a new NGO Consortium Collaborative Risk Management (CRM) Committee to support the committees' Strategy. The RMU also supported the newly established Humanitarian Risk Sharing Taskforce and facilitated the development of a Joint Humanitarian Risk Register.

Creating a new E-Learning System (ReLS) platform was another milestone in RMU's efforts to improve the learning experience of risk management learners, and updating content will follow in 2023.

Despite the challenges faced by the RMU, its work remains a crucial component of the UN development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts in Somalia.



# LOOKING FORWARD

BY PETER NORDSTROM

SENIOR TRUST FUND MANAGER, UN SOMALIA JOINT FUND

It is gearing up to be a busy last term of the year for the SJF as the Fund enters its programmatic phase, its new governance structure is activated, and resource mobilisation and communication efforts are further stepped up.

The deadline for submission of concept notes under the SJF's first call for proposals covering the Inclusive Politics, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Gender, and Climate and Resilience windows is 29 September. Thereafter, the SJF Secretariat will facilitate the participatory review process to identify the most strategic, high-quality programmes to take forward. The SJF Secretariat will facilitate the process, emphasising inclusive and participatory approaches in close collaboration with our government counterparts.

Developing and agreeing on the remaining strategy notes for the SJF's Community Recovery and Local Governance, Economic Development, and Social Development windows will continue in close collaboration with the government and contributing donors. It is envisaged that consultations on the draft strategy notes will occur before the calendar year's end.

The SJF Secretariat is in the process of procuring several services aimed at strengthening the Fund's management and performance. This includes a third-party monitoring agent, a grant management and monitoring platform, and an external peer review capacity focused on strengthening programme context and political economy analysis. The Secretariat will be further strengthened by the addition of a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist based in Mogadishu.

A first constituting meeting of the SJF Management Group is being planned together with the government, tentatively to take place in September.

Resource mobilisation remains imperative, especially in light of the current and anticipated demands on the Fund from across the UN Country Team. Norway and Switzerland deserve special recognition for taking the leadership among donors to provide contributions under the SJF's new Terms of Reference. The SJF Secretariat and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in New York look forward to finalising new contribution agreements in the coming months to ensure we can meet demand in the new year.

The SJF Secretariat is working with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation to highlight the role of pooled funds within the UN Development System and the importance of sustainable financing for development, especially in fragile contexts. Experiences from Somalia have fed into the Foundation's global reports on UN financing, published in partnership with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The SJF Secretariat is also working with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation on plans for a high-level event in Mogadishu to draw attention to the potential of the SJF and the need for sustainable funding for Somalia's national development priorities.

Finally, the SJF Secretariat will strengthen its external communication and visibility of its donors through existing and new communication channels. A tagline for the Fund, *Tubta Horumarka* (Together for Development), was agreed in the first half of 2023 and is now featured in the SJF's logo and other communication material.

# PORTFOLIO

13 PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY 15 UN ENTITIES

## INCLUSIVE POLITICS

Joint Electoral Support Programme\*

## RULE OF LAW

Joint Justice Programme\*\*

Joint Corrections Programme\*\*

Joint Police Programme (partially funded by SJF)

Operationalisation of Baidoa Prison

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER

Joint Programme on Human Rights 2.0

Women Peace and Protection Programme (WPP)

## COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Joint Programme for Local Governance and Service Delivery (JPLG)\*

## CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE

Saameynta - Scaling Up Solutions to Displacement in Somalia

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP)\*

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

UNFPA Country Programme

## MANAGEMENT AND CROSS-CUTTING

Enablers III

Direct-Cost Secretariat Project

\*Ending in 2023

\*\*Legacy programmes



UNITED NATIONS  
SOMALIA



# ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative dispute resolution
CAN	Creative Alternatives Now
CIRT	Capacity Injection Reporting Tool
CSO	Civil society organisation
DGCF	Directors' General Coordination Forum
DSRSG/RC/HC	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
EDU	Enterprise Development Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
GBV	Gender-based violence
ICBF	Independent Commission on Boundaries and Federalism
IDP	Internally displaced people
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NCC	National Consultative Council
NRP	National Reconciliation Process
PCVE	Preventing and Countering of Violent Extremism
PFM	Public Financial Management
PUNO	Participating UN Organisation
RMAQA	Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance
RMU	Risk Management Unit
SDM	Service Delivery Model
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SJF	Somalia Joint Fund
SME	Small and medium enterprise
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Somalia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
WFP	World Food Programme
WTO	World Trade Organization



**SOMALIA JOINT FUND**

TUBTA HORUMARKA