

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, the United Nations Country Team established three nexus task forces 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. Since then, the task forces have evolved to include greater government ownership or incorporation into government coordination systems. They 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 task forces are also taking place.

In addition, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) plans to establish a high-level Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Forum as part of its revised Aid Architecture. The Forum will

provide guidance, support, oversight, and coordination of programmes across humanitarian, development, and security actors. It will also facilitate high-level discussions on how to best manage the humanitarian, development, and security nexus in Somalia. The Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia will chair the Forum with active participation from FGS Ministers, donor countries and partners, including the United Nations once it is formally established.

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 the Federal Government of Somalia and the World Bank in bringing more sustainable, government-led delivery models to scale.

Joint priorities across the three nexus task forces 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. This aligns to the United Nations Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, Somalia's National Durable Solutions Strategy and the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9).

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 collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to implement and scale up national safety nets during periods of shock has enhanced the government's delivery of critical services to people at greatest need. *The Baxnaano* ("Uplifting") safety netⁱ is a flagship national social protection programme which has provided investments benefitting 3.1 million people, of which over 1.4 million were reached with shock responsive scale ups of the safety net.

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 are being 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.ⁱⁱ

Mapping longer-term durable solutions programmes against HRP projects remains underway, including through the *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. Saameynta contributes to nexus approaches by reducing the needs, risks and vulnerabilities of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through interventions that promote resilience, livelihoods, education, health, reconciliation and peaceful community coexistence. It also empowers local organizations and the private sector to invest in the city, improving programme sustainability and local ownership.

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 transfers protect against food insecurity and malnutrition risks, develop key social safety net delivery systems, and strengthen institutional capacity. Additionally, the Transitional Cash and Livelihoods Assistance Programme (TCLP) addresses food insecurity and sustainable livelihoods through 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

ⁱ *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.

ⁱⁱ OCHA (2023). *Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023*.



NEXUS WATER MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

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 six consecutive poor rainy seasons, the longest and most severe drought in Somalia's recent history devastated the country in 2022/23. About 8.3 million are in need of humanitarian support in 2023.ⁱⁱⁱ With the looming threat of El Niño-induced flooding expected to affect 1.2 million people in riverine areas^{iv}, the government, local authorities and humanitarian actors aim to address the most urgent needs with the support of donors, the United Nations, international financial institutions and NGOs. However, more focus is needed on analysis, planning and implementation to address root causes of climate-related disasters and longer-term development to support community adaptation and enable sustainable solutions. Coordinated approaches have been started with a focus on the Jowhar Off Stream Reservoir rehabilitation, deep ground water drilling, rangeland management and the Great Green Initiative. 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.^v



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 is led by MOEWR, which also provides a framework for how United Nations partners can practically support the Strategy's goals. A Water Sector Coordination Facility is in place to guide implementation of the strategy. The aim of the Facility is to advance developmental solutions to end flood and drought emergencies, promote sustainable development and management of Somalia's water resources, and coordinate investments made by actors in the water sector. The nexus task force is expected to be incorporated into the Facility once it is fully operational.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Four working groups have been established under the Water Sector Coordination Facility on Flood Control and Water for Irrigation; Water Services for Urban and Pre-Urban; Ground Water and Water Harvesting; and Hydromet Data Production. Key priorities for the working groups this year include developing a flood prevention plan, undertaking hydrological investigations to inform key infrastructure designs, producing a master plan for key urban and pre-urban Water Supply Systems, exploring the potential of deep ground water and establishing an integrated Hydromet Data System.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, the task force 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 task force 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 task force 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.



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.

ⁱⁱⁱ OCHA (2022). *Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*.

^{iv} OCHA (2023). *Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin September 2023*.

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



NEXUS DURABLE SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE

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

Addressing durable solutions to internal displacement is a high priority for Somalia, given its direct impact on approximately 3.8 million IDPs within the country^{vi}. As Somalia is seeing a decrease in the total number of displacements in 2023 compared to the previous year (the number of displacements decreased from approximately 1.8 million in 2022 to 1.4 million so far in 2023^{vii}), significant displacement continues to occur due to persistent factors such as conflict, insecurity, drought, and flood-related incidents. While humanitarian assistance continues to be (partially) available to respond to immediate needs, the current displacement situation is both unsustainable and undesirable. It is crucial to continue finding new and more durable approaches to support IDPs and alternative solutions to dependency and humanitarian aid.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Operationalized in May 2022, the National Durable Solutions Strategy (2020-2024) continues to serve as a pivotal framework for Somalia. It offers operational guidance, strategic objectives, and an action plan for addressing durable solutions in the country. The strategy provides multiple entry points to foster a nexus-based approach towards solutions, holistically addressing the multi-dimensional challenges of poverty, inequality, and vulnerability in the country.



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Somalia has been selected as one of 13 countries to pilot the United Nations Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. The development of an IDP Action Agenda enables a common vision on stepped-up efforts to address internal displacement and advance solutions, as well as a mechanism within the United Nations system to advance implementation of the Action Agenda and ensure accountability and leadership on IDP solutions. 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, IDPs and the private sector to ensure collaboration at national and local levels. The Steering Group includes membership from the core United Nations agencies and MoPIED (Durable Solutions Secretariat) and supersedes the nexus task force.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

Somalia is a selected Member State to pilot the Action Agenda and has submitted a proposal through the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund aimed at supporting catalytic interventions in support of the FGS National Durable Solutions Strategy. This presents a joint opportunity for both MoPIED and the United Nations Steering Group to mobilize funding to respond to displacement, 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.



OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The revised government-led Aid Architecture incorporates durable solutions as an imperative, cross-cutting policy across all five of its pillars and priorities^{viii}. This serves as a significant strategy for more precise targeting and prioritization of interventions, with the approach to support further localization and area-specific solutions. In addition, synergies and gaps between the Cooperation Framework and the HRP also continue to be addressed. Stakeholder groups supporting this work include the Durable Solutions Sub-Working Group of the Cooperation Framework Social Development Pillar and the Durable Solutions Donor Sub-Working Group.



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. However, a key priority across all durable solutions programming includes harmonizing data collection efforts and streamlining information to inform durable solutions programming. Coordinated data collection and analysis to categorize IDPs based on their needs, in line with international standards such as the International Recommendation on IDP Statistics, is central in supporting the Government of Somalia in the provision of durable solutions.

^{vi} UNHCR (2023). *Somalia Population Dashboard: 1-31 August 2023*

^{vii} UNHCR (2023). *Somalia Internal Displacement Update: August 2023*

^{viii} The five priorities as outlined in the revised Aid Architecture consist of Inclusive Politics and Stabilization, Security and Rule of Law, Economic Development, Social Development and Climate Change.



NEXUS ANTI-CORRUPTION TASK FORCE

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 UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) – which Somalia participates in as a UNCAC Party – is a key driver of institutional change. Somalia's first review cycle under the IRM was initiated, with Equatorial Guinea and Belize as reviewing States. Under the second cycle, Somalia is being reviewed by Liberia and Tonga. The Nexus Anti-Corruption Task Force 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 on 11-15 December 2023). This 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 NDP-9 and the 2020-2023 National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The task force 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. The terms of reference for the task force were endorsed in August 2023. The latest meeting held in September 2023 allowed for the discussion of priority actions identified in the business case for an integrated United Nations approach to anti-corruption in Somalia, as well as the responsible agencies to take them forward.



STRATEGIC AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The task force is linking its efforts more directly with the other nexus task forces, ensuring strong alignment with the Cooperation Framework. For instance, a co-chair of the task force has attended several meetings of the Nexus Water Management Task Force and contributed to anti-corruption elements in several documents, included a Strategy Note on Climate and Resiliency in the context of consultations for the Somalia Joint Fund.



OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The task force, 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. An assessment of additional capacity-building needs, including anti-corruption programming guidelines and best practices is ongoing.



JOINT PROGRAMMING

The task force 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 task force 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.