



# MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

Newsletter - Q1 2019

Dear Partners,



On behalf of UNICEF, it is my pleasure to introduce the first quarterly newsletter of 2019 for the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN MPTF) for Somalia.

We are starting the year with renewed hope and commitment to support the people of Somalia. UNICEF works with the government and civil society partners to ensure all children and women in Somalia thrive in an enabling and protective environment, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable. Thanks to UN MPTF funding, UNICEF is able to contribute to building robust and resilient systems to improve the rights of all Somalis, especially woman and children. This nation is going through tremendous transformation and we at UNICEF stand ready to invest in the lives of Somali children who should enjoy a life free of violence, conflict and disaster.

With the support of the Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG), in which UNICEF is participating, there has been a 30 percent increase in school enrolment in Berbera district since 2014. We have observed enhanced accountability and capacity within local governments who can deliver quality services to their constituencies. It is imperative that children, women and youth are consistently included in the decision-making processes to ensure Somalia remains on an upward trajectory.

UNICEF's participation in the Joint Rule of Law Programme entails working with the federal and state government to establish and strengthen legal and policy frameworks. We have been enjoying the progress across the country where more women and children are able to access justice and where civil society members serve as strong advocates in providing legal support, overcoming social injustices and advancing gender-based violence reporting systems.

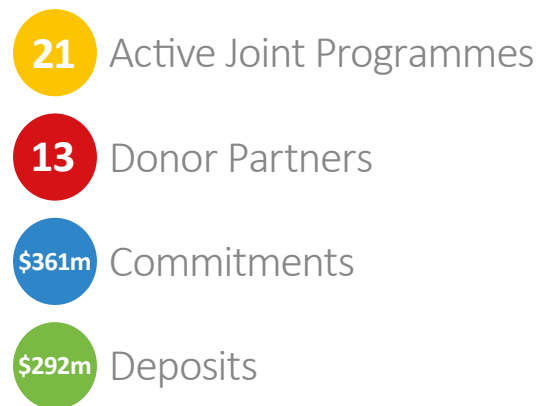
I am grateful for the continued generous support of our donor partners to these important initiatives and I look forward to contributing to a better future of the Somali women and children.

Sincerely,

**Werner Schultink**

*UNICEF Country Representative for Somalia*

## UN MPTF OVERVIEW



## FUND CAPITALIZATION



UN Peacebuilding Fund: USD 8.6 m

## SUPPORT TO EMERGING FEDERAL STATES

Following consultations with various sections of Somali society, including women, minorities and youth from 19-21 March, a validation conference was held on the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF) in Mogadishu. The event was attended by over 300 representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), Federal Member States (FMS), Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), government institutions and civil society.

MoIFAR organized an additional workshop on federalism and distribution of powers in March. The event was attended by over 250 Somalis from 17 districts of Banadir Regional Administration (BRA), government officials, BFC, members of parliament, traditional elders, religious leaders as well as women, youth and minority groups. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of participants on the concept of federalism, power sharing and the role of the constitution in the division of competencies between Federal and FMS levels.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

In February, the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) completed the technical review of chapters 6-9 of the provisional constitution which have been submitted to the Oversight Committee (OC) for review. Moving forward, public consultations will be conducted with FMS, legislative bodies, executive institutions and civil society organizations, following which the chapters will be tabled at the National Federal Parliament for debate on the proposed amendments before being put forward for adoption.

The review of the first five chapters was completed in the last quarter of 2018 and is expected to be tabled in the next session of Parliament. ICRIC is now in the third phase of the process with the remaining six chapters (10-15) under review.

From 4-7 February, a joint retreat was organized in Mogadishu by the three mandated institutions of the constitutional review process – the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), the OC and ICRIC. The meeting discussed progress made, existing challenges in the implementation and review of the joint roadmap for the constitutional review, and to agree on next steps. The three institutions committed to maintain momentum to finalize the constitutional review process by December.

On 18 February, an opening ceremony was held for the new IC-

RIC offices in Mogadishu. Construction work began in September 2018 and was successfully completed in February 2019. The new facilities will enable the Commission to finalize the drafting of the constitution and execute their constitutional work in an inclusive, consultative way.

## ELECTORAL SUPPORT

On 27 March, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously passed Resolution 2461, which extends UNSOM's mandate until 31 March 2020. The Resolution emphasizes the UN's "political, technical, operational and logistical support to the federal government for the delivery of inclusive, peaceful, free and fair one-person-one-vote elections in 2020/2021" and underlines the importance of UN support to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) to fulfil its constitutional mandate. The Resolution also specifies UN support to a nationwide voter registration exercise in early 2020, polling operations for the 2020 elections, as well as the coordination of international electoral support to Somalia.

In March, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) held a series of strategic sessions with commissioners and senior members of the NIEC Secretariat to discuss electoral timelines, crucial decisions for voter registration and issues on institutional governance. During a retreat in Mogadishu from 17-19 March, potential voter registration methodologies and their practical implications were debated to identify the most suitable system for the context in Somalia. Following deliberations, the NIEC opted for a biometric registration methodology that includes facial recognition. In parallel, on 13 March, IESG held a briefing for key international partners on different voter registration methodologies and corresponding technologies, budget and procurement timelines.

NIEC organized a seminar on 26-27 February for women on voter education and awareness raising in Mogadishu. The seminar was attended by local women's organizations, political parties, marginalized groups and people with disabilities.

## WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

In the first week of March, a landmark Women's Charter for Somalia was issued by delegates at a three-day Somali Women's Convention in Mogadishu. The Convention was led by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, in part-

nership with Federal and Federal Member State governments and civil society organizations. The Women's Charter calls for full inclusion of women across the political, economic and social spectra in Somalia. It comes as the Constitution of Somalia is undergoing a review process and as key electoral and political laws are being developed. The Charter calls for a fifty per cent quota across all three levels of government, including the security sector, and in public administration. It also calls for zero tolerance for gender-based violence and for women's rights to be enshrined in the revised Constitution, and in the finalized electoral, security and political laws. To ensure long term resilience and stability, another key element in the document is ensuring socio-economic rights in the form of women's equal access to land, and to economic opportunities and technologies.

On 25-26 March, in Mogadishu, the Joint Programme on Women's Political Participation, Leadership and Empowerment conducted a training on "Reviewing Legislation with a Gendered Lens." The training was attended by 20 participants from the parliamentary committees on Justice, Religious Affairs & Endowment; Human Rights, Women and Children of the both houses; the women's caucus; members of the parliament secretariat and legal advisors. The training aimed to build knowledge and skills of parliamentarians and secretariat staff on reviewing legislation from a gender perspective, enhance their abilities to identify gender gaps in legislation as well as formulate legislative improvements that promote women.

## JOINT RULE OF LAW PROGRAMME

Puntland judiciary has seen an increased representation of women with a number of female prosecutors having benefitted from support and training provided through the Programme.

Sahra Yaasin Ali recollected her main reasons for becoming a prosecutor. "As a law student I came across a rape case which really struck me. He was a known rapist in the city, and at the court hearing this man received only a short sentence. This made me quite angry, I felt as though those young girls had not received justice. I sincerely believed that the near total lack of women in the courtroom was one of the reasons. As a woman, I can empathize more with their pain and the violation they experienced. It was the way in which this case struck me that influenced my decision to become a prosecutor."

Challenging societal norms comes with many obstacles for working women, especially those in the judiciary. Fawsiyo Hussien Ibrahim expressed "Of course I had a lack of self-confidence in

fulfilling this job. My male counterparts believe that women are unable to handle complex and 'big' cases while my community believes that a woman could not win a case in court." Ms. Ibrahim explained that through seeing her continued commitment and dedication to her work, her colleagues in the office and her community are now slowly gaining confidence.

Since assuming their positions, the prosecutors explained how their new roles have inspired other young women and expressed hope that more women lawyers, prosecutors, judges and Attorney Generals can succeed in Somalia. The higher numbers of women prosecutors have influenced more women clients and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence to come forward and report their cases.

## JOINT JUSTICE PROGRAMME

With the support of the Joint Justice programme, thirty legal and justice professionals from across Somalia took part in a first of a kind training on legal aid in February, which was delivered by an international legal expert David McQuoid Mason, Professor of Law at the Centre for Social Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban.

Judges, lawyers, NGO legal aid practitioners, civil society representatives, government officials and academics from across FMS and the Benadir region attended the training, which covered international legal aid best practice and policy, and how it applies to the Somali context.

Speaking at the event, the Minister of Justice, Hassan Hussein Haji, said the delivery of effective services such as legal aid to the people was important. "I encourage justice sectors at the federal and state levels to double their efforts to increase access to justice to the citizens, and likewise to ensure those working in justice have the proper training," he said.

The workshop also aimed to provide guidance on how to develop existing Somali legal aid policy further, using global best practice and international legal aid guidelines, and to assist the government, judiciary and independent legal aid practitioners, in drafting a legal aid Act that could regulate free legal services, and ensure they can be delivered to more people across the country.

Professor McQuoid Mason, speaking after the training, said that government visibility through services such as legal aid was key to stability, and that laws should adhere to human rights standards. "In Somalia, because of shortage of resources, you

have to use all the structures. You can use traditional structures to [deliver legal aid], but traditional leaders and religious leaders must apply traditional and religious law that is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and fundamental human rights.”

Ibrahim Abdullahi Aden, a Senior Advisor with the Ministry of Justice, said the Ministry would take the inputs from the training back to incorporate them into the legal documents. He added that legal aid was vital in Somalia where there were a number of civil and criminal cases that Somali people cannot afford to deal with on their own. “We have a high poverty rate, and we need to help our people get access to legal support,” he said.

## JOINT PROGRAMME ON PCVE

During the first quarter of 2019 the nascent national Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) coordination structure took steps towards formalizing coordination mechanisms, both in the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and FMS. This was done through initiating the establishment of committees for P/CVE co-ordination among line-ministries in each FMS and facilitating a mapping of ongoing work on P/CVE in FGS ministries, and also notably by mainstreaming P/CVE in the four roadmaps of the FGS and in corresponding FMS roadmaps currently being developed.

At FMS level, P/CVE focal points are in the process of establishing P/CVE platforms for government-civil society coordination to address local grievances. Commencing the implementation of the P/CVE Action Plans, the regional P/CVE focal points, with support of the UN, developed small action research projects for P/CVE, addressing various root causes for violent extremism through targeted interventions. Based on regional analyses, the projects systematically target areas of influence of violent extremist groups, focusing on measuring programming impact on violent extremism and radicalization.

In addition, the FGS/FMS coordination structure under the OPM works on integrating P/CVE into the Security Sector and Rule of Law reform work, primarily through including awareness raising and training initiatives on P/CVE in the basic training of police, correction officers and Somali National Army. The structure also contributes P/CVE expertise and training, and in coordination with the Defectors Rehabilitation Programme, serves as a knowledge hub.

## JOINT PROGRAMME ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

A final consultation on the new “District and Regions Self-Administration Law”, was held in Hargeisa in March to ensure compliance with existing policies that guide decentralisation of government and delivery of services to Somali people at community, village and district level. The meeting aimed to solicit feedback from key Somaliland Government ministries and from women- and youth-focused civil society organisations, before the law goes to Parliament for debate and approval.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairperson of Somaliland’s Parliamentary sub-committee on the Interior, Security and Defence, Abdillahi Hussein Igeh (Balaaki), said the consultations were key to ensuring the law was transparent. “It is in the Somaliland constitution to be transparent and consultative in every law or act that legislators are going to develop or amend. We promise that all your feedback will be considered in the parliamentary debate on the law,” he said.

The Deputy Minister of Interior, Mohamed Muse Diriye, said the amendment and approval of the law was a collective responsibility. “Together we have put a lot of effort and resources on this process. We have now reached the last steps to put the law in front of the parliament and have it approved,” he said.

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SOMALIA (YES)

Under the ongoing three-month solar energy technology and business management skills training, 400 young people (200 women) are being trained in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. Following completion, 50 trainees will be placed in established companies which will enable them to apply their acquired skills in practical situations and generate incomes for an additional period of six months. While some of them will receive start-up grants, all trainees will be provided with the skillset for creating wage employment. One of the woman-trainees, Ifrah, who is an unemployed professional medical trainer stated that “acquiring new skills in solar technology will open up a window of new opportunity for me in the labour market.” She added, “Who says that women cannot do such technical work? I am now ready for repairing the electricity system at my own house and my neighbor’s.”

Forty-eight young people (24 women) have already established eighteen new micro-enterprises in Mogadishu and Kismayo and become self-employed. They have so far supplied solar electricity for private and commercial purposes by installing solar panels in households and public institutions. As a result, the previ-

ously unemployed young people are now generating incomes from their new businesses. Furthermore, the households and institutions where solar panels have been installed are now using clean energy.

Despite challenges, the enterprises have been working together to boost their earnings with support from the local business development services and government authorities. Yusuf, a young man with a disability who owns a solar business with two partners in Kismayo, said, "I am now useful to my community and have earned much respect from my friends and increased self-confidence."

## SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

As part of the alternative energy solutions to charcoal reduction in Puntland, over 2,560 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Galkacyo, Garowe, Qardo and Bosaso received fuel efficient cooking stoves. Furthermore, fifty women entrepreneurs ben-

efited from the distribution of fuel efficient stoves by receiving 32 pieces each with the purpose of transitioning to the marketing of the new stoves.

During a launch event for fuel-efficient cooking stoves, the Deputy Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture, highlighted that the adoption of the stoves will reduce charcoal and firewood consumption by 50 percent and help minimize rangeland degradation due to reduced demand for charcoal. He also noted that the stoves will reduce the production of smoke and harmful gasses within households, cooking cycle times and create significant household safety and labour benefits.

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