



MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

Dear Partners,



I am delighted to present to you the fourth quarterly UN Multi-Partner Trust (UN MPTF) Newsletter of 2018 which comes at a time of monumental change in Somalia. As I prepare to leave Somalia and the UN in a few short weeks, I reflect on the incredible progress achieved during my tenure here.

The UN MPTF has been an instrumental platform for the UN to deliver its support in an effective and cohesive manner, whilst maintaining the centrality of Government ownership and leadership.

As preparations continue for a new National Development Plan (NDP 9) and Vision 2040, the Federal Government with Federal Member States, international donors and the UN assess we collectively advance the country's national priorities for the people of Somalia.

With a renewed commitment to address the root causes of protracted humanitarian crises, the UN will enhance resilience-based development programming in support through the Recovery and Resilience Framework to mitigate the impacts of any future droughts in Somalia.

In 2018, the UN reflected on the UN MPTF's added value and explored ways in which the Fund could be enhanced to remain pivotal for continued peace- and state-building in Somalia. The UN MPTF's programmes will build on lessons learned to optimise the Fund's use as an efficient and effective tool that ensures Somalia remains on an upward trajectory.





As I depart, whilst being cognisant of the remaining challenges, I am full of hope and encouragement that Somalia will continue to work closely with its partners to build on the hard gained successes and tackle any challenges in an inclusive, participatory manner that engages its citizens on every step of the way.

Thank you,

Peter de Clercq

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

UN MPTF OVERVIEW

-  20 Active Joint Programmes
-  13 Donor Partners
-  \$357m Commitments
-  \$288m Deposits

FUND CAPITALIZATION

-  Denmark: USD 20.9 m
-  European Union: USD 76.2 m
-  Finland: USD 9.4 m
-  Germany: USD 24.7 m
-  Italy: USD 14 m
-  Netherlands: USD 11.5 m
-  Norway: USD 34.2 m
-  Government of Somalia: USD 3.3 m
-  Sweden: USD 88.2 m
-  Switzerland: USD 21.7 m
-  United Kingdom: USD 36.6 m
-  USAID: USD 2 m
-  UN Peacebuilding Fund: USD 8.6 m

SUPPORT TO EMERGING FEDERAL STATES

The Joint Programme on Support to Emerging Federal States continued to support political dialogue focusing on federalism and state formation, enhanced capacity of institutions involved in the federalism processes, including Federal Member State Administrations. In the first week of October, the Prime Minister of Somalia, Hassan Ali Khaire, hosted a high-level meeting in Mogadishu where he updated International Partners on the Government's achievements under an inclusive politics agenda, including agreements on the electoral model and resource sharing agreements Baidoa in May. The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to holding one-person-one-vote elections in 2020 and called for the international community's continued support to an inclusive constitutional review, federalisation and electoral process in the country.

In December, Hirshabelle State hosted a reconciliation conference between Hawadle and Surre clans in who have been fighting in Hiraan region. One hundred participants attended the event. In the same month, women, youth, government, elders, business persons, elites and religious leaders gathered in Baidoa over the course of five days to discuss the role of civil society organisations in peaceful elections. The event was attended by nearly 1,000 participants, over half were women.

Finally, Jubbaland State administration officials and CSO representatives attended the launch event of the States' Strategic Development Plan in which over 150 participants attended.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

In October, the second Forum of the Joint Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Constitution Review (OC) was held in Garowe, Puntland. The meeting brought together constitutional review committees from FMS parliaments with members of the Independent Constitution Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC). Civil society members, women and youth representatives from Puntland State also attended. The purpose of the meeting was to consult Feder Member State level Constitutional Review Committees and civil society on the first five reviewed chapters of the constitution.

During the meeting, both the OC and ICRIC gave presentations on the chapters, the timeline and the roadmap to complete the review process, key achievements and challenges, and outlined the way forward. Those attending emphasized the benefits such review committees can have in ensuring a positive outcome for the process. Moving forward, this forum will help with regular sharing of information, coordination of efforts on Constitutional

Review process, and the harmonisation of state and federal constitutions.

ELECTORAL SUPPORT

In October, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) convened a five-day workshop to review the Commission's strategic plan. NIEC Officials with UN's Integrated Electoral Support Group and the US 'BUILD' Project and senior facilitators, including the former Chair of the Kenyan Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), were in attendance. The purpose of the workshop was to review the activities in line with the NIEC Strategic Plan, evaluate the progress, and assess the NIEC's institutional capacity to achieve the goal of one-person-one-vote elections to be held in 2020. The review resulted in an action plan outlining specific activities and priorities, including potential areas of collaboration with different partners. A follow-up workshop was held in December to finalise the plan.

Acknowledging the need for capacity development in the areas of governance and leadership, the NIEC conducted an Institutional Governance Workshop in October for Commissioners and senior management of the Secretariat. The workshop was facilitated by two senior experts, including the former Chair of the IEBC, who was instrumental in sharing experiences and expertise.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

Members of both houses of the Somali Federal Parliament took part in a two-day consultative event on the role parliaments play in achieving and holding the Government to account on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Regional assemblies and district councils attended the event in December, which saw participants recommend the creation of a parliamentary committee on the SDGs, and to continue building private and public sector partnerships to achieve the Goals. In his opening speech, the Second Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of the Federal Parliament, Hon. Mowlid Hussein Guhad, highlighted the essential role parliaments play in achieving the 2030 Goals. "Parliaments enact legislation that bring communities and different parts of society together, which is crucial to the implementation of the SDGs," he said.

In her remarks, Nahid Hussein, UNDP Somalia Chief Technical Advisor for Inclusive Politics, said that for the SDGs to succeed in Somalia, legal implementation on the national and state

level is required. “Parliamentarians as legislators are therefore uniquely positioned to influence the shape and content of their respective national development agendas and its implementation processes,” she concluded.

WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

Women leaders from nine regions received training in October by the Puntland Ministry of Women’s Development and Family Affairs in political campaigning and gender equality advocacy. The women who took part are aspiring political actors and candidates in the upcoming Puntland elections in 2019.

Speaking at its opening day, the Puntland Minister of Women’s Development and Family Affairs, Marian Ahmed Ali, said she hoped those taking part would bring their skills back to benefit their communities. “Women’s political participation and leadership is very important in our society. It is crucial to increase the number of qualified and trained women leaders,” she said.

In Somalia, women’s leadership roles are often confined to civil arenas rather than the political sphere, and Somali women’s participation in national politics and decision-making processes can be hampered by lack of representation in clan authority structures. Progress towards greater inclusivity is slow, however, with women securing 24 per cent of seats in the Federal Parliament in the 2016 electoral process following extensive advocacy by Somali women’s groups with the support of the UN, there is momentum to form a united force and make a profound change.

Amina Hussein from the Karkaar region, was one of those attending the course in Garowe. She said working with community leaders was important for greater women’s participation in politics. “Women are excluded from clan decision-making, but we want to convince our local community leaders and prove that we as women candidates can do what men can do,” she said.

Sucdi Jama, from the Nugaal region, said that women should know how to exercise their political and civic rights. “Women should exercise their right to vote more consistently. It’s important that we know our rights and are educated to use our votes wisely,” she said.

SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF INTERNAL SECURITY

In October, the Joint Programme on Support to the Ministry of Internal Security held its inaugural Project Steering Committee

meeting. The meeting focused on the review of the semi-annual report of the Ministry’s Institutional Development and Capacity Building Plan, key achievements and challenges faced. The Steering Committee also endorsed a Terms of Reference for the Somali Police Force Payroll Reform Committee which held its inaugural meeting in November.

JOINT JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Between August and December, thirteen Community Dispute Resolution Houses in Benadir, Puntland, Jubaland and South-west States resolved 1,392 cases thereby empowering communities, especially women, to realise their rights within the traditional justice system and in the nurturing link-ages between the informal and formal justice service providers.

With the support of the programme, key government institutions and non-government stakeholders created a Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Taskforce to address the challenges in responding to SGBV cases. Twenty permanent members were nominated to the Taskforce and it was agreed that taskforce meetings be convened on a monthly basis. Taskforce members were nominated by the Office of the Attorney General, the Somali Police Force (including the Criminal Investigations Division), the Somali Women’s Development Centre and the government-run Medina Hospital.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON PCVE

A two-day Women’s Peace Forum, first of its kind, was held in Mogadishu in November, which saw hundreds of civil society women leaders, peace activists, and members of parliaments come together to discuss how to prevent violent extremism and promote peace and stability in Somalia. The Forum followed consultations in Puntland, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Galmadug, South West State, as well as in Benadir region. The Forum was spearheaded by the Somali National Women’s Organisation.

The Forum sought to determine ways and strategies to enhance women’s role in peace, reconciliation and the prevention and countering of violent extremism (PCVE) consistent with the national PCVE strategy and national reconciliation framework. Inclusion of women in peacebuilding is a national priority for Somalia.

The Chairperson of the Somali National Women’s Organisation, Batuulo Sheikh Ahmed Gebelle, said in her keynote speech that the aim of the Forum was to “come up with a strategy to prevent those spreading extremist ideologies, conduct awareness

campaigns and hold consultations and meetings,” adding that women needed to take a greater leadership role in peace processes. “We want to clearly show that women are no longer spectators and occupying the backbench in peace initiatives,” she said.

Fartun Abdisalan Adan, Director of Elman Peace and Human Rights Foundation, highlighted the importance of women taking a central role in peace and reconciliation efforts. “When it comes to reconciliation, women might just talk, but we are never involved. This is certainly a new beginning for Somali women to really be part of reconciliation efforts and to have peace in Somalia,” she said.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Following the submission in October of the Local Government Law (No. 23/2002) by the Somaliland Cabinet to Parliament, a consultative workshop was held in Hargeisa on the amendment of the Law. The workshop was jointly organised by the Somaliland’s Parliamentary Committee on Interior, Security and Defense and the Ministry of Interior. The workshop was aimed at gathering relevant information ahead of the expected debate on the Law in Parliament. It was the first open consultation ever to take place between the Parliamentary Committee and Mayors.

The Jubbaland Ministry of Interior organised a Decentralization Dialogue Forum in October with 30 participants from all key ministries involved in decentralised services delivery. The Forum focused on the decentralisation process, including development of a decentralisation policy, legislations and procedures, and the division of functions between districts, state and federal governments in decentralised service delivery. The Ministry facilitated a similar event for 32 participants in November to sensitise civil society on the importance and concept of decentralised service delivery. The forum emphasised the need to capacitate future local governments to deliver equitable and accountable public service at the local level. The Hirshabelle Ministry of Interior also facilitated a Decentralization Dialogue Forum in October for 25 participants to obtain an enhanced and shared understanding of decentralisation in the Somali context.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SOMALIA (YES)

With support of the Joint Programme on Youth Employment Somalia, a seven-month social rehabilitation and market-oriented skills training initiative was launched for 200 at risk youth (46 per cent women) in Kismayo and Baidoa. Of those trained,

94, including many women, have managed to secure longer-term employment opportunities by establishing their own businesses or finding work in local companies. They are earning decent incomes, helping support their families and communities and improving their livelihoods. A scale-up of the initiative is planned in Xudur and Dollow districts.

Riyan Ahmed Abdi, 21, a single mother, living with her two children and parents in Kismayo town, was able to benefit from this valuable training. She previously had no source of income and was having difficulties raising her children and supporting her parents. With no marketable knowledge or skills, securing a job was a tremendous challenge. She learned from her neighbour that the YES supported initiative was to be launched and enrolled in a social rehabilitation and life-skills development programme.

Three months later, Riyan passed the counselling and civic education courses and enrolled in a four-month course on entrepreneurship skills development. She she successfully completed and received a certificate of competency along with a small grant of US\$ 500. Riyan expressed her excitement on graduation day. “The day I graduated and received a grant, I felt that this day was the end of my all miseries. I am happy that I have completed my course, in spite of all hardships I faced as a single mother and the only breadwinner in my family.”

SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

In December, the Joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods supported the launch of a new public awareness campaign to reduce charcoal production and use in Puntland. The Puntland Ministry of Environment and Climate Change-led campaign was launched with a two-day event attended by community elders, environment advocates, women’s groups, academics, young people, students and civil society members. Speakers and facilitators highlighted the link between charcoal production, deforestation and livelihoods destruction, with over eight million trees cut down for charcoal since 2011. Solutions outlined included replanting of trees, use of alternative energy sources, and sale and use of more fuel-efficient coking stoves as ways to reduce and halt production of charcoal.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister of Environment, Saleban Haji Abdalle, emphasised the importance of halting charcoal

production in Puntland. “Somali communities are almost fully dependent on agriculture and on livestock production. We have experienced heavy floods as a result of cutting trees as the trees stop the water flows and keep the soil intact” he said. “It will take time to stop charcoal production completely, but we can reduce the consumption of charcoal by using cooking stoves which burn less fuel, along with gas cylinder stoves,” he concluded.

JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

An event commemorating the International Day of Disabled Persons was held in December in Mogadishu in which 70 persons from the civil society, youth, women and traditional elders participated. The participants of the event, many of them persons with disabilities and organisations representing persons with disabilities, discussed rights protection and livelihood opportunities and other issues of concern.

Also in December, civil society groups marked the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with seven parallel events in the Somali capital, highlighting the need to protect the rights of minority groups, young people, people with disabilities, women and children, journalists, and humanitarian workers and civilians in conflict settings. With over 260 participants, the events were hosted by a cluster of civil society organizations advocating for particular rights.

Fadwo Hassan, a Child Protection Coordinator with Somali NGO Hinna, and chairperson of the women and children’s cluster, said legal frameworks and law enforcement were needed to

stop violence against women and children, while Ifrah Ahmed, founder of the Ifrah Foundation, which campaigns against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), called for more action to protect Somali girls from FGM.

“FGM can have severely adverse effects on the physical, mental and psychosocial well-being of those who undergo the practice. The health consequences of FGM are both immediate and life-long.” Ms. Ahmed said.

ENABLERS

A year-long no-cost extension of the Joint Programme on Enablers was signed in the last quarter of 2018, sustaining efforts of the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), the Risk Management Unit (RMU), the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UN Women, to support the UN system and the international community to implement their respective mandates throughout Somalia. Through the provision of coordination, risk management, security services and analytical support, these four enabling units facilitate the delivery of humanitarian, development and state- and peacebuilding assistance across all national priorities, as reflected in the UN Strategic Framework 2017-2020 and the National Development Plan 2017-2019 and operationalising the New Way of Working.

The new Programme Document reflects the evolving operational context and normative frameworks that guide the UN’s collective work in Somalia. With generous support from donor partners, the Joint Programme is almost entirely funded throughout 2019.

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