



SOMALIA

DECADE OF >>> ACTION

JULY 2024



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FOREWORD

It gives us great pleasure to present the UN's 2023 Somalia Results Report which highlights the work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), including UNSOM and UNSOS, in cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia and our development partners.

The report describes the progress made under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025), a multi-year strategic plan to guide the United Nations collective contribution to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in Somalia. This report summarises the UN's achievements in four areas: Inclusive Politics and Reconciliation, Security and Rule of Law, Economic Development and Social Development, highlighting cross cutting issues of gender and human rights as well as climate and environment. Our achievements of 2023 would not have been possible without government leadership and the support of our counterparts and partners.

Reporting on the UN's joint humanitarian-development work (our Collective Outcomes) is consolidated in strategic priority 4 on social development. This social development work dominates in financial terms, accounting for 93 per cent of the UN's expenditure under the Cooperation Framework, incorporating access to basic social services, mitigating the effect of climate change and environmental degradation, resilience building and food security as well as durable solutions for displacement affected communities.

Building on the system-wide humanitarian scale up initiated in 2022, the UN continued to assist the most vulnerable people and meet lifesaving needs in 2023. Similarly, work to build resilience against shocks continued but these investments in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus need to be radically scaled-up if we are to succeed in reducing dependencies on humanitarian aid. Similarly, while stabilisation activities took on increasing significance as the government recovered new areas in 2023, greater investment in a suite of governance, reconciliation, security and basic social services programmes will be needed across fragile areas of Somalia to sustain recent progress.

In 2024, the United Nations will support the Somali people to attain their development goals, as articulated in the ninth National Development Plan. Looking ahead we will support the development of Somalia's Centennial Vision 2060 to define "the Somalia we want". In doing this, we will work closely with our partners to ensure no one is left behind and normative standards are upheld.

A number of big shifts in Somalia are underway: from dependency on humanitarian relief to nationally- led resilience-building for shocks; towards addressing root causes and structural drivers of crises; towards durable solutions for the vexing challenges that have faced the country over past decades. The UN is here to support and encourage these.

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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN SOMALIA

Somalia has one of the most integrated United Nations presences in the world. Besides the special political mission, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), and the logistical support mission, the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), there are 24 active United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) in Somalia. Of these, 19 are physically present in the country. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) leads the implementation of the Cooperation Framework and comprises leaders of the AFPs conducting operations in Somalia as well as UNSOM and UNSOS. In addition, the World Bank Country Manager is a member of UNCT to facilitate United Nations-World Bank collaboration. The United Nations family works collaboratively to implement interventions for sustainable development across the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda: people, prosperity, security, partnership, and peace.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The Federal Government of Somalia, international financial institutions, donor governments and development agencies, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, other public sector institutions, academia, the media, and the people of Somalia are all significant development partners of the United Nations in Somalia.

The UNCT expresses its gratitude to all partners who supported its work in 2023, despite the challenges posed by climate and humanitarian crises and insecurity. We convey our special thanks to the numerous government institutions and civil society partners who continued to work tirelessly on famine prevention and flood response and were equally relentless in their demands for investment in resilience building, the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus and sustainable development more broadly. Finally, the UNCT is grateful to its partners for their assistance in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Somalia.





CHAPTER 1

Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context

Somalia ended 2023 on a high note, following the completion of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, the lifting of arms control measures by the Security Council and Somalia's admission to the East African Community (EAC). The December 2023 Security Conference successfully built consensus and support for coordinated investment in Somalia's security and security sector moving forwards.

Alongside this progress, Somalia was battered by the worst drought in generations followed by the most extensive floods in a century. Some 1.5 million hectares of farmland was inundated, and an additional 1.6 million people displaced by flooding. Conflict, underdevelopment, insecurity and numerous climatic shocks caused further displacements across Somalia's urban and peri-urban areas. Most of the population remained impoverished and at the end 2023, an estimated 6.9 million people were in dire need of humanitarian assistance – compared with 8.3 million at the start of the year. Concerted government and community efforts, supported by substantial donor assistance, UN and NGO programming and private sector contributions averted the worst humanitarian outcomes. Nevertheless, there were still more than 40,000 excess deaths. Parallel investments to address root causes and build the resilience of the population were insufficient and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 was limited.

In 2023, the Somali economy experienced a moderate recovery due to improved agricultural conditions and easing inflation, however it remains extremely vulnerable to shocks. In 2023, real GDP growth is projected at 3.1 percent¹, slightly outpacing population growth. This continues a trend of minimal real GDP growth per capita over the last five years (between 2018 – 2022 per capita GDP averaged) of 0.8 per cent per year. Since 2017, poverty rates increased from 71 per cent to an estimated 73 per cent of the population in 2023. Following the severe drought, food inflation slowed to 3.6 percent in the first half of the year from double digit rates the year prior.

Economic growth continues to be largely driven by consumption, enabled by sustained growth in remittances and private sector credit. The drought has largely impacted agricultural production and livestock conditions, which are the major export sources. Somalia carries a significant trade deficit estimated at about 58 percent of GDP, due to the high reliance on imports. Somalia has limited labour force participation, reducing inclusive growth due to only a third of men and 12 per cent of women participating in the labour market.

In 2023, Somalia has made progress on domestic revenue mobilisation, yet the fiscal situation remains challenging, limiting the government's ability to respond to shocks or address drivers of poverty. In the first half of 2023, overall domestic revenue mobilisation reached 1.2 per cent of GDP, which stays below Federal Government wage bill expenditures. About two thirds of revenues are carried by international partners, which make specifically social and economic development expenditures dependent on donors. In 2023, about 27 per cent of the budget was allocated to social sector expenditures driven by cash transfers, including in shock-responsive safety net payments in response to the drought.

In December 2023, Somalia joined the EAC and reached HIPC completion point resulting in about US\$4.5 billion debt relief. These are significant milestones that normalise the relationship with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and should lead to enhanced private sector-led growth in the upcoming years.

The UN continued to promote human rights by working with civil society, government, vulnerable groups and minorities to strengthen the protection environment for all Somalis. Positive legislative and policy progress was made in 2023, including the Disability Rights Bill, the Child Rights Bill and the Internally Displaced Persons Support and Protection Bill. At the member-state level, the UN supported the Media Bill and the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Bill in Galmudug, the Bill for Persons with Disabilities in Somaliland, and the FGM Zero Tolerance Bill and the Anti-terrorism Bill in Puntland. Moreover, in 2023, and in line with the 2019 Road Map on Children and Armed Conflict, the Federal Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs endorsed the Age Assessment Guidelines and its Standardized Checklist, strengthening the existing framework to prevent child recruitment. Advocacy for the rights of children included supporting the National Children and Armed Conflict Working Group, which led to the establishment of sub-national working groups at the member-state levels to strengthen the protection of children in situations of armed conflict and underscore the collective obligation of various stakeholders to address protection concerns facing children in Somalia.

1

World Bank Macro-Poverty Outlook 2023

Focusing on the rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2023, the UN in Somalia supported the National Disability Agency to launch the National Disability Assessment Survey, Dignity Disrespected: the Perceptions and Priorities of Persons with Disabilities in Somalia. This landmark survey was the outcome of a two-year field study in five Federal Member States (FMS) and Benadir Region to understand the perceptions and priorities of persons with disabilities and to what extent they participate in public life. The UN also supported the Somali Disability Empowerment Network (SODEN) to map specialized services available for and accessible to Persons with Disabilities. Together, these initiatives will inform programmatic and policy responses to address gaps in human rights protection for Persons with Disabilities.

In 2023, the UN commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, supporting two 'first-ever' events in Somalia. First, an inaugural human rights arts competition and exhibition in Mogadishu with the National Museum under the theme "Dignity, Justice and Freedom of All". Second, a human rights short film competition with the National Theatre which reached thousands of young Somalis, highlighting the day-today relevance of human rights.

In 2023, the UN held its first Joint Steering Committee for the Cooperation Framework with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). The Government's ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9) mid-term review offered input for the development of Vision 2060 and Somalia's next national planning document, the National Transformation Plan (NTP). The UNCT also began preparations for the Cooperation Framework final evaluation process in 2024 and began planning for the ATMIS transition, and review of the broader reconfiguration of the UN in Somalia.



CHAPTER 2

United Nations Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework

Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework runs from 2021 to 2025 and represents a shared commitment to work together to achieve peace, stability, and prosperity for all Somalis in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The United Nations' priorities within the Cooperation Framework are fully aligned with Somalia's ninth National Development Plan. During 2023, the UN's work remained grounded in a human rights-based approach, promotion of gender equality and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The following sections of this report outline the progress made towards each of the Cooperation Framework objectives within each of the Strategic Priorities. However, the progress was varied and, in some cases, constrained as significant effort was invested in mitigating the humanitarian effects of the drought and floods and in navigating the political and security challenges throughout the country.

In 2023, the United Nations budgeted US \$2.126 billion for the implementation of the Cooperation Framework and successfully mobilised US \$1.471 billion in total. Of this, US \$1.140 billion was spent with the remainder carried over to 2024. Over one billion, or 92% per cent, of the amount spent was on Social Development (Strategic Priority 4). The majority of that was allocated to Outcome 4.3 covering food and nutritional assistance such as cash transfers, cash for work, social safety net programmes and school meals. "Food systems: How to feed, not deplete the world" was identified as one of the key investment pathways to deliver the SDGs and in September 2023, a Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Council was established to deliver on this transition and consultation on the national Food Systems Operational Plan began.

Of the remaining US \$96 million spent by the UN in 2023, US \$59 million was invested in security and rule of law, US \$20 million in economic development and US \$16.2 million in inclusive politics and reconciliation.

Given the nature of the shocks faced by Somali people in 2023, it is disappointing that investment in climate adaptation was insufficient with only 11 per cent of the required budget available for tackling climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation (Outcome 4.2). The Government and UNCT have partnered to deliver on the SDG transition; "Driven by Nature: climate, biodiversity, and pollution", including by increasing access to climate finance in 2024 and beyond, building on a strong Somalia presence at COP-28. Nevertheless, all projections suggest that Somalia will face more frequent and more severe climate-related shocks in the coming years and decades. While progress towards the SDGs was visible in some areas in 2023, Somalia remains significantly behind the level needs to achieve the desired targets.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Inclusive Politics and Reconciliation

The UN's 2023 budget for inclusive politics and reconciliation was US \$21 million. Throughout the year, US \$17.5 million was made available, 93 per cent of which was spent. The UN supported three National Consultative Council (NCC) sessions which resulted in broad consensus on key state-building matters, including fiscal federalism and the HIPC process, stabilisation and community reconciliation and security architecture. At the May NCC session, the FGS and four FMSs, South West State, Hirshabelle, Galmudug and Jubaland, proposed a new electoral framework outlining a presidential system, a two-party system, and a timeline for upcoming elections. Puntland did not take part in the NCC. Groups such as women, marginalised groups and youth continued to advocate for the inclusion of their voices in the NCC, arguing that their exclusion resulted in the NCC being non-representative. The UN provided legislative support to the Ministry of Internal Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) as they initiated public consultations and drafting to support the new electoral framework and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Bill which among other things will make birth registration accessible all children. The UN provided technical and operational support to the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission



(TPEC), to conduct voter registration resulting in around 340,000 voters being registered, of which 49.7 per cent are women. The Integrated Electoral Support Group also assisted TPEC to organise one person one vote for the district council elections in 30 districts resulting in 17 per cent female representation among elected councillors.

The UN facilitated capacity development of the constitutional review bodies in 2023, with a focus on newly appointed members of Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) and the Joint Oversight Committee (JOC). Joint advocacy by the UN and international partners resulted in more inclusive representation from the FMS in ICRIC, albeit without Puntland. Public engagement and consultations on the constitution were mostly postponed to 2024. In November 2023, the UN's new constitutional review programme was approved by the Somalia Joint Fund Management Group which aims to

contribute to the otherwise limited achievements in increasing participation by Somalis in the review process. In 2023, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA), ICRIC and JOC adopted an incremental approach to completion of the constitutional review processes, focusing first on revising the first four chapters of the Provisional Constitution and the implementation of the NCC Electoral Agreement.

The UN monitored and supported legislative processes in the Federal Parliament through provision of technical assistance such as legal drafting trainings and advocacy, leading to adoption of the 13 significant bills, with public hearings for key bills such as the Child Rights Bill, Juvenile Justice Bill, Disability Rights Bill and the Environmental Management and Protection Bill. The UN promoted human rights including gender equality and disability rights, through supporting public debates. In November 2023, the UN's new Parliamentary

SOMALIA'S PUNTLAND STATE HOLD HISTORIC ONE PERSON ONE VOTE DISTRICT ELECTIONS.

For the first time, in over decades, thousands of voters in Somalia's Puntland region lined up outside polling stations to cast votes in local district elections.

The elections held in May 2023 are seen a significant steps in Somalia's quest to hold one person one vote elections nation-wide. The voter turnout was 72% and the vote was highly symbolic, showing that one person one vote is indeed possible.

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The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) team deployed to Garowe from Mogadishu during the election to witness the process. Support Programme was approved by the Somalia Joint Fund Management Group which is intended to contribute to more accountable legislatures and inclusive parliamentary processes.

The UN promoted social cohesion, especially in urban areas, advising on the drafting of the Social Cohesion Strategy for South West State and supporting the drafting of Community Action Plans in Baidoa and Bossaso. UN-Habitat launched with the South West State government the Baidoa City Strategy and City Extension Plan in March 2023 – as reported in Social Development (4.4). In November 2023, 26 FGS, FMS and municipality officials met for the first time to promote a coordinated national approach to inclusive land governance including tenure security for displaced and marginalized communities.

The UN supported dialogue between the South West President and the opposition which helped resolve political tensions. With UN support, four conflicts were resolved through mediation in *Xaradheere*, Galkayo, and *Waaciye*, leading to restored trust and return of displaced persons. By organising community involvement and supporting monitoring committees, the UN also contributed to stronger Somalia ownership and sus-

tainability of reconciliation processes including through non-violent communication training for civil society, women, youth and activists resulting in an increase in the engagement of women in community reconciliation. The UN provided political and technical advice during the development of the Hirshabelle State stabilization and reconciliation strategy focused on promoting community reconciliation dialogues in newly recovered areas including *Adan Yabaal* and *Adale*.

The UN supported the establishment of a delivery unit within the Office of Prime Minister focused on improving governance by ensuring accountability to citizens and fostering a more efficient and responsive government. The UN and partners hosted discussions on human rights and civic space. UN advocacy contributed to agreements to increase Somali-led civic discussions and citizen participation in future state building processes. For example: in 17 districts, the UN supported the platforms for women's participation in peacebuilding, decision-making and state-building processes. The UN organized six government-civil society dialogues on the implementation and monitoring of UNSCR 1325. enabling greater engagement on the Women Peace and Security agenda.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Security and Rule of Law

The UN system implemented 67 per cent of the available resources for Security and Rule of Law in 2023, focusing 85 per cent of its expenditure (US \$50 million) on Outcome 2.1: "Al-Shabaab is reduced and degraded, and respect, protection, and promotion of human rights, gender equality, tolerance, climate security, and environmental governance is sustained through strengthened security and rule of law institutions and improved accountability mechanisms and legal frameworks".

Efforts to secure a political consensus on an effective and affordable federated justice and corrections model continued. In late 2023, Parliament discussed procedures for debating the first chapters of the revised constitution. The UN supported a series of workshops that, for the first time, brought together stakeholders from justice institutions at FGS and FMS, civil society and Parliament to discuss the provisions of the proposed models. Despite Puntland's disengagement from the process, these consultations strengthened the understanding of stakeholders of the key issues in the proposed justice model. A corrections workshop in December supported by the UN considered the proposals for the Corrections Model produced at the NCC meeting of March 2023 and led the Min-



istry of Justice to seek a corrections sector under civilian control, with no military component.

To strengthen the legitimacy, trust and cooperation of justice institutions at local level, and thereby strengthen the social contract, the UN supported workshops between representatives of federal and state ministries and the formal criminal justice chain, local authorities, and community members, such as religious leaders, clan elders, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) representatives, women leaders, and business community representatives. These generative dialogue sessions contributed to a shift in thinking, improved communication, and enhanced trust between communities and institutions. The Chief Justice of South West State requested these be expanded to include all judges in the state.

The UN also supported a three-day conference in November during which federal and state ministries of internal security and finance decided on the distribution of 40,000 police across the five FMS and agreed a 2024-2026 plan on the recruitment, training, equipping and deployment of police. The UN continued to support the FGS in developing its counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) framework including through a baseline assessment in November. The UN advised the FGS on priority security legislations, including the National Intelligence and Security Agency law, the Counter terrorism law, Defense Bill, the Federal and Federal Member State Police Bills and the draft prison Law.

The UN supported FMS legislative processes, including the drafting of police acts in South West and Hirshabelle States, which provide a legal basis for the governance of the police services in those states. The development of phase 2 of the Joint Police Programme (JPP) was initiated in 2023 through a consultative process with the Somali Police Force, State Polices and the FGS and FMS Ministries of Security. The JPP Phase II is a nationally owned project that supports the FGS to implement an affordable and sustainable policing model consistent with the federal structure, including in newly recovered areas. In 2023, it supported the establishment of the Galmudug Police Force including through provision of basic training and equipment. Overall, 1,372 security officers received training and 2,440 officers received police stipends in the FMS. The UN supported construction of two storage sites for weapons and ammunitions and several police stations in newly recovered areas.

The UN continued to support the government's efforts to build a sustainable security sector, including through a security sector expenditure review.



received skills, knowledge, and equipment for effective service delivery.





(65 girls) associated with armed forces and groups, were entrusted to reintegration centers.





685 CHILDREN

(576 boys and 109 girls) benefited from legal aid & representation.



detention, **314** detained children received reduced sentences. The expenditure review summarised the costs of ongoing and planned reforms in the Somalia security sector in the framework of the National Security Architecture (NSArch). It fed into the 12 December 2023 Somalia Security Sector Conference in New York at which the FGS presented the Somalia Security Development Plan (SSDP) outlining its priorities and vision for the security sector in the next six years and requirements for international support.

Throughout 2023, the UN expanded its engagement with federal parliamentary committees and women parliamentarians on security sector governance issues. It advised on the Women in the Maritime Sector National Action Plan promoting gender equality, enhancing education and employment opportunities for women and girls. The UN supported the government to establish three "One-Stop Centres" in Baidoa, Kismayo and Dhusamreb which worked with IDP and host communities on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, stigma reduction and improved service seeking behaviours. The UN provided legal aid to 4,352 individuals including women and children (685) and asylum seekers, refugees, IDPs, and host communities.

The UN supported the preparation of protection legislation such as the Child Rights and Juvenile Justice Bills along with the protection services for 469 children previously associated with armed

GIVING WOMEN IN SOMALIA A VOICE TO INFLUENCE AN END TO LONG-STANDING CONFLICTS AROUND SOMALIA

In Somalia, women – especially rural women – are rarely given a seat at table for important negotiations when clan elders come together to discuss conflicts and disputes. But recently, one woman in rural Galmudug has been changing that long-held tradition of patriarchy.

Dahaba Adan Mohamud, the Chairperson of the Women's Network in Dhusamareb, advocates for peace and helps drive reconciliation efforts and conflict prevention.

"There are challenges," she explained in an interview at the offices of the Galmadug Women's Resource Centre supported by the UN Joint Programme on Women, Peace, and Protection. "When men are in conflict, they avoid women, but we try our best to calm tensions, reconcile the two sides, and remind them that we are their spouses, sisters, and wives, and that we are in this situation together," said Dahaba.

"We tell the men that it is our children who will be caught up in the conflict and emphasize that all of us need to protect our community and region,"

The UN Joint Programme on Women, Peace, and Protection – a collective effort from three UN entities namely UNDP, UN-SOM and UN Women – has supported the establishment of 17 Women's Peace Networks and running of Women's Resource Centres across the five Federal Member States and Banadir Regional Administration (BRA).

"The elders now recognize us, and we have acquired a seat at the table through our persistence in Galmudug. We want to extend this to other regional administrations," Dahaba added. groups. 615 children were released from detention facilities, and 314 detained children received reduced sentences. An UN-supported youth, peace and security forum with university students discussed peace and security challenges facing Somalia. Aligned with Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), the forum addressed unique challenges faced by young people and promoted their role in sustainable peace and development.

A previously established network of moderate religious scholars was expanded in 2023 to include women madrassa teachers. The network benefitted from UN-supported training and conducted social dialogues throughout Somalia, reaching approximately 5,000 people, focusing on building consensus around governance, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation. It went on to successfully mediate several-clan based conflicts in newly recovered areas.

For the first time, a structured approach to justice delivery in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab was undertaken. A pilot designed to provide conflict sensitive and trauma-informed justice in Hirshabelle and Galmudug began with an initial needs assessment by a team from the FGS Ministry of Justice in four districts, followed by training of range of community stakeholders (30% women). The participants will continue to be supported and mentored, and data on impact will be gathered in 2024.

Challenges to achieving the security and rule of law objectives included:

- Hard security-focus: it remained challenging to integrate a people-centred approach to security, with the Government taking a narrower focus on 'hard' security. Advocacy at political and technical levels continued.
- Constitutional review: The lack of an agreed process for finalising the Constitution, and Puntland government's non-participation in FGS-coordinated official initiatives hindered process of agreeing the Justice and Corrections Model, updating the National Security Architecture, and constrained progress on Puntland's rule of law development.
- *Ratification delays:* Federal Government has yet to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other international instruments.
- Legislative concerns: Attempts to lower the age of majority and proposals for legislation on sexual violence that do not comply with international human rights law were concerning. The Juvenile Justice Bill, that will provide a legislative framework for especially children formerly associated with armed groups, has not yet been enacted. There has been no progress on the Pensions and

Gratuity Bill, which is critical to the future Rightsizing of Federal Uniformed services. There are also some concerns that legislation, such as the Counter Terrorism Bill and the National Intelligence and Security Agency Act passed swiftly and would have benefitted from further vetting and greater alignment with international norms and standards.

- Budget constraints: Limited funding impacted the progress of various initiatives, including the climate security programme.
- *Establishment delays:* The FGS High Judicial Commission has not been established, affecting judicial accountability efforts.
- Gender equality: The integration of women in areas recovered from Al-Shabab after 15 years has proven challenging, as expectations on the social role of women are deeply embedded meaning women continued to face structural marginalisation.
- *Data collection:* The Rule of Law survey 2023 findings are pending, delaying the measurement of some indicators.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Economic Development



The UN engagement in Somalia aims to address the country's labour market shortcomings, catalyse enduring economic growth, and build resilience against the recurrent socio-economic upheavals. The completion of the HIPC initiative markedly boosted the confidence of Somalia's economic actors and institutions and honed focus on pivotal economic progressions. Initiatives since 2021 have seen the UN joining forces with governmental and private sectors to amplify Somalia's capacity and cultivate a fertile ecosystem for private sector development. Mindful of constraints facing Somalia's productive sector development, particularly in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, the UN has channelled resources to address these constraints, alongside efforts to invigorate the private sector capital accumulation, potentially spurring elevated investment, economic dynamism, and consequent job creation. The UN is proactively exploring avenues to buttress Somalia's skill development endeavours, which encompass measures aimed at advancing entrepreneurial skills, thereby bridging the capacity lacunae on the supply side.

Financially, the UN mobilized US \$36 million for economic development endeavours in 2023, with US \$20 million, earmarked for capacity development. Nevertheless, of the available funds, only 60% were implemented in 2023, pointing to persistent capacity gaps across the interlinked networks of governmental and developmental and UN entities.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN RURAL SOMALILAND

With multiple crises of droughts, locusts and the global COVID19 Pandemic, rural communities have faced unrelenting challenges to their food security in recent years. In light of these challenges, a longterm approach to improving the resilience of rural communities is needed to break the recurrent cycle of emergencies and inter-generational poverty. With UN support to the Government's efforts, vulnerable rural communities in Somalia are coping with adverse effects of climate change.

Zeyneb Dahir is a farmer and pastoralist who has witnessed her livelihood depleted by the recurrent droughts affecting her village in Toghdeer region of Somaliland. "The drought has huge effects on us. It has caused us a lot of problems. It has killed our livestock and destroyed our farms. We lost the money which we used to get through selling our agricultural products," she said.

Like Zeyneb, thousands of rural Somali families are facing the effects of climate change, which is threatening their lives and livelihoods, and forcing them to leave their villages. To mitigate these challenges and in line the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the United Nation in partnership with the Somaliland administration and with support from the Government of Canada are working together on a joint project to meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable rural communities while sustainably increasing food security, strengthening resilience, and livelihoods of food-insecure families.

From a corner of her newly refurbished shop, she speaks of how FAO talked to the village elders and asked them to identify women willing to join a Farmer Field School. She volunteered and was offered agricultural training, equipment, and seeds. "Our group consists of forty women. Each woman has a kitchen garden. At the beginning, we were trained on two square meters but then each woman expanded her piece of land. Now some of them own a hectare of land. They produce and make economic progress" she said.

Since she joined the Farmer Field School Zeyneb says her life has changed for the better, and she's been able to increase the productivity and the variety of the crops she produced from her farm. "I may either buy a piece of land, buy goods for my shop, buy livestock or save it in a bank account and use it during the drought season. I have gained a lot and my family's life is uplifted," she said.

OUTCOME 3.1

Economic governance institutions are strengthened, and an enabling environment is established for inclusive, sustainable, and broad-based economic growth driven by the emerging small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector.



In 2023, the UN allocated US \$2.8 million towards bolstering government and SME capacities. This initiative provided pivotal advisory and capacity-building support to various arms of the Somali government and enterprise enhancement bodies. A total of 1,177 Village Saving and Loan Associate (VSLA) groups (including 643 through the Joint Resilience Programme III, reported under Outcome 4.3), 100 women-led initiatives, and 320 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises received training on business development and technical assistance. Notably, over 217 enterprises gained access to favourable loans and microfinance options facilitated by the UN in partnership with local financial institutions-over half of which were spearheaded by women.

The UN supported the FGS in organizing the Somalia Economic Conference in late May in Mogadishu, which drew over 750 attendees, including high-level government officials, the Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet, regional private sector actors, and a significant contingent of European companies and investors, with a strong representation from Italy. The conference underscored Somalia's commercial potential, open-market readiness, providing opportunities for international business matchmaking, maybe investment and private sector-led initiatives.

OUTCOME 3.2

Natural resources are sustainably managed and binding constraints are addressed in key productive sector value chains, leading to enduring productivity gains, increased value addition and enhanced opportunities for decent work.



pre-basic seeds of climate-smart cowpea and sorghum have been procured and supplied to farmers.

US \$12.7 million was spent on improved natural resource management and support to the productive sector (Outcome 3.2). The UN supported the development of key economic legislation and frameworks, including preparing a terms of reference for the Cooperative Act, drafting a Fishery Master Plan and provision of technical support and guideline for the FGS Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) on the development of seed framework, based on which the MoAI started to formulate seed regulations and standards. While the Fisheries Act was signed into law in March 2023, related efforts to support the blue economy and sustainable fisheries in Somalia suffered some delays, as the update of the revenue sharing agreement, necessary to licence foreign fishing vessels, was deprioritised by the FGS, and the draft Fisheries Master Plan is yet to be endorsed.

Trainings on fisheries value-chains and business management and markets benefited over 500 people in 2023. Technical advisers were recruited to each of the FMS Ministries of Fisheries and training on fisheries data collection continued. As part of fodder value chain support, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) enhanced regional fodder processing and marketing capabilities through establishment of 17 Integrated Livestock Development Hubs benefiting 13,000 households in Somaliland. In addition, 2,200 households were supported with fodder production and processing machineries and training on GAPs across Somalia, and 6 fodder shades were constructed in Puntland.

The UN provided training to Ministry staff on agricultural extension services, Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction, Participatory Disaster Risk Assessments and on seed productions and certification. Authorities and communities were trained on rangeland management and food fortification and 46 students supported to participate in fisheries courses. Nearly 7,500 farmers, half or whom were women, received extension and advisory services.

Flood mitigation and flood defence systems were prioritised on the flood-prone Juba and Shabelle rivers with support to embankment protection and dykes protecting nearly 70 thousand hectares of agricultural land and community infrastructures. Building on this framework, UN agencies in coordination with the Somali Disaster Management Agency and other humanitarian actors developed a flood anticipatory action plan. In October 2023, as pre-defined weather forecast thresholds were crossed, the World Food Programme (WFP) activated the anticipatory action programme in Jubaland. South West and Hirshabelle States while maintaining collaboration with government and humanitarian counterparts. Early warning messages were disseminated to 440,000 people; US\$ 2.7 million of assistance in cash was transferred to 219,000 people (59 per cent women) living in flood-prone locations; 25,000 children under five and breastfeeding women received specialized nutritious packages and boats were pre-positioned at strategic points along the Juba and Shabelle rivers to support evacuation and delivery of supplies.

55km of irrigation canals were rehabilitated in Jowhar and 5km constructed in Kismayo, with 40

auxiliary structures. In addition, in Beledweyne 262 metric tonnes of river embankments with 1 reinforcement and 2 auxiliary structures (canal intake chambers) were completed. While work on other construction and productive infrastructure continued, some projects were delayed as drought, and then floods, impacted access to sites and livelihood production seasons. Nevertheless, three agricultural market centres, five fodder sheds, three agri-labs were completed.

The UN's support to entrepreneurship, innovation and the digital economy focused on support to incubators, access to sources of energy that provide an alternative to charcoal, and an innovative water desalination pilot. Administrative delays were experienced in mini-grid projects which straddled the Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

The UN supported 61 delegates, from 12 Federal ministries and different FMSs to participate in the COP28 discussions and negotiations. The UN also supported the new development of a new strategy for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the drafting of a climate action plan for meeting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and prepared for a Green Climate Fund visit in 2024.

OUTCOME 3.3

An integrated national programme for human capital development is established, increasing access to marketbased skills for all—including the most marginalized and vulnerable groups—and safeguarding their rights.



In 2023, the UN invested US \$4.5million in supporting human capital development (Outcome 3.3), including through the establishment of a technical and vocational education and training facility specialized in agro-mechanization, support to female interns in Puntland Information Management Centre, and technical and vocational training of over 1,000 people from displacement affected communities. In Baidoa, displacement affected communities benefitted from infrastructure construction training; construction and self-building skills training (300 IDPs), entrepreneurship training and micro-loans (also in Bossaso) as well as a solar irrigation scheme (due to be launched in 2024).

Employment intensive infrastructure investments in Baidoa led to 693 decent employment opportunities for IDPs, returnees and host communities. An amount of US \$315,080 was directly paid out in wages for unskilled and semi-skilled workers and injected into the local economy. A grievance redress mechanism has been established and disseminated to the Community Umbrella System (CUS), community leaders and workers. A code of practice binding contractors/service providers to comply with appropriate labour conditions and practices with specific compliance requirements for notification/announcement of labour vacancies for each contract, recruitment criteria and process, and payment of agreed wage has been established. Funding to support the development of employers' associations and trade unions was not available in 2023.

The UN is working with partners across Somalia for youth innovation and support for social entrepreneurship opportunities especially for youth from vulnerable backgrounds. 487 such young people were reached in 2023.

The UN built and handed-over the Baidoa One-Stop Youth Centre to the Southwest State Ministry of Youth and Sports and a local youth organization, providing youth with an inclusive safe space in urban settings where they can meet, participate in livelihoods skills training, and access resources critical to youth –led development including peace building, research and policy development.

UNOPS' construction and rehabilitation of a 52 km section of a vital transport corridor from Galkayo to Garowe led to increased capacity, reduction of travel times, reduced costs and greater economic activity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Social Development

The UN's Social Development work represents the combined humanitarian and development programming and is also described as the "Collective Outcomes" of the UN.

For 2023, the UN budget for Social Development was US \$1.96 billion, with US \$1.5 billion of this directed at Outcome 4.3.

By the end of 2023, US \$1 billion had been expended on Social Development, with over US \$830 million (79 per cent) spent by WFP and FAO including on emergency cash transfers prioritising people facing "crisis" level of food insecurity.

To note, the 2023 Humanitarian Response plan – which includes NGOs – requested US \$2.6 billion and received US \$1.1 billion. \$568 million of the funds received were for the Food Security and Livelihoods (US \$472 million) and Nutrition (US \$97 million) clusters much of which is also reported through the Cooperation Framework's Collective Outcomes.

The UN faced challenges in scaling up interventions due to resource limitations and environmental factors like drought and floods. Delays in ratifying international treaties and passing critical bills, such as the FGM bill also affected the implementation of certain projects and delayed the start of new initiatives. Insufficient or ineffective monitoring frameworks in some sectors, hindered progress assessments. The impact of natural disasters, particularly floods due to El Niño, highlighted the need for more robust and effective early warning systems and flood defence mechanisms, enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity in flood-affected areas.



Funding graph for Social Development, by Outcome.

OUTCOME 4.1

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.



Health indicators improved in 2023, for example skilled birth attendance increased from 32 per cent in 2020 to 44 per cent in 2023 indicating improved quality of maternal health services. However, although the under-five mortality rate also declined from 122 (2019) to 112 per 1,000 live births, and the maternal mortality rate from 692 (2020) to 621 per 100,000 live births, these indicators re-

main unacceptably high, and Somalia is off track to meet SDG targets.

The UN reached 1.7 million people with essential life-saving health services, including nutrition interventions, supported access for pregnant women to antenatal services in over 2,000 facilities, strengthened immunization systems and vaccine management, including through enhanced cold chain capacity, resulting in 85 per cent of health facilities having solar-powered vaccine fridges. Approximately 2 million children under five were vaccinated against measles. The UN facilitated nearly 600,000 antenatal care visits and expanded its family planning programme to 300 public and 25 private health facilities, increasing access to modern contraceptive methods. Health Information Management was improved with over 90 per cent of health facilities reporting key health indicators through the District Health Information Software 2 online platform, enhancing decision-making capabilities.

The UN contributed to enhanced **education** including through the operationalization of FGS Education Sector Strategy Plan, by facilitating education for 249,477 children, including 106,327 learners from crisis-affected settings, and training nearly 2,000 teachers contributing to improved teaching quality. In terms of Emergency Education Response, the UN scaled-up measures to support 106,327 vulnerable children with education packages.

56 per cent of the population – up from 52 per cent in 2019 – had access to basic drinking water including through UN efforts which improved and sustainable access to **WASH** in schools and healthcare facilities. UN implemented programs to provide sustainable and affordable WASH services to an estimated 544,000 people and provided nearly 490,000 people with emergency water.

Protection Services and Legal Frameworks were enhanced through improved case management, training of social workers and improved child protection systems. Support was provided to 20 GBV one-stop centres and five family care centres, assisting nearly 19,000 GBV survivors. The Juvenile Justice Bill, also reported against in RG2, Security and Rule of Law, once enacted, will provide a legal framework for child protection.

The UN enhanced the social welfare workforce and supported 572 students to graduate in case work and social worker programmes. It contributed to system strengthening by providing protection training to 394 social workers and assisted in the development and implementation of eight 8 community action plans on GBV and harmful social norms. Through the Joint Programme on Human Rights Phase 2, the UN continued support to FGS and FMS to strengthen the human rights monitoring and legal frameworks and investing in creating awareness on human rights through child rights clubs.

Nutrition programming for vulnerable groups continued. Over 400,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 1.85 million children under five received treatment for malnutrition (1,229,278) for moderate wasting and 623,716 (350,627 girls) for severe wasting, exceeding the annual target. As part of the famine prevention response, the UN supported over one million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women in districts with Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence above 15 per cent. A nationwide integrated Polio and Vitamin A campaign covered 72 out of 74 districts in Somalia.

OUTCOME 4.2

By 2025, the number of people impacted by climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation will have decreased.



Outcome 4.2 is very unlikely to be met by the end of the Cooperation Framework in 2025 due to the speed of climate change; the large-scale humanitarian needs which have drawn attention away from the long-term investments and limited funding for climate adaptation. The UN invested to the extent possible in infrastructure work to prevent and reduce severity of impacts of droughts and floods especially along the riverine areas. Despite these efforts in flood defence mechanisms and early warning systems, the number of people displaced in 2023 increased due to catastrophic flooding related to a historic El Niño occurrence. While the severity and magnitude of the flooding was high, effective early warning and early action, joint leadership and coordination amongst Government and

humanitarian actors substantially mitigated negative impacts on the populations of concern, with over 90% of people evacuated on time.

The UN successfully supported the new Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to implement policy changes, including the development of a revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) report and a 5-year strategy that was launched during COP28. The strong positioning of Somalia during COP28 reflected the UN and partners' efforts to assist the government in accessing climate finance. A cross-government coordination committee on climate change was established, focusing on implementing the NDC and aligning climate financing. An Environmental Management Law was passed in Galmudug state, and a comprehensive roadmap for the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan was developed. A Climate Change Cluster was added to the Civil Society Network to influence climate action through advocacy and educational campaigns.

The UN and the Somali Disaster Management Agency jointly provided human rights training focused on climate change impacts. A Climate Change Cluster was added to the Civil Society Network to influence climate action through advocacy and educational campaigns. A gender toolkit and manual were developed for climate change adaptation programmes. Workshops were organized to increase awareness among government and non-government stakeholders about climate change, with a focus on gender mainstreaming.

Within output 4.2.2 on enhancing community resilience, the UN delivered projects focused on climate change awareness, peacebuilding, and community-led adaptation methods, with significant participation from women. Almost 500 people (30 per cent women) benefited from short-term employment (women vendors and casual labourers) through the implementation of the nature-based solution (water and climate change adaptation civil works).

The UN collectively capacitated communities with nutrition sensitive agriculture (800 beneficiaries established highly productive micro-gardens with nutrient-dense crops), water harvesting infrastructure and nature-based solutions (over 29,000 households with 52 per cent women-headed households), on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) (370 people policymakers, planners, and community members) and environmentally sound settlement planning including appropriate site selection in the "ADC" area of Baidoa and in Bossaso Grible.

In relation to Disaster Risk Reduction Measures, the Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative was launched and proved effective at saving lives during the El Niño floods. The Somalia Disaster Management Agency revised disaster risk reduction plans, integrating gender perspectives. Efforts were made to strengthen urban youth engagement in livelihood skills and green recovery. Local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) guidelines were developed to enhance community-based resilience.

Twenty-five rainfall observers from FMS and FGS







eceived comprehensive GBV case management support *(6,121 girls, 831 boys, 11,565 women, 425 men)

İti

29,000 HOUSEHOLDS* benefitted from harvesting

infrastructures and naturebased solutions. *(52% women-headed households)



were enrolled in the first-ever MSc program on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) *(27 males and 8 females)



370 PEOPLE

received training on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) benefiting policymakers, planners, and community members.

were trained on collecting, handling, and reporting hydro-meteorological data. The UN provided early warning information to support the El Niño related flood preparedness and response including 69 drought and flood forecasts bulletins, 16 Public Service Announcements, 264,319 SMS (Digniin- Warning), and customised floods and drought maps. Prior to the start of the season the existing flood model for Shabelle river was refined using newly acquired high resolution elevation data, and the model was used to generate data used for flood infrastructure development. Maps for potential higher ground for evacuation were also produced for Dolow, Baardheere, Luug, Afgooye, Belet Weyne and Jowhar Districts, and shared with partners for planning ahead of the floods.

OUTCOME 4.3

By 2025, the proportion of vulnerable Somalis with scaled-up and sustained resilience against environmental and conflict-related shocks will have increased, based on better management of life cycle risk, food security and nutrition outcomes.





benefited from UN emergency preparedness and response interventions to save lives, reducing vulnerability and protecting lives and livelihoods.



90,751 BENEFICIARIES assisted with assets and short- term employment opportunities through

opportunities through diversified livelihood support activities.







1,194,000 PEOPLE REACHED with predictable longterm safety nets. **888,000** people received drought emergency cash transfers for 6 months.



receive unconditional nutritious food support for treatment and prevention of stunting and malnutrition and promote healthy lives.

Outcome 4.3 work focused on enhancing resilience to environmental and conflict-related shocks, improving food security, and achieving better nutrition outcomes. The main impact was in building sustainable livelihoods, enhancing food consumption patterns, and strengthening government-led coordination in humanitarian and development assistance. Between 2021 and 2023, Somalia faced the longest drought in recorded history, pushing the country to the brink of famine and this was immediately followed at the end of 2023 by a series of historically devastating floods including the El-Niño induced flooding. Increased collaboration and concerted joint efforts by humanitarian partners under this outcome enabled Somalia to prevent the worst outcomes and averted famine.

The UN provided both conditional and unconditional cash transfers, school meals including to the 4.3 million people who were experiencing "crisis" (IPC3) or worse level levels of food security. The UN reached approximately 248,000 households (1,485,390 individuals) with conditional and unconditional cash amounting to US \$53,699,297. In addition, 11 thousand beneficiaries were trained and supported on educations and home gardening solutions. The 2023 *Gu* crop yield assessment showed that 54 per cent (five per cent fewer than in 2019) of households had acceptable food consumption patterns. The UN also reached approximately 42 per cent of the people in crisis and above categories.

3.7 million beneficiaries benefited from UN emergency preparedness and response interventions to save lives, reducing vulnerability and protecting lives and livelihoods. The national safety net programme, Baxnaano, a government programme implemented by the UN, delivered a third year of predictable cash transfers reaching 199,000 poor people. Almost 91,000 beneficiaries were assisted with assets and short-term employment opportunities.

Training for policymakers on social protection systems was conducted, and the Social Protection Policy in Somaliland was approved. The feasibility study on Productive Social Safety Net was endorsed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and with UN support, the Ministry of Employment Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) trained fifteen policy makers on Social Protection Systems and Social Protection Leadership. A Poverty unit was established and capacitated in various aspects of poverty data analysis.

The UN continued to support the government's coordination of humanitarian and development as-

sistance, including through the establishment of 30 disaster volunteer networks in Mogadishu and activation of National Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The UN supported the Government to prepare and take part in the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment, which took place on 24-26 July 2023. The UN produced a policy brief on Somalia's progress in implementing the seven Somalia Food Systems Pathways. A food systems operational plan was drafted jointly with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Global Coalition against Food Crisis and the UN. Subsequently the UN supported the government to launch the Somalia Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change Council mandated to coordinate the food systems agenda for the country.

OUTCOME 4.4

By 2025, 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.



In 2023, the UN made significant strides in empowering marginalized communities, enhancing social cohesion, and building institutional capacities. The Protection and Return Monitoring Network tracked 1.6 million displacements, informing humanitarian response and advocacy – including against forced evictions. Capacity and coordination support was provided to the government, including maintaining reception centres. Efforts are ongoing to develop with government context-specific benchmarks to systematically track durable solutions pathways.

Over 14,000 refugees, returnees, and IDPs were supported with relocation and reintegration resulting in 18 per cent progress towards Outcome 4.4 (compared with 19,000 in 2022). 6,492 IDPs were supported in 2023 with solutions: transitional (3,480 individuals 599 households) and durable (3012 individuals, 502 households) shelter, accompanied by durable land tenure. UN supported local authorities in improved land administration policies and procedures resulting in the immediate term release of 359 permanent title deeds for IDP families. In Kismayo, a soccer field was constructed to promote recreation and social cohesion for children and youth. The UN also maintained Home Way Stations and facilitated cross-border meetings for refugee returns.

The UN led Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster reached over two million individuals in 1,369 sites across 32 districts. 94 per cent of the sites have access to complaint feedback mechanisms and over 1,000 sites implemented Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities, enhancing social cohesion among IDPs and host communities. Community centres played a pivotal role in diverse community engagement activities, including peace and social cohesion sessions, educational activities, and rights promotion, particularly for women and youth.

The Human Rights and Protection Group supported the National Disability Agency in a three-day consultation to strengthen coordination and advocate for the approval of the National Disability Rights Bill. It supported Somali Youth Cluster workshops on economic, social, and cultural rights, Child Protection Networks with sensitization campaigns in Bakool and Gedo regions; workshops with legal and government personnel on the rights of children affected by armed conflict.

The UN supported inclusive planning and strengthened accountability (output 4.4.2). The Baidoa City Strategy and Extension Plan was launched, and a city strategy for Bossaso was drafted to guide sustainable urban growth and tackle displacement issues. Area upgrading interventions - including housing construction and land title support - benefited 1,000 displaced persons in Baidoa. 1,638 refugees received government identification documents. The National Identification and Registration Authority, supported by the UN, is planning to issue identification documents by 2026, including to refugees.

The Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG) reached 43 districts, enhancing basic service implementation while improving municipal finance administration and revenue mobilisation. JPLG launched district development frameworks for 11 districts in Puntland in 2023, outlining sector specific targets for service delivery for the next five years. Technical assistance was provided to local governments to increase their own revenue for investment and service delivery to communities, including IDPs. Urban visioning exercises resulted in public spaces being rehabilitated and redesigned for a central square next the Mogadishu municipality and a green pocket-park in Garowe.

JPLG convened the mayors' forum, involving 19











major districts represented by their mayors and line ministries at both state and federal levels. Core municipal functions and several cross-cutting themes, including urbanization, climate change, urban planning, governance and decentralization, local government financing, gender in local governments, and digitizing municipal activities were discussed. Districts demonstrated increased ownership of service delivery model interventions. Government contribution in service delivery model increased from 48 per cent to 65 per cent indicating sustainability of public service provision at the sub-national level.

The UN supported social and political accountability systems leading to increased youth engagement in local politics where UN trained youth as peace champions, promoting stability and conflict prevention. The DALABILE project engaged 56,000 young people through youth centres and peacebuilding initiatives.

The UN supported the implementation of the World Bank funded Somalia Urban Resilience Project Phase II (also called Nagaad) and the Somalia Crisis Recovery Project focusing on building the resilience of Somali cities by strengthening municipal government capacity and helping local governments deliver prioritised infrastructure to their citizens, as well as supporting the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in flood and drought affected areas and strengthening the Somali Government's capacity for disaster preparedness nationwide, both through technical assistance and through specific infrastructure designs and assessments.

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF SOMALIA'S INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)

Ali Abdi Mursal, a father of seven, confronted immense challenges within Baidoa's IDP camp, grappling with climate-related adversities. Hindered by agricultural struggles, he found it difficult to adequately provide for his family. However, a beacon of hope emerged through 'Saameynta,' a Joint Programme of the Federal Government of Somalia , South West State and the United Nations.

Equipped with a water-pumping engine, seeds, and pesticides, Ali experienced a surge in productivity. Ali expressed, "My life has changed since then, directly and indirectly, as I now possess the equipment integrated into my farm." Beyond economic empowerment, the programme endeavors to bolster social and psychological well-being. Through customized business strategies, beneficiaries such as Ali receive essential resources, nurturing self-sufficiency and preserving dignity.

Ali's new found ownership of farming equipment not only ensures food security but also enables him to extend resources within his community. Supported by grants and guidance from Saameynta partner organizations like READO, 80 IDPs have initiated new ventures while 100 have expanded existing ones. The comprehensive approach not only attends to immediate needs but also fosters resilience and prosperity within vulnerable communities. "Initially, it was only me who was farming here in my land, but now I have allocated a piece of land for other people from the community to farm, and of course I will share their profit when they harvest and sell it in the market", Ali exclaimed with excitement.

SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

The UN's country-level pooled fund in Somalia, the Somalia Joint Fund (SJF), was re-launched on 10 May 2023 with a new Terms of Reference agreed following a comprehensive consultative process involving the host government, Member States, and the UN Country Team. Previously known as the Somalia Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the SJF has been repositioned to better align with Somalia's national priorities and to deepen the partnership between Somalia and its international partners. The SJF is structured along seven funding windows, of which five were opened in 2023: 1) Inclusive Politics; 2) Rule of Law; 3) Human Rights and Gender; 4) Climate and Resilience; and 5) Community Recovery and Local Governance.

The SJF is guided by an overarching Investment and Resource Mobilization Strategy setting out the general direction of investment, principles of partnership, and prioritization. Additionally, each funding window under the SJF is guided by thematic strategy notes articulating at a more granular level the programmatic priorities for each funding window and the underlying analysis informing prioritization. The strategy notes were developed through a consultative process facilitated by the



SJF Secretariat and involving UN entities and results groups, Member States, and the host government.

Somalia was selected by the Internal Displacement Solutions fund (IDSF) as a priority country for funding to develop and promote solutions pathways to end displacement under the leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia.

In July 2023, the SJF launched its first call for proposals under the new Terms of Reference. The call for proposals generated 27 concept notes from 15 members of the UN Country Team and with a combined value of more than US \$350 million over the next six years. On 22 November 2023, the SJF's management body approved 15 programmes in a first batch across four funding windows, valued at US \$148 million over the next four years. The SJF's resource mobilization target is at minimum US \$65 million per annum for the lifespan of the Fund (until 31 December 2030). However, in order to realize the full ambition of the SJF as both a financing mechanism and partnerships platform for closer dialogue among partners and more integrated, higher quality programming, it would require at least US \$90 million annually.

RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER:

UNITED NATIONS COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

The UN in Somalia employs a nexus approach across its core frameworks, with a focus on Collective Outcomes highlighted in both the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-25 and annual Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans. Since 2020, the UN has focused on three interrelated areas of work: (1) Climate, environment and water management, (2) Durable Solutions for displacement-affected communities and (3) Anti-Corruption. By working through these nexus priorities, the UN aims 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.

The Cooperation Framework, under its Social Development priority area, integrates four Collective Outcomes agreed jointly with the UN Country Team and 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.

Operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus remains a top priority for the United Nations in Somalia. Implementation has been most successful when actors at a local level have a strong incentive to work closely with each other. The impact is amplified when the government provides local-level incentives and motivates partners to work together. The plans by the Federal Government of Somalia to establish a high-level Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Forum as part of its revised aid architecture, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister is a good example of the necessary government leadership.

Under the "Climate, environment & water" priority, in 2023, 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.

Throughout the year, under the "Durable Solutions" task force, the Saameynta – Scaling-up Durable

Solutions to Displacement in Somalia Programme continued to contribute towards mitigating climate risk in Baidoa, Bossaso, and Beletweyne, strengthening local authorities' capacity to adapt to climate change and reinforcing the roles of national, state, and municipal governments in delivering solutions to displacement based on integrated and coordinated area-based programming. The programme supported city-wide strategies and extension plans, inclusive land governance, community-identified priorities through livelihood diversification, investments in renewable / clean energy technologies, and scaling-up resilient urban infrastructure projects for IDP returns and local integration.

On "Anti-Corruption", the focus throughout 2023 related to follow up and implementation of recommendations from the Post-Delivery Aid Diversion report.

The Cooperation Framework also supports nexus interventions that contribute to government efforts to build state capacity and deliver services more broadly. 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 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.

2023 saw a significant expansion of joint UN activities in Somalia, and the Operation Management Team (OMT) played a crucial role in ensuring coordination and collaboration between the various Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) from an operational and administrative perspective, in line with Secretary General efficiency agenda.

Several common services have been identified, planned and implemented including human resources, budget and finance, administration, logistics as well as the review of several MOUs between the Government and the UN.

A general budget cost apportionment methodology was agreed based on the declared presence of staff by each AFP in the country. This methodology was applied to all common costs and activities as for example the UN Clinics', common security, the Gender theme group, the UN communication group, and other common activities identified for a later implementation like a dedicated staff to support OMT secretariat especially with the management of the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) platform.

EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development (MoPIED) completed a Mid-Term Review of the National Development Plan-9 (NDP-9 MTR). Following an intensive three-month assessment of the four foundational pillars of the NDP-9: inclusive politics; security and rule of law; economic development and social development, the NDP-9 MTR offered 14 recommendations. The recommendations included recalibrating and reprioritising the NDP-9 incorporating a stabilisation plan, sustaining economic progress post-HIPC through investment in growth drivers and tackling growth inhibitors and building climate resilience. It also proposed strengthening support for the achievement of national development goals through securing unified FGS-FMS support for a costed NDP, improving citizen understanding and participation, creating economic opportunities for Somali youth and enhancing human capital. It also proposed better capacitating MOPIED, improving data and statistics, enhancing monitoring and evaluation, and digitizing Somalia's security systems. The NDP-9 MTR will shape the development of Somalia's next, tenth NDP which will be the first costed plan of Centennial Vision 2060.

While the Centennial Vision 2060 exercise is not an evaluation as such, the preliminary documentation included lessons from development models from a selection of Asian and African countries. The initial Vision report provided long-term strategic direction for *"the Somalia we want"* and made policy recommendations. To tackle the array of challenges identified, the Vision is likely to be structured around eight pillars: 1) Capable, efficient, and developmental state, 2) Skilled workforce and human capital development; 3) Private sector-led growth and transformation; 4) Climate resilient and market-oriented productive sector; 5) Modern infrastructure and economic corridors; 6) Blue economy as a growth engine; 7) Regional and economic integration and 8) Foreign Direct Investment attraction and industrialization. It anticipates concentrating on five cross cutting themes: a) gender; b) environmental sustainability; c) technology; d) resilience building and e) conducive legal and regulatory framework.

A component report on fostering a growth mindset identified policy recommendations for engaging leaders, policy makers and engaging the public while focusing on the youth (which comprises 70 per cent of the population). It recommends improving the political environment (promoting democracy and freedom of speech; addressing corruption; building government systems); enhancing the economic environment (reducing dependence; supporting meritocracy; creating jobs and promoting investment); education and media transformation.

On the humanitarian side, a fact-finding assessment into allegations of post-delivery aid diversion in Somalia was carried out. While aid diversion has been an evolving component of the Somali political economy at least since the mid-1990s, this internal Post Delivery Aid Diversion (PDAD) report identified a series of new, practical and immediate recommendations to reduce risk. The Risk Management Unit also prepared a lessons learned document on aid diversion from 2010-2023. Throughout 2023, a Technical Task Force comprising donors, UN Agencies and NGO partners worked to implement the subsequent action plan, with continued close engagement through the Federal and State governments to mitigate risks of aid diversion.

Following the implementation of the Humanitarian System-Wide Inter-Agency Standing Committee Scale-Up protocols in 2022, an Operational Peer Review (OPR) mission was deployed in May to June 2023 to provide the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) an opportunity to reflect on the direction and performance of the response and identify immediate and rapid corrective actions. It concluded that while scale-up had averted famine, the quality and speed of the response could be further improved, data and information sharing needed prioritising, local capacities should be better integrated and greater investment in prevention and resilience building was needed. An Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the famine prevention effort will take place in 2024.

In October, an independent stabilisation assessment designed to inform UN future efforts identified the need to better involve women and minority groups in stabilization decision making; to scale up support to stabilisation – including policing capacities - to ensure hard-won security victories can translate into better lives for Somalis; and to refocus on delivery of basic services as well as provision of justice and social and political reconciliation.

UNDP commissioned 4 project evaluations running across different outcomes of the UNCF. A mid-term of evaluation of the Promoting Resilience Through Integrated Approach to Water, Environment and Disaster Risk Management in Somalia confirmed the relevance of the project and alignment with Somali priorities including the need for water sector professionals. A final evaluation of the joint programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods took place. The evaluation revealed that the programme was aligned to the national development priorities of Somalia and in line with the resolution 2036 of the UN Security Council of 2012 which banned the export of charcoal from Somalia due to its environmental impact. A Reconciliation and State-Building Processes project evaluation was also conducted with support from the Peace Building Fund and

showed significant progress in meeting the needs of the community in conflict resolution and capacity building through training of local leaders and government staff and engaging them in peacebuilding activities. UNDP's mid-term evaluation of the SIDA-funded Integrated Water Resource Management project recommended to scale up advanced funding scholarships for sustainable water management and nature-based solutions, implement sub-national water interventions, establish geospatial units, support environmental monitoring and compliance, natural resource assessments, conservation initiatives and establish an environmental laboratory. The findings of the evaluations underscore the importance of sustainable financial resources, implementation support, public awareness, involvement of vulnerable communities, coordination mechanism strengthening, and participation of federal member states, local institutions, and civil society organisations. These lessons learned will be crucial in guiding future development projects in Somalia.

The FAO (FAO) Somalia conducted a Planting Material and Improved Storage bag assessment in Somalia which determined that the seed security of farmers needed increasing and identified potential for improved use of storage bags and fertilizer. It also recommended support to the formal seed sector and commercial seed production. FAO also conducted a fifth round of a household survey in Somalia through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. It recommended that national and regional early warning systems on climate and livestock body conditions are used, and government ministries and development partners are supported to implement offtake programmes and destocking during the early warning of impending drought period. FAO also carried out impact assessment for two closed projects (OUTREACH II and BRiMS) and the findings revealed that the projects contributed positively to the livelihood and food security of the target beneficiaries.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In 2023, the UN in Somalia required US \$2.126 billion to deliver on the Cooperation Framework priorities. Of that, US \$1.471 billion was made available (69 per cent), and US \$1.140 billion (78 per cent of the total amount available) was delivered. Although the priorities of the Cooperation Framework target all seventeen of the Sustainable Development Goals, the focus of the funding in 2023 was on "Zero Hunger" again reflecting a focus on the humanitarian response designed to avert famine.



Available Resources \$1.47 billion

Cooperation Framework priority	Required money (USD, millions)	Available money (USD, millions) and % of Required			
Inclusive politics	21	17	83%	16	93%
Security and Rule of Law	105	88	83%	59	67%
Economic Development	35	36	102%	20	56%
Social Development	1,964	1,330	68%	1,045	79%
TOTAL	2,126	1,471	69%	1,140	78%

In 2023, the Somalia Humanitarian Response plan estimated the total requirements for UN and humanitarian partner organisations at US \$2.60 billion. Of this, only US \$1.19 billion (46 per cent) was made available for the response. The Government of the United States of America was by far the largest contributor, accounting for 56.7 per cent of the available funding. The humanitarian cluster receiving the lowest rate of funding at 15 per cent of requirements was Camp Coordination and Camp Management, which if well-funded could contribute to more development orientated work on Durable Solutions for displacement affected communities.

Resource Mobilization and Quality of Funding

2021 is the most recent year that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published Official Development Assistance figures for Somalia: \$2.4 billion was made available. The Federal Government of Somalia's own Aid Information Management System (AIMS) reported that US \$2.1 billion was made available in 2021 and provided an estimate that US \$744 million development and \$1,750 million humanitarian (a total of US \$2.5 billion) would be available in 2022. The UN figures for 2023 supplied in this report are therefore to be considered provisional pending updated government statistics.

UN expenditure in 2023 reached US \$1.140 billion (see table above). This represented only 78 per cent of what the UN would have needed to implement all its planned activities. Somalia's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which includes partners, received US \$1.16 billion which 44.5 per cent of the requested amount. Humanitarian colleagues therefore focused work on immediate emergency life-saving interventions. While most of the funding was allocated to specific UN agencies and programmes, there was an increase in donor willingness to contribute "un-earmarked" funding to the Somalia Joint Fund. This is expected to generate some much-needed flexibility in responding to emerging needs in 2024.

In terms of overall financing in Somalia, 2023 saw continued direct budgetary support from the World Bank which resulted in the Federal Government becoming the second largest donor to the humanitarian response in 2023.

Analysis over time in Somalia has demonstrated the need to invest in resilience building and nexus programming to help reduce the scale of future humanitarian needs and reduce the need for massive surges in humanitarian response. However, in 2023 there was again insufficient investment in resilience building. Within the UN's Cooperation Framework, the proportion of required humanitarian funding received - through the Social Development Strategic Priority at 91 per cent - was higher than the proportion of required development funding received - predominantly reflected in the three other priority areas. Within the Cooperation Framework, the Social Development Pillar containing the bulk of humanitarian funding and accounted for 92 per cent of the total UN expenditure in 2023. This reflected a focus on lifesaving, famine prevention work related to food security and nutrition, as well as flooding response.

As of 30 December 2023, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) had received US \$70.6 million in contributions from 15 donors. The SHF continues to champion localization through working with local and national partners as much as possible and international partners as necessary. Of the \$56.6 million that SHF has allocated in 2023, 69.4 per cent were channelled to national NGOs, 38.9 per cent to international NGOs and 6.2 per cent to UN agencies.

The UN faced its own funding constraints in 2023, due to decreased assessed and voluntary contributions. Funding constraints, especially for UN Secretariat based entities, will continue into 2024, with acute liquidity challenges being experienced.



CHAPTER 3

UNCT Somalia Key Focus for 2024

The UN remains committed to advancing key priorities in Somalia during 2024. These priorities are centred around building resilience to climate shocks, climate change adaptation (with a specific focus on expanding climate financing), durable solutions for displacement-affected communities and urbanization (with a target of identifying solutions pathways for 1 million persons in 2024), and addressing accountability, integrity and anti-diversion issues.

In the realm of Inclusive Politics (RG1), the UN will continue to actively support Somalia's constitu-

tional development process, ensuring inclusivity and democratic principles. Efforts will also be directed toward enhancing parliamentary inclusiveness and accountability, and supporting planning for Somalia's next rounds of electoral processes.

Regarding Security and Rule of Law (RG2), the UN will collaborate with Somali authorities to establish robust and accountable security structures. This includes finalizing the National Maritime Security Strategy and implementing the Women in the Marine Sector (WiMS) Action Plan. Additionally, the National Security Architecture (NSArch) will be finalized in alignment with constitutional reforms, contributing to strengthened security and rule of law; with an enhanced focus commensurate with the risks around the ATMIS drawdown and transition.

In Economic Development (RG3), the UN's vision for 2024 acknowledges the country's strategic advancements, including efforts towards regional market integration led by line ministries and private sector associations. With enhanced donor support, the UN will launch specialized, long-term programme interventions in 2024 and 2025 that address country-specific constraints on private sector investment and job creation, including facilitating market access, and foster the development economic diversification. To bolster lending to small and medium enterprises, initiatives like the Compact Fund and the BIC Somalia Programme will continue. Additionally, support programmes for Somali businesses and initiatives tailored to assist vulnerable communities within the framework of Somalia's durable solutions efforts will persist. These comprehensive measures are designed to underpin Somalia's journey towards economic resilience and inclusivity.

The UN's approach to Social Development (RG4) will aim to shift the balance from humanitarian assistance to development investment. Initiatives will focus on addressing long-term needs, including durable solutions for displacement-affected communities and urban development, with the UN supporting the Government's efforts to identify solutions pathways for 1 million IDPs. Continued coordination between humanitarian cash-based programming and developmental social safety net programming notably by the World Bank will also contribute to a smoother transition, as will work on sustainability and affordability in the service sectors.

The UN's commitment to Human Rights and Gender involves enhancing the empowerment and full human rights of women in Somalia. Efforts will also aim to create an improved protective environment and economic autonomy for marginalized women and girls, enabling them to fully implement their human rights.

Lastly, the UN's emphasis on expanding a development focus for Somalia will include role out of a new generation in 2024 of Joint Programmes under the reconfigured Somalia Joint Fund (SJF), focusing on Climate and Resilience initiatives such as: Blulnvest (investing in the blue economy to enhance livelihoods for fishing communities and protect coastal ecosystems); the "Maaryenta" governance program for climate change adaptation, and efforts to build climate-resilient communities and sustainable ecosystems in Somalia; and the "Biyaha Nolosha" (Water for Life) programme to undertake feasibility studies for very deep groundwater in Somalia

Additional operational and enabling priorities include: accelerating climate finance for Somalia; use of country systems; enhancing accountability, improving risk management and tackling aid diversion; as well as transition planning.

Annex: Abbreviations

AFPs	Agencies, Funds, and Programmes
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
Baxnaano	Somali National Safety Net Program
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAC	East African Community
EW4AII	Early Warning for All
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member States
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
ICRIC	Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDSF	Internal Displacement Solutions Fund
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JOC	Joint Oversight Committee
JPLG	Joint Programme on Local Governance and decentralised service delivery
MoAl	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
MOIFAR	Ministry of Internal Federal Affairs and Reconciliation
MOJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
NCC	National Consultative Council
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NSArch	National Security Architecture
ОМТ	Operations Management Team
OPR	Operational Peer Review
SJF	Somalia Joint Fund
TPEC	Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
WiMS	Women in Maritime Sector
WFP	World Food Programme







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