



MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

Newsletter Q2 2019

Dear Partners,



On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) I am honoured to share with you the second quarterly UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN MPTF) for Somalia newsletter of 2019.

Along with the other participating UN partners, UNDP remains committed to the UN MPTF as its preferred platform for the implementation of our Joint Programmes. The UN MPTF not only allows UNDP to implement our various activities in a coordinated manner with our partners but also provides a transparent and efficient mechanism through which our donors can channel their support to Joint Programmes in support of Somalia's development priorities.

The UN MPTF enhances government oversight and management of the UN's development assistance in Somalia, as well as provides a platform, through its governance structures, for inclusive dialogue between the government and partners on key development priorities.

UNDP is proud to be a long-standing partner of the Government of Somalia and remains committed to supporting the Somali people as they build their nation. Thanks to UN MPTF funding, UNDP has contributed to a number of key milestones in Somalia. Specifically, in the area of Parliamentary support, several key bills have been approved by Somalia's National Federal Parliament over the past months, including the Petroleum Bill, Anti-Corruption Bill and Anti-Money Laundering Bill. Similarly, continuing support to the Joint Programme on Local Governance has led to tangible changes in people's lives at district level and provides a platform for rebuilding local governance structures in Somalia.

I would like to renew my sincere thanks to our donor partners for their continued commitment to reducing poverty and improving the lives of Somali people.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Mason

UNDP Resident Representative for Somalia

UN MPTF OVERVIEW

- 18** Active Joint Programmes
- 12** Active Donor Partners
- \$390m** Commitments
- \$324m** Deposits

FUND CAPITALIZATION

-  Denmark: USD 43.1 m
-  European Union: USD 76.2 m
-  Finland: USD 9.2 m
-  Germany: USD 24.7 m
-  Italy: USD 19.6 m
-  Netherlands: USD 11.5 m
-  Norway: USD 39.9 m
-  Government of Somalia: USD 3.3 m
-  Sweden: USD 90.4 m
-  Switzerland: USD 24.8 m
-  United Kingdom: USD 36.6 m
-  USAID: USD 2 m
-  UN Peacebuilding Fund: USD 8.6 m

RECONCILIATION & FEDERALISM

Following the finalization of the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF), the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) has been taking the lead to internalize the NRF within federal institutions. In doing so, MoIFAR developed a preliminary implementation plan in May, identifying milestones for the five pillars listed in the NRF.

The NRF and its preliminary implementation plan was introduced at MoIFAR organised Inception Workshop on Reconciliation and State-building held on 17-18 April. Moreover, the Boundaries Federation Commission (BFC) successfully conducted visits to Federal Member States (FMSs) to ensure consensus-building for the boundary demarcation process.

On 24 April, the BFC presented its quarterly report to the Somali National Federal Parliament (NFP) sharing the status of boundary demarcation and related challenges. It was seen as a positive step as FMSs have developed a mutual understanding with the commission, thus making it easier to work together. Moreover, this means that a major hurdle in building consensus on the delimitation of boundaries has been overcome as these FMSs are on board.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

From April to June, key milestones have been achieved in the constitutional review process including the completion of a technical review by the review bodies of chapters six to fifteen of the draft constitution. Following the consultations with key stakeholders, the chapters will be taken to the NFP for debate on the amendments proposed during the review before they are put forward for adoption. Joint sessions were organized by the three mandated institutions of the constitutional review process – the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), the Parliamentary Oversight Committee (OC) and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) – to discuss progress made and existing challenges in implementation. The review bodies also worked to develop a common approach and strategy, as well as a work plan for the consultation process, identified key constitutional review issues requiring consultation and outlined key stakeholders to be consulted on the reviewed chapters of the Somali provisional constitution.

The sixth MoCA Forum, which brings together FGS and FMS MoCAs, was held from 6-8 April in Kismayo, Jubaland State. The Forum discussed key constitutional issues and engaged key political players at both the Federal and regional levels on the

consultation on the ten reviewed chapters of the constitution and other critical issues requiring consensus.

From 20 to 28 May, the project supported a public consultation in Baidoa, South West State, on fundamental rights and duties of the citizen in the context of Chapter Two of the provisional constitution. The purpose of the consultation was to educate Somali civil society and citizens about fundamental human rights guaranteed in the Somali Constitution.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

On 9-10 April, the House of Representatives of the Somaliland Parliament held a first of a kind two-day event in Hargeisa on the role of parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, and in holding the government to account for their implementation.

The event was attended by parliamentarians and Somaliland Local Government Institute (LGI) representatives, as well as by the officials from the Somaliland Ministry of Planning. It aimed to increase knowledge and coordination between parliament and government ministries on the 2030 agenda.

In his opening speech, Hon. Abdirahman Mohamed Jama, the Deputy Chair of the Social Affairs Committee of the Somaliland House of Representatives, highlighted the need for parliamentarians to deepen their awareness of the SDGs and to play an active role in achieving the 2030 Goals. “It is important that we align to the Sustainable Development Goals when we are enacting laws that will have an impact on the lives of people,” he said.

In his remarks, Masoud Ali, Project Officer for the Parliament Support Project, said parliaments were key to making sure the Goals were achieved in each country by 2030. “Parliamentarians have legitimate power to ensure all government plans are in line with the global SDGs, and they have the right to question government officials about progress made on SDG targets. They have a role to play in ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Goals,” he said.

The event will be followed by a self-assessment exercise on the capacity of the Somaliland parliament to achieve the Goals by 2030. The aim is that the assessment exercise, together with the recommendations from the Hargeisa meeting, will then lead to the development of a draft Somaliland parliament strategy on the SDGs.

ELECTORAL SUPPORT

On 20 May, the Somali Cabinet submitted the draft Electoral Bill to Parliament. The Joint Programme provided detailed feedback on the draft legislation and continues to hold discussions with National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) to improve technical aspects of the Bill and highlight articles of concern. The adoption of the Electoral Law will represent a key milestone for Somalia in advancing preparations for universal elections, including voter registration.

Draft amendments to the Political Parties Law were also submitted to Parliament. To date, they have not yet progressed to the first reading. The Law is particularly important for the official registration of political parties in advance of the next national electoral process.

The NIEC identified and verified the locations of potential voter registration centres in South-West, Hirshabelle and Galmudug States, as well as in Benadir region. The NIEC is holding consultations with the Puntland and Jubaland to start the mapping exercise in these States. Information on the locations and the overall numbers of identified voter registration centres will feed into the NIEC's operations plan. Once approved by the Commission, the plan will inform the Joint Programme and donors on the required budget for voter registration and timely procurement of voter registration kits. With assistance from the Joint Programme, the NIEC developed a draft concept of operations and provisional budget for the 2020 voter registration exercise.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

Twelve Somali women parliamentarians attended a leadership training in Addis Ababa from 25 June to 2 July, as part of UN initiative to support gender equality and women's political participation in Somalia. The MPs who took part in the training came from the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, and the Upper House, or Senate.

The training was organized by the Joint Programme and aimed to increase the MPs' skills in advocating for gender equality and the rights of women and girls, and in taking more prominent leadership roles in decision making in government. It also looked at how to strategically address the underlying social causes of gender inequalities and to identify initiatives for positive change. Those taking part were also trained to carry out the same training for other female members of parliament and

women leaders in Somalia.

Senator Shukri Aden, of the Upper House of the Somali Federal Parliament, said training on leadership was vital for women. "These trainings are key in that they help us to forge strategic alliances and to create a platform for women leaders, so that we can work together to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Somalia."

Somalia's Gender Inequality Index remains one of the highest in the world, at 0.777, with a maximum of 1 denoting complete inequality, placing Somalia at the fourth-highest position globally for gender inequality. Lack of access to education, gender-based violence, high maternal mortality, female genital mutilation, high numbers of women becoming internally displaced and high percentage of child marriage are some of the obstacles that contribute to inequality and which create obstacles for women in equally participating in public and political life.

However, women's representation in politics in Somalia has been increasing in recent elections, following the acceptance of a 30 percent quota for women's representation in parliament at FGS and FMS level. The quota, which was achieved through sustained advocacy by Somali women's groups with UN and international support, paved the way for women to then win 25 percent of seats in parliament in the 2016 federal electoral process. In 2019, Somali women also developed a Women's Charter, which calls for fifty percent representation in political and socio-economic arenas.

Hon. Nouria Isse, an MP of the House of the People of the Federal Parliament, said that she is committed to using the knowledge she gained to train other female members of the parliament at both federal and federal state level. "Because of this training, we now have in house leadership experts who can train a larger number of women parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and federal member states assemblies," she said.

JOINT JUSTICE PROGRAMME

With the support of the Joint Programme, the sixth group of law students have graduated from Puntland State University School of Law in April, following the completion of a four-year Bachelor of Law programme. The twenty students, who began the programme in 2014 and completed their studies in October 2018, graduated in a ceremony alongside over 180 fellow graduates.

The Shariah & Law Scholarship Programme for Puntland State

University was established in 2008 and is aimed to create a pool of competent and well-trained legal professionals from across Somalia that could build the capacity of the justice sector, which at the time had very few lawyers, judges or prosecutors with formal legal education. The first batch of twenty-three students, which included seven women, completed the four-year degree programme.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Puntland Vice President, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Elmi Osman, wished the graduates a bright future and encouraged them to use their knowledge to benefit Somalia. "Today is a historic day. There is pride and self-esteem in remaining here in Somalia and using your knowledge to help this country," he said.

The Speaker of the Puntland Parliament, H.E. Mr. Abdihakim Mohamed Ahmed, said job opportunities and work experience were key to the success of the those graduating. "I note with pride that previous graduates from this programme are already working for the Parliament," he said.

AID MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

In the second quarter of 2019, the project has supported the organization by Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) within the Office of the Prime Minister of two Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility Steering Committee (SDRF SC) and 11 Pillar Working Group (PWG) meetings. In the two SDRF SC meetings four project concepts (i) Development of the electoral management and dispute resolution centre; (ii) Community-based integration for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups; (iii) Kismayo-Baidoa urban water supply and sanitation project; and (iv) Technical assistance and capacity building for setting up the Somali Electricity Institute, which are aligned to NDP priorities, were presented and endorsed. In addition, participants were briefed on the preparation of the upcoming Somali Partnership Forum and on initiatives such as ongoing reforms at the Central Bank of Somalia and the outcome of the Somali Women Convention, updated on the development of the Electoral Management and Dispute Resolution Centre and on the African Development Bank portfolio in Somalia.

The Effective Institutions, Rule of Law, Resilience, Gender & Human Rights Development, Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Social & Human Development Pillar Working Groups met to deliberate on issues of importance related to their respective sectors, with the goal of aligning their work plans to the government roadmaps.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

In April, with the support of the Programme, Jubaland civil servants took part in a discussion forum on the importance of decentralization in government, as part of local government development in the State.

Over thirty men and women from the Jubaland state government attended the Kismayo forum, which aimed to ensure clear understanding of the shared roles and responsibilities at FGS, FMS, regional and local government levels. Those attending also discussed next steps on delivering government services and administration to communities in Jubaland.

Speaking about the process of decentralisation, Mr. Aden Farah Garane, the Director General of the Jubaland Ministry of Interior, said, "Administrations at district and municipality level are one of the closest levels of government to society, so to serve and achieve [the best] society we have to determine the best suitable and sufficient structures [at this level]."

Mr. Ahmed Bisle, Social Affairs Coordinator for Kismayo, stated: "District level local government is like an executive cabinet with functions, roles and responsibilities for delivering services to the public. The way we design this structure today determines the efficiency in which services would be delivered to the public."

The forum also discussed examples from other states and districts where local government structures have already been set up and effective consultations and projects carried out.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SOMALIA (YES)

Young people of Mogadishu welcomed in May the opening of the much-anticipated Youth Centre in the heart of the city. This is the first centre of its kind in the capital, providing a safe, vibrant and innovative communal space designed with young people's needs in mind. The One-Stop Youth Centre (OSYC) will host a variety of initiatives designed to enhance the employability and wellbeing of young people. Youth will have the opportunity to access a range of support including vocational training, recreational spaces and health services.

Chairperson of the Banadir Youth Association (BARYA) Mr. Abdikafi Makaran commented, "The centre is the first of its kind in Mogadishu and very important for youth. We will ensure the sustainability of the centre and mobilise young people to benefit from the OSYC."

Another beneficiary, Ms. Maryam Osman, said, "We are very

excited that the centre is finally constructed, and I am glad that we have a centre that is owned and run by us. In this era of technology, ICT skills are crucial and we are happy to have a computer lab within the centre.”

Technological advances in the production of high-quality dried fish products continue to be a major focus of the fisheries value chain. Several extensive capacity building interventions were carried out with the support of the Programme covering fish processing, technology and provision of necessary equipment to fishers in Banadir, Puntland, Somaliland and Jubaland. Five export capable fish processing facilities have been completed in Bosaso, three in Kismayo and two in Berbera. In addition, seven first stage community fish processing centres have been completed in Bosaso.

SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

In the second quarter of 2019, 4,950 households (50 per cent women headed) transitioned to alternative livelihoods options such as vegetable farming, beekeeping and fodder production in Jubaland.

In April, the FGS, with the support of the project, hosted a Regional Partnership Forum in Nairobi, to enforce the ban of illegal charcoal trade in Somalia. Representatives of the governments of Iraq, Oman and Djibouti agreed that the illegal trade represents both an environmental and security threat to the region and reiterated their support to the Government of Somalia.

H.E. Mr. Hussein Mohamoud Hussein, Somalia’s Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range, emphasised that the production, use and illegal trade of charcoal accelerates an environmental, insecurity, economic and health challenges to Somali citizens.

In his opening remarks, he appreciated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s efforts and contribution towards enforcing the charcoal ban and requested similar support from the other regional member states.

In June, the FGS and UN Environment launched a network of environmental journalism in Somalia. Fifteen local journalists, including two women, representing local TV and radio stations participated in the event. Speaking at the function, Mr. Yahya Mohamed, the newly elected Chair of the Somalia Media Network highlighted that “the Network will raise the platform for the Somalia media professionals and increase the opportunity to enlighten our own community on environmental issues, such as land degradation, deforestation, pollution and climate change which greatly undermine all in achieving expectations of the Somalia National Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15.”

The training of journalists has helped in bringing Somalis’ own voice on unsustainable use of charcoal and delivered strong messaging to reduce the charcoal consumption at the household level.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USAID, and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office for Somalia and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USAID, and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

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