



# The UN in Somalia

2014





## A little more about Somalia

Early in the thirteenth century, Somalia had already been recognised as an ideal stopover for British ships travelling to India and other places. Italy and France had also set up coaling stations for their ships in the northern parts of the country. Later in the century, the British, Italians and French began to compete over Somali territory. Around then, neighbouring Ethiopia also took interest in taking over parts of Somalia.

A string of treaties with Somali clan leaders resulted in the establishment of the British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. Around this time, Egypt tried to claim rights in selected areas of the country. Following a long struggle, in 1920, British and Italian protectorates occupied Somalia. In 1941, a British military administration took over the country. As a result, north-western Somalia remained a protectorate, while north-eastern and south and central Somalia became a UN Trusteeship in April 1950, with a promise of independence after ten years.

A British protectorate, British Somaliland in the north-west became independent on 26 June 1960. Less than a week later, the Italian protectorate gained independence on 1 July 1960. The two states merged to form the Somali Republic under a civilian government. However, Somalia was far from stable. In 1969, a coup d'état took place and President Abdi Rashid Ali Shermarke was assassinated. Mohammed Siad Barre, who led this overthrowing of the government, took charge as the President of Somalia, and tried to reclaim Somali territory from Ethiopia during his tenure. His attempts were unsuccessful.

The people of Somalia exhibited their dissatisfaction with Siad Barre, and orchestrated a civil war, overthrowing his regime in 1991. This prompted Siad Barre to flee the country, after which clan-based guerrilla groups took over south and central Somalia.

While the south-central regions plunged into instability, up north, Somaliland seceded from Somalia, declaring independence in 1991. In the north-east, Puntland became an autonomous state within the Somalia federal structure in 1998. Both Somaliland and Puntland have enjoyed some levels of stability.

In 1992, the world witnessed the worst drought of the century in Somalia, and neighbouring Ethiopia, where hundreds of thousands were killed and affected by severe famine. Later that year, the United States of America sent in troops to oversee food delivery. In May 1993, the United Nations (UN) intervened, attempting to take control of relief efforts and the delivery of food. However, Mohamed Farah Aideed, a warlord in Somalia, led the ambush of UN troops, humiliating them and driving them away.

For decades after 1991, Somalia was gripped by anarchy. Natural disasters kept unfolding in different parts of the country, leaving their mark on an already vulnerable society. In what seemed like a *déjà-vu* of 1991, Somalis were faced with another famine in 2012 that took hundreds of thousands of lives again.

Since the civil war, Somalis and the international community have made fifteen attempts to help Somalia establish an environment of peace and stability. More recently, despite insecurity and other problems, Somalis and the international community have developed a New Deal for Somalia. The New Deal emphasizes Somali-owned and Somali-led development and effective aid management and delivery that mirrors these development needs among other principles. This fresh commitment is guiding the UN's work and strengthening its partnerships in Somalia.

◀ Top left clockwise: Boats lie next to the ruins of Mogadishu, once a city with majestic buildings. Photo: © UNHCR/Alexandra Strand Holm  
 A UN radio expert installs radio equipment into a battalion jeep in Mogadishu, in preparation for deployment to field operations in 1992. Photo: © UN Photo/Milton Grant  
 Somalis welcoming Admiral Jonathan T. Howe, who served as the UN SRSG in 1993, to Kismayo. Photo: © UN Photo/Milton Grant  
 Somalia's Women's and Human Rights Minister, Ms Khadija Mohamed Dirie at her office. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/Shariif  
 A Somali coin from 1970, showing the message "Grow more Food". Photo: © Lawrence Chard  
 Members of the UN Security Council arrive in a historic visit to Mogadishu in August 2014. Photo: © UN Photo/Tobin Jones

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Note: Names of regions, districts, cities and towns have been standardised in line with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Somalia Standardised Spelling List.

Somaliland reference is to the unilateral self-declared north-west regions of Somalia - since 1991;

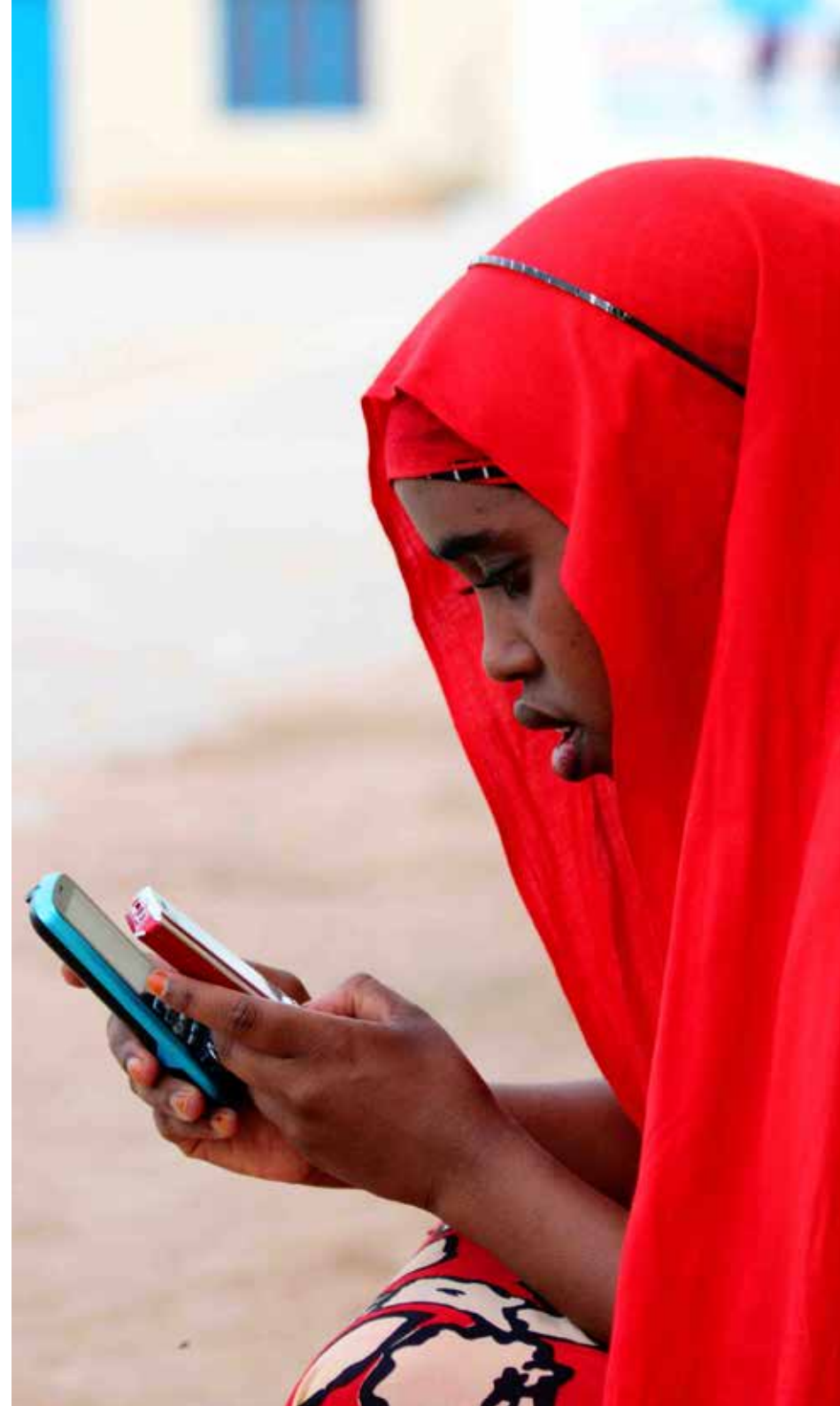
Puntland reference is to the Puntland State of Federal Somalia, which represents parts of north-east regions of Somalia - since 1998

## Abbreviations

ANC	Antenatal care	ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
BRA	Benadir Regional Administration	MA	Master of Arts
CAAFAG	Children Associated with Armed Forces and/or Groups	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
CARMMA	Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa	MIDA	Migration for Development in Africa
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women	NUSOJ	National Union of Somali Journalists
CHDs	Child Health Days	PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
CID	Criminal Investigation Department	PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	QUESTS-MIDA	Qualified Expatriate Somali Technical Support-Migration for Development in Africa
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War	SIDA	Strengthening Institutions through Diaspora Assistance
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	SIDP	Somalia Institutional Development Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SMS	Short Message Service
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network	SMSG	Somalia Media Support Group
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit	SOLJA	Somaliland Journalists' Association
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation	SOMT	Somalia Operations and Management Team
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	SOPEC	Somali Producers' Conference and Exhibition
G2S	Go-2-School	SPF	Somali Police Force
HADMA	Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	SWALIM	Somalia Water and Land Information Management
HSP	Hostage Support Programme	TB	Tuberculosis
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	TFG	Transitional Federal Government
IED	Improvised Explosive Device	TIS	Transition Initiatives for Stabilization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UK	United Kingdom
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IST	Information Support Team	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

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## A word from the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Somalia

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) was established by the Security Council on 3 June 2013 to galvanise international support for Somalia as it recovers from more than two decades of conflict and builds a new state. Since taking office, I have been struck by the desire for the United Nations to play a leading role in international efforts to support Somalia's new legitimate federal institutions. UNSOM continues to make the UN's relationship with the federal and regional governments, as well as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and international partners more meaningful. We became an integrated mission on 1 January 2014, with all UN actors working for Somalia sharing one vision for the country: a vision of every woman and man being capable of fulfilling their dreams. This integration has increased our overall efficiency and impact as an organization, to translate our ideas into reality.

While Al-Shabaab and other extremist militants remain a threat to our work, capable of disrupting stabilisation efforts, with support from AMISOM we have been able to support the citizens of Mogadishu and other regions, which is exactly what the people of Somalia, Government and member states want. As the UN Special Representative for Somalia, my job is not just to inspire hope, but encourage a range of international players to work together, help find practical points of agreement in the midst of disputes, help build the foundations of a new Somalia and be an honest broker for Somali leaders and civil society searching for solutions.

Somalia is no longer a failed state, but a fragile state; it now has an internationally recognised government and a functioning parliament. There is change in the air, with a greater willingness to solve disputes without resorting to violence.

As a UN team, we are working with the people of Somalia to make the New Deal<sup>1</sup> a deal for everyone: one that touches every Somali's life positively. Donors have pledged US\$2.4 billion in assistance for the New Deal and Compact.<sup>2</sup> Trade, investment and agriculture are picking up. Embassies and airlines are putting a toe in the water and the global Somali diaspora is returning in droves. That said, none of the priorities of the New Deal are easy to achieve: improving security; managing public finance; sharing power and resources; protecting human rights and creating jobs. All require time, money, trust and compromise.

Despite setbacks, the UN is on the map around Somalia, after a long absence in some areas. We are quietly and consistently building our role as the focal point for international efforts.

I continue to work with the entire UN family to ensure we deliver as one to support Somalia's growth in every way possible.

Nicholas Kay

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia

<sup>1</sup> The 'New Deal' was endorsed in September 2013 and developed jointly by the Federal Government in consultation with representatives of the Somali Parliament, civil society and international community among other partners - See p.16 for more on the New Deal for Somalia.

<sup>2</sup> The Compact is a three-year plan that originates from the New Deal and outlines priorities for Somalia. See p.16 for more on the Somali Compact.



## A word from the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia

Natural hazards visit Somalia often, mostly in extremes: too much rainfall leads to floods, too little results in drought. After the famine in 2011, we adjusted the way we support Somalis, focusing on strengthening resilience and helping communities respond to these challenges.

Still, we are working against severe situations. About 2.1 million Somalis do not have a place to call home. Development, health and education indicators remain dismal. Malnutrition rates are among the highest in the world. Few Somalis can access education as a bridge to overcome poverty. Somalia's young children face challenges from the day they are born, losing their lives to diseases like malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia. Elsewhere in the world they would be protected by a simple vaccination against diseases such as measles and polio.

Somalia is a challenging place for women: They have considerably less access to education than men do. They are targets of violence. They have limited access to services or justice. One out of every 18 women dies bearing children. Even when they are breadwinners, women have limited decision-making power, both at home and in the society.

Today, young women and men make up the largest generation of youth in Somalia's history. Even though some may have faltered along the way, many young minds need our help to channel their energy, drive and potential towards serving their country as agents of change. Political processes are evolving every day to shape a bright future; economies are growing; and socially, youth have more exposure to the world than they ever have before, with access to technology, and friends and family members in the diaspora. Together, we can provide opportunities for youth to excel.

Working around challenges, and together with our partners, we have already made gains on several fronts. Malnutrition is declining, albeit slowly. School enrolment is improving, as a result of a massive 'Go-to-school campaign' to enrol one million children—particularly girls—in school within the next three years. Communities are discussing and embracing environment-friendly practices. Refugees and the internally displaced are finding long-term solutions to their problems, with many returning home. The plight of children and youth is improving in some accessible areas. Through joint efforts, like-minded agencies are working to support Somalia's comeback in the global market.

It is not possible to single out one factor that will foster peace and development. With the New Deal for Somalia, we have renewed energy for decade-old challenges. This agreement has kicked off a comprehensive three-year plan for the UN: concrete, shared and nationally-owned priorities for the Government and international community, and effective aid coordination to match the country's needs. To respond to Somalia's priorities in a sustainable manner, we have developed a three-year Consolidated Appeal Process (2013-2015), which mobilises resources, and presents, coordinates and tracks humanitarian entities' plans and needs. The document strengthens the capacities of the Somali administrations to deal with emergencies, and is one of the instruments we use to work coherently with our partners, who have provided unrelenting support over the years.

With strong partnerships, a conducive environment and accelerated self-sustainability, it will be possible to rebuild Somalia. A witness to this fact is the 'new Mogadishu'. Members of Parliament engaged in debates, streets bustling with negotiating Somalis, beaches with children rolling in sand, ladders that take construction workers to new heights and yellow taxis that sit in the most traffic the country has seen in years emphasize that even in the face of threats, Somalis are a resilient community by nature, wanting to lead normal lives, giving their children the best that life has to offer. As demonstrated in the stories that follow, we have a vision of overcoming all the challenges that slow us down and bringing this vibrancy to all cities and towns of Somalia.

Philippe Lazzarini  
UN Somalia Humanitarian Coordinator



## Meet the UN Leadership in Somalia

### The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia

#### Nicholas Kay

On appointment by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Nicholas Kay became the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia on 3 June 2013 at the start of the mandate of UNSOM.

Mr. Kay previously served as Africa Director at the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office between May 2012 and May 2013. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 2007 to 2010 and Sudan from 2010 to 2012. He was the United Kingdom (UK)'s Regional Coordinator for Southern Afghanistan and Head of the Provincial Reconstruction Team for Helmand Province from 2006 to 2007.

In his earlier career with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Kay served in policy and country positions in London, as well as overseas in Spain and Cuba. He also oversaw the setting up of a new UK Embassy in Juba, south Sudan, while he was Ambassador in Khartoum.

Mr. Kay has worked in education as a teacher and university lecturer in Spain, Peru, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, UK and Cyprus for over twelve years. He also founded and ran an educational software publishing business between 1988 and 1990.

Mr. Kay holds a degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Oxford, as well as a Master of Arts (MA) in Applied Linguistics from the University of Reading.

Born in 1958, Mr. Kay is married with two daughters and a son. He enjoys water sports, and has been water skiing on the Congo River, sailing on the River Nile and regularly swims off Mogadishu's Indian Ocean coast.

A British citizen, Mr. Kay speaks fluent French and Spanish.



## The Deputy Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia

Two Deputy Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General (DSRSGs) provide support to the SRSG to carry out his duties in Somalia.

### Fatiha Serour

As one of two Deputy Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, and Deputy Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Ms. Fatiha Serour assists SRSG Kay in his efforts to support the Federal Government of Somalia's (FGS) peace and reconciliation process. Ms. Serour's main areas of focus include security sector reform and rule of law, strengthening of justice and corrections institutions, the promotion of respect for human rights - including child protection and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence - and women's empowerment.

She joined UNSOM in November 2013, bringing with her more than 20 years' experience as an international development and evaluation expert. Her experience has seen her cover over 45 countries in Africa, Middle/Near East, Asia and Europe.

Ms. Serour previously served in senior advisory positions with the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (2000-2001 and 2003-2006) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) from 2001-2002, and as Director for Youth at the Commonwealth Secretariat (2006-2010). She assumed the role of Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) from 1998 to 2000. She has also previously worked with, among others, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) as a Senior Adviser for Gender and Socio-Economics (1997-1998), and as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme Manager and Team Leader for the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) from 1992 to 1997. Ms. Serour served the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IFAD (1989-1990) as a Socio-economist.

In her most recent position as Regional Director for Europe, North Africa and the Middle East at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) from 2010-2012, she led national and international teams to implement projects for the United Nations system, international financial institutions, governments and other partners in world aid.

She also runs Serour Associates for Inclusion and Equity, an association focused on supporting inclusive approaches to economic development.

Ms. Serour holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in development strategies for Africa from the University of Aberdeen, in the United Kingdom, and a Master of Arts in international relations from the University of Lille, in France.

An Algerian national, Ms. Serour is fluent in English, French and Arabic.



## The Deputy Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia

Two Deputy Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General (DSRSGs) provide support to the SRSG to carry out his duties in Somalia.

### Philippe Lazzarini

Philippe Lazzarini is one of the two Deputy Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia. He also wears three other official “hats.” As the UN Resident Coordinator, he is responsible for coordinating and guiding all UN entities’ operations in Somalia. As the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, he is responsible for coordinating the UN’s response—in collaboration with partners—to humanitarian crises. He is able to manage this coordination by overseeing the various UN thematic groups or ‘clusters’ that respond to Somalia’s needs. Lastly, as the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) Resident Representative for the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mr. Lazzarini serves as the head of the development programme. He brings to Somalia 25 years of global experience in development and humanitarian work, as well as the private sector.



Prior to his appointment in April 2013, Mr. Lazzarini was Deputy Director of the Coordination and Response Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in New York from 2010. He served three missions as Head of Office for OCHA: in the occupied Palestinian territory from 2008 to 2010; Somalia from 2005 to 2008; and Angola from 2003 to 2004. His experience in coordinating responses to emergencies and strife in these three countries saw Mr. Lazzarini hone his strong leadership skills, while keeping an eye on the larger picture of bringing peace and development to countries in need.

Mr. Lazzarini’s tenure with OCHA began in 2003 when he assumed the post of Area Coordinator in Iraq. Before joining OCHA, Mr. Lazzarini worked for a four-year stint in the private sector, with the Union Bancaire Privée in Switzerland.

Mr. Lazzarini worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for more than ten years in communication as the Head of the Media Service and Deputy Head of the Communication Department, Switzerland, roles he assumed from 1996 to 1999. He has been the Head of Delegation for Rwanda, Angola and Sarajevo, and served ICRC in the Former Yugoslavia, southern Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan and Gaza.

Mr. Lazzarini has earned a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mr. Philippe Lazzarini was born in Switzerland. Fluent in French and English, he is married and has three children.

## UN Frameworks: how the UN does business

### Why is the New Deal for Somalia a big deal?

“A new beginning for a sovereign, secure, democratic, united and federal Somalia at peace with itself and the world, and for the benefit of its people”: this is the promise that the Federal Government of Somalia and we at the UN made, together with the rest of the international community, in September 2013.

For too long, Somalia was the epitome of a ‘failed state.’ Decades of civil war and anarchy have reduced the major cities to ruins and destroyed just about all public institutions. The resulting chaos and lack of a functional government mean the challenges it faces are complex and multiple. How do we make sure that the aid coming to Somalia is used effectively and for the priorities of its people? What is the path from a failed state to a fragile state to a stable and prosperous one?

The “New Deal” is exactly that: a new approach to support fragile states of the world that are trying to recover from conflict and rebuild themselves. There’s no country needier than Somalia. The New Deal for Somalia is the country’s plan to recover from its past conflict and rebuild its society, its institutions, its government and its people.

Recognising that a shift was needed in how international assistance is managed, the Somali Federal Government, together with its international development partners, formed the New Deal to improve its ability to govern and make development more responsive to the needs and concerns of citizens. This approach emphasizes strengthening national capacities, ensuring the transition is Somali-owned and Somali-led to the greatest extent possible, improving transparency and accountability and building mutual trust among partners.

The New Deal for Somalia was endorsed at the Brussels Conference on 16 September 2013. The New Deal movement goes back to an initiative taken at the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in November 2011 in Busan, Korea, where the g7+<sup>3</sup> group of 19 fragile and conflict-affected countries, development partners, and international organizations came up with a concept tailored to build peaceful states and societies out of the challenging situation in fragile contexts.

At the heart of Somalia’s New Deal is the Compact, the action plan for the next three years, setting out priorities for 2014–2016. While the Somali Government is taking the lead, it still needs our support to recover and rebuild. The Compact underlines priorities agreed on in consultation with the Somali civil society and Government – that the international community and United Nations will focus on too. It revolves around five Peace and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) designed to deliver inclusive politics, improved security, greater justice, strong foundations for economic recovery, and long-term systems to generate Somali revenue and services. The Compact lays the foundation for building reliable, transparent, accountable and functioning state institutions, respectful of the fundamental rights, freedoms and equality of its citizens.

Recognising the important role of women in community mobilisation and peacebuilding in Somali society, the New Deal promotes their economic empowerment and participation in political and public decision-making processes. In addition, the Compact commits to addressing the development needs of the most vulnerable populations, including children and youth, elders and those that are displaced inside the country, or returning from surrounding countries.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.g7plus.org>; g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that are or have been affected by conflict and are now in transition to the next stage of development. The main objective of the g7+ is to share experiences and learn from one another, and to advocate for reforms to the way the international community engages in conflict-affected states.



The New Deal also presents a Somaliland Special Arrangement, which lays out the path for development partners' engagement with Somaliland. It is underpinned by the need to protect and build upon Somaliland's development gains, with a view to maintaining and expanding upon security and economic prosperity throughout the Horn of Africa.

The New Deal reinforces the dynamism of the Somali people and the linkages between the different layers of Somali society, the Government and its international partners. Ultimately, its success will be measured by improvements in the lives of the Somali people.

## How Funding Works

Addressing challenges faced in the past in delivering aid, working with partners and monitoring and evaluating results, the Somali Compact outlines a unique financing and coordination architecture, known as the Somali Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF), which governs four different international funds for Somalia: the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), World Bank Multi-Partner Fund, African Development Bank Fund and Special Financing Facility.

The UN MPTF covers activities throughout the five PSGs, recognising our activities and individual mandates, and focusing on swift delivery and transparent implementation of activities. At the request of the Federal Government, the MPTF will lend key support to strengthening the capacities of Somalia's institutions, with the ultimate aim of the Government taking over the implementation of priority activities in the long run.

In 2013, the UN spent around one billion US dollars on development and humanitarian activities in Somalia.<sup>4</sup> The MPTF will work to align our existing functions and programmes, and support newly identified urgent interventions.

<sup>4</sup> According to the Development Assistance Database for Somalia, in 2013, the UN spent US\$273,503,772 funding development activities in Somalia, and another US\$714,411,580 funding humanitarian activities, according to the UNOCHA Financial Tracking Service.

► UN SRSR Nicholas Kay and members of the Federal Government discussing political reconciliation ahead of the New Deal Conference in 2013. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/Ilyas Abukar





## The UN Country Team in Somalia

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for Somalia comprises leaders of 23 UN entities, each addressing different dimensions of support to Somalia. The team comes together under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator for Somalia, Philippe Lazzarini.

The UNCT works to improve coordination and coherence among the UN entities towards development, emergency and recovery efforts, and partnerships with Somali citizens and authorities among others. The goal is to increasingly deliver as one entity, or 'One UN'.

Members of the UNCT communicate with each other regularly and meet twice a month to deliberate on crucial decisions related to our work, and the constantly evolving challenges and opportunities in Somalia. The group convenes meetings in Nairobi and Mogadishu, with members from various locations in Somalia participating through telephone and video links. Additional meetings are also held to deliver timely, efficient responses in the event of emergencies.

Serving as a kind of board of directors for our overall work, the UNCT oversees the delivery of programmes from Awdal to Mogadishu, in areas like HIV prevention to strengthening Somalis' resilience and capacity. The team has established ten thematic groups to coordinate efforts and focus on various aspects of our work. The UN Somalia Operations Management Team (SOMT), for example, provides support and advice to the UNCT on UN reforms, following advice from the UN Secretary-General. The team identifies areas for effective implementation, coordination and management of common services - such as ensuring common compounds benefit every UN entity – and harmonises rules and regulations among UN entities to the greatest extent possible. The Human Resources Working Group, which falls under the SOMT, keeps abreast of global salary scales and works on other UN common human resource issues.

Since the start of 2014, the UNCT has taken on the responsibility of working towards the integration of the UN in Somalia, a strategy to move from recovery and quick-fix interventions to longer-term peace- and state-building. By spelling out one vision for us, the integration will strengthen the organization's humanitarian and development support to Somalia's people and administrations, ensuring inter-entity coherence, in line with the country's priorities and the New Deal.

The UNCT uses an 'Integrated Strategic Framework' (ISF) - which is mandatory for all countries with an integrated UN presence. The ISF, currently being finalised, runs from 2014 to 2016 as a joint strategy to consolidate peace in the country. Replacing the last framework being used by the UN, known as the UN Somali Assistance Strategy, the ISF serves as an internal conductor to ensure that an orchestra of UN entities – in political, peacekeeping, humanitarian, human rights and development fields – has a shared vision, plan and priorities that mirror the Compact.

All UNCT members are directly accountable to their own organizations, as well as collectively accountable to the RC and the rest of the UNCT for producing results under one vision. By overseeing the work of the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT),<sup>5</sup> the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator is able to maintain accountability and coherent responses in our humanitarian activities.

<sup>5</sup> The Humanitarian Country Team is a group of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors, cluster or thematic working groups and regional coordination structures that works to address humanitarian issues.



## What does the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia do?

On 2 May 2013, the UN Security Council passed resolution 2102 (2013)<sup>6</sup> and a new political mission was born: the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. Led by the UN Department of Political Affairs, the new Mission replaced the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), which completed its mandate in June 2013.

UNSOM's mandate is primarily to provide policy advice to the Federal Government of Somalia and the African Union Mission in Somalia on peacebuilding and statebuilding in the areas of governance, security sector reform and rule of law, the development of a federal system and coordination of international donor support as spelt out in the New Deal. This broad and challenging mandate includes activities such as disengagement of combatants, steering partners towards the ratification of a new Somali Constitution in 2015 and paving the way for elections in 2016.

UNSOM's core role is to act as an enabler, helping to create and galvanise the political and strategic environment in which stabilisation and peacebuilding can proceed. UNSOM supports the Federal Government of Somalia's agenda of peace, security and nation-building. Along with the rest of our entities, UNSOM exercises its mandate guided by the principles of Somali ownership, flexibility and partnerships. In close cooperation with key partners such as the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), it also fulfils the government's wish for "a single UN door to knock on". UNSOM is guided by the Vision 2016,<sup>7</sup> Somali New Deal Compact and Somali President's Six Pillar Policy.<sup>8</sup>

Since its inception, UNSOM has facilitated Somali-led mediation efforts between political actors as part of its peacebuilding and statebuilding mandate. It played a critical role in supporting successful indirect elections in the northern Somali state of Puntland in January 2014, and is also supporting the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement on the Interim Juba Administration, as well as other state formation processes in south and central Somalia.

UNSOM has a key role to play in building the Federal Government's capacity to promote respect for human rights and women's empowerment, promote child protection, prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthen justice institutions. Further, it monitors, helps investigate and reports to the Security Council abuses or violations of human rights or international humanitarian law committed in Somalia, particularly abuses committed against children and women. UNSOM is supporting the Federal Government to establish a qualified, responsible and representative judiciary with the capacity to interpret the Provisional Constitution. The Mission is also supporting nationwide consultations on the National Human Rights Bill and efforts to set up a National Human Rights Commission.

UNSOM is headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Nicholas Kay. Mr. Kay leads the alignment of UN Country Team activities with the priorities of UNSOM and coordinates our activities with the Federal Government, the African Union, AMISOM, IGAD, the European Union (EU), as well as other regional, bilateral and multilateral partners.

UNSOM works with the UN Country Team to ensure that as UN entities we operate as one in delivering assistance to Somalia, also ensuring a coherent international approach to Somalia.

UNSOM is headquartered in Mogadishu, and has established a presence in Garowe, Kismayo and Baidoa, as well as a small liaison office in Nairobi. The Mission plans to expand its presence further to places such as Belet Weyne, security conditions permitting.

<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Security Council, which is made up of 15 Member States, bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. A United Nations Security Council resolution is a formal expression of the opinion or will of the Security Council. The numbers and years attached to each resolution help to identify them.

<sup>7</sup> The Vision 2016 is the Federal Government's roadmap of political milestones it has committed to achieve.

<sup>8</sup> The Somali President's six-pillar policy outlines the following as the Government's top priorities: stability in the country (rule of law and justice); economic recovery; peacebuilding and removing the main drivers of conflict; government capacity to improve service delivery; international partnerships and closer ties with neighbours and allies; and national unity.

◀ Many of Somalia's children do not enjoy their basic human rights and are in special need of protection. UNSOM monitors, helps investigate and reports to the UN Security Council on any abuses committed against children or women. Photo: © UNHCR/Alexandra Strand Holm



## Somalia's humanitarian scene: how coordination pays humanitarian dividends

The 2011 famine killed more than 200,000 Somalis, mostly children. It was the culmination of years and years of war, neglect and anarchy. Since then, together with our partners, we have diligently continued to help Somali families meet their very basic needs and build their resilience against shocks, with an emphasis on what holds value for many communities: livelihood assets, livestock and agriculture. Every month since the famine unfolded, we have been working to increase access to food to assist about 850,000 Somalis. We have been doing our best to detect malnutrition cases early through screening and referral to nutrition services. Nutrition, hygiene, and feeding practices for infants and children have seen an improvement and mass vaccination campaigns have been targeting between two and four million children on average.

Much of this joint progress can be attributed to strategies spelled out in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), the main humanitarian funding appeal mechanism for Somalia. Launched in December 2012, the current CAP is a first of its kind, highlighting Somalia's needs for the next three years instead of one. Its long-term vision aims to break the recurring pattern of crises, by ensuring sustainability of projects. The CAP is a one-stop shop for donors and other partners to support the humanitarian community's projects and needs in Somalia. The CAP and the Integrated Strategic Framework are complementary.

In the first half of 2014, only a quarter of funding required was made available, which could have severe consequences. There is a danger of the humanitarian situation slipping back into crisis if funding requirements are not met in time. Adequate and sustainable funding will enable humanitarians to invest in resilience, respond to early warnings, mitigate and avoid crises, and support the transition from aid dependency to sustainability. Despite the progress made since the 2011 famine, as of September 2014, an estimated 1,025,000 people could not meet their basic food requirements without assistance; a further two million could only barely address their food needs and relied on sustained support for other necessities.

Under the umbrella of the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team, we work with NGOs and donors to strengthen the CAP 2013-2015 regularly and prioritise its response to food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition, poor basic services, violations against civilians, displacement and sustainable returns. The strategy, recently refined to reflect the changes in needs and operational context, is providing integrated life-saving and resilience-building assistance to people affected by the protracted crisis in Somalia.

The CAP keeps a steady eye on malnutrition and mortality rates in a bid to prevent another famine from unfolding in any region of Somalia again. Already, in 2014, the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team has been focusing on agencies' realistic ability to implement activities, taking access, capacity, accountability and risk management into consideration. In addition to the severity of needs, these factors will play a key role in helping us identify people in the greatest need of humanitarian attention.

Another way we ensure aid reaches those who need it the most is through pooled funds, which improve predictability and help address gaps in priority areas and underserved regions. Twenty per cent of pooled funds are set aside annually as an emergency reserve to ensure flexibility to respond rapidly to unforeseen crises. Two funding mechanisms, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), have been crucial in maintaining the pace of humanitarian operations in Somalia. Pooled funds also help the Humanitarian Coordinator to prioritise and distribute funds equitably, to match needs of the Somali people.

The challenging operating environment in parts of Somalia continues to hamper humanitarian access, delivery of aid to people in need, and monitoring of humanitarian programmes. Many locations are remote in nature, and insecurity is widespread.

Even though it is difficult to monitor activities in the context of Somalia, we are continuously looking for ways to ensure our work is beneficial. In June 2013, for instance, the Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund set up a "call centre" to obtain feedback from people receiving assistance. In 2014, a total of 5,600 calls were made to beneficiaries of 63 projects that had been funded in 2012 and 2013. Although the information gathered from the calls is still being analysed, a quick look at the results indicates that majority of the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the way aid was delivered. The feedback received helps the CHF to identify

### Box 1: Crunching the right numbers for effective results

All humanitarian and development interventions in Somalia have one thing in common: they work for the benefit of the Somali people. In order to target the right people, in the most efficient way possible, local authorities, and humanitarian and development agencies need to know facts about the people they intend to serve.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is taking the lead among UN entities and collaborating with the national administrations, civil society members and other partners to wrap up a population estimation survey that answers all kinds of pressing questions about the people of Somalia. In the first successful and comprehensive attempt to collect population data about Somalis since 1986, the recently concluded survey provides population figures for Somalis living far and wide, in urban and rural areas. The survey reached out to displaced and nomadic populations, usually difficult to track, through water points, which are frequently visited during the peak of the dry seasons. Even though various partners have made efforts to collect population figures before this, their results have not been published.

The survey has set up 'sample frames', which are tools that will make data collection in Somalia easier in the future. For a start, they will lay a foundation for the census planned for 2016. The survey has spent months training personnel in relevant institutions, including ministries of planning among other ministries, to collect, process and analyse disaggregated population data: a crucial ingredient for effective and accountable humanitarian and development programmes.

The survey findings, to be published soon, offer reliable population estimates and information on where, and to an extent how Somalis live, in addition to the age and sex of the population. Additional information on the characteristics of Somalis will be presented after further analysis.

successes, and flag underperforming projects. Checks like these help humanitarians work effectively and assure partners and beneficiaries that aid is indeed reaching the people that deserve it the most.



# Peace and Statebuilding Goal 1: Inclusive politics

Inclusive politics is about establishing political processes at different levels of society and promoting national- and local-level reconciliation.

– The Somali Compact





## Rebuilding Somalia's institutions: the foundation for stability

Strong, reliable and responsive public institutions are the roots of a country, which serve as the foundation for growth and feed the branches of progress in political, social and economic areas. However, developing institutions - or these roots - in both conflict and post-conflict settings is not easy. In the fragile and highly volatile context of Somalia, successful reform of public administration requires several inputs, including strong domestic leadership and objectives that are modest, focused and incremental. A culture of greater accountability and transparency needs to be fostered. Political agreements need to be translated effectively into peace and statebuilding at grassroots levels, through strategies of broad social inclusion and national ownership. Additionally, political, material and technical deficiencies need to be flagged and addressed.

It is in this spirit, and with the primary aim of improving the lives of Somali citizens, that UNDP's Somalia Institutional Development Programme (SIDP) supports the Federal Government of Somalia, the Federal Parliament of Somalia and the governments in Puntland and Somaliland.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> From July 2014 to December 2017, this programme will be known as the "Institutional Capacity Development Programme".



Along with the rest of the UN, SIDP's work emphasizes developing capacities – right from individuals to public institutions. The programme strengthens the governments' capacities for internal coordination and coordination with the international community.

To continue providing key support to a range of central- and state-level public sector institutions, we are working closely with Somali authorities to establish a stronger public sector structure that can withstand and adapt to frequent changes and perform the 'core priorities of government'. These prioritised areas of work include the Federal Government's revenue and expenditure management; basic service delivery; public administration management; and managing the relationship between the public sector and society.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, we have been providing support to numerous work-processes that are relatively discreet, yet crucial contributions to rebuilding institutions. These include the production of five-year development plans, operational planning at ministerial levels, civil service management instruments, accounting structures, monitoring and evaluation arrangements and internal and external coordination structures within the administrations.

Change is emerging in the way Somalia's institutions are being formed and run as a result of this support. They are now defining their scope of work, establishing internal structures and ways of working, and engaging with other institutions in overlapping or related areas of work. Somalia's political institutions are progressing from crafting policies towards policy implementation and engaging the civil society, while starting to deliver services on a larger scale, in a more consistent and sustainable manner. Still, next to these success stories, there are cases where it improvements seem distant.

This, however, is the 'expected path' of development in highly volatile, fragile and often fast changing context. Building upon the successes of the past, learning from failures, keeping in mind the flexibility required for Somalia's context and being inspired by the New Deal, at the UN, we are currently working with national bodies and international partners to reinforce the roots of the country. This work will involve developing the next generation of capacity development support for central- and state-level public sector institutions.

<sup>10</sup> See story on UN's work in relation to governance: "Local authorities in the driving seat: governance in Somalia", on p.93.

## The Somali Constitution: the groundwork for building peace

For the first time in 50 years, Somalia owns an invaluable asset that spells out the rights and duties of each citizen and binds all Somalis together with their national administrations: a constitution. Approved on 1 August 2012 and endorsed by a National Constituent Assembly made up of selected political and community representatives from across the country, this Provisional Constitution serves as a guide for Somalia's nascent political institutions. It also defines the structure of the government and powers of the administrations.

The country is currently in the rare position of implementing this Provisional Constitution, while at the same time trying to review, revise and ratify it to create a final National Federal Constitution. For now, the Provisional Constitution is the legal foundation for the country until its mandate ends in 2016.

The Government is beginning its journey of reviewing the Provisional Constitution. This is not an easy task, but it presents a tremendous opportunity for the Government to engage its people in determining the future of the country. To this end, Somalis will undertake a comprehensive constitutional review process that covers additional issues that they would like to know more about, such as the formation of federal states, division of power among the states and the management of Somalia's natural resources among other topics.

We are supporting this landmark process at the request of the Federal Government. UNDP and UNSOM are currently helping citizens understand what the constitution is all about. Whereas decades ago, scrolls would be read out for citizens to hear about their constitution, our work has involved assisting the Government to hold discussions with eager groups of civil society, including religious scholars, human rights experts, and other partners, to make the constitution as inclusive as possible and ensure each article is compliant with religious and cultural beliefs.

In 2013, we created an Integrated Constitutional Support Team, through which UNDP will work closely with UNSOM to deliver as one UN body.<sup>11</sup> While

<sup>11</sup> The 'One UN' approach is guided by UN Security Council Resolution 2102, which states the UN's mission is 'to assist the Federal Government of Somalia in coordinating international donor support, ' in areas such as the security sector among others.

► The Somali authorities, UN and partners are working to ensure the revised Somali Constitution represents all Somalis. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/David Mutua



coordinating our own work on the constitution with all branches and levels of the Federal Government, we are getting international and local NGOs, experts and donors to harmonise their efforts on the constitutional review process. We are also providing key support to the Government to roll out the New Deal Compact for Somalia and the roadmap for Vision 2016.

The revised Federal Constitution should ideally represent the opinion of Somali communities at large, ensuring all the people of Somalia - old and young, and from all demographic backgrounds - play a role in legitimate politics. A law enacted by the Parliament formed a Parliamentary Oversight Committee and Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission, both of which will work to finalise a constitution that fully represents the citizens' will ahead of the next elections.

We are also advising the Government on the formation of Federal Member States and supporting political dialogue in the regions to attain this goal. By providing strategic advice to the Government on practical issues, including the establishment of key constitutionally-mandated institutions, such as the electoral, human rights, judicial service and anti-corruption commissions, as well as the constitutional court, we are working to reinforce the capacity of the Federal Government to take steps towards building the groundwork for peace.

The first goal of Somalia's New Deal Compact underscores the ratification of the new Constitution by the end of 2015 as a priority: we are working closely with the Federal Government to achieve this goal.

## Setting the stage for the next elections

In November 2013, we commissioned a team of experts to conduct a needs assessment for Somalia's next elections, planned for 2016. Following recommendations from the assessment, we are supporting the Federal Government to establish a National Independent Electoral Commission, after which we will assist to developing its capacity, enabling the institution to facilitate future electoral events successfully. We are also advising the authorities on the enactment of key laws related to elections. This commitment will support the Government in its ambition to conduct free and fair elections, giving every Somali adult a chance to choose a leader, based on the principle of "one person, one vote".





## Representing Somali citizens: the creation of a Parliament

Somalia's Federal Parliament is two years old. A key engine of the Government and connection to its people, this credible and representative institution was established by the Provisional Constitution. Like all two-year old institutions, the Parliament needs at least some form of support, which we have been providing, along with our partners and fully guided by the Parliament's robust strategic plan, to refine the Parliament's key functions.

UNDP, for instance, provides the Parliament with support in law-making, oversight of government functions and conducting its core business. The UN entity is helping with extensive technical and financial support to build its institutional capacity, along with a functioning administration. UNDP and UNSOM are jointly supporting the Federal Parliament to foster a truly inclusive process of implementing and reviewing the Provisional Constitution, and engaging the Parliament in constitutional reform and governance.

The Parliament has reached significant milestones, with support from UNDP and other partners. Signaling accountability and transparency, the Somali Parliament held its first oversight sessions in 2013. Additionally, newly formed Parliament Committees started to function according to plans drawn up, while good working relations have been emerging between the Committees and the Executive.

Following a capacity assessment of infrastructure, human resources and administration, UNDP helped the Parliament develop a reorganization plan to make improvements in these areas. As a result, a graduate plan deployed 45 young Somali professionals from local universities into the administration. The new staff became the backbone of support to Parliament Committees and administrative work, while concurrently developing their own skills throughout the year. Their performance has been highly praised. With UNDP's support, the administration recruited additional staff based on merit, not clan, a process that cut through a norm and set new standards for the recruitment of senior civil servants. To improve on infrastructure being used and further streamline the Parliament's work, UNDP helped the representative institution to establish new information technology and communication mechanisms, including a new website.

From behind the scenes, we are supporting the Parliament's steady growth: We are helping the Parliament represent the Somali people better, reinforcing its role in peacebuilding and reconciliation. In mid-2013, UNDP worked with Members of Parliament (MPs) to develop an outreach and dialogue strategy for the Parliament. MPs received technical and financial support to reach out to and connect better with their constituencies, some of whom have been included in political processes for the first time.

In Somaliland, Parliamentary Committees visited communities in various districts, as part of their strategic plan, which includes outreach to and representation of citizens. In Puntland, UNSOM holds weekly meetings with the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee to discuss international human rights standards and other issues linked to the human rights situation in Puntland. These popular sessions, which encourage the commission to observe human rights, are also regularly attended by other MPs.

A public launch of the Federal Parliament's Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission was held among a large gathering of civil society--including women's groups and young Somalis--and the media, with our support. This event showed Somalis their Government's commitment towards inclusive processes of building peace and a new state. Doubling up as a scorecard keeper and implementer of these crucial processes, the Parliament joined hands with other partners from the Government to develop a timeline with strategic objectives for peacebuilding that complements the Somali Compact. A roadmap developed by the Parliament, with support from UNSOM and UNDP, will guide the process towards a national referendum and elections, planned for 2016.



With support from the Parliament, the UN and other partners, the Federal Government has held a number of key events to promote national dialogue: In September 2013, the Vision 2016 Conference set the agenda for the Government to achieve key political strides for Somalia. In November, the Juba Reconciliation Conference saw various parties reach a consensus around the creation of a regional administration.

Despite being a fragile institution functioning in a volatile environment, the Somali Federal Parliament has made remarkable achievements thus far that are already seeing it blossom into a responsible institution. Members of Parliament operate as a strong team, in many instances overcoming divisions for the benefit of peace, stability and development and to meet one of their primary functions: to represent Somalia's citizens. So far in 2014, five MPs have even lost their lives to extremist attacks. We are working as one body, around grave challenges like insecurity, to support the Parliament's important work.

## Somalia's brain gain: bringing in the diaspora as additional resources

Members of Somalia's one million-strong diaspora<sup>12</sup> are flocking back to contribute to the rebuilding of their country of origin. A sense of compassion and national pride has led several diaspora, sporting mixed ideologies, talents and accents, to move to Somalia to transfer skills acquired in their adopted homes. They have already made a difference, mobilising resources for emergencies in the past and arranging finance for development projects using their networks abroad.

Over the last four years, two of our entities —the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNDP-- have provided a platform for the diaspora to play a role in the reconstruction and development of Somalia. Somali experts from abroad, supported by the Qualified Expatriate Somali Technical Support-Migration for Development in Africa (QUESTS-MIDA) programme, are hired for short-term contracts, for a period of six months to a year, to craft policies and help Somalis create the structure for better and more responsive institutions. Since 2010, 235 members of the Somali diaspora, one-fifth of whom were women, have been placed in Somali institutions.

Through the UNDP-led QUESTS arm of the programme, which falls under the leadership of UNDP's SIDP programme, experts from the Somali diaspora have contributed to the drafting of Puntland's second Five-Year Development Plan in the past. More recently, they have provided support in the reform of public financial management systems and training the Government's accountants in Puntland and Somaliland. Experts from the diaspora are offering strategic advice to the Federal Government, which includes guiding the Somali Government's engagements with the g7+ on the New Deal. Many members of the executive teams of Somalia's authorities are members of the diaspora.

To support the trade boom being experienced in some of Somalia's locations, IOM has placed more than 220 experts from the diaspora in over 70 public institutions and agencies across the country. Experts from the diaspora are providing critical medical assistance in facilities such as the Hargeisa Group Hospital, Burao Regional Hospital, Manhal Hospital, Garowe Hospital and Bossaso General Hospital. They are also providing on-the-job training for young Somali doctors on new and sustainable techniques and best practices. Additional medical professionals of Somali origin

<sup>12</sup> UNDP Somalia, "Somalia's Missing Million: the Somali Diaspora and its Role in Development," 2009.

► Like throngs of Somali diaspora returning to contribute to their country, Mohamed Ahmed Jama returned from London in 2009 to "serve his nation." He saw past the rubble in the streets and bullet holes in the walls to set up a small coffee shop, followed by a popular chain of restaurants in the city recovering from its past. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/Sahal Abdulle





or roots—brought in from various countries for mostly short-term stints—will be recruited through a three-year project, formed in February 2014 by World Health Organization (WHO) and IOM, to develop the capacity of health authorities.

Through the newly introduced project Strengthening Institutions through Diaspora Assistance (SIDA), Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)-Sweden, IOM assessed the government's priorities and earmarked health, public finance management and justice sectors as key areas that could benefit from diaspora support. This initiative seeks to pair diaspora experts with fresh graduates from Somali universities in Somaliland, Puntland and south and central Somalia. The mutually beneficial relationship formed between the two will allow members of the diaspora to mentor young Somali graduates, while building the capacity of staff employed at targeted institutions. The project, which officially began in September 2013, has so far placed 15 diaspora experts in various institutions across Somalia. MIDA-Sweden supports the Somali Compact as well as the IOM–MIDA three-year strategy, which concentrates on four key sectors: health, public financial management, justice and education.

Arranging a marriage between Somali citizens and diaspora, tapping into the backgrounds and skills of each partner, a programme of this kind is one of many approaches that we can adopt to foster growth and stability, and put Somalia on the path to sustainable development.

▼ A hairdresser gives a client a facial at Abdulqadir Abdul's newly opened barber shop in Mogadishu. Photo: © AU/UNIST/Tobin Jones





## Empowering women: the backbone of the Somali society

Even though women are the backbone of Somali society, they are rarely given credit for their work or offered leadership opportunities. Raising families, single-handedly in many cases, they suffer silently as victims of inequality, lack of recognition and various forms of abuse.

UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, is strengthening the case for Somali women's participation in politics and assisting our own entities and partners to design, implement and be accountable for policies promoting gender equality. Fulfilling a part of its mandate, UN Women will identify and support potential women leaders, as well as mediators, to play a role in politics and key peacebuilding interventions.

Complementing these efforts, a strong team - comprising the Federal Government, UNDP, UNSOM, UN Women, UNFPA, a donor gender group, and a national women's development organization - has been working to facilitate nationwide consultation and finalisation of a draft national gender policy,<sup>13</sup> a tool for greater gender equality.

<sup>13</sup> The comprehensive policy will also double up as a national action plan for the UN Security Council's Resolution on expanding women's roles in peace and security and protecting women in insecure environments.

▲ A WHO-supported hospital in Galkacyo. Most regions of Somalia don't have enough hospitals to cater for communities' needs. Photo: © WHO/Fouad Juez

A review early in this process will finally ensure Somalia's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>14</sup> and other international standards related to gender empowerment.

In the meantime, UNDP has been advocating for women to have a louder voice in society and greater space in politics. Joining hands with the Ministry of Women and Family and Social Affairs, Puntland's Election Commission and civil society organizations, UNDP has brought new potential female candidates to Puntland's political platform to contest in district elections. This energy translated into a new wave of commitment, with key political associations pledging to uphold the 30 per cent quota for female district councillors, as decreed by the President in 2007 and restated in the Garowe II Principles.<sup>15</sup>

The nomination process for Puntland's Members of Parliament in December 2013 paved the way for women from Puntland and Mogadishu to organize themselves into a dynamic movement called the Somali Women Leadership Initiative. This group of women mobilised the media and took the lead to lobby influential political figures - including the President of Somalia and the President of the State of Puntland - and well-respected elders to get a 30 per cent quota of women into Parliament, Cabinet, district councils, and the various commissions established by the Government of Puntland. Supported technically and financially by UNDP and UNSOM, the women's group secured the appointment of two women to Puntland's Parliament and another five women, including one of their own members, to Puntland's Cabinet.

In a move that showed their agency, strength and determination to share their views, the group used the local media to express their disappointment at the lack of representation of women in the Federal Government, after the Cabinet appointed in January 2014 saw women taking up less than 10 per cent of ministerial posts.

A UNDP project dedicated to supporting female MPs to become effective members of the legislature is being implemented through a national women's development organization. The project teaches women MPs and civil society organizations (CSOs) about gender-sensitive legislation and how to influence the legislative process effectively. Initial activities include a legal analysis of the Provisional Constitution

<sup>14</sup> See Box 14: Upholding human rights in Somalia, p. 120.

<sup>15</sup> A set of agreements made in 2011 by the former government of Somalia and various stakeholders to ensure an effective transition to a more permanent and representative government.



## Peace and Statebuilding Goal 1: Inclusive politics

from a gender perspective and the development of guidelines to help women MPs understand the technical language of legislation so they can articulate their rights appropriately and identify them in the Provisional Constitution.

This project will also strengthen ties between women MPs and CSOs through regular meetings, so that women in Parliament can better represent the realities that Somali women and girls face in their daily lives. It will improve MPs' capacity to deliberate more knowledgeably on legislative issues that relate to gender and women's rights, which will result in more equitable, representative and fair legislations and policies. Evidence from past studies, like one conducted in Somaliland on the past district elections in 2013, highlights that even though women have contributed substantively to peacebuilding, as agents of change they still struggle for political space. The report presented comprehensive information on women's participation in politics.

In the last few years, we have helped raise gender awareness in humanitarian and development organizations working in Somalia, with entities striving to ensure a minimum number of female beneficiaries and participants in various activities. Recently, Somali authorities have also been focusing more on ensuring gender balance and women's empowerment, a mark of success for Somalia that will strengthen the backbone of the Somali society.

▼ Somali women rarely take up sports as a profession given the lack of facilities and support for them. Photo: © UNDP/Alistair Lyne



## The voice of Somalia: media and civil society



Somalia is one of the worst places to be a journalist. Since 1992, 53 journalists have lost their lives in Somalia in direct reprisal for their work, in crossfire or combat situations, or while carrying out dangerous assignments.<sup>16</sup> In 2013, four journalists were killed in the country. Journalists work in a challenging environment, with limited access to reliable information, making it difficult to produce quality reporting. Almost every journalist knows of a colleague who has been attacked or killed; almost every journalist has received death threats. Sources of information are also hot targets. Despite these enormous challenges, an active and lively media community works hard to tell Somalia's stories.

To build a strong and vibrant society, Somalia needs a media community that is free to perform its work, and that is unbiased, and feels responsible for providing reliable and timely information to her citizens. We want to support this crucial form of development, as responsible journalists have the power to increase accountability among authorities and their partners, offer space for public debate and turn the spotlight on issues that need attention.

On 17 February 2014, 12 journalists were rewarded at the 2013 Somali Media Awards for their captivating stories on children and youth, gender, access to basic services and investigative journalism at ceremonies held in Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Garowe. The winning stories were selected by a jury of senior Somali journalists, representatives of the media and UN communications experts. The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) and Somaliland Journalists Association (SOLJA) hosted the ceremonies, with support from UNDP and UNOCHA, and advice from UNESCO and UNFPA.

The Somali Media Awards reward Somali journalists who produce high quality, professional reporting, and recognise the work of journalists who lend a voice to children, youth, and women. In addition to raising the benchmark for journalism in Somalia, the awards also commend good investigative journalism practices that provide in-depth information on crucial societal issues.

Somalia's authorities work with the Somalia Media Support Group (SMSG), comprising UN entities, donors and civil society organizations, to support media development. The SMSG works to facilitate the media's freedom of expression and professional capacity building, which includes roles such as keeping audiences engaged, to ensure the media develops as a powerful tool for peace, democracy, development and nation-building.

However, a media law introduced in Mogadishu in August 2013 compels journalists to reveal their sources in articles, which discourages sources from sharing information and increases the risks associated with telling the

**“Well-trained and critically-minded journalists provide the crucial information Somali citizens need to campaign for economic development, accountability and transparency.”**

– Philippe Lazzarini,  
UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

<sup>16</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists: <http://cpj.org/killed/africa/somalia>.

truth. To address this, in 2013 and 2014, the Federal Government attempted to re-draft the Media Laws and code of ethics, in consultation with the Parliament, Government officials, professional institutions and the UN. The draft Media Bill developed was just passed by the Federal Government's Cabinet of Ministers on 1 September. If approved by the Parliament and President, the law will protect the identity of sources of information. In a country where journalists state they are compelled not to use the same route twice in a day out of fear of losing their lives, the SMSG organized various trainings to assist journalists to react to threats and risks.<sup>17</sup> We aim to help Somalia to develop a regulatory framework and preventive mechanisms and standards that provide timely and effective protection of journalists in 2014.

In June 2014, the Minister of Information, HE Mustafa Duhulow addressed the SMSG, on behalf of the Federal Government, for the first time. The Minister highlighted the need for the Government, private media, UN and other partners to coordinate their efforts to protect journalists and support media development in Somalia. He also stressed the need to develop journalists' capacity to increase their professionalism, adding that the Government will work to take strategic steps to increase press freedom in the country.

Other capacity building efforts included a Radio Ergo- and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-supported training for 50 Somali journalists based in Kenya on humanitarian reporting. The training, conducted in November 2013, will help journalists understand humanitarian issues related to refugees and repatriation and improve overall quality of reporting.

One of Somalia's greatest resources is its vivacious, patient and resilient civil society. Somalia's citizens have looked beyond past wars and pain to rebuild their lives and country, playing key roles in democratic processes like elections. They have shaped and contributed significantly to every UN project. Every day in insecure areas, Somalia's women and men are putting their lives on the line for others: even though insecurity blocks our access to communities in need, at the same time, several Somalis are going out of their way to help us deliver support effectively.

Together, the media and civil society can work with humanitarian and development partners to bring about justice, democracy and a safer world in Somalia.

<sup>17</sup> According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Somalia is ranked second in the Global Impunity Index, where journalists are slain and the killers go free (for the period 2004-2013). See <http://cpj.org/reports/2014/04/impunity-index-getting-away-with-murder.php#somalia> for details on the Impunity Index.

► A discussion on the Federal Media Law, developed in 2013, which gags the media to an extent.  
Photo: © AMISOM/UN/IST







# Peace and Statebuilding Goal 2: Security

Establishing state-owned and –run institutions that will provide safety and security for Somali citizens.

– The Somali Compact

◀ AMISOM firefighters attempt to stop the fire at the site of an Ethiopian Air Force airplane crash in Mogadishu on 9 August 2013. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/Tobin Jones.





## Building role model police officers

Somalia's Government is keen to take charge of its own security and enforce law effectively, to ensure every person feels safe, and every child has memories of growing up in a secure and stable environment. The Government has requested us to help reach this goal, given our expertise and experience drawn from other countries in this field.

A key strategy to deliver security to Somali is ensuring a highly-trained, responsive police force. This ambitious task involves coordination of all the layers of support being offered to the police department. The AMISOM Police, mandated to provide mentoring and training to the Somali Police Force (SPF), and the UN Police Section - which combines UN uniformed police officers and UNDP police programme specialists - are working ardently to achieve this goal. A first of its kind in a UN mission, the UN Police Section combines the comparative advantages of each UN element, delivering support as one joint structure.

A Police Working Group, made up of the SPF, Federal Government and UN, dedicates its efforts to ensuring coherence, compatibility and transparency among all security-related agencies. As part of this group, we will identify partners' training needs and mobilise resources to deliver services effectively.

The Police Force's Strategic Action Plan for 2013-2017 provides direction in areas like re-establishing policing in locations recovered from militias, creating foundations for effective civilian policing, developing police officers' personal skill sets and securing sound infrastructure and equipment. By 2015, the SPF aims to be able to support the Somali elections, work on explosive ordnance disposal and deal appropriately with threats to the political process. The department also intends to establish community policing to ensure Somalis have the confidence to turn to the SPF when faced with crimes, such as gender-based violence, and have the capacity to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. We are providing key support to the SPF for them to be able to work independently and professionally.

In Somaliland, we are reviewing policies in areas ranging from remuneration to helping to develop a Police Act for Somaliland, and facilitating the recruitment of 40 female police personnel. UNSOM is also supporting the rehabilitation of police stations in Mogadishu and Puntland, and has recently handed over 12 prefabricated police stations to the SPF to provide infrastructure for the custodians of law.

### Beefing up the capacity of the Somali Police Force

To help the SPF reach its target of 10,000 well-trained police officers by 2015, a contingent made up of AMISOM, UNDP, UNSOM, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the European Union, among other partners, is currently offering technical training. However, the basic police and refresher training still require considerable efforts from the Police Force's partners to meet their goals. To improve their own training capacity, the Police Commissioner is prioritising the rehabilitation of four training centres in Belet Weyne, Baidoa, Mogadishu and Bossaso.

In 1979, Asha Hassan Hussein, was reportedly the first female to ride a police motorcycle to patrol Mogadishu's streets.<sup>18</sup> Since then, although policing has been viewed as a male-dominated profession, targeted recruitment and training have resulted in an increase of female police officers. In Somalia's first ever police training dedicated to women, 150 female police officers graduated from the Mandhera Police Training Academy in Somaliland and were deployed across the region. In total, so far, 850 women have been recruited and trained. Training focusing on

<sup>18</sup> More than three decades later, Captain Asha served as the Head of the SPF's Gender-Based Violence Department.





gender-based violence, gender equality and human rights, and career support for female officers has seen the quality of police officers improve significantly.

## Changing mindsets

The police in Somalia are striving to improve their image. In 2012, the law enforcement agents kicked off a public outreach campaign in south and central Somalia to improve the public's perception of the police and understanding of its functions. In line with this image revamp, we provided bright, new uniforms last year, which helped the public to identify police officers and distinguish them from the military. These are just a few approaches being used to build citizens' trust and confidence in the police.

Along with the Federal Government and other partners, we are pursuing a holistic approach that ensures police officers are properly equipped and remunerated, and operate from well-maintained infrastructure, with police stations at the heart of the community they serve. As a team, we place strong emphasis on human resources to ensure that police officers are willing to make a strong commitment to the Somali people, with a view to upholding human rights and the dignity of all people.

The SPF needs and is getting the support to bring it up to the required benchmark and achieve its vision of being providing security to Somalia's people.

### Box 2: Police officers – custodians of law and order

Even when parts of Somalia – like Mogadishu – were unsafe, many Somali police officers remained at their posts and patrolled their communities. Many women serve as police officers and the police service remains one of the public institutions that has been delivering services, with officers frequently resolving disputes and working within the community to establish a modicum of safety.

Khadija Hajji Diriye in Mogadishu is one of the police officers who took her own difficult living conditions in her stride and continued to serve her citizens, pinning her hopes on a better Somalia.<sup>19</sup> Gladys Mperere is one of more than 17,000 United Nations Police officers worldwide. The United Nations has been deploying police officers to peace operations since the 1960s. In the beginning, their role was limited to monitoring, observing and reporting. Today, however, Gladys and her colleagues advise national police forces, and mentor and train them in investigation and other duties of a police officer in Puntland. Through their work, UN police officers ensure compliance with international human rights standards and support their Somali colleagues in the police force to restore and promote public safety and rule of law. An important part of Gladys Mperere's work in Puntland is to ensure that the rights of survivors of gender-based violence are protected when they report their cases to the police, and to guarantee that these cases are investigated in an appropriate manner.

### Box 3: Building model police stations

UNDP is rolling out an innovative programme to develop model police stations for citizens in rural and coastal areas. Developed and delivered in consultation with local communities to address their needs, these police stations will serve as role model institutions, with police officers who are dedicated to protecting citizens and maintaining law and order.

The police stations will deploy new and young officers, particularly women, with sharper skill sets and new ways of thinking. In Somaliland, two model police stations have been constructed and equipped with furniture and material for transport. We will conduct specialised training for selected police personnel before commissioning them to the police stations.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/04/world/africa/somalis-embrace-hope-and-reconstruction-in-mogadishu.html>



## Supporting AMISOM on the ground

“When we arrived at first there was nothing. The morgue was a tent. The hospital was a tent. We were under fire; sometimes it felt like 24/7 and more. But the international community came through with the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and got us food, logistics and air support,” recalls Colonel Gaspard Baratuza, who arrived with the Burundian contingent to join Ugandan troops in Mogadishu in December 2007.

Behind the African Union’s Mission in Somalia, the pan-African force—which has wrested control of the capital Mogadishu and key major towns—is a groundbreaking logistical support machine called UNSOA.

In January 2009, the UN Security Council passed a resolution to commission the UN logistical support package to AMISOM to facilitate peacekeeping operations in the country. This was an unprecedented pilot project in our history, and the history of peacekeeping missions. It was the first time a peacekeeping mission led by a regional organization had been funded by UN-assessed contributions. Headquartered in Nairobi, with operations in Mogadishu and Mombasa, UNSOA has helped keep the African Union’s biggest peacekeeping effort running as it advances, denying Al-Shabaab and other extremist militia control of and influence over parts of the country. UNSOA also provides administrative and logistical support to UNSOM, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the Somalia-Eritrea Monitoring Group.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> As a result of the UN Security Council Resolution 2093 passed in March 2013, UNSOA was integrated into the new framework of UNSOM.

▲ AMISOM runs free medical clinics through various contingents. Open every day, this Kenyan-run clinic in Kismayo sees an average of 80 patients a day from Kismayo and surrounding villages. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/Ramadaan Mohamed Hassan

AMISOM's mandate is to support government structures, implement a national security plan, and train the Somali security forces, and this means taking on the militants. In addition to the Somali National Army, AMISOM also trains the Interim Juba Administration soldiers—1,000 of whom were trained early in 2014 to tackle insurgency in Middle and Lower Juba and assist in creating a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid. AMISOM is slowly succeeding in Somalia where previous international military peacekeeping efforts have failed, principally because it has taken the fight to the militants, unlike most traditional UN peacekeeping operations. UNSOA's mandate is to support AMISOM with the same kind of logistical package that UN peacekeeping forces receive. But it is a challenge because our peacekeeping operations are typically more static and usually play the role of observer, based out of a headquarters or major bases.

"There simply was no peace to keep," said Baratuza. "We had to impose ourselves metre by metre, street by street, town by town and protect the Government, and we have." UNSOA staff in Mogadishu, Mombasa and Nairobi kept up with AMISOM's changing needs as they liberated the key towns of Marca, Belet Weyne, Baidoa and Kismayo--the latter thanks to Kenyan troops' arrival.

UNSOA has commissioned external, more mobile sources to provide unparalleled support to AMISOM. Nowhere has this been more important than in the field of public information, where an UNSOA-led Information Support Team (IST) battled Al-Shabaab's dominance of the radio airwaves and helped establish 'Bar Kulan,' a national radio station. This team also produced popular TV programmes and dramas emphasizing peacebuilding, reconciliation and national dialogue.

Its tenure so far has seen UNSOA help supply the troops with prefab buildings, a high-quality field hospital and kitchens that work on diesel rather than on an ever-diminishing and ecologically unsound supply of scarce charcoal.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> In 2013, the UN Security Council authorised UNSOA to provide logistical support to more than 22,000 AMISOM uniformed personnel.

► Run by Ugandan and Burundian military personnel serving with AMISOM, this free medical clinic sees up to 400-500 people on average in a day, treating problems ranging from sexually-transmitted diseases, to respiratory infections and cardiac complications. Photo: © AU/UN/IST/Abdi Dakan







Bolstered by the arrival of more troops, and underpinned by UNSOA, AMISOM went on the offensive in 2010 and routed the militants from the capital over the next year, testing UNSOA's ability to keep up with an army on the march in need of fuel, food and medical aid. In November 2013, our Security Council approved a resolution to boost the AMISOM forces from 17,731 to 22,126 troops to facilitate humanitarian access, intensify a campaign against Al-Shabaab Islamist militants and expand the authority of the Federal Government.

Recent military offensives have secured Qoryooley, Marka, Goolweyn, Jerlio and Bullo Barer, which is a gateway to the port city of Brava. The Somali National Army and AMISOM forces are working tirelessly to liberate other swathes of south and central Somalia. To maintain high standards of work at each stage, UNSOM conducts pre-deployment human rights training for AMISOM and Somali National Army troops. The success to date, and recent UN-mandated surge in AMISOM forces, has raised hopes that similar pan-African armies might be forged with UN support for other African trouble spots.





## Clearing up the remnants of war

A young girl plays with a hand grenade and it detonates. She loses her sight and two limbs. A mine is triggered by a truck full of goods on a main road in Galgaduud. Two passengers die. A street sweeper in Mogadishu reaches out to collect a garbage sack. An explosion follows, taking the lives of ten street cleaners. These tragedies occur every week.

It is common to find explosive weapons—the leftovers and newly planted tools of warfare—in cities, towns, urban areas and along Somalia's major supply routes. The United Nations Mine Action Service set up base in Somalia in 2009 to deal with explosive hazards and support the mammoth task of stabilisation and reconstruction.

In 2012, UNMAS combed through each district in Mogadishu to identify explosive contamination, and clear or destroy unexploded bombs left over from decades of conflict. By the end of 2013, UNMAS had conducted visual searches in all of Mogadishu's central districts and removed more than 6,200 explosive remnants of war (ERW). Clearance is a slow and painstaking process, so known dangerous areas which UNMAS cannot reach immediately are mapped, and this information is shared with over 300 humanitarian and development agencies, on a monthly basis, to increase awareness of the dangers of operating in an environment littered with explosives.

Clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) is critical for stability and early recovery as it makes areas safer and returns them to communities for life, commerce and



further development. It also reduces the amount of raw material readily available for nefarious purposes, such as the production of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

To address years of Somalis' exposure to explosives, we have been advocating for safe behaviour and raising awareness on risks associated with explosive devices and landmines through the Somalia Protection Cluster--comprising partners who focus on protection and human rights--media, cross-border teams and discussions with vulnerable groups. The Danish Demining Group, for instance, focused on educating inhabitants of Mogadishu's quarry on mine risks in 2012. Eager to earn a better living, workers at the quarry were bringing unexploded devices, such as grenades

uncovered in other areas of the city, to the quarry to detonate large slabs of stones. An explosion would break down rocks into smaller slabs, raw materials that they could sell off for the construction of buildings. Like a game of Russian roulette, each explosion was a gamble, with limbs and lives being destroyed. Advocacy efforts also target young men who think devices have commercial value, children who mistake them for toys and newly displaced persons unfamiliar with localities. We advise them to contact the police to flag suspicious items, and promote safe behaviour regarding such devices.

UNMAS-led training has also reinforced national capacity to deal with UXOs. Five police Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams in south and central Somalia

are now acting as “first responders” to all emergency callouts when UXOs are discovered. Already, they have taken action to respond to more than 1,200 callouts to manage explosives and have conducted 303 visits to police posts to remove and destroy UXOs or explosive remnants of war safely.

As a result of our interventions, for the first time in years, Somalis in south and central Somalia have been calling the police for assistance. They dial the emergency hotline—888--to request for help with suspected UXOs or IEDs in their locality. The highly professional Police EOD unit has enhanced the credibility of the security sector, while providing a sense of order and normalcy, crucial for enhancing the community’s confidence in the Government.

UNMAS has also initiated the creation of an SPF Explosive Detection Dog Unit, which secures critical infrastructure such as the airport, seaport, and government buildings by checking for explosives.

Despite progress made, stockpiles undoubtedly remain on private land that community members refuse to part with, as do explosive remnants of war in areas that are difficult to access.

In newly accessible areas recovered from Al-Shabaab, such as Gedo and Hiraan, the programme removed almost 2,000 explosive devices while increasing awareness of the threat posed to communities along the Ethiopian border. Our presence and work in these areas constitutes a “peace-dividend” for the people and paves the path for humanitarian agencies by improving access to new locations.





## Disengaging child combatants and ex-fighters

Stories spill out of Somali children's eyes: many have been victims. Many have also been turned into victimisers and instruments of war, who have witnessed more than their fair share of horror. This causes them physical, developmental, emotional and mental distress, which they hold on to all their lives. Torn apart from their families, they lose their childhood, and miss out on the security of having loved ones and opportunities for education among other basic rights. The violation of children's rights continues despite widespread condemnation by different parties, including the UN Security Council and international bodies. From 2011 to 2012, UNICEF reported a 160 per cent increase in reports received on grave violations of children's rights, although this can also mean cases were previously largely under-reported.

To end these violations, the Federal Government has committed to turn two life-changing plans into reality: to end the use of children in armed conflict, and end the killing and maiming of children.

Plans to 'disengage' children and older combatants are going hand in hand. A national programme to help combatants and youth formerly associated with armed groups and forces to give up their arms is making headway, with an increase in facilities supporting the ex-fighters, including children formerly associated with Al-Shabaab. At the end of 2013, a youth rehabilitation centre in Mogadishu opened a wing to cater for children formerly associated with Al-Shabaab. The Federal Government has introduced a similar institution in Belet Weyne with support from UNSOM, IOM and other partners; additional facilities will be opened in Baidoa and

Kismayo to provide strong support for ex-fighters who are ready to turn over a new leaf.

However, a joint UNSOM and UNDP review of the framework for this national programme reiterated the urgency for Somalia to adhere to international human rights standards when dealing with disengaged fighters. To protect children's rights, a training conducted by UNSOM, UNICEF and partners for a Somali National Army battalion raised awareness of the definitions of a child, the impact of armed conflict on children and the accountability and protective role soldiers have with regard to children among other topics. In the meantime, the UN's Rule of Law and Security Institutions Group--made up of UN representatives mandated to work on improving security— AMISOM and the Federal Government will ensure the disengagement of fighters meets international best practices and human rights standards. These efforts led to a team of human rights experts monitoring a youth rehabilitation centre and other facilities, and contributed to the design of a pilot, ideal rehabilitation programme for disengaging Al-Shabaab fighters.<sup>22</sup>

To ensure that disengaged minors receive the attention and assistance they require, the Child Reintegration Programme – run by UNICEF, ILO and a local NGO - will sensitise the Government, local authorities, communities and partners on working with and addressing the needs of disengaged minors. The programme will seek to monitor and document—confidentially--cases of violations of children's rights to bring justice to each victim.<sup>23</sup> This community-based project supports the economic reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and/or groups (CAAFAG) into the society. It also reaches out to children who are at risk of recruitment in conflict-affected areas in Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle and Galgaduud regions, offering them a new lease of life through psychosocial support, access to education and vocational training. Since 2010, more than 3,600 children, 870 of whom are girls, have benefitted from this programme. By helping affected children establish their identities again, we help them gain access to their basic rights as children: education, family unity, dignified livelihoods, training and safety from

<sup>22</sup> UN, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations to help States and sub-regional and regional entities in Africa in fighting terrorism," January 2014.

<sup>23</sup> This documentation of cases is in line with the UN Security Council Resolution passed in 2005, through which a monitoring and reporting mechanism was introduced to collect timely and reliable information on the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

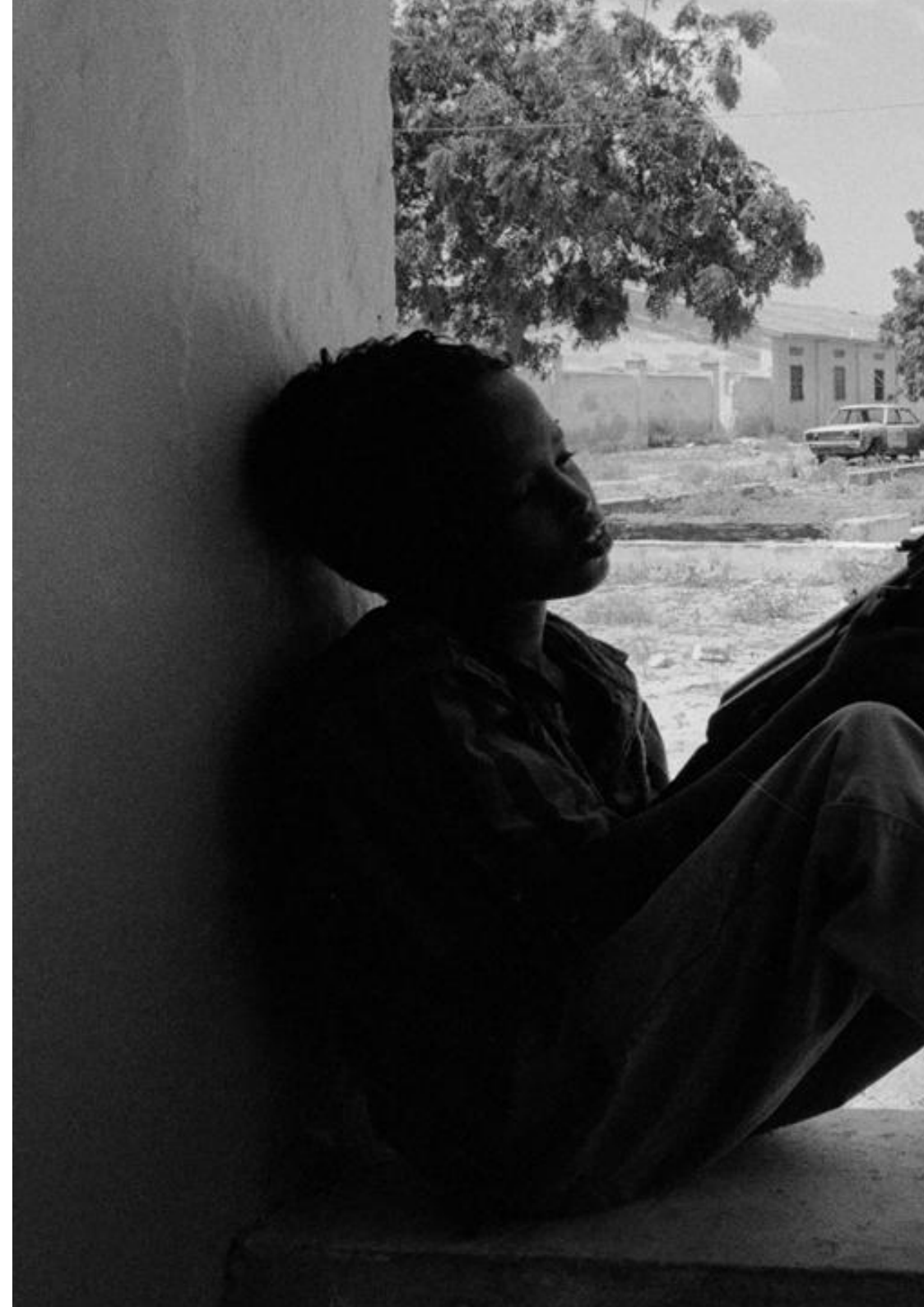


## Peace and Statebuilding Goal 2: Security

harm. In 2013, UNICEF supported more than 1,000 children under 18 to reintegrate into the society. ILO provides vocational training in plumbing, fishing, electrical engineering, cooking, financial literacy and other business skills, with the hope of providing the disengaged fighters a brighter future. Additionally, ILO assisted caregivers and parents of affected children to understand the consequences of child labour, with the aim of reducing this practice in Somalia.

In 2013, a working group established by the Federal Government, with advice from UNICEF, reached a major milestone when the Government agreed to sign and adopt detailed recommendations on handling children formerly associated with armed forces and paved way for the establishment of a Child Protection Unit in the Somali National Armed Forces. In July 2014, the Federal Government and UNSOM began a trend of screening new recruits into the Somali National Army to ensure no children are taken on board. These are all ways in which we are trying to ensure the eyes of Somali children hold dreams instead of fear.

- ▶ In 1996, a 13-year-old boy – who had already undergone four years of military training - rests at a checkpoint set up by one of the warring factions in Mogadishu. No longer in school, he lived at a military base when the photo was taken, and had no contact with his family. He had said that at the base “they took care” of him. Photo: © UNICEF/NY/HQ/Pirozzi







## Mogadishu: where the streets have names again

Cars obediently waiting for traffic lights, trucks diligently collecting garbage for disposal, queues patiently waiting for identification cards, kids kicking around a football in the street, houses being methodically numbered, and ramps strategically placed for the disabled are all signs that Mogadishu is coming of age again.

Plans for Mogadishu's rebuilding started in 2010. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) approached us for support to stabilise the city best known as a battlefield. At that time, the TFG had only six out of 16 districts this side of the 'front line' under its control. Al-Shabaab held command over the rest. Now, the Federal Government now controls all of Mogadishu's districts.

Since then, together with the Government, we have mobilised support throughout the capital to bring the city back to life. Priorities are geared towards ensuring human security, providing basic services and boosting employment for citizens. These efforts have involved meticulous planning, substantive coordination with national and international partners and, on the flip side, encounters with danger.

Initially, development partners almost tiptoed about the city, rehabilitating clinics, schools and markets discreetly. Street lights were erected cautiously, and vaccinations delivered to children lucky enough to be accessible. However the election of the Federal Government brought about a new zest of commitment and stability, making room for a more coherent approach to Mogadishu's rebirth.





Today, new shoots of growth are visible in what was once one of Africa's cleanest cities. Flower vendors are sprouting in corners, taxis are buzzing across dusty roads, policemen are grinning while steering traffic, hairdressers are offering their grooming skills to potential clients, Somalis are taking their outfits to dry cleaners again and a 'dollar store' offers shoppers a good bargain.

This new environment has been brought about largely by the Mogadishu's Municipal Council and Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), which have been the focal point for the city's rehabilitation and stabilisation. The BRA has taken on the commendable coordination of all revitalisation efforts to share information, avoid duplication and fill in existing gaps. Recently, with support from UN-Habitat, the

BRA completed its first trail of mapping of Mogadishu in decades and will support urban planning efforts, which include rebuilding crucial infrastructure.

After a long spell, Mogadishu is finally resurrecting itself. Engineers are flocking into the city to inspect public works and run projects such as repairing the main city's drainage system, which will contribute to controlling flooding and illnesses, improving communities' welfare and, in the long run, roll out a red carpet for economic activities. The city's airport witnesses a constant hum of busy airplanes, while the port sees a flurry of porters carrying imports and exports to and from ships.

## Peace and Statebuilding Goal 2: Security

Together with other committed national and international partners, we are creating an enabling environment, building the Government's capacity, encouraging donors to add flesh to the city's skeleton, flagging areas that need attention and coordinating our own inter-entity activities.

A few things that have worked in the city's favour include resilient, hopeful and ambitious inhabitants, coupled with strong communication, accountability, clarity and coordination between the Government, international community and national non-governmental organizations. Interventions such as the Transition Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS), implemented by the BRA in conjunction with other development partners, have spurred Mogadishu's communities into action. They have been busy collecting garbage, spreading messages on peacebuilding, building and rehabilitating roads and making playgrounds for children. The initiative has also generated employment for the vulnerable and rejuvenated the rich music and arts scene in the city, bringing back Somali singers from the diaspora to add to the melody that is attempting to drown the sounds of gunfire in the city.







## Piracy victims' double dilemma

While the media's glare has been fixed on young, angry Somali pirates over the last few years, thousands of people have been taken hostage and put through nearly unbearable conditions. At the hands of their captors, hostages often endure months or years of unimaginable physical and mental torture. If they manage to live their dream of returning home, hostages face a broken, disillusioned family, unpaid salaries, years of debts taken out by loved ones, or uneducated children as part of the social burden of being absent from home. Back from their harrowing experiences, freed hostages return with the hope of getting legal aid to start over again. This gleam of optimism quickly turns into despair when they discover there is either no system in place to support them or where it does exist, aid is virtually inaccessible.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Hostage Support Programme (HSP) was borne out of a desire to address these challenges, and support hostages to return home and rebuild their lives. The programme monitors and tracks all hostages held in Somalia and provides support to captives, as well as their families. As part of efforts to make hostages' lives more bearable, the programme was even successful in organizing medical aid for a crew in captivity in Somalia for the first time in 2013, with two more crews receiving this help since then.

"Sometimes it feels like we are running a crusade," says Leonardo Hoy-Carrasco, who runs the HSP with his partner, John Steed. Its sensitive and challenging work takes time to reap results sometimes: after two years, the two-man team is finally re-establishing contact with a crew in captivity.

After hostages' release, the UNODC programme facilitates their move to a safe location and repatriation to their home country. If the flag state, where the ship attacked is registered, or the country of origin of the crew cannot assist them, the UNODC team steps up to the plate, travelling to remote locations to rescue hostages. So far, the entity has provided direct and indirect support to 81 hostages to return home. For now, the UNODC is facilitating a quick recovery for hostages—pulling them out of Somalia--and trying to providing a start-up for them to resettle. The entity then shares the bill of these costs with organizations that work to assist hostages, allowing them to take credit for this work. The HSP is knocking on the doors of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), ILO and other seafarers' associations to help ex-hostages regain employment.

Most hostages don't have an opportunity to heal from their trauma, being expected to return to work or "fix things" upon their return to their families. Ali,<sup>24</sup> a former hostage repatriated by the HSP, thought he would go crazy if he didn't get a job as soon as he got home. The father of two applied for several jobs and thought his luck had finally turned when he landed a job as an electrical engineer in Doha. Along with losing more than two years of his life in captivity, Ali also lost his passport when the ship that he was being held hostage in caught fire along the coast of Xarardheere. To his dismay, Ali learnt he had to fork out US\$135 as a penalty for "being negligent with official documents" and a standard fee for a new passport for his travel to Doha. This is a substantive amount for someone who has been out of work.

"Some ex-captives have a lot of strength," remarks Leonardo, recounting this story. Ali worked around webs of

**"The UN can achieve what no other organization or nation can when we work together as a team,"**

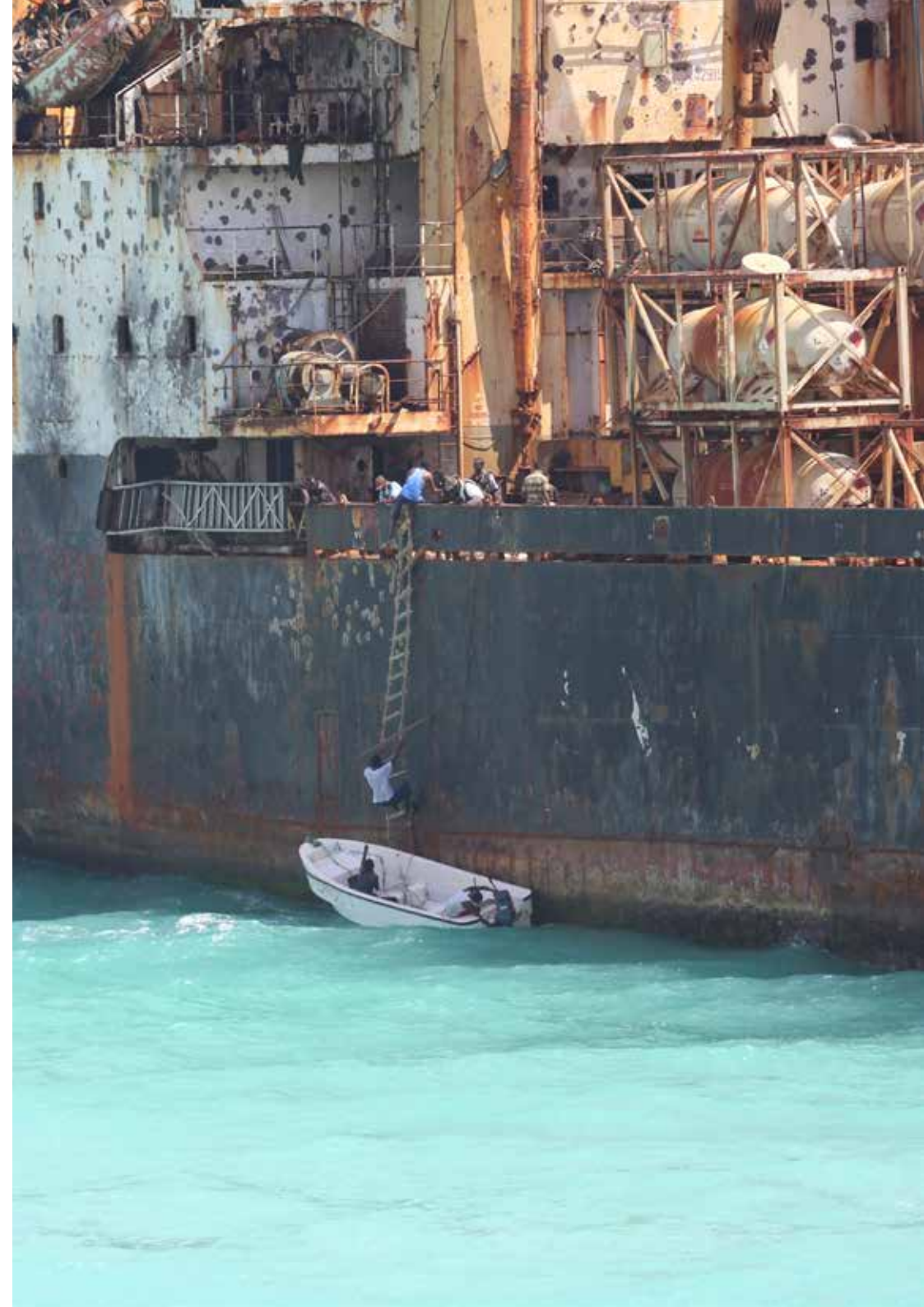
**– Hoy-Carrasco**

bureaucracy and came up with the idea of calling the media to sell his story. Published during sensitive political times in his country, Ali's story managed to grab the government's attention. Ali's fee was waived and he paid the standard US\$35 to replace his passport.

The UNODC's success so far can be attributed to strong partnerships, particularly within the UN, that have worked in their favour.

<sup>24</sup> Name changed to protect the privacy of individual in the story.

► Released hostage disembarking from the MV. Iceberg followed a sustained fire-fight to release the ship by regional forces. Photo: © Puntland authorities



#### Box 4: Stopping piracy and organized crime

Pirates have always had to be adept at selecting their targets, locations and timing. Even today, law enforcers need to be a step ahead, to be able to strike them. Along Somalia's coast, modern pirates have taken advantage of the lack of control over remote territory, establishing bases – almost invisible one would imagine - from where they have ruthlessly attacked ships as far as India and the Seychelles with their rickety boats.

In 2010, piracy cost the international community an estimated US\$5 to US\$8 billion. The cost to local communities living around pirates' dingy dens included hikes in prices of essential commodities due to inflated transport costs to markets, reduced income due to sharply declining commercial trade in these locations, delays in the delivery of humanitarian aid due to limited access, and the exposure of livelihoods such as fisheries to danger from pirates.

To end this profession that seems lucrative to several Somalis, UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have committed their time and funds to improve policing to catch pirates, as well as the trial and treatment of pirates. They have teamed up with local administrations and other partners to reduce piracy cases drastically. This support is giving the Somali police the muscle to tackle organized crime independently, building the public's confidence in state structures and improving Somalia's security. For instance, UNSOM is building the capacity of national law enforcement agencies to address piracy. The Mission is also supporting the development of a legal framework to fight piracy, in addition to maritime strategy. The UNODC plays a key role in bringing pirates to justice, in a way that respects their human rights.

UNODC's counter piracy programme is supporting prosecutions stemming from piracy in Somalia, Kenya, Seychelles and Mauritius. This work entails transfers of pirates to countries that would hear their cases, and grooming the police and other criminal justice agencies to deal with the intricate challenges of investigating and prosecuting this transnational crime. UNODC has transferred 91 prisoners, including 18 convicted pirates transferred from the Seychelles, to a state-of-the-art 500-bed prison in Garowe, built by UNODC and the UN

Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in close cooperation with local authorities and other partners. The UN entity also transferred 29 convicted pirates from the Seychelles to Hargeisa, and another five from the Seychelles to Bossaso, to prisons built with the help of UNODC and UNOPS.

Since its inception in 2009, the UNODC counter piracy programme has trained 400 Somali prison staff, and enrolled 350 police officers, prosecutors, judges and prison staff in learning exchange programmes, injecting them with enthusiasm for their duties while developing their skills further. The programme has also provided 600 piracy prisoners with welfare support, improving their living conditions and offering skills that motivate them to turn their back on crimes in the future. By supporting the construction of nine prisons and four courtrooms, UNODC is assisting Somali authorities with space to serve trials of piracy and other crimes.

Even though the number of piracy cases in Somalia has plummeted, and coastal towns of Eyl, Gara'ad, Hafun and Bandar Bayle have been successful in pushing out pirates, piracy will still continue to be a concern as long as there are large numbers of unemployed youth. To address looming unemployment and assist isolated, poor and vulnerable communities most susceptible to piracy to put an end to this multi-faced problem, UNDP's Alternative Livelihoods to Piracy project stimulates local economic growth in eleven 'piracy hotspot' districts. These districts along the coast of Puntland and south and central Somalia have been a 'safe haven' for pirates to hide in and sources of young recruits for piracy.

UNDP's project creates jobs for youth and other vulnerable groups by rehabilitating public infrastructure, and supports entrepreneurs through grants and micro-loans. Currently being supported by seven international shipping companies, the project has also developed the capacity of the local government to form and implement policies that end piracy and support economic growth.

Increasing the capability of Somali police to investigate piracy and other organized crimes, in 2012, UNDP trained 100 criminal investigators in Puntland. The UN programme also trained 18 advanced criminal investigators in basic forensic techniques and prosecution, to conduct robust investigations into



criminal activities and prepare cases that would result in successful prosecutions under the law.

Over the next few years, the Somali Government and its partners face the immense task of rebuilding and equipping crucial specialist units such as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Maritime Police Unit to deal with port and coastal security. Among other priorities they will need to establish a new Rapid Response Unit to tackle the terrorist threat and other organized gangs, and form a Diplomatic Police Unit that will shadow the expansion of the international footprint of criminals in Mogadishu and other towns.



# Peace and Statebuilding

## Goal 3: Justice

Garillaheed bay taqaan

~Justice knows its God only (justice is justice and it must be served justly and equally to all men)

– The Somali Compact





## Strengthening the pillars of justice

For centuries, Somalis have gathered under acacia trees to witness justice being delivered. Using this traditional customary law or *xeer*, clans hear cases and provide justice. Even though many Somalis in urban areas use the court systems with a formal system of law, a significant number, particularly in rural areas and in south and central Somalia, rely on *xeer* or Islamic Sharia law, or a merger of the two. However the traditional laws aren't very friendly towards women or minorities and focus on compensation rather than corrective measures.

In some places in Somalia, access to qualified and competent law enforcement and legal aid is still non-existent. Currently, less than one-third of Somalia's judges and

prosecutors have a law degree. Judges have a limited understanding of criminal laws and court procedures, and are poorly equipped to hear complex criminal matters. To improve the capacity and effectiveness of the courts, we support long-term legal education. This boost in the number of qualified law enforcement officers, lawyers and judges will build a robust legal system. To obtain more knowledge about the kind of law being used, UNDP is introducing community justice centres, starting off in Puntland's main towns.

The civil war shattered Somalia's justice system. The formal and informal institutions in the justice sector need to be reorganised and rebuilt from the ground up. Institutions and lawyers have little or no access to legal texts. To address these



challenges, we are supporting the Somali justice system to deliver trials and prosecute suspects of serious crimes, including piracy, in accordance with due process and international standards, particularly the right to a fair trial. UNODC's Criminal Justice Programme is supporting the justice sector in Somaliland to guarantee that the accused, guilty and victims can rely on a fair criminal justice system, grounded on human rights and values.

We are bringing justice by way of mobile courts to rural and marginalised communities. Established by UNDP, these mobile courts deal with about ten per cent of all court cases, increasing efficiency and installing justice in difficult-to-reach areas.

UNDP works to ensure citizens observe the rule of law and are aware of law faculties and legal centres. The development programme supports law students from universities across Somalia: in 2013, 338 lawyers, including 89 women, graduated from Somaliland's Hargeisa University Law Faculty. For the first time in Puntland's history, 23 students--seven of whom were women--earned undergraduate degrees in law in February 2013. Additionally, we provided 37 scholarships for law students, including 12 women, at Mogadishu University. Another 45 students, 13 of whom were women, graduated in March 2014. UNDP has also improved the quality of education offered in universities, by standardising the human rights curriculum for law studies.

As part of an ongoing process to boost the number of officials with formal legal education, we have strengthened legal and judiciary institutions across Somalia's regions. Since 2011, UNDP has supported interns, half of whom were women, to ensure women access legal careers. Students spend a year gaining exposure and invaluable work experience in the public sector, including key ministries, courts and the police. Law students who benefitted from this support are now serving the Attorney General's Office, the Higher Judicial Council, the police, legal aid centres, local human rights NGOs, regional ministries and the Parliament.

In Somaliland, the project facilitated the Government's recruitment of 32 law graduates, including 15 women, in December 2013. More than 75 women currently have careers in law in Somaliland, compared to less than five in 2008,



largely thanks to UNDP programmes. In 2014, a UNDP-sponsored scholarship in Somaliland gave birth to a pioneer for women's equality: one of the region's first female deputy prosecutors. UNDP is also supporting Somaliland's authorities to try and offer parole for youth instead of harsher sentences.

Ensuring that the arm of law reaches out to communities throughout Somalia, in 2013, we assisted 27 legal aid centres in Puntland, which provided free legal support to more than 15,200 women and men, including the internally displaced. We also helped to establish the 'Baahi-Koob Centre' in the Hargeisa Group Hospital, a first-of-its-kind resource centre that delivers medical, psychosocial, legal

aid and referral services to survivors of sexual violence. UNFPA supports a similar resource centre, the 'Maato-Kaal Centre' at the Garowe Hospital in Puntland. In the past, GBV survivors had to seek legal and other forms of help from different institutions. However these facilities offer survivors all kinds of support under one roof and in confidence.

We are supporting Somalia's authorities to step up measures to improve the justice system, ensuring all Somalis, including the most vulnerable members of the society, have access to justice. To deliver justice with quality, we are working with traditional authorities to help them understand and regard human rights in their decisions.



## Bringing gender-based violence to a halt: respect for women

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a brutal, widespread consequence of Somalia's protracted conflict. Often causing the breakup of families, GBV covers a range of abuses, including physical violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and early marriage.

Women and girls bear the brunt of a lack of security and respect in Somalia. In camps for internally displaced people (IDPs), where flimsy shelters hardly offer protection, the threat of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly rapes, lurks around every corner. Alleged perpetrators even include 'uniformed' forces deployed to help Somalis.

Children are not spared. A third of sexual violence abuses are committed against children below 12 years. In some cases teachers are perpetrators.

Survivors of violence have limited or no access to justice and impunity is a norm in Somalia. Most survivors do not share their stories or seek justice out of distrust in the legal systems and fear of further retribution. Most cases are not properly investigated, due processes are not followed, and the legal framework does not protect survivors, witnesses or even media representatives highlighting crimes. Alleged perpetrators are not arrested and do not face their crimes in a court of law.

We are providing growing support in different ways to change this bleak picture. UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA support police training which promotes human rights

and gender equality to ensure violence against women is investigated properly and reported cases treated respectfully. We are also assisting the police to set up specialist facilities like 'women and children desks' to help survivors.

We are working with NGO partners to lead the management of GBV cases, through which survivors receive support tailored to each case. More than 90 per cent of survivors who reported rape cases received emotional and psychosocial support in 2013. We also offer medical care, including essentials to help rape victims, access to safe houses, and organise foster families and alternative care for children who experience violence, abuse and exploitation. By providing vocational training, and sometimes livelihood opportunities, we help survivors reintegrate into the society.

In April 2013, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, urged the Somali Government and international community to toughen laws to criminalise all forms of GBV. A month later, the Government and UN signed a joint communiqué to help end GBV, support survivors and bring perpetrators to justice. Currently, the Government is working to develop a bill to discourage sexual offences, for enactment into law, in addition to a national plan to stop and address sexual violence appropriately, with our support, particularly from UNFPA and UNDP, and help from other partners.

The UN Country Team is taking the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers very seriously. We are working with authorities and partners to introduce a system to investigate crimes, register and respond to complaints, ensure survivors receive full reparations, and bring perpetrators to justice.

We are finding every avenue to end GBV. To prevent women and girls from being attacked when they collect firewood, UNICEF facilitated the provision of fuel-efficient stoves that use waste products as an energy source. UNICEF is also working in schools to discourage GBV. In 2013, UNICEF and its partners assisted around 5,000 GBV survivors in Somalia.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> See story on 'Strengthening pillars of justice' for more on support that we provide to GBV survivors, p.65.



There is a widespread belief that female genital mutilation/cutting is required by religion or culture. Consequently, some 98 per cent of Somali women and girls undergo varying forms of the practice. With UN support, the Somali Government rolled out a 'Zero Tolerance for FGM/C Campaign.' To complement this campaign, every day sees an increase in champions keen on ending the practice. In Somaliland and Puntland, 40,000 community members, including religious leaders, excircumcisers, policy makers, teachers, parents, youth, students and survivors participated in anti-FGM activities in 2013. Somalia's Provisional Constitution outlaws all forms of FGM/C. In Puntland, the President has approved a policy to ban FGM/C and religious leaders issued a religious decree, known as a Fatwa, to prohibit FGM/C. A similar decree in Somaliland is awaiting a final nod of approval from religious leaders based there. Stepping up their commitment, in July 2014, authorities from Somaliland, Puntland and the Federal Government committed to working together to end FGM/C and child, early and forced marriage for all Somali girls within a generation at the first international Girl Summit, organized by the British government and UNICEF. The international community pledged to support countries such as Somalia to stop both these practices.

UNFPA and other UN entities, along with civil society organizations and administrations in some regions have crafted a comprehensive three-year GBV strategy to change mindsets about girls and women and end GBV in a robust, coherent and effective manner in Somalia. An action plan will be developed soon to roll out the strategy.







## Turning the tide: combating human trafficking

Somalia occupies prime real estate. It lies at the crossroads of Africa and Arabia, the furthest eastern point on the African continent. Because of this, and its history, anarchy and widespread poverty, Somalia has become a hub for human smuggling, especially in Puntland, the region of Somalia that juts out towards the Middle East.

Vulnerable communities living within crowded IDP settlements are lucrative targets for anxious, hawk-eyed traffickers. IDPs make up around one-fifth of Somalia's population. In many instances, migrants, mostly from Ethiopia, also find themselves paying a daily price for Somalia's broken social support systems: many become

victims of human trafficking. Taking many forms, human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, using threats, force or other forms of coercion. This can include abduction, human smuggling, fraud, deception, or abuse of power or a position of vulnerability. It also includes giving or receiving of payments or benefits to control another person for exploitation. A major offense to human rights across Somalia, human trafficking is also a major problem globally. Within Somalia, traffickers are both of Somali origin and from a transnational network of traffickers involving foreigners.

In 2013, merely 16 victims of trafficking out of scores of unreported cases contacted the UN's International Organization for Migration for support to be taken



to safer places or back to the warmth of their homes. Fifteen of the victims were female, 14 children, and most were from south and central Somalia. All 16 victims had been exploited for domestic servitude and forced labour—the most common reasons for trafficking Somalia’s migrants—as well as sex trafficking.

IOM focuses on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships – dubbed a ‘four P concept’ – to end trafficking in Somalia, reaching out continuously to Somalis to explain the different forms of and dangers and risks involved with human trafficking. IOM has forged ties with Somalia’s ministries, civil society organizations and UN entities working to protect citizens to develop a Protection Group in Puntland. Strong partnerships have led to the establishment of the Puntland Counter Trafficking Board, which comprises several ministries, as well as the Office of the Attorney General and Criminal Investigation Department unit. Civil society organizations, eager to help, play a technical advisory role. The board has developed measures and processes to prevent and protect both migrants and Somali citizens from human trafficking, while working to prosecute perpetrators.

At the UN, we are continually reinforcing the capacity of border and immigration management of Somalia, including coast guards, and the capacity of institutions that work to put an end to human trafficking. We are also creating channels for communities to report incidents of trafficking.

IOM and members of the Protection Group provide support to victims of trafficking who have been fortunate enough to have their cases referred or reported to authorities. IOM also established a referral mechanism for victims of trafficking in Puntland, where most of the UN’s counter-trafficking activities are based, through which victims are provided shelter, medical support, food, support to trace families and support for return and reintegration.

Through UN-led advocacy, great strides are being made to craft policies to stop human trafficking. While assisting Puntland’s authorities to develop anti-trafficking plans, IOM is also supporting the Puntland Counter Trafficking Police in Garowe to establish two fully functioning counter-trafficking units in Bossaso and Gaalkacyo, providing a car to help facilitate more effective investigations. After the success of the Counter Trafficking Unit of Puntland’s Police Force, we are helping to replicate



this model in other potential trafficking transit locations in Somalia, particularly in the south and central part of the country, which has been established as a main source of victims of trafficking in Somalia.

The gradually improving justice system of Puntland and strong partnerships are some of the measures that contribute to reducing human trafficking in Somalia. Efforts are underway for IOM to support the Office of the Attorney-General with capacity building, and office equipment to carry out more effective human trafficking investigations and prosecute the offenders.

We are working jointly with Somali authorities to save Somalis from being trafficked and exploited, and to protect the rights of migrants. Whereas expansion of our counter-trafficking work to other regions is in the pipeline, we aim to continue building upon existing structures and beefing up local authorities' capacity to safeguard national and regional security.

#### Box 5: Being smuggled for body parts: a twist of fate

Thirteen-year old Amina's father doesn't make much money selling vegetables and other small items on a street in Mogadishu. Following her mother's death, Amina and her siblings joined their elder sister in Garowe, in search of a safer environment and better education opportunities. One day, as she walked to the shops, a Somali woman approached her, and enticed her into going with her. Amina does not recall what happened next. When she woke up, she found herself in a room full of children.

To her horror, Amina learnt that the woman she had met had drugged her and transported her to Ethiopia to remove and sell organs from Amina's body. The following day, Amina was made to undergo several medical check-ups. A blessing in disguise, albeit not great for her health, Amina was diagnosed with hepatitis A, a liver disease. She was given medical treatment, which did not seem successful. Frustrated, the Somali woman told her she was "useless" and sent her from Ethiopia to Somaliland. In Hargeisa, a member of IOM's Counter Trafficking Network found a tired little Amina and put her in touch with IOM. Amina was given immediate assistance and protection, and was finally reunited with her family in Garowe.







# Peace and Statebuilding Goal 4: Economic foundations

Revitalise and expand the Somali economy with a focus on livelihood enhancement, employment generation, and broad-based inclusive growth.

– The Somali Compact

◀ Somali women have limited access to white-collared jobs as few are able to pursue further studies after school. Photo: © WHO/Fouad Juez



## Turning lives around: new beginnings for young Somalis

Somalia is a young nation, with nearly three-quarters of the population under 30. Sadly, many young Somalis find it difficult even to envisage a life of peace and stability. This generation has missed out on education, employment and a 'normal' environment. Without alternatives, some have been drawn to joining armed groups, pirates or criminal gangs. A lucky few manage to find escape in the form of work, a second chance at gaining skills, or opportunities in other countries.

The UN's Youth for Change (Y4C) programme is offering young Somalis new beginnings. The programme gives youth who have been in conflict with the law, or

otherwise identified as being "at risk" by their communities, support to foster their social and economic rehabilitation and reintegration into their communities, a move that will also improve security in the long run.

Run by ILO, UNDP and UNICEF, the Y4C programme identifies boys, girls, and young women and men who would benefit from psychosocial support, non-formal education, life skills-based education, vocational training and social reintegration from selected communities.

UNICEF is responsible for the education pillar of the initiative, UNDP manages the component on life skills, and ILO covers the entrepreneurship and commerce components of the programme. Community elders, police and community



organizations help select beneficiaries, provide ongoing support, and engage with beneficiaries to help them recover from traumatic experiences.

Since its inception in 2011, the programme has transformed 4,000 young lives; another 1,100 will benefit in 2014. The programme will provide 150 children in Burco, 250 in Bossaso, 100 in Mogadishu and 100 in Baidoa non-formal education, such as literacy and life skills-based education, vocational training, stress counseling, psycho-social support, drug abuse and life issues counselling. Some parents will also receive counselling.

Y4C activities are implemented by local NGOs, such as the Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee in Somaliland and the Puntland Development Organization, and overseen by UN staff. UNDP and ILO are currently managing the cases of 1,000 youth aged over 18, while UNICEF manages 600 under-eighteens.<sup>26</sup> Reintegration of each child involves follow-up in terms of social care to ensure his or her psychosocial well-being and provision of required services depending on individual needs.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Somaliland's national youth policy defines youth as persons between 14 and 35 years, while Puntland's national youth policy describes youth as between 15 and 30 years of age. The UN defines youth as those persons between the age of 15 and 24. The "Somalia Human Development Report 2012, Empowering Youth for Peace and Development", defines youth as persons between the ages 14 and 29.

<sup>27</sup> See story on 'Disengaging child fighters and ex-combatants', p. 45, for additional information on our support to disengaging and reintegration of child soldiers.

Young, budding graduates from the education programme receive what is probably their first tangible award in life: certificates that allow them to join formal school systems. Youth who acquire vocational skills are able to earn their own money in the local workforce, as well as self-esteem and respect.

Two decades of conflict have trapped children and youth in cycles of violence and crime. Emphasizing the needs of victims, offenders and communities involved, the Y4C programme included new elements such as restorative justice in 2013. Instead of simply punishing offenders, this strategy encourages them to assume responsibility for their actions by apologising, returning stolen money or goods or working to serve their communities.

UNDP's social rehabilitation programme has a social skills' project that teaches youth how to communicate well with others and cope with psychological stress and trauma. The training on governance and rule of law educates youth on women's rights and community cohesion, while sessions on civic participation and elections motivate beneficiaries to step into the world of politics. Classes on Islamic education, literacy, sports, arts and voluntary community service see youth using their energy and enthusiasm productively. Mentorship programmes enable youth to meet and emulate former beneficiaries of the initiative.

The transformation in attitudes and mindsets that our programmes stimulate among youth is as valuable as the skills and education they impart with. They remind young Somalis affected by war how to be courteous and responsible members of the community again and assist Somali authorities, families and communities to welcome these youth into their fold again (Box 4).

We are working to expand our work to empower young Somali women and men, to shape a generation of leaders for Somalia's future.

- Somalis under 30 years make up around three-quarters of the population. The UN and partners are harnessing young Somalis' potential and energy to help them rebuild their country.  
Photo: © UNHCR/Alexandra Strand Holm





## Bouncing back in the face of difficulties: building resilience

In March 2014, Somalia's farming, fisheries and livestock companies had an opportunity to connect with international markets after a long absence, through the Somali Producers' Conference and Exhibition (SOPEC) held in Dubai with support from FAO and the EU. This unique event served as a platform for exchange of information, contacts, and ideas, and a catalyst for Somali businesses' growth. This is just one way in which we are supporting Somalis to build their resilience. The

UN is helping Somalis build their own resilience in several ways, from supporting communities in pirates' hotspots to helping young Somalis stand on their own feet again.

Resilience is the ability to anticipate, absorb, recover from and respond to difficulties, like the famine that gripped Somalia in 2011. Despite early warnings and years of emergency assistance, about 260,000 people, half of them under-five,<sup>28</sup> died in what was Somalia's worst famine in decades. Stunned, the international community resolved to prevent this type of catastrophe from unfolding again.

<sup>28</sup> FAO Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia, USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network Study.



However, Somalia's malnutrition rates remain among the worst in the world; more than 800,000 Somalis still needed emergency humanitarian assistance halfway through 2014. To avoid a painful re-run of 2011 at any cost, FAO, WFP and UNICEF introduced a three-year strategy in 2012 to develop communities' ability to protect themselves, preserve their livelihoods and bounce back in the face of drought, floods and other disasters - to build their resilience. This is one of our flagship programmes aimed at helping Somalis cope with difficulties they encounter.

## Increasing productivity

The resilience programme's efforts go hand-in-hand with the search for new ways to boost agricultural, livestock and fishery production and diversify incomes. Even minimal aid in agriculture—like farming inputs, tools, and improving technical skills in storage, grading and marketing—goes a long way.

Projects to promote safety nets are implemented on a seasonal basis, for instance during hunger periods, lean seasons, or between harvests, to address food deficits and prevent people from resorting to harmful coping strategies, such as selling off assets or livestock as short-term solutions. Cash transfers through mobile phones or money transfers to targeted vulnerable families also help build resilience.

Somalia is a country of paradoxes. While some regions are dusty and arid, other regions form a green bread basket. In order to make full use of these fertile areas, experts from FAO and WFP spent 2013 training maize farmers in post-harvest handling, storage and warehouse management to improve the quality of their crop and limit losses by keeping it contamination- and pest-free. After learning how to grade or rank their grain, farmers are striving to improve the quality of their produce.

Meeting international standards of quality—a landmark achievement for Somalia—and with multiplying quantities, proud farmers have even had an opportunity to sell their grain to WFP's food assistance programmes to serve meals to the most vulnerable communities. In March 2014, WFP shopped for 200 metric tonnes of high-quality maize from Somalia's backyard.

► In 2013, FAO organized live cooking street-shows in Doolow, to encourage communities to tap into under-utilised, yet readily available resources, like fish. Photo: © FAO/Frank Nyakairu



## Setting up safety nets

Another effective way of helping Somalis bounce back from shocks are short-term assistance programmes such as the ones implemented by WFP through 'Food for Assets', 'Food for Work' and 'Food for Training' initiatives. These activities improve communities' livelihoods while simultaneously rebuilding vital local infrastructure, including water catchment structures, wells and roads. Through Food for Training, vulnerable Somalis—such as ex-pastoralists, unemployed youths and internally displaced people, especially women—are trained in diverse income-generating activities like planting popular vegetables, textile processing, hairdressing, fishing, mechanics, construction, and literacy skills.

## Being relevant to communities

Information is crucial to ensure the UN's work is relevant to communities. In 2013 we surveyed families in Doolow to gather information on livestock, agriculture, and access to basic services among other topics. Vibrant consultations in Burco and Owdweyne provided an insight into communities' realities there.

On a regular basis, FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) unit collect and disseminate information on food insecurity, malnutrition and water sources among other topics. This information guides authorities, helps our partners to address challenges and designs effective programmes that meet the needs of Somalia's communities.

### Box 6: Restoring calm after the storm: teamwork pays off

In Puntland, the Government established the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) in 2005 to respond to emergencies and lead the coordination of humanitarian interventions in Puntland. HADMA coordinates sectoral meetings on health, education, water and sanitation, environment, infrastructure and shelter, food security, livelihood and fisheries. In the event of an emergency, HADMA members meet, gather information and work with other partners, like the UN, non-governmental partners and Somali communities, to roll out timely responses in unison. This teamwork was at display when a tropical storm hit north-east Puntland in November 2013.

To respond to the storm and organize and coordinate relief efforts, the Government of Puntland established the Puntland Disaster Management and Rescue Committee—consisting of the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and Local Government. The committee responded immediately, with our support and in conjunction with other representatives of the authorities. This support made a substantive difference to already vulnerable communities in Somalia, who barely managed to make ends meet. Emergency teams assessed the extent of damage, identifying the best ways to reach those in need of assistance. The Health Cluster highlighted gaps in water, shelter, food, and other essentials on the ground. We worked with partners to conduct aerial assessments that confirmed reports of major losses of livestock—a key driver of Puntland's economy.

Trucks brimming with water, mobilised by the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, a team of organizations working to increase access to safe water, scurried to affected families, while other humanitarian partners restored more permanent water sources. WASH partners distributed around 6,600 items, including jerry cans, water purification tablets and soap, to families affected by the storm.

The effects of the storm took a toll on people's health. In a coordinated response, the Health Cluster deployed medical teams to attend to more than 50 villages in the area, where most inhabitants were suffering from upper

respiratory tract infections and watery diarrhea. Medical camps set up by UNFPA ensured that women delivered their babies safely and had access to reproductive health services. WHO assisted 30,000 people in need with basic medical supplies to last a month. UNICEF and partners sent a team of workers well versed with child protection and gender-based violence to the affected areas to support separated children, and women and children at risk of GBV. FAO conducted emergency vaccinations and treatments of animals that survived the storm, ensuring decaying carcasses were handled and disposed of appropriately. The UN entity also made plans to support livestock owners in restocking their herds in the medium- and long-term. In the days immediately following the tropical storm, WFP distributed 340 metric tonnes of food, equivalent to one month's food rations, to 4,000 households. To complement this, the UN's refugee agency provided plastic sheets, kitchen sets, blankets and sleeping mats. To help people get back on their feet, we set up livelihood support activities in the area.

Much of the success of the rapid responses to the recurring emergencies, sometimes of an even larger scale than this, can be attributed to national authorities teaming up with UN entities, through the well-oiled machine of humanitarian coordination under the lead of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.





## Seeking employment: reconstructing a war-torn country

### Box 7: Changing ambitions

Nasra, a 17-year-old girl from the village of Ridwan on the outskirts of Bossaso used to stay at home as her family didn't have enough money to send her to school. Her parents have no source of income. Nasra says she had lost hope and her focus in life was to get married so she could survive. She began to store stolen property for members of a street gang as a way to get by.

Nasra's life changed when her parents informed her about the Youth for Change programme. After being selected to join the programme, she acquired knowledge and skills she never dreamt she would have. She has benefitted from psychosocial counseling, mentorship, recreational activities, community-based activities and drama skits/songs. Once a girl who lacked self-confidence, Nasra has nurtured her leadership skills and has been selected to lead a sanitation group at the programme.

"I am grateful for this opportunity, for now I have a future and ambitions to pursue. I have learnt a lot on first aid, anatomy and physiology. I love the subjects so much and my main aim now is to be a doctor," says a beaming Nasra.

### Box 8: Helping women follow their dreams

In 2013, ILO trained 20 internally displaced women in Hodan and Dharkenley in Mogadishu, most between 20 and 39 years, in entrepreneurship, financial management and business plan development.

The organization also provided small grants to the entrepreneurs as capital to support their business ideas. Following the training and money they received, 16 out of 20 trained women were able to run and have greater control over their own businesses, and are currently successfully operating in the IDP camps. While using strategies such as changing locations of business to target customers, the women also organized money saving initiatives such as "Ayuuto", where a group of women pool their savings to serve as a source of loans. We are looking into providing sustainable forms of capital, in the form of microfinance, to empower women.

In Hargeisa, Somaliland, ILO trained 150 women entrepreneurs to improve their businesses. These women can now record their transactions more effectively, improve overall sales and reduce business costs. Some trainees have had the opportunity to meet mentors who have started from scratch to build their businesses with better business practices they learnt from past ILO programmes.

As part of a project dedicated to promoting women's economic empowerment in Somalia, and with support from partners, ILO organized the first Month of Women Entrepreneurs' Trade Fair both in Hargeisa and Mogadishu. The main aim of this month-long event was to celebrate women in business, promote positive female role models and encourage further local support for business as an option for women and girls. Women entrepreneurs from across the country are provided with a platform to link to national and international markets and network with persons in various industries.





## Tapping into the power of nature: offering Somalis alternate sources of energy

Somalia's forests are turning into charcoal. One of the country's biggest illicit businesses is chopping down acacia trees and using them to produce charcoal nuggets, usually for export, often to the Middle East. Each year, 4.4 million trees are cut down. Very few are planted. The business is so lucrative, charcoal in Somalia is now called "black gold".

Despite years of attempts to halt production of this black gold, business has been thriving. Somalia exports a staggering quarter of a million tonnes of charcoal annually. Charcoal production finances the conflict economy. Media reports stated at one point the Al-Shabaab made a tax of US\$2 per bag of charcoal exported.<sup>29</sup> Militia groups have generated in excess of US\$15 million per annum from illegal exports, according to a 2011 UN Security Council Report. Mostly Gulf countries are at the receiving end of the exported containers, where charcoal-grilled meat is a delicacy.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.arabnews.com/news/494526> Original source: Associated Press. "Banned Charcoal Still Finds Ways into Gulf," 18 December 2013.

This business has a devastating impact on Somalia's environment, already prone to natural disasters like floods and drought, and communities whose livelihoods are tied to natural resources. The production and export of charcoal accelerate the process of desertification. Each year, the already parched land sees another 72,900 hectares being stripped of any growth. Advancing desertification robs Somalis of opportunities for agriculture and grazing animals, forcing communities to move as land is uninhabitable and unusable after charcoal producers axe down trees. Tree cutting is also common for firewood, fencing and building materials in Somalia.<sup>30</sup> The resulting deforestation decreases bio-diversity, which means species that rely on the acacia groves—such as cattle, sheep and goats that browse on them and camels that feed on their flowers<sup>31</sup>—will have lost a main source of food. Churning out charcoal has led to a triple threat in Somalia: irreversible environmental degradation, sustained conflict given that charcoal is a key source of income for the Al-Shabaab, and widespread dependence on an unsustainable livelihood option.

To address these issues, FAO, UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a programme in April 2013 to reduce charcoal use in Somalia, under the leadership of the Ministry of National Resources. The programme will enhance regional cooperation, and establish regulatory instruments and enforcement mechanisms to stop charcoal production and export. Jointly, the UN entities will introduce alternative sources of energy and help beneficiaries of the charcoal production industry to find better, less destructive ways to earn an income.

Over 98 per cent of urban households in Somalia use traditional charcoal stoves; most rural and nomadic communities use firewood and inefficient biomass stoves. Shifting to the charcoal-using but more efficient stoves could halve charcoal consumption. Additionally, the use of efficient kilns, currently in use in countries like Kenya, for charcoal processing could increase efficiency by 60 per cent and reduce woodcutting by 80 per cent.

Another efficient and key source of energy for Somalia is its unlimited doses of sunshine: Mogadishu, for example, sees 11 hours and 50 minutes of sunlight a day on average.<sup>32</sup> Soaking up this sunshine would also be an affordable option in

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/19892420/0>. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.



a country that has one of the highest costs of electricity in the world. UNDP and its partners are tapping into this source and have installed solar energy systems in 2014 in selected hospitals in Baidoa, Gaalkacyo, Garowe and Burco to generate power. Similar systems are being set up in public buildings in Eyl, Mogadishu, Borama and Hargeisa. The initiative will train 60 young women and 140 young men to operate and maintain solar energy-based systems.

In Sheikh, Somaliland, UNDP introduced a pilot biogas project, using animal waste to provide energy for cooking. 'Biogas digesters' process animal waste into biogas, piped directly into users' kitchens. A veterinary school in Sheikh is also using this form of energy for its laboratory. If scaled up, biogas use will benefit Somali women, most of whom cook daily meals over harmful emissions from firewood and charcoal. These gases fuel respiratory problems and pollution. Additionally, families won't need to hunt for wood or pay exorbitant prices for firewood or charcoal.

To roll out a national programme to adapt to climate change, we supported Somalia to qualify for global climate funds reserved for least developed countries in 2013. This programme will help Somalis prepare for and identify urgent needs to cope with extreme weather patterns, also building communities' resilience.

We will continue to support Somalis to explore and take on new forms of energy, while guarding Somalia's natural resources, the future generations' legacy.

#### Box 9: Embracing changes: from gang member to ambassador of peace

Seventeen-year old Abdiaziz Mohamed Jama used to be a troublemaker. He dropped out of school in 2010 and joined a violent gang. His life's ambition was to be a gang leader or maybe sign up with Al-Shabaab. To Jama, that was the only way he saw of making a living.

Jama's mother died when he was five. Soon after this, his father passed away too. Soon after he dropped out of school his aunt kicked him out of her house in Bossasso.

Contd...

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.mogadishu.climateps.com/sunlight.phpGulf>, "18 December 2013.







In 2013, one of Jama's friends was among the lucky first few to be registered as a beneficiary by the Y4C programme. He eagerly poured out his stories about the skills he was learning to Jama and other friends.

An inspired Jama resolved to change his life and went to see if he could enrol for the programme. Since then, he has received education based on life skills, information technology, non-formal education, electrical engineering, psychosocial counseling, mentorship, and participated in recreational activities, community-based activities, youth grants programmes, drama and singing.

From being involved in fighting between villages, Jama, now an ambassador for peace, contributes to conflict resolution meetings for youth in villages around him.

Proud of her nephew's transformation, Jama's aunt has brought him back to her home, from where he is continuing with his education and training.

### Box 10: Boosting employment

The UN's work entails offering livelihood opportunities to Somalis, while enhancing their expertise in various areas. Among several programmes to meet these goals, FAO provided temporary employment to 35,000 households through its 'Cash for Work' programme, constituting an injection of US\$ 4.4 million in the most vulnerable areas of Somalia in 2013. The interventions rehabilitated 220 irrigation canals, 76 feeder roads and 223 water catchments.

ILO organized two surveys in 2012, to determine characteristics of the labour force: the Labour Force Survey in Somaliland and Youth Employment and Livelihood Survey on Skills and Market Opportunities in Mogadishu. Information from both surveys has been assisting the administration, development partners and civil society in planning, decision-making and developing policies to improve the welfare of the labour force. The survey in Mogadishu is a contribution to a joint project between the ILO and UNICEF, which seeks to support the sustainable economic reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups in south and central Somalia.

The report complements existing assessments of marketable skills and wage employment opportunities from two NGOs, and examines current gaps in the market, as well as identifies areas of the economy with promising potential for future growth. The market survey covered Wadajir, Wardhiigleey, Waaberi and Hawl Wadaag districts.







# Peace and Statebuilding

## Goal 5: Revenue and services

Increase the delivery of equitable, affordable, and sustainable services ...enhance transparent and accountable government revenue generation and equitable distribution and sharing of public resources...

– The Somali Compact



## Local authorities in the driving seat: governance in Somalia

'Dynamic' is a word used often to describe Somali communities. It is this dynamism - coupled with support from the UN and other partners - and their strength that is now driving Somali women and men to identify their rights and demand them from their Government.

In a unique partnership forged in 2008, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UNDP, United Nations-Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joined forces to help the Somali authorities respond to their

communities' public service and governance needs, from buzzing towns to quieter, small villages.

Working as the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (UNJPLG), the five entities provide specialised expertise on governance and technical support to the Somali authorities, and address fundamental challenges that Somalis face in specific locations. This support enhances the capacity of local governments, particularly to deliver public services effectively. The JPLG has helped institutionalise systems so that local governments in Somalia are taking the time to listen to their people: consulting them, and assessing and responding to their needs, thus making relevant and better informed decisions.

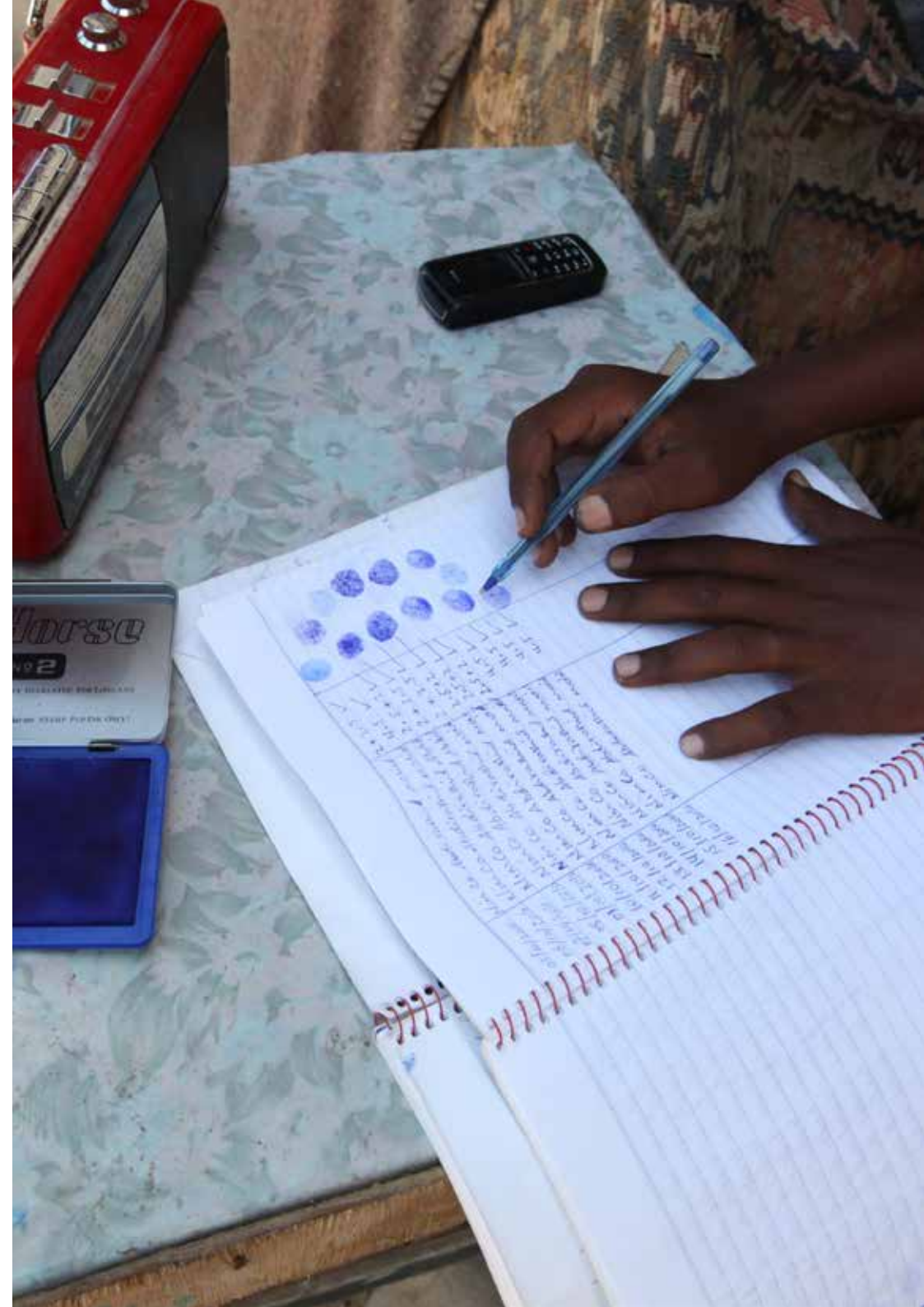
## Peace and Statebuilding Goal 5: Revenue and services

Maintaining a balance at the other end, the programme also supports communities to raise their voices and demand good governance, while encouraging the private sector to participate in the delivery of services.

As a result of this ongoing work, local authorities in several districts, such as Berbera, Sheikh, Bayla, Jariiban, Cadaado, Qardho, Garowe and Bossaso, are now managing their public expenditures and planning, and successfully taking on the construction of roads, schools, local markets, waste management depots, as well as other critical infrastructure. The programme empowers communities, districts and government bodies in Puntland and Somaliland to improve planning mechanisms—a crucial ingredient for making strides in development. Civil service institutions have also been able to monitor and evaluate municipal activities better.

Since 2010, the programme has been supporting the first inter-governmental fiscal transfer system, known as the Local Development Fund, within each administration in Somaliland, Puntland and the Federal Government. Local priorities are identified easily and overall development is more harmonious within the region, while resources are allocated more effectively between local and national level priorities. The UNJPLG has also provided technical expertise to encourage local economic development at the district level, which supports tax generation and sustains local service delivery. Several community members are also now dedicating their time and efforts to support enhanced responsibilities of their local government to serve the needs of communities better and directly improve livelihoods (Box 11).

At the district level, we are working on regulating civil servants' quality of work for local governments to improve efficiency and the working environment for local government officials.





### Box 11: Reaping the fruits of good governance

In Hargeisa, communities created a lively central vegetable market on land designated for economic development by the local government. Along with several others, Fosia Ahmed Ismail, who is a popular trader in grains and pulses, benefited from this initiative. She says that the local government's efforts have improved her livelihood significantly; she can now afford to send her children to university.

"I am really happy to see the benefits of the local government working closer with the communities they serve. The decentralisation process has also resulted in increased communication between communities and local officials," remarks Shuun Jirde Cali, the chairperson for vegetable sellers in Hargeisa.

The concurrent development of local economic initiatives and infrastructure, coupled with improved linkages between communities and their market places, has helped public-private partnerships thrive, attracting international investment, and strengthened service delivery and monitoring and evaluation. In Somaliland, for example, the water system is being privatised as a result of effective interaction among civil servants and private firms, a process kick-started by the UNJPLG's work.

The programme's work with the Municipality of Mogadishu in supporting change management and restructuring is setting a precedent for similar efforts in other regions of Somalia. As access to new areas increases in south and central Somalia, the UNJPLG will support authorities to develop strong administrations and councils that serve their constituents effectively and professionally.

We aim to continue providing support to Somalia's administrations, empowering them from the central government level to the district level, and enabling them to respond to their citizen's needs more effectively. The next phase of the programme will continue to encourage the government and private sector to build more resilient and self-reliant communities, promoting peace, development and equitable service delivery and creating a future of accountable and transparent good governance.

### Box 12: Giving a facelift to the roads of Garowe

The fast-growing town of Garowe now boasts a road network plan. After receiving support from UN-Habitat, the Garowe Municipality developed a Road Demarcation Development Phase Plan for 2012-2035. During the first phase, the partners marked out around seven kilometres of road to secure the future routes from encroachment by the construction of informal buildings. With technical support from UN-Habitat, the team was able to develop a draft plan for the urban road network, approved by the District Council. They also conducted a survey on road conditions in the town and developed a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based database to store information on the roads.

These efforts paved the way to exhibit the identity – the name- of 55 of Garowe's roads after several years. A street design guideline with specifications was developed to manufacture and install the street signs. Consequently, 173 street signs were produced and will be installed in the course of 2014.









## Fulfilling the most fundamental human needs: access to safe water and better hygiene

Clean water is a basic human right. Yet more than 70 per cent of Somalis are at risk of contracting polio, cholera, diarrhea and other diseases almost every time they quench their thirst, because they lack access to safe drinking water.

Four out of five people in rural areas defecate in the open--the third highest figure in the world. These inadequate living conditions, coupled with poor hygienic practices, are major threats for development and survival in this part of the world.

On average, 150 cases of suspected cholera were reported every week in 2013. The disease can kill if not treated quickly. South and central Somalia is an epicentre of cholera due to the use of untreated water from the rivers and stagnant water especially after the rainy season. IDP camps along the Juba and Shabelle rivers witness regular seasonal outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea.

To help communities access safe water, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster supports the operation, maintenance, chlorination, rehabilitation, protection, and expansion of existing water systems in Somalia. UNICEF and partners assisted more than a quarter of a million people, including school children, with sustained access to safe water. More than 340,000 Somalis, mostly IDPs and vulnerable people,

gained access to temporary water services, including chlorination of water sources, water vouchers that help beneficiaries access water from their usual sources, and support for the operation and maintenance of water supplies. In riverine areas where water is muddy, IOM has been using a new water treatment method that meets the safety benchmark set by WHO. Known as 'Poly-Glu', this treatment combines procedures such as chlorination and clean storage and distribution to ensure that IDPs and their host communities have access to safe drinking water. In Mogadishu, UN-Habitat is establishing a water-testing laboratory and providing water filters to provide clean water, while in Hargeisa, UN-Habitat is helping local authorities to upgrade the water supply system, an effort that will increase the supply of water from 9 million litres to a maximum of 20 million litres a day.

We are emphasizing better sanitation and hygiene to stop the transmission of diseases like polio, which spreads rapidly through faeces, especially in environments of poor hygiene and cleanliness. IOM trains community hygiene workers who work from house-to-house and among communities to raise awareness of safe handling of water and waste disposal management. UNICEF and its partners reached out to more than one million people using interactive mobile phone messaging to advocate for better sanitation and hygiene to end polio, which resurfaced in Somalia in 2013. The UN entity aims to end harmful practices by improving communities' knowledge and sanitation approaches, including open defecation, which impacts on the health of Somalis. Around 600,000 people, including those affected by emergencies and inhabitants of high-risk areas, benefitted from UNICEF-led sanitation and hygiene-related interventions. Additionally, UNICEF supported the clean-up of 280 overflowing pit latrines for around 8,400 people in some of the congested, poor settlements of urban Mogadishu – a common sight in the city - and facilitated the construction of better sanitation facilities in overcrowded settlements.

In anticipation of cholera and flood seasons, members of the WASH Cluster deliver water, sanitation and hygiene kits to benefit an estimated 120,000 households. The Cluster will also support authorities to develop policies and regulatory frameworks, to create an enabling environment for effective service delivery in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene.

► Just under a quarter of the population has access to sanitation – which leaves a majority of Somalis vulnerable to life-threatening diseases. Photo: © UNDP/Alistair Lyne



Despite Somalia being a fragile state, several opportunities are emerging: UN entities will expand their work to provide safe and clean water using renewable energy, support the construction of biodegradable latrines to improve hygiene and establish Public Private Partnerships locally to operate and maintain water supply systems sustainably.

### Box 13: Soaking up sunshine to supply water

Asha, a seven-year old girl from Ceel-la-Qodey, is very happy that she can now spend more time studying and playing with her friends instead of trudging on her arduous journey for an hour daily to carry water on her tiny shoulders. A water supply system powered by a solar pump has changed her life.

Installed by UNICEF and Las Qorey Concern, the new water system means that Asha and several other girls and women from her village don't need to visit the 40-foot deep well to fetch water.

UNICEF has supported the installation of similar solar-powered water systems in five villages in Somalia, to provide clean water to around 5,000 villagers, including pastoralists. The benefitting communities will use nominal collections from users to maintain the water system.







## Protecting Somalia's mothers and their children

Somalia is one of the most dangerous places in the world to give birth. Every two hours a Somali woman dies either in childbirth or because of pregnancy complications. Children are also dying from preventable causes, like pneumonia, severe diarrhea, measles, and other infections: one in five children dies before their fifth birthday. Poor hygiene and sanitation exacerbate the situation, spreading diseases further, while malnutrition makes children vulnerable.

To address these grave statistics, focus on improving maternal, newborn and child health and strengthen the health system, the Somali health authorities, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and development partners introduced a Somali Joint Health and Nutrition Programme (JHNP). The JHNP also focuses on enhancing health

authorities' capacity to lead, manage and coordinate the health sector. For example, the programme facilitated the development of the Somali health policy, health sector strategic plans for 2013 to 2016, human resource policy and revised the reproductive health strategy. These activities will ensure entities work together with health authorities to achieve national priorities.

The joint programme has provided 700,000 children under five years and 335,000 pregnant or nursing women with access to quality, health and nutrition services. It has supported health facilities to provide emergency health services related to childbirth and newborns, and seven maternity 'waiting homes' for pregnant women who are expecting to deliver and live far from already scarce health facilities.

Under the programme, 212 midwives have already been trained and a further 204 are due to graduate in 2015. More than 200 health workers have been trained in maternal and child health care and services, contraception, family planning and counselling.

The JHNP is also supporting an 'Essential Package of Health Services' to expand the delivery of primary health care, to reach more women and children across Somalia. This intervention will be implemented in nine regions, to reach 3.4 million women and children in 2014.

Another effective pilot strategy being rolled out by health authorities, with technical support from WHO and the GAVI programme, is the introduction of 'Female Health Workers' to provide basic health care within local communities. These Health Workers are recruited to serve in their own community and are each responsible for 600 to 1,000 people. After three months of training, the women are given essential medical supplies and educational material, and are expected to visit from five to seven households daily to promote health and hygiene as well as attend to emergencies. Already, 200 workers have been trained; another 400 will be trained in 2014 with support from the JHNP.

Redoubling efforts to meet health goals, Somalia's authorities launched two crucial initiatives in August 2014: the 'Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA)' and 'Saving the Lives of Mothers and Children: Rising to the Challenge'.

CARMMA is the African Union Commission's strategy to promote urgent and coordinated interventions on maternal and child health throughout the region. Using the slogan 'No Woman Should Die While Giving Life', CARMMA is a commitment by 40 African Heads of State to capitalise on gains made, step up the availability and use of quality health services, and reduce maternal deaths.

Acknowledging that more needs to be done to help mothers and children survive, Somali health authorities are supporting the 'Saving the Lives of Mothers and Children—Rising to the Challenge' campaign. Promoted by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, this initiative is in line with the 'Dubai Declaration', signed by 22 countries



in January 2013, which requires vulnerable countries like Somalia to develop and execute national plans to accelerate progress on achieving better maternal and child health among other priorities. To this end, in 2013, we joined hands with health authorities to develop a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Acceleration plan for Somalia to address mothers' and children's health needs.

Combined, these interventions can help Somalia to make progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include reducing mother and child mortality rates by more than 15 per cent, and improving mothers' and children's quality of life.









## A place to call home

Every human wants a home. It's a natural human instinct. But in Somalia, millions have been denied that. Being forced to leave or flee home is a painful process that millions of Somalis have endured since the civil war broke out. Besides one million refugees currently being hosted in countries in the region, there are an additional 1.1 million people living in displacement within Somalia.

Together with our partners, we work through the Protection Cluster to protect and provide assistance to displaced Somalis, refugees, and others affected by displacement, like host communities.

Building on refugees' dreams to reunite with family and hopes for a more secure future and home, in January 2014, UNHCR, IOM, WFP and other partners unveiled a programme of permanent or 'durable' solutions. Once implemented, the programme will help refugees who want to return to Somalia to do so in a safe and dignified manner, starting in three pilot areas: Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayo (Box 14).

The agreement spells out each actor's responsibilities to ensure Somali refugees can settle down somewhat permanently in a secure location.

As the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR facilitates the registration and civil documentation of refugees and IDPs, monitors protection and referrals, and provides legal aid, medical services and education.

#### Box 14: Seeking lasting solutions: the Tripartite Agreement for Somali refugees

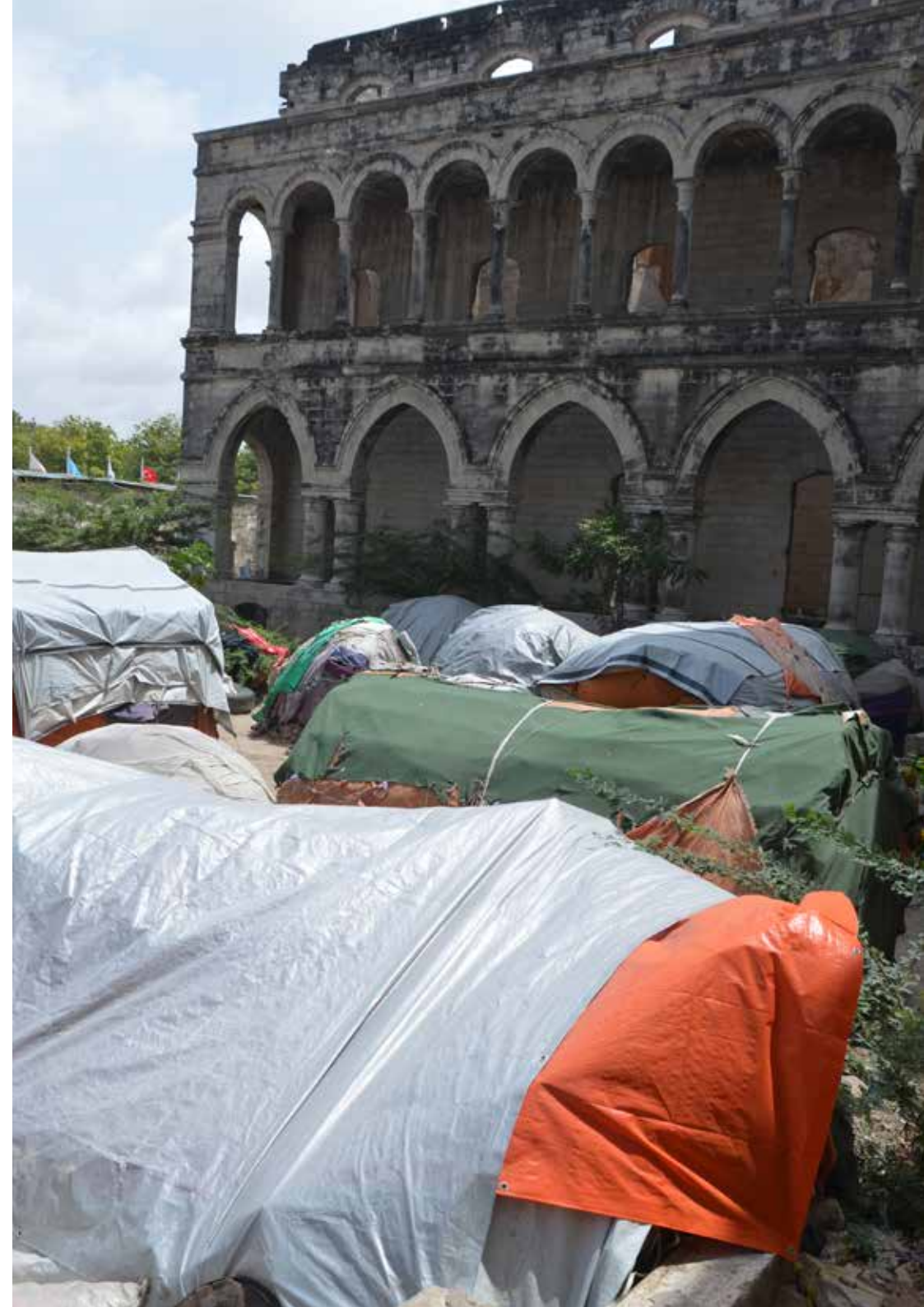
The first formal accord to address the plight of Somali refugees since the civil war, the Tripartite Agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees was signed in November 2013 by the Governments of Kenya and Somalia and UNHCR. This pact provides a legal framework to guide the voluntary return of half a million registered Somali refugees from Kenya to Somalia in a safe and dignified manner. The agreement spells out each actor's responsibilities to ensure Somali refugees can settle down somewhat permanently in a secure location.

In Dadaab, UNHCR improves refugees' lives by offering vocational training, mobile law courts and a menu of crucial services—such as immunisation and education on mines and road conditions—for returning refugees. UNHCR equips returnees with essentials at various stops along their trek home, also working to ease reintegration among communities back home.

We are also supporting IDPs to return home. A UNHCR-led network of NGOs and UN entities, known as the 'Return Consortium', helped around 40,000 Somali IDPs to reintegrate into their communities in a sustainable manner in 2013, providing goodies such as sanitary and dignity kits. Providing permanent shelter and infrastructure for vulnerable IDPs is high on the UN's to-do list. In 2013, UN-Habitat helped build 650 permanent houses in Bossaso, along with essential infrastructure like training centres and buildings for communities and municipalities. The UN entity also supported sustainable waste management in Bossaso, Gaalkacyo, Garowe and Mogadishu.

UN-Habitat is currently building additional infrastructure—including a road and 500 permanent houses—in Bossaso and providing a shot in the arm to the Mogadishu's economy by rehabilitating local vegetable and livestock markets. Adding new roofs to the landscapes of Bossaso, Burao, Boroma and Berbera for the displaced, UN-Habitat is also healing the wounded urban tissue of Mogadishu, by re-introducing international benchmarks for construction. UN-Habitat's projects focus on urban

- IDP camps set up against the ruins of what was once a cathedral in Mogadishu. Photo: © UNHCR/Alexandra Strand Holm



planning, developing relocation plans for Mogadishu's IDPs and urban poor, and providing technical advice and capacity building. Activities are geared towards stimulating employment.

When returning to their original homes is not an option for refugees and IDPs, UNHCR helps them integrate locally. In Somaliland, in January 2014, authorities donated a piece of land in Digaale to house around 800 displaced families living in a temporary camp since the 2011 drought. IOM, OCHA, UNHCR and other partners assisted the families in their move, providing water and other useful items. In Galgaduud, after a storm and floods forced already-displaced families to flee their 'new' homes, together with aid agencies, we provided relief and essential services like water to help the twice-displaced families survive.

Our work extends beyond material support. To protect Somali refugees and IDPs and respect their basic human rights, UNHCR published guidelines for the international community early in 2014 to prevent detention, improve freedom of movement and support reintegration of IDPs and asylum seekers among host communities. Additionally, an innovative short message service (SMS)-feedback system introduced by the Return Consortium in 2013 allows Somali refugees and IDPs to communicate directly with UNHCR to get information and flag problems they face.

We are constantly working to look for ways to help displaced Somalis to find a permanent home, while helping them maintain their pride and dignity.







## Closing the doors on HIV and AIDS

The early 1980s saw the quiet emergence of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a communicable disease that turned into a pandemic which spread rapidly across continents. Since then, about 75 million people all over the globe have been infected with the disease. According to estimates, Somalia had nearly 32,000 people living with HIV in 2013, with 3,300 new HIV infections being reported over the year. These infections have the potential to spread to unsustainable levels if not checked now.

Living with HIV/AIDS is tough all around the world and this is no different in Somalia, where discrimination linked to the disease closes doors on those already

suffering. People living with the virus are often ostracised and lose out on access to jobs, education and housing. By increasing access to economic opportunities and providing valuable career training, UNDP helps those living with the virus to raise themselves out of poverty. By the end of 2013, UNDP supported 120 people – indirectly supporting 7,200 of their family members - with small business grants and training in business skills to set up their own businesses. To stop the disease from spreading and taking more lives and to assist people living with HIV, Somalia's health authorities rolled out a National Strategic Plan, from 2009 to 2013, with support from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria and a Joint UN Team on AIDS, an effort coordinated by UNAIDS. With our support, a new strategy to fight HIV/AIDS, formed as a result of extensive consultations with various Somali and international actors, is being introduced from 2015 to 2019.

A team of UN entities is assisting health authorities in different ways to fight the deadly disease that leaves too many of Somalia's children without parents. Since 2009, the number of patients receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), which boosts patients' immunity against the disease, has more than trebled to 1,748 in 2013, as a result of support from WHO, UNICEF and other UN entities. Adherence to treatment and counseling for HIV/AIDS patients has led to remarkable results, with 84 per cent of patients surviving a year after initiation of ART. In addition, more than 5,500 patients in ART and TB centres in the country received food assistance from WFP in 2013.

Information is crucial for caregivers to be able to assist people living with HIV/AIDS. The Somali authorities, IOM and partners have jointly been conducted studies to compile information on populations at high risk of contracting HIV in Hargeisa and Mogadishu. A gender assessment of the Somali HIV and AIDS response is underway, with technical assistance from the UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNDP. Additionally, with technical guidance from WHO, Antenatal Care (ANC) Surveillance Surveys, last conducted in 2011 and 2010, are being carried out again to estimate and monitor HIV prevalence.

In attempts to raise awareness of the disease and help communities understand what it is like to live with HIV/AIDS, UNDP conducted trainings for 40 members of the Special Protection Unit of the Somali Police Force and 150 police women, and journalists from nine local radio stations in Somalia in 2013. The media training will strengthen reporting on HIV and gender issues in Somalia, and encourage reporting from a human rights perspective. At the same time, UNFPA is supporting school clubs in 15 secondary schools and universities to organize debates that address frequently asked questions on HIV and dispel rumours about the scourge. UNFPA is also sharing information on HIV with religious leaders and young people.

To help spread key messages on reproductive health and HIV within communities, UNFPA trained 27 'Community-owned Resource Persons'<sup>33</sup> in Puntland for now. Additionally, UNFPA trained 600 peer educators from a local youth network, the Y-PEER network, on how to further teach other youth about HIV.

<sup>33</sup> Community-owned resource persons are people living in a given community, who are recognised and trusted by their community in matters of health. They are usually members of recognised community groups – such as women's groups, religious groups or opinion leaders – and are appointed by community leaders.



Most health workers in Somalia have not had access to information and learning opportunities that their counterparts around the world have accessed. To address this, UNFPA worked with 40 health workers to increase their awareness of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), and trained another 40 health workers on how to best support survivors of rape. The trainees received 50 Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) treatment starter kits which will increase the chances of 2,750 survivors to prevent HIV infections.

Despite the progress made, HIV and AIDS services are yet to reach more people in need. We will continue to support Somalia's authorities and communities to close doors on HIV and AIDS, ensure all Somalis have equal access to HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support, and open windows of opportunities for people living with the disease.

#### Box 15: Conversations with communities

UNDP has been organizing 'community conversations' in Somaliland and Puntland to encourage Somalis to find out more about HIV and gender issues. The discussions, which provide an opportunity to identify social norms and talk about values around HIV and gender, are spurring changes in social attitudes and behaviour. In 2013, around 2,600 people—77% of whom were female—felt they had benefited from participating in 73 sessions held between Somaliland and Puntland.

Somali women of all ages and backgrounds eagerly await these discussions so they can openly share their experiences for a change, and gain information on HIV/AIDS services, such as the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission. Community conversations provide a unique forum to discuss critical gender issues, including harmful traditional behaviour that can contribute to the spread of HIV, particularly in women who are vulnerable to HIV infection. In addition to raising awareness of human rights and discrimination, this dialogue paves the way for people living with HIV/AIDS to access public services.

In other efforts, UNAIDS and UNDP are working with the three national aids commissions in Somaliland, Puntland and south and central Somalia to curb further spread of the disease, and treat and care for infected people.









## Boosting vaccinations to save lives

Immunisation is one of the most successful, cost-effective public health interventions in the history of mankind. Yet, diseases that can be prevented by vaccines remain a major cause of death in Somalia. Historically low immunisation rates are a result of a combination of a lack of health infrastructure, a weak immunisation system, persistent insecurity, insufficient awareness of benefits of vaccines and highly mobile populations.

In April 2013, a young girl in Mogadishu contracted polio – the first case in Somalia in six years. To contain the virus, Somali authorities swiftly rolled out an emergency vaccination campaign in and around Mogadishu just four days after confirming the case. In total, Somalia reported 194 polio cases in 2013 and one case in June 2014.

Even though Somalia is one of the most difficult environments in which to conduct large-scale vaccination campaigns, the Somali authorities, UN and its partners have prioritised the response to the polio outbreak.

With support from UNICEF and WHO, the Somali authorities launched a massive nationwide polio vaccination campaign in response to the outbreak, synchronising activities in south and central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland, in June 2013. A total of ten emergency polio campaigns were conducted during the year. Vaccination teams camped at around 300 cross-border and transit points, immunising more than 60,000 children every week.

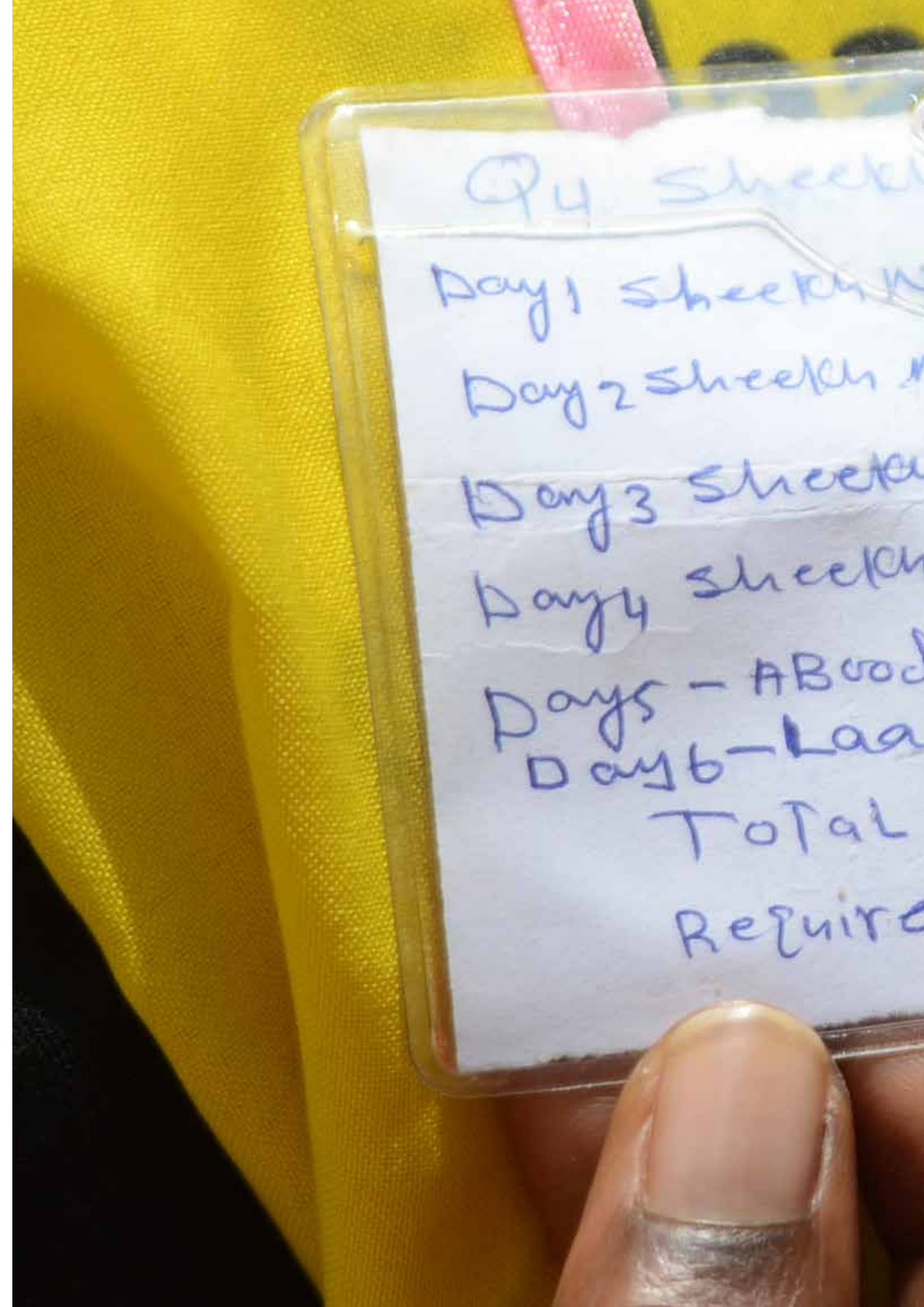


2014, the CHD campaigns targeted more than 1.5 million Somali children and 1.7 million women.

We are building on strategies like these that will help Somalia's children attain good health. UNICEF has strengthened the transport, storage and handling of vaccines at all levels to maintain their quality, particularly under Somalia's scorching sun, and installed walk-in cold rooms in Puntland and Somaliland; similar cold rooms will be installed in south and central Somalia by the end of 2014. An efficient information-sharing system—which includes 208 reporting health facilities—enables WHO, UNICEF, authorities and partners to avert or respond effectively to disease outbreaks. However, until every Somali child has been vaccinated against preventable diseases, a lot still needs to be done.

### Measles

Between March and April 2014, more than 1,700 children contracted measles, compared to one-fifth of this number in the same period in 2013. Nearly 1,000 cases were reported in May alone. The situation could get worse if mass measles vaccination campaigns are not conducted immediately in the entire country.



Nuur Section

Nuur Section Four Koodur

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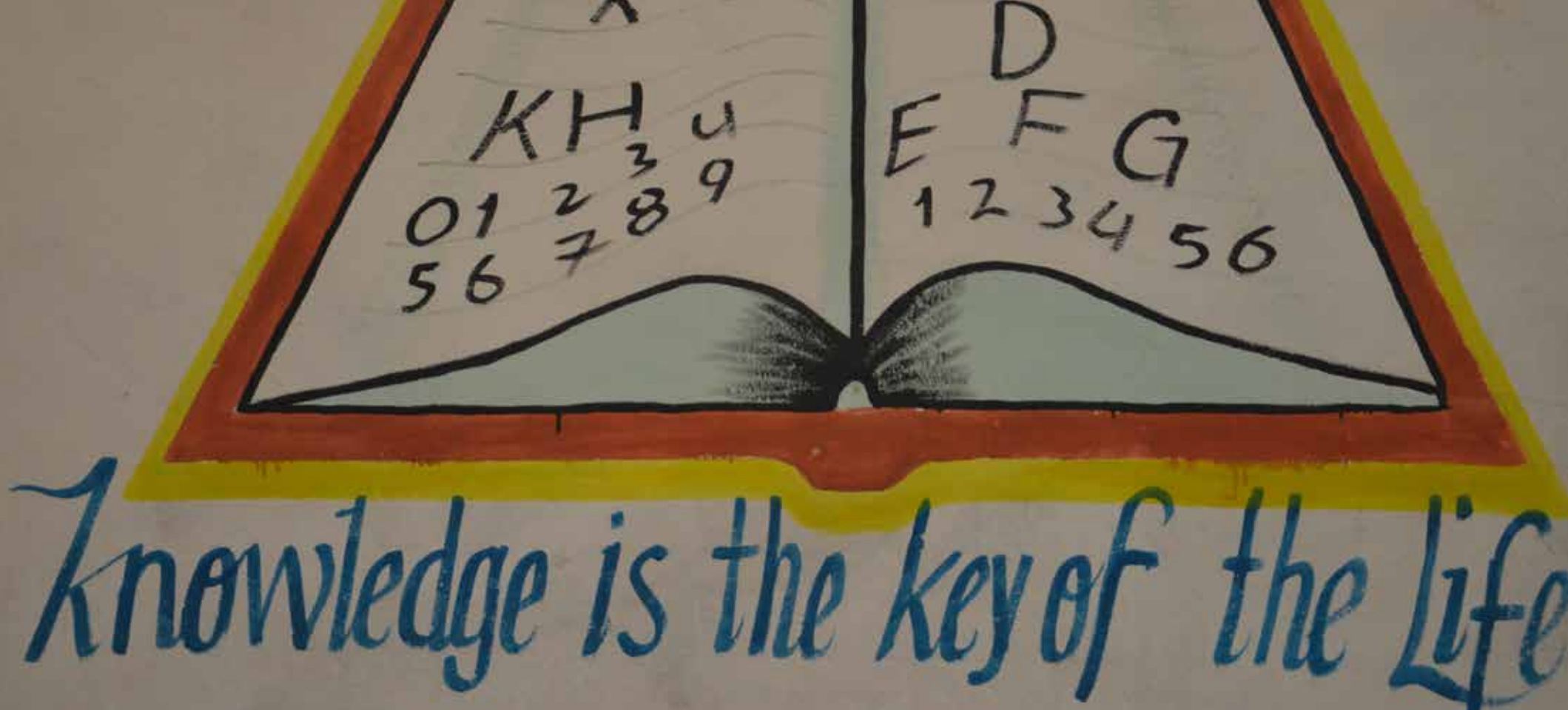
## Defying all odds to offer education to children and youth

As the Somali proverb goes, “to be without knowledge is to be without light”. Yet, several children cannot reach the light of learning: Only four out of ten primary-aged children attend school. Dropout rates are high, particularly among girls, and few make it to secondary school. Even though education can lift families out of poverty and help idle youth find productive employment, Somalia has one of the weakest and most poorly funded education systems in the world.

Somalia’s Government is taking action to address this. To improve the quality and relevance of education, non-formal education and opportunities for youth, while

promoting Somali values and heritage in the education system, in June 2013 the Federal Government organized the first national education conference to be held in years. In September 2013, the Minister of Human Development and Public Services in Mogadishu rolled out the ‘Go-2-School (G2S)’ initiative, an ambitious plan to send one million Somali children and youth to school over three years. The campaign will equip school-aged children with formal basic education, and marginalised, out-of-school children, including nomadic children, and unemployed and vulnerable youth with alternative forms of education.

We will join Somalia’s authorities and other partners to train and provide incentives to teachers, reconstruct and repair schools, provide textbooks and furniture and develop regional education offices’ capacity. Together, we will also be busy



persuading families to ensure children complete schooling, building local ministries' capacity, and reinforcing school management.

The US\$120 million G2S programme, supported by UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP, saw an enrolment of 33,000 students in its first two months in south and central Somalia according to the Directorate of Education in Mogadishu.

To meet the new demand, the campaign recruited, trained and deployed 1,000 teachers in eight regions in south and central Somalia. UNICEF helped the Government recruit technical advisers and regional education officers to bring education to more households. Strong data collection systems were set up to store information on schools and students, and support evidence-based policies.

UNICEF is facilitating the expansion of learning spaces to under-served communities, teacher training and provision of school supplies, while raising awareness of the benefits of education. By end 2014, nearly 6,000 children, 45 per cent of them girls, are expected to enrol in schools in Bay, Hiraan and Lower and Middle Shabelle. Additionally, the 'Educate-a-Child' initiative has pledged to support another 9,600 children from central Somalia's riverine farming communities, working children and internally displaced children. This vulnerable target group, 45 per cent of whom are girls, is difficult to reach, far from the main roads and have little access to education.

The initiative will improve overall quality of education, by supporting the recruitment of and incentives for 1,000 teachers, at least 40 per cent of whom will be women, developing a teacher training framework, and establishing remuneration systems and

teachers' databases. It will improve regional education administrations by expanding education officers' skills and rehabilitating their offices.

With funding, UNICEF plans to train 5,000 of south and central Somalia's youth in various skills. WFP will expand its school feeding programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will support literacy programmes and EU support will beef up the delivery of basic education by training teachers and expanding learning facilities.

While fighting hunger among one of the most vulnerable groups of society, WFP is also investing in the future of around 106,000 children in over 470 primary schools. The organization is providing school meals to draw children back to class, especially girls, who have often been expected to stay at home and help with chores. WFP also provides take-home rations to girls to give to their parents to ensure families send their daughters regularly to school. Each girl receives 3.6 kg of cooking oil. To qualify for these rations girls must be in school for at least 80 per cent of the school month.

To compensate for the lack of qualified teachers in rural areas, UNICEF supported an Alternative Basic Education programme in Somaliland, where teachers conducted interactive lessons using radios and gadgets such as MP3 players. The flexible curriculum allowed nomadic children to tend to their family's animals and complete primary school in five years instead of eight.

#### Box 16: Upholding human rights in Somalia

The UN uses a toolbox of conventions as standard instruments to support countries to protect fundamental human rights. Somalia is one of very few countries which are yet to ratify some of the UN's key human rights conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC spells out the basic human rights for children and youth under the age of 18, as they need special care and attention to be able to thrive. These include the right to survival, to develop to the fullest, freedom of expression, protection from exploitation and abuse to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. On 9 May 2002, Somali authorities formally signed the CRC. Subsequent administrations have committed to ratify the convention.





Somalia also still needs to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, often called “international women’s bill of rights”. This convention defines gender equality and proposes how it can be achieved, also offering countries an agenda for action to guarantee the enjoyment of these rights. For Somalia’s women, the ratification of CEDAW would translate into being acknowledged in social and public life and guarantee them greater participation in decision-making.

A strong advocacy campaign conducted jointly by ILO, UNICEF and the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre led to a landmark achievement in the field of respecting human rights at work in Somalia. In March 2014, Somalia’s Government signed three ILO conventions,<sup>34</sup> which will result in improving conditions of labour, protecting workers’ rights to form associations and bargain collectively, and prohibiting the worst forms of child labour. This great stride in forming a rights-based approach to economic development will be a building block for social justice in Somalia.

We are already supporting the Federal Government of Somalia to ratify all these conventions and ensure the country’s laws, policies and administrative actions conform with them. The UN’s mission in regard to the CRC, being carried out by UNICEF, with support from ILO, is to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNDP and UN Women are spearheading work for Somalia’s authorities to ratify CEDAW. Important principles in the CRC and CEDAW are already contained in the country’s Provisional Constitution.

The ratification and implementation of these crucial conventions would protect and advance the rights of Somali children, women and workers, who have borne the brunt of conflict--deaths and injuries, abuse and exploitation as well as suffering from the lack of essential social services. It would also assist Somalia to achieve the goals of sustainable peace and security, human rights protection, and sustainable economic and social development.

<sup>34</sup> The Federal Government of Somalia signed three ILO Conventions: the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

- Children in IDP camps usually attend Koranic schools set up by communities or schools supported by NGOs. Even if there are formal schools available, IDP families find it difficult to pay fees for their children. Photo: © UNICEF/Kate Holt





## Preserving a rich culture

Somalia was once known for its rich fabric of culture,<sup>35</sup> made up of several vibrant threads held together by Somalia's communities. Poetry was considered a national language. Music and architecture embraced influences from other countries. Colours were splashed on locally-made pots and sculptures. Almost every wall—in theaters, museums, libraries and mosques—and landmark told a story.

Two decades of war have shattered buildings and institutions, erasing the memory of most forms of culture and forcing Somali artists representing various forms of

culture, as well as professionals skilled in the management of heritage sites, to flee.

Despite the extensive damage, beneath the cracks of war, Somalia's people have persevered, eventually maintaining a close-knit society and a unique and fundamental cultural character. UNESCO has teamed up with Somalia's authorities, local communities and other partners to preserve this passion and the country's many threads of culture, with the shared hope of passing down rich legacies to younger generations and using these assets to promote peacebuilding and statebuilding.

<sup>35</sup> Among various definitions of culture, UNESCO also describes culture as the engine of economic development and social well-being.

Riding on the momentum that the New Deal for Somalia has set, UNESCO and the European Union conducted a 'Scoping Study on the Culture Sector' in Somalia. Based on previous and ongoing work to restore, revitalise and revive the Somali cultural heritage, the report provides an in-depth analysis of the current status of Somalia's cultural landscape. Various actors who have been developing and implementing a number of initiatives and actions that helped sustain the tangible and diverse cultural expressions of Somalia are also recognised.<sup>36</sup>

Not only does the report focus on Somalia's rich oral traditions, modern musical forms of expression among the youth and the revitalised literary scene, but it also reiterates the importance of protecting old monuments that tell the extensive history of Somalia, dating back eight centuries. The report further highlights the importance of initiatives to protect cultural properties in expanding the knowledge for current and future generations. Such projects include the digitisation of Radio Mogadishu and Radio Hargeysa archives that contain audio recordings predating 1951. Preservation is urgent since the script for the Somali language was only introduced in 1972 and the recordings from the two archives are considered as a living memory of Somali oral tradition. The ongoing reconstruction of the Somali National Library--which serves as a mother institution for other libraries to be established across the country--in Mogadishu is also a legacy to be handed over to future generations.

The report affirms that while differences among Somalis of various backgrounds should be appreciated, the chapeau of Somali culture can foster understanding among Somali citizens and help celebrate their identity and shared values in the world.

A strategy for integrating culture and cultural considerations into the establishment of a peaceful and secure environment for the social and economic development of Somalia is also proposed. To this end, in May 2014, UNESCO and the EU shared the results of the scoping study with the Somali Federal Government. With strong partnerships and national ownership, UNESCO and the EU aim to use culture to promote the rejuvenating of a solid and sustainable social structure, inclusive dialogue, mutual respect between people of different backgrounds, reconciliation, peacebuilding and the reconstruction of the country.

<sup>36</sup> Some tangible cultural elements correspond to ancient rock art, medieval Islamic towns, and pre-Islamic Christian burial sites that are in urgent need of preservation. Somali cultural expressions include the use of language through poetry and literature, to modern musical expression which represent assets of intangible cultural heritage.

► A girl learns how to draw Henna designs. Photo: © Alexandra Strand Holm



## The UN family in Somalia

We are forging new relationships and strengthening existing partnerships every year - with communities, administrations, national and international NGOs and the rest of the international community – to improve the lives of people from all walks of life in Somalia.

UN Entity	What we do:
FAO	<p>FAO works towards the alleviation of poverty, hunger and strengthening of livelihoods. FAO has a lead role in the coordination and monitoring of humanitarian interventions in the agriculture and livestock sectors. In addition, FAO collects, analyses and disseminates high quality up to date information on food security, nutrition and natural resources.</p> <p>FAO's emergency interventions in Somalia aim at prevention, mitigation and response to natural disasters and the impact of conflict.</p>
ILO	<p>ILO is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that labour peace is essential to prosperity.</p> <p>In Somalia, ILO contributes to peace and stability through working with Government and social partners to promote rights at work, generate gainful employment opportunities for women and men, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.</p>
IOM	<p>IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration and promote international cooperation on migration issues. The organization also works to seek practical and long-lasting solutions to migration problems and provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, in areas of origin and transit, including refugees and internally displaced people.</p> <p>IOM also enhances the government's border management capacities, assists in the investigation of human trafficking in the region, and supports to build the capacity of Somali institutions by harnessing the skills that are available in the diaspora.</p>
OCHA	<p>OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA works to maximise coordination and the impact of resources.</p>
OHCHR	<p>The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights supports the Independent Expert on the situation of Human Rights in Somalia appointed by the Human Rights Council.</p> <p>The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights implements its work with other partners to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia.</p>
UNAIDS	<p>The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, or UNAIDS, is the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the HIV/AIDS epidemic.</p> <p>The mission of UNAIDS is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS that includes preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support to those already living with the virus, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV and alleviating the impact of the epidemic. UNAIDS seeks to prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic from becoming a severe pandemic.</p>

UN Entity	What we do:
UNCDF	<p>UNCDF is helping to address development challenges in Somalia through initiatives to improve public service delivery and to increase local government access to financing for infrastructure.</p> <p>Within the framework of the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery, UNCDF is working on a pilot Local Development Fund in Somaliland and Puntland. The local fund has been designed to support financing of local infrastructure, with the aim to demonstrate how local constraints can deliver both infrastructures and services that respond to the expressed needs of communities.</p>
UNDP	<p>UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone, empowers lives. UNDP focuses on the following key areas: peacebuilding and conflict management, people-centered governance and law, economic recovery and environmental protection, and protecting and empowering women.</p>
UNDSS	<p>The Department of Safety and Security is responsible for providing leadership, operational support and oversight of the security management system, ensure the maximum security for staff and eligible dependants as well as enable the safest and most efficient conduct of the programmes and activities of the United Nations System.</p>
UNESCO	<p>UNESCO strives to create networks among nations that strengthen their solidarity to build lasting peace. In countries like Somalia, UNESCO achieves these goals by mobilising for education, building inter-cultural understanding, pursuing scientific cooperation and protecting freedom of expression.</p>
UNFPA	<p>UNFPA aims to ensure all Somalis have equal access to sexual and reproductive health (including family planning). UNFPA works to promote reproductive rights and reduce maternal mortality. UNFPA also focuses on improving the lives of youth and women by advocating for human rights and gender equality.</p> <p>In a country where gender-based violence is widespread, this also means working to reduce traditional practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. In addition, UNFPA is active in the field of capacity development to improve the quality of health services, especially those provided to women and children.</p>
UN-HABITAT	<p>UN-HABITAT is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.</p> <p>UN-HABITAT has been active in the Somali urban sector for more than 25 years. Project activities have evolved from targeting immediate local needs to more systematic attempts to address sustainable urban development through integrated human settlement programmes.</p> <p>UN-HABITAT is currently active in providing shelter, for IDPs and returnees, strengthening governance, service delivery and reconstruction.</p>
UNHCR	<p>UNHCR's strategy in Somalia continues to shift from providing care and maintenance to searching for durable solutions for people of concern. Activities will focus on the return of IDPs and refugees to their areas of origin, while taking advantage of further local integration potential in the identified regions.</p> <p>UNHCR is planning for the implementation of reintegration activities through community-based projects benefitting both returnees and host communities, and the provision of shelter and livelihood opportunities in coordination with other partners in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene, health, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, as well as education.</p>

UN Entity	What we do:
UNICEF	<p>UNICEF is the UN's driving force when it comes to building a world where the rights of every child are realised. UNICEF believes that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress.</p> <p>The agency delivers programmes and services in the areas of water, education, health, nutrition and child protection in Somalia. The programme encompasses emergency response operations as well as early recovery and development approaches.</p>
UNMAS	<p>UNMAS serves as the UN focal point for mine action and to support the UN's vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies.</p> <p>UNMAS collaborates with other partners to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated response to the problems of landmines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions.</p>
UNODC	<p>UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. UNODC's activities are linked to piracy focusing on fair and efficient trials and imprisonment in regional centers, humane and secure imprisonment and fair and efficient trials in Somalia. UNODC is assisting Somalia with upgrading its prisons and courts with the aim of ensuring that Somali pirates convicted in other countries can serve their sentences in their home country.</p>
UNOPS	<p>UNOPS focuses on governance, education, health and environment programmes. In Gaalkacyo- a town that has been divided by inter-clan conflict for years- for example, UNOPS together with UNICEF has built a unique, multi-purpose Peace School complex on the "Green Line".</p>
UNSOM	<p>UNSOM's mandate is primarily to provide policy advice to the Federal Government of Somalia and the African Union Mission in Somalia on peacebuilding and statebuilding in the areas of governance, security sector reform and rule of law, the development of a federal system and coordination of international donor support as spelt out in the New Deal. Its mandate includes activities such as disengagement of combatants, steering partners towards the ratification of a new Somali Constitution in 2015 and paving the way for elections in 2016.</p> <p>UNSOM's core role is to act as an enabler, helping to create and galvanise the political and strategic environment in which stabilisation and peacebuilding can proceed. UNSOM supports the Federal Government of Somalia's agenda of peace, security and nation-building.</p>
UNV	<p>UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UN Volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.</p>
UNWOMEN	<p>UN Women supports capacity and institutional development of gender machineries in Somaliland, Puntland and south and central Somalia. UN Women also works with women networks and local NGOs to support interventions on women's leadership and economic empowerment and reduce violence against women, working towards the UN goals of greater gender equality and women's empowerment.</p>

UN Entity	What we do:
WFP	<p>WFP pursues a vision of the world in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. In emergencies, WFP gets food to where it is needed, saving the lives of victims of war, civil conflict and natural disasters. After the cause of an emergency has passed, WFP uses food to help communities rebuild their shattered lives.</p> <p>WFP's focus will continue to be on longer-term recovery programmes that help to enhance the resilience of an individual or community by increasing household income, providing basic services and establishing predictable "safety nets" to address basic needs. WFP will continue to nutrition programmes that support the most vulnerable members of the population, namely women and children, while also providing targeted emergency or relief assistance when needed.</p>
WHO	<p>WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. WHO supports health authorities at central and local levels in Somalia to strengthen health services, address public health issues and supports and promotes research for health.</p> <p>Physicians, public health specialists, scientists, social scientists and epidemiologists provide appropriate technical support and collaboration upon the request or acceptance of national authorities. WHO's priorities in Somalia are to facilitate access to quality primary and secondary health care services, and prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases.</p>
World Bank	<p>The World Bank has supported the Somalia New Deal process, including the elaboration of a Somali Compact agreed at the Brussels Conference in September 2013, and the establishment of a Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) for delivery and coordination.</p> <p>Currently active mainly in Somaliland, the Bank's operations portfolio includes private sector development, and the Somalia Knowledge and Political Economy project which includes a large number of analytical projects on various sectors of the economy. The Bank is supporting the installing and strengthening of core public finance management systems in the Federal Government's Ministry of Finance.</p>
SEMG	<p>The Somalia-Eritrea Monitoring Group oversees and monitors Somalia's and Eritrea's compliance with UN sanctions. The SEMG reports to the UN Security Council.</p>
UNEP	<p>UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.</p> <p>UNEP is the lead agency responsible for identifying and reporting on environmental issues in Somalia. In addition, UNEP provides support to other agencies and assists in identifying cross-cutting environmental issues relevant to other sectors.</p>
UNSOA	<p>UNSOA has the agenda to provide a UN logistical support package to AMISOM to facilitate peacekeeping operations in Somalia.</p> <p>UNSOA also provides administrative and logistical support to UNSOM, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the Somalia-Eritrea Monitoring Group.</p>

*The United Nations pays tribute to the innocent Somalis and members of the international community  
who have lost their lives in Somalia.*

*UNderstand*

*UNity*

*CommUNity*

*FoUNdation*

*GroUNdwork*

*BoUNcing back*

*YoUNg*

*FUNdamental*

*SUNshine*

*FUNctioning*