



UNITED NATIONS
SOMALIA

TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT

SOMALIA

UN MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

January - June 2020



**UNITED
NATIONS
SOMALIA**



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The UN in Somalia is pleased to present the mid-year report for the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN MPTF) covering the period 1 January – 30 June 2020.

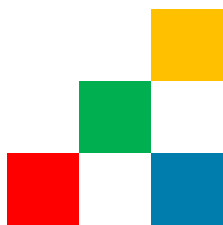
While the year began positively with progress being made across the UN MPTF's portfolio of Joint Programmes, the global outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and its subsequent arrival in Somalia, severely impacted the work of the UN, including through the UN MPTF.

Despite the associated challenges and constraints, progress was nonetheless achieved in many areas through alternative and innovative implementation modalities applied across the UN system in Somalia. In addition, several Joint Programmes not only adapted their programmatic responses to mitigate the impact on implementation, but also contributed directly to the response to the pandemic. This is outlined in a new, dedicated section of the report describing the UN MPTF's contribution to the COVID-19 response.

Even with the application of alternative working arrangements and a significantly reduced operational footprint in Somalia, the UN MPTF Joint Programmes managed to deliver over US\$ 29 million in the first half of the year.

The UN has also commenced work on the development of a new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for Somalia to replace its outgoing UN Strategic Framework (2017-2020). The UNCF will articulate a new set of strategic priorities that will represent the UN system's collective contribution to those of the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9). To ensure direct and full alignment with the national framework and its coordination and implementation architecture, the UN in Somalia has already committed to mirroring its strategic priorities to the pillars of the NDP-9. The UN MPTF, and joint programming more broadly, will be integral to delivering on the strategic vision of the UNCF in line with the UN Secretary General's development system reform agenda. In addition, to better demonstrate the clear contribution of the UN MPTF to national priorities, this semi-annual report has been structured in accordance with the pillars of the NDP-9.

Finally, to increase the capacity of the UN MPTF secretariat within the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC), the recruitment of a dedicated senior fund manager is underway. This is expected to enhance the support capacity of the secretariat to participating UN agencies, Joint Programmes and donor partners.



NDP-9 Pillar

MPTF Joint Programmes

1. Inclusive Politics & Reconciliation



- Reconciliation & Federalism
- Constitutional Review
- Parliament Support
- Electoral Support
- Women’s Political Participation...

2. Security & Rule of Law



- Joint Security Sector Governance
- Joint Justice Programme
- Joint Police Programme
- Joint Corrections Programme
- Operationalising Somali National Strategy & Action Plan on P/CVE
- Joint Human Rights Programme

3. Economic Development



- Sustainable Charcoal Reduction & Alternative Livelihoods

4. Social Development



- Local Governance (JPLG)
- UNFPA Country Programme
- Social Protection

Cross-cutting



- Strengthening Women’s Capacities as Agents for Change
- Aid Management & Coordination

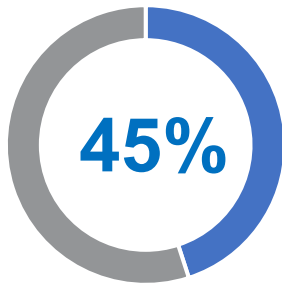
Other



- Enabling Services

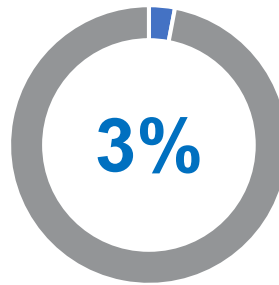
	Committed (USD)	Deposited (USD)	Deposit %
Sweden	106,941,774	103,805,339	97.07%
European Union	78,830,452	69,539,658	88.21%
Denmark	45,166,914	34,896,705	77.26%
Norway	39,689,037	31,546,815	79.48%
United Kingdom	36,615,424	35,037,861	95.69%
Germany	29,156,026	29,156,026	100%
Switzerland	26,374,890	24,954,890	94.62%
Italy	25,097,462	23,991,203	95.59%
Finland	12,295,938	11,192,185	91.02%
Netherlands	11,455,200	9,455,200	82.54%
Peacebuilding Fund	8,572,120	7,856,135	91.65%
USAID	4,535,000	4,535,000	100%
Somalia	3,332,364	3,332,364	100%
Total:	428,062,601	389,299,380	90.94%

PORTFOLIO LEVEL RESULTS



of UN funds channelled or reported through SDRF

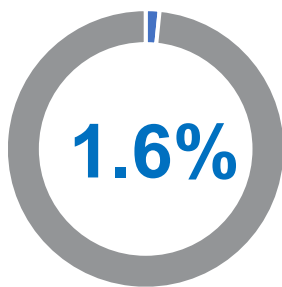
(26% in 2017, 35% in 2018, 52% in 2019) Target: Increase proportion year-on-year



of MPTF resources going to National Window

4.5% in 2018 annual report, 9.6% in 2019 annual report. Target: Cumulative increase in proportion between reporting periods

DONOR ENGAGEMENT



of Un-Earmarked Contributions

(9.6% in 2018 annual report, 8.6 in 2019 annual report) Target: Cumulative increase in proportion between reporting periods

US\$ 39,140,862

in donor commitments during reporting period

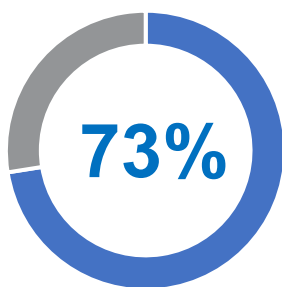
Jan-Jun 2020

12 Active Donors to the MPTF

Based on commitments or deposits made in previous 12 months

(12 in 2018 and 11 in 2019) Target: Increase number of active donors year-on-year

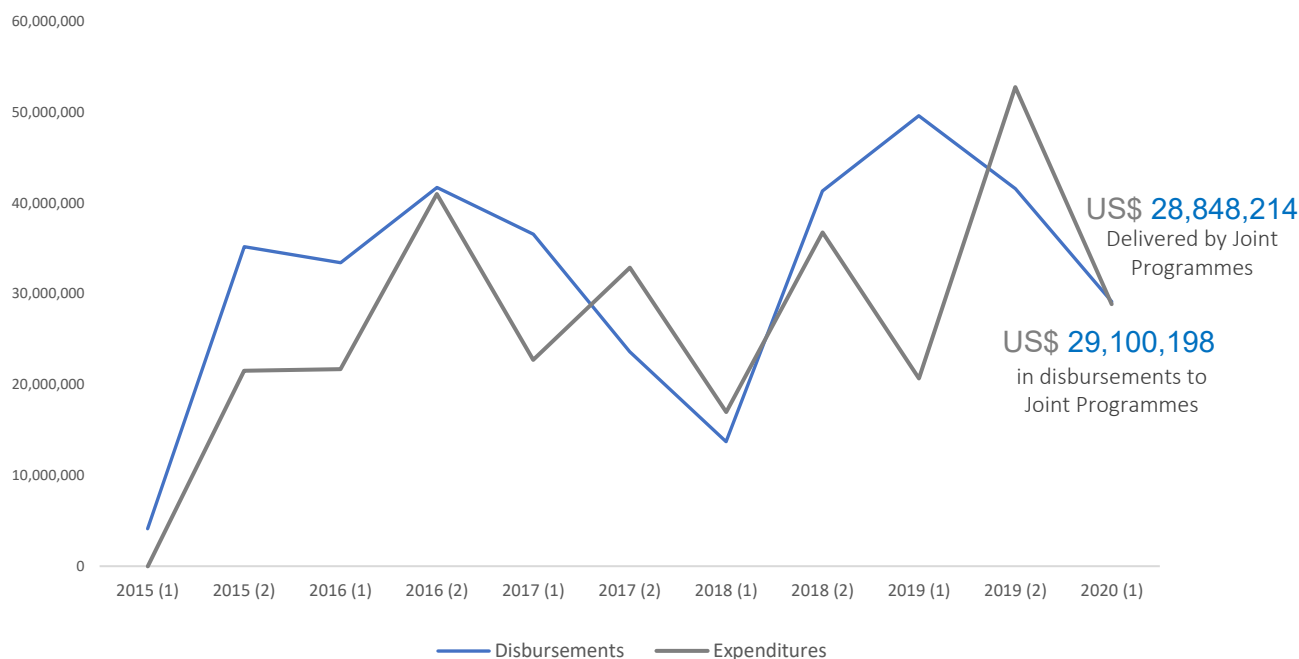
QUALITY OF OPERATIONS



Disbursement ratio of active Programmes

Annual Target: 90%

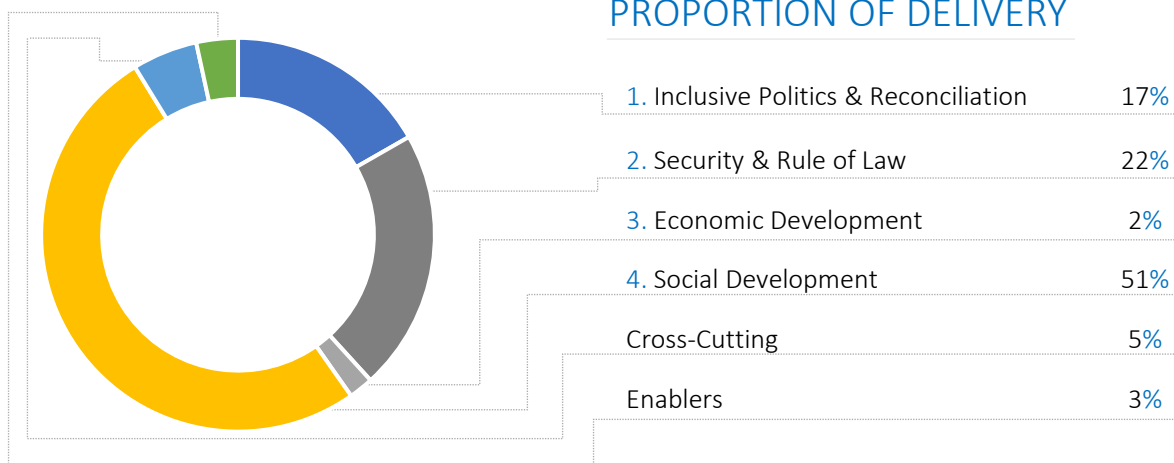
DISBURSEMENTS & DELIVERY



DISBURSEMENTS & DELIVERY PER NDP-9 PILLAR

NDP-9 Pillar	Disbursements (USD)	Delivery (USD)
1. Inclusive Politics & Reconciliation	5,682,110	4,825,932
2. Security & Rule of Law	3,624,289	6,206,840
3. Economic Development	0	581,584
4. Social Development	14,176,653	14,702,788
Cross-Cutting	1,736,363	1,546,858
Enablers	3,880,783	984,212
Total:	29,100,198	28,848,214

PROPORTION OF DELIVERY



1. UN MPTF Joint Programmes adapted their work to contribute directly to the COVID-19 response. The COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan, designed to mitigate the immediate negative health, humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of the virus in Somalia was finalized and published.
2. A four decade-long violent conflict in Afbarwaqo and Towfiq villages of Mudug region was resolved. Peace was advanced through reconciliation efforts between the two clans in Kismayo corridor. A peacebuilding and conflict resolution conference resulted in the ending of a 30 year-long conflict between Osman Mohamud and Dubeys clans.
3. The Electoral Bill was signed into law paving the way for the country to hold its first popular election in half a century. The Law is expected to replace the clan-based selection process.
4. The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development concluded the National Women's Consultations reaching over 10,000 women participants.
5. Legal aid services, alternative dispute resolution centres and mobile courts expanded access to justice for 5,915 individuals and brought justice mechanisms closer to communities, particularly in rural areas, and increased access to justice for marginalized populations.
6. In March, 200 recruits graduated from the Hirshabelle State Police Academy and deployed. Over 2,000 police officers in Kismayo, Baidoa, Galkayo, Hirshabelle and Lower Shabelle received monthly stipends in the second quarter.
7. Networks of like-minded religious leaders were established to promote Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace and to identify its misuse by violent extremist groups to curb and counter the spread of hate-speech and incitement to violence.
8. A revised aid architecture was endorsed by the Somali Development and Reconstruction Facility. The Aid Information Management System was launched to provide greater efficiency, accuracy and accountability to the people of Somalia on development assistance.
9. Almost 8,000 complicated births assisted, and 879 babies delivered through lifesaving caesarean-section procedures. Almost 2,000 new users of modern family planning methods served. 1,470 masks produced in youth centres and distributed in IDP camps.
10. National Environmental Policy and Act; National Charcoal Policy; Water Policy and Act; and draft Energy Policy all finalized. National Resource Management Committee established within the National Federal Parliament.

UN MPTF RESPONSE TO COVID-19



The global outbreak of COVID-19 and its subsequent arrival in Somalia in March 2020 has had a negative impact in an already fragile environment. While Somalia is no stranger to humanitarian crises and socio-economic challenges, COVID-19 has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, while putting further strain on nascent and weak government and social systems. The pandemic also constrains the ability of the international community, including the UN, to support Somalia in its path to sustainable and peaceful development.

Restrictions on travel and physical distancing requirements have severely impeded the realization of the UN's collective mandates in Somalia. UN MPTF Joint Programmes have introduced alternative working arrangements and adapted their implementation modalities to ensure business continuity, while supporting government partners in the continuation of their work. In addition, several Joint Programmes have adapted their interventions to directly contribute to the response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Joint Corrections Programme advocated for Somali authorities to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on incarcerated persons. The Programme called for the release of children, persons with underlying health conditions, persons with low-risk profiles and who have committed minor offenses, persons with imminent release dates, and those detained for offences not recognized under international law. Authorities were also encouraged to apply non-custodial measures, particularly for the elderly, the sick, or others with vulnerabilities to COVID-19.

The Joint Security Sector Governance Programme supported the Office of the Prime Minister with targeted messaging for the public and vulnerable groups which were disseminated through radio, television, social media, partner mobilization and other platforms to raise citizens' awareness on COVID-19. The messaging was developed in cooperation with the ministries of Health, Religious Affairs, Interior, Defence and Information to ensure a coordinated approach. Stakeholders, such as traditional and religious leaders, health workers, youth and women leaders were mobilized to disseminate the messages. A COVID-19 sensitization campaign for the Somali National Army (SNA) was implemented whereby 20 military doctors, nurses and band members were trained as community facilitators to raise awareness on transmission prevention. The information reached an estimated 250,000 viewers across social media and three television channels.

The Joint Programme on Operationalizing the National Strategy & Action Plan on Preventing and Countering and Violent Extremism (PCVE) mobilized funds to support the networks of religious leaders in promoting awareness and countering false narratives on COVID-19 perpetuated by Al-Shabaab. Similarly, the Joint Programme on Human Rights reallocated funds to support an awareness raising campaign on COVID-19 and its potential impacts on human rights.

Responding rapidly to the crisis, UNFPA quickly undertook awareness raising within the health workforce on infection prevention and control. WHO materials were adapted for training of medical personnel. UNFPA also coordinated with WHO through the UN COVID-19 task force to ensure that supported health facilities received personal protective equipment to protect personnel serving in these locations.

The Social Protection Programme supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in undertaking a vulnerability assessment to analyse the primary and secondary socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on various livelihood groups and identification of households most at risk of falling below the poverty line. While the assessment was initially planned for later in the year, it was prioritized to inform government targeting of beneficiaries for COVID-19 assistance.

The Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery developed a COVID-19 specific workplan to raise additional funding while reallocating resources of the Programme's 2020 budget to support the response. The Programme provided technical assistance to the government with a focus on district level interventions in developing concepts and proposals to address COVID-19. The programme also developed a COVID-19 manual and incorporated it into the local leadership management training materials. The manual will support local governments in raising community awareness on preventing the spread of COVID-19. The Programme also adapted planned civic education activities to support Banadir Regional Administration's COVID-19 response. A quick assessment on the fiscal impacts of COVID-19 on local governments undertaken by the Programme revealed the detrimental effect of COVID-19 while highlighting the need for financial support to curb the spread of the virus at the local level.

The Aid Management and Coordination Project supported Aid Coordination Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister played a key role in supporting the COVID-19 National Coordination Committee. In addition, ACU staff played a key role in assessing the preparedness of several health facilities in Mogadishu and their ability to be considered as COVID-19 response centres.

While not yet having commenced implementation during the reporting period, the Productive Sectors Development Programme reprioritized its planned value chain development interventions to boost local production of goods in high demand due to the crisis.

With the support of the Joint Enablers Programme, the Office of the DSRS/RC/HC coordinated the development of the socio-economic component of the COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan which is designed to mitigate the negative consequences of the virus in Somalia, while supporting government and the Somali population to respond in a way that builds a better future. It also strengthened collaboration across the UN on risk management accountability, quality assurance and sharing of fraud-related information.



JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS



NDP-9 PILLAR 1:



INCLUSIVE POLITICS & RECONCILIATION

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Strategic, technical, operational and logistical support provided by the Joint Programme on Reconciliation and Federalism played a critical role in facilitating processes of reconciliation, elections and state formation in Galmudug State. Despite challenges during the electoral process, outreach by the new President of Galmudug with various politicians and clans offers a real prospect for peace and building of a viable state that has suffered regular political crises over the past five years.

The Joint Programme supported the peace-making interventions in a four decade-long violent conflict in Afbarwaqo and Towfiq villages of Mudug region resulting in a peace agreement between two clans (Reer Nim'aale of Sa'ad (Habargidir) and Saleban Abdalle of Dir clan). Reconciliation efforts were also supported between the two clans (Owr-male and Majerten) in Kismayo corridor. A peacebuilding and conflict resolution conference resulted in the ending of a 30 year-long conflict between Osman Mohamud and Dubeys (the sub-clans of Majeerteen and Warsangeli clans respectively).

The Programme promoted inclusivity in all stages of reconciliation and state formation processes through comprehensive engagements with all concerned stakeholders including traditional clan elders, scholars, religious leaders, civil society organizations, business community, politicians, youth and women. Several clan conflicts were identified by project partners as requiring immediate interventions requiring the organization of reconciliation conferences. The Programme will continue to support such interventions including where feasible, those that were postponed due COVID-19 related restrictions.

A technical committee was created on 15 June, following a high-profile meeting convened by Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, with the President of Somalia, Muse Bihi Abdi, and the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo. The committee is tasked to advance discussions between the parties following the Djibouti talks. The Programme will provide support to the Office of the Prime Minister and

the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation in facilitating the dialogue.

The Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation convened an inter-ministerial consultation on 14 June in Mogadishu to review the draft Inter-Governmental Relations Act 2020. Participants resolved to engage FMS counterparts to resolve outstanding institutional, administrative, and technical aspects of draft Act.

The Joint Programme supported the Independent Commission for Boundaries and Federation to execute its mandated functions. The Commission conducted studies in all FMSs to finalize the process of establishing FMSs as formal legal entities. The resulting Formalization Report will be presented to the parliament for endorsement. Boundary delimitation between South West and Hirshabelle states was finalized while discussions between Galmudug and Puntland commenced on the same.

The Programme also provided technical support to inter-ministerial working sessions on the distribution of resources and allocation of powers, to inform the ongoing constitutional review process on federalist principles. The sessions were jointly organized by the Office of Prime Minister, the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant programmatic implications as most planned activities necessitated public gatherings, conferences, consultations, training sessions and field-based surveys at FGS and FMS levels.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 537,560

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 610,210 ³

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In January the Joint Programme supported the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), the Oversight Committee (OC) and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) to develop a Master Plan to complete the constitutional review process by June, in line with the Mutual Accountability Framework.

The process of preparing the draft technical text for review by the three mandated institutions was effectively completed by the November 2019 Istanbul retreat and finalized by January 2020. During February, MoCA, supported by MoIFAR, organized the FGS inter-ministerial meetings to solicit the views of the FGS on the constitutional review process and allow FGS ministries to find the common ground before the Cabinet Retreat. The sessions were well attended with participation of the line ministers and their technical teams, supported by experts from UN, World Bank and other international organizations. Seven-hundred participants (Women: 118) attended the discussions. As a result of the consultations, MoCA and MoIFAR obtained the required options from the line-ministries on key political and power sharing issues.

ICRIC and OC completed the second draft of the Provisional Constitution which was submitted to the President of Somalia, the Prime Minister, the Speakers of the Parliament, the Presidents of the FMS and the chair of the Banadir Regional Administration, together with the report prepared by the OC. This draft of the Constitution has been tabled for discussion in Parliament. The OC also prepared the relevant procedures to pave the way for the Somali Federal Parliament to start debating the amendments and adopt the reviewed Constitution. The Joint Programme supported OC and ICRIC to undertake an audit of the constitutional draft, based on the recommendations from the Istanbul retreat. Of 147 reviewed articles, it was concluded that only 18 articles required political negotiations while all others were deemed non-contentious.

The Programme continued to provide operational and technical support to FMS MoCAs in Puntland, Jubaland, Galmudug, South West and Hirshabelle. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, FMS MoCAs provided assistance to the FGS MoCA, OC and ICRIC to implement the Master Plan in FMS. However, from late March, FMS MoCAs have been unable to implement the majority of the planned activities, such as trainings and workshops, due to the pandemic. Instead, the FMS MoCAs developed or reviewed strategic plans and key policy documents and focused on building the technical and administrative capacity of staff.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The FGS committed under the Mutual Accountability Framework to complete the constitutional review process by June - this was not achieved.

Puntland State organized the Puntland Consultative Conference in Garowe between 15-17 March, where participants called upon the Puntland Government to postpone the review of the provisional Federal Constitution until after the upcoming national elections to provide sufficient time and full consultation. Though positive developments emerged after the Conference when Puntland's President Deni publicly stated his intention to visit President Farmajo to discuss Puntland's concerns regarding the relationship with the FGS, the meeting did not take place. Given the current situation, key contentious issues related to the FGS-FMS relations cannot be resolved before the FGS-FMS summit.

The Parliament recessed in mid-February. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Parliament reconvened on 6 June, while the first session was organized on 27 June.

COVID-19 and political tensions between the FGS and the FMS significantly impacted the implementation of the Joint Programme activities and the Master Plan for the completion of the constitutional review process. MoCA, OC and ICRIC could not organize the first round of consultations in Puntland and Jubaland or finalize the first round of consultations in Hirshabelle, Galmudug and South West State, while round two of consultations, that were to be undertaken in early April, were postponed.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,056,935

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo signed the Electoral Bill into law paving the way for the country to hold its first popular election in half a century. The Law is expected to replace the clan-based selection process. Following the endorsement of the Electoral Law, a Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee was established to provide recommendations on the implementation of the Law.

The Joint Programme supported the National Federal Parliament with communication technology and equipment to ensure continuity of parliamentary sessions and voting. The technology has been integrated with the video teleconferencing system and tested. Plenary halls of both houses and all committees are fully functional. Cognizant of COVID-19, technical support to amend Joint Rules of Procedures was provided and amendments have been drafted and submitted to the Speakers.

Technical Advisory support was provided to the OC, MoCA and ICRIC to organize the first round of consultations in Mogadishu, Hirshabelle, Galmudug and South West State, with institutional and political players, civil society and citizenry. A total number of 1,023 of Somalis participated in the Consultations (Galmudug - Women: 183, Men: 397; South West - Women: 87, Men: 193; Hirshabelle: Women: 30, Men: 133). The first round of consultations was completed in March with the understanding that political actors would obtain the required mandates from their principals to inform the second round of consultations that should have resulted in building consensus around the reviewed Constitution. However, the first round of consultations in Puntland and Jubaland, and the second round of consultations in all the FMSs have been postponed to a later date due to political tensions between the FGS and the FMSs and the outbreak of COVID-19.

The OC was supported to perform an audit of the constitutional draft, providing recommendations on potentially contentious or non-contentious articles, and to guide political negotiations between the FGS and FMSs.

Based on the direct request from the President of South West State, Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed, the Programme coordinated with UNSOM and the House of the People of the Federal Parliament to support the establishment of the second Parliament of South West State. Based on the technical assistance provided, the 95 Members of Parliament (MPs) have been selected (Women: 16) and the second chamber is fully functional.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Puntland State organized the Puntland Consultative Conference in Garowe between 15-17 March. The Conference Communique stated that “conference members called upon Puntland Government to postpone the review of the provisional constitution of the FGS until after the upcoming election following 2020/2021 in order to provide sufficient time and full consultation”. Though positive developments emerged after the Conference when the Puntland President Deni publicly stated his intention to visit President Farmajo to discuss Puntland’s concerns regarding the relationship with the FGS, the meeting has not taken place yet. Moreover, the relationship between the FGS and Puntland and Jubaland has not improved since. As such, resolution of key contentious issues relating to the FGS-FMS relations cannot be concluded before the FGS-FMS summit.

The parliament recessed in mid-February and only reconvened on 6 June due to COVID-19. This delayed advancement of key legislations, including the Political Party Law which is one of the most important laws to determine key aspects of the 2020/2021 elections. The delay also significantly impacted completion of the constitutional review process, since MPs were not able to discuss the reviewed Constitution by 30 June, though it has been tabled for the Parliamentary debate.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 253,364

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In February, the National Federal Parliament adopted the Electoral Bill, which was signed into law by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The Law proposes a new first-past-the-post electoral system with 275 constituencies in the House of the People and 54 Upper House seats. However, several key issues required clarification for the law to be implementable. As such, Parliament established a joint committee to formulate recommendations to address key issues in the Law in consultation with the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the FMSs and other stakeholders. The Joint Programme supported discussions between the committee and the NIEC. The committee presented its recommendations to the House of the People on 17 June. The Speaker of the Upper House called for broad consultations and political consensus between all political stakeholders on the 2020/21 elections, while the Speaker of the House of the People continued to emphasize the primacy of parliament to decide on the electoral modality and proceeded to pass resolutions on the four key articles in the Electoral Law. The Upper House did not participate in the process. The resolutions guaranteed a minimum of 24 per cent women's representation in Parliament; allocated thirteen additional seats to the Upper House for representation of the Banadir region, which will require an amendment to the provisional Constitution; outlined a separate modality for electing members of both Houses from "Somaliland"; and confirmed the allocation of seats to constituencies for both Houses.

On 27 June, the NIEC presented its report on preparations and options for the upcoming federal elections to the House of the People. The two options proposed included same day paper-based voter registration and polling, which would take place in March 2021, and elections with standard biometric voter registration, with polls in August 2021. Following NIEC's presentation, there were increasing calls from a wide range of stakeholders, including from FMS leaders, Speaker of the Upper House, civil society organizations and political party representatives, to engage in inclusive dialogue on elections.

The Joint Programme used the good offices of the UN to repeatedly encourage the Speaker of the House of the People to introduce the amendments to the Political Parties Law which was pending since May 2019. The first reading was held on 10 June and is currently at committee stage in Parliament. The delay in passing the amendments to this Law adversely impacts the deadlines for political parties to receive official registration and to nominate candidates. The NIEC provided provisional registration to 19 political parties during the reporting period, bringing the total number of parties provisionally registered to 82 as of 30 June.

The Joint Programme also provided support for the construction of a data centre at the NIEC's compound in Mogadishu which was handed over on 28 May. The data centre will enable the NIEC to efficiently conduct electoral operations for the upcoming elections. The Joint Programme continues to oversee and coordinate other UN entities who are supporting the construction of an electoral dispute resolution centre and a warehouse at the site.

Technical and logistical support to the NIEC continued. In late March, the NIEC issued work-from-home orders to its staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the work

from home period, the Joint Programme continued to provide daily technical support to NIEC staff across the broad spectrum of electoral activities through virtual means. The Joint Programme provided zoom licenses to both the NIEC and the parliamentary committee to communicate, coordinate and exchange information with all stakeholders efficiently.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Adopted on 20 February, the Electoral Law delegated the authority to Parliament to regulate fundamental aspects of the electoral process rather than give the authority to the NIEC. The law lacks clarity in many articles and as a result a parliamentary ad hoc committee had to be established to clarify four key issues in the electoral law without which it would not be possible to implement the law. The Amendments to the Political Parties Law is still under discussion in Parliament and the delay in adopting this law will impact the ability of political parties to register for the 2020/21 elections. The quality of the legal framework remains a challenge as it is contradictory and insufficient, clearly reflecting the lack of legal drafting knowledge. Lack of political will for universal suffrage elections could undermine the NIEC's decision-making and implementation capacity and risks undermining the overall support to the process. If significant parts of the population cannot be registered or cannot vote due to security constraints, certain areas or groups may face exclusion.

For any election, the critical path for election planning is the timeline for the procurement of electoral goods and services including key items such as voter registration kits, ballot papers, ballot boxes, polling kits and electoral ink. The ballot paper procurement process starts with the candidate registration process, for which both the Electoral Law and the Political Parties Law need to be finalized. As the government's financial situation is limited, donors have been approached to financially support the elections. If budget and funding are agreed at a late stage, it could affect overall electoral timelines given operational requirements for procurement, shipping, packing, and delivering of materials. Timely availability of financial resources is vital to ensure delivery of goods and services to meet the electoral timelines. The FGS needs to establish a political agreement between all FMSs and other stakeholders on an agreed way forward on the electoral modality and implementation as soon as possible if electoral timelines are to be met within a reasonable time of the constitutional deadline.

The spread of COVID-19, and the planned measures to contain the virus have both constitutional and technical implications for the timing and administration of the elections in Somalia in an already exceptionally complex environment. COVID-19 at this stage of the electoral process has had some visible short-term effects on the planning phase of operations, mainly linked to the incomplete legal framework, upon which operations are dependent. Considering the new hazards and risks posed by covid-19 pandemic, extra measures will be put in place during the electoral operations ensuring the safety and security of individuals involved and participating in the process.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 5,144,550

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 2,300,859

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the first half of the year, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development successfully concluded the National Women's Consultations across four FMS and Banadir Region while reaching over 10,000 women participants. Following the passing of the Somalia Women's Charter in 2019, the Ministry has been rolling out different platforms to secure the broader engagement with constituents across Somalia to ensure women's full inclusion and participation in the peace and development agenda of the country.

The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and the Joint Programme coordinated with the BUILD project to advocate for internal restructuring processes for political parties. Currently, the political parties are challenging the need for such reforms. However, the NIEC has been strategically engaging the political parties and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the process is not delayed.

During the reporting period, the Programme supported a series of advocacy campaigns focusing on legislative lobbying, community engagement, and coalition building to reiterate the message of zero tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM), with elders and religious leaders as allies.

Puntland's Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs validated its five-year strategic plan through a consultative forum which included the participation of different stakeholders across Puntland. Once finalized, the document is expected to be adopted by the Ministry.

Somaliland's Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family developed a national action plan towards the approval and implementation of women's quota on political participation. The absence of such a unified and harmonized action plan hindered the adoption and ratification of the Quota Bill. The Ministry also organized a series of social media campaigns promoting women's political participation as part of its campaign to enhance the representation of women in decision-making processes. Discussions were held among various segments of society to highlight the need for greater participation of women in decision making and to advance meaningful participation of women in the upcoming Somaliland elections.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Restrictions of COVID-19 have been a major challenge which resulted in delay of activities planned for implementation in the first six months of 2020, as well as in halting all community awareness meetings on electoral preparedness. Other challenges included continued security issues, FGS-FMS dynamics and lack of government capacity.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 604,564

NDP-9 PILLAR 2:



SECURITY & RULE OF LAW

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Through the first half of the year, the Joint Justice Programme achieved results both in building the capacity of key justice sector institutions, as well roll-out of bottom-up initiatives for transformative change for justice. The Programme was responsive in adapting to the evolving operational environment, with both heightened security threats as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, responding rapidly to changing priorities, working modalities and delivery. To ensure continued implementation where possible, the Programme developed business continuity plans to minimize the disruption to justice services. Alternative working modalities were instated for both formal and traditional justice mechanisms. To facilitate collaboration and coordination within and between institutions, partners were supported to continue working remotely through online meeting facilities. However, some activities had to be suspended where precautionary measures as per international guidelines from the WHO and national rules set by the Somali government, such as physical distancing, could not be adhered to.

Despite these challenges, the administration and functioning of courts was improved. The case management system in Banadir courts were revamped to ensure more seamless case flows through a secure online case recording system. Public information helpdesks have been reviewed to improve access to information for court users to enable them to better navigate the Banadir court system.

Legal aid services, alternative dispute resolution centres, and mobile courts expanded access to justice for 5,915 individuals (4,407 received legal aid services, 1,330 availed of alternative dispute resolution centres, 178 utilized mobile courts). These initiatives brought justice mechanisms closer to communities, particularly in rural areas, and increased access to justice for marginalized populations.

Women's access to justice was enhanced through, inter alia, capacity building of national justice institutions, awareness raising of the key justice actors, and improved coordination among justice institutions and actors in protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls within formal and informal justice institutions.

The Programme initiated projects to encourage transformational change for justice reform. Community conversations commenced across sites in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland, Puntland and South West State, to build trust between participating community members and their facilitators. Early results indicate greater inclusion of women (893 women participated) and marginalized populations as active participants in this community-led effort.

This is supported by nonviolent communication training that continues to transform the perception of the role of women in the justice chain and in society more broadly and expands traditional models of authority and leadership with more inclusive approaches.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The lack of agreement between the FGS and FMS on several important political issues continues to constitute one of the main challenges in achieving key programme goals. The limited progress on reaching an agreement on a federated Justice and Corrections Model has left several programme objectives pending, including a review of the legal framework and establishment of key institutions. Related to this, weak relations between the FGS and FMS continues to be a barrier for implementation. Commitment and political will by the FGS to take greater ownership and invest in building the capacity of formal justice institutions and actors, to function in tandem with community-oriented and community-led approaches to justice reform, is urgently needed.

Interventions have historically focused on capacity building and technical training based on the assumption that the lack of capacity in formal justice institutions is one of the main problems hindering access to justice. While this indeed contributes to poor justice services, a fundamental issue that has not been addressed adequately is the mindset of stakeholders. Entrenched views about appropriate and acceptable means for conflict resolution, the role of women in society and in the justice sector, the legitimacy of formal justice mechanisms, power dynamics between majority and minority clans, and other significant issues are the result of personal, family, community and social experiences perpetuated over generations. To achieve meaningful change in the access to effective justice for all, the conceptualization of necessary interventions should thus not only target capacity-building, but also work towards shifts in perspective and social transformation. Furthermore, there are complex interactions between and within the various formal and informal justice mechanisms, which are affected by a range of moderating factors, such as clan dynamics.

Providing tools and facilitating processes for communities to address the complex issues related to justice and security can empower beneficiaries to take ownership of their issues and create localized solutions. This complements existing efforts to strengthen formal justice institutions and mechanisms. The community conversation methodology is an important concept but takes time to develop in practice. Further training and capacity building will also need to focus on addressing and managing power dynamics, given existing power hierarchies.

Persistence in the lack of legislation for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases in the southern states makes it difficult to establish specialized prosecutorial units at Attorney General Offices. Finally, the lack of an agreed and harmonized revenue generation systems at FGS and FMS level poses continued challenges to build and enhance the capacity of the judiciary at district level and the provision of decentralized justice services.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 2,524,500

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 2,048,510

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Construction of an additional block at the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex (MPCC) continued uninterrupted during the reporting period while implementors and workers have adopted strict hygiene and sanitation practices, inclusive of daily temperature checks, mandatory wearing of masks and regular handwashing. Construction of the block is on-track and set for completion by November 2020

Training materials for Somali Custodial Corps officers have been converted into e-learning materials to mitigate further delays or restrictions on the movement of personnel that may impact implementation of capacity building initiatives. Target facilities will be provided with the necessary equipment to deliver these trainings making the platform available for new recruits. The materials will be translated into Somali while illiteracy will be addressed with the inclusion of a Somali voice-over for the training content. Programme staff will be trained on the use of the platform to assist with its roll-out.

The Programme supported the delivery of hygiene, sanitation and welfare items to prisons in Baidoa, Beletweyne, Kismayo, Garowe and the MPCC. Basic education sessions in mathematics, English, Arabic and Somali are continually being delivered within Baidoa prison while observing the necessary hygiene and sanitations practices.

To alleviate the spread of COVID-19 cases in Garowe, the Joint Programme initiated an additional procurement of personal protective equipment including masks, face shield, disposable body suits, thermometers and medical gloves. As of 29 June, the items were delivered by the vendor in Mogadishu as they were sourced in Kenya for quality assurance purposes. Through telecommuting, the project implementation team has been able to establish a preliminary logical framework for the prisoner reintegration programme in Garowe. The translation of the draft standard operating procedures was completed and sent to the office of the Ministry of Justice and the Commissioner General for approval. The draft translations of the documents will be used as a foundation for further consultations and amendments with prison authorities. Training on the implementation of the procedures will be conducted once the situation normalises.

The human recognition biometric equipment was delivered to Mogadishu and is currently in storage at the UN camp. No handover ceremony or training for staff at the regional facilities is scheduled at this time due to movement restrictions.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The recruitment of international corrections expert has faced delays as selected candidates are unlikely to be able to deploy until it is safe for staff to return to Somalia. COVID-19 has slowed vocational training at MPCC with a limited number of prisoners being permitted to leave their cells due to fears that they may contract COVID-19. Due to the closure of the Somali airspace and movement restrictions, the project has been unable to deploy surveyors or consultants to Kismayo for assessments and the gathering of project data required to complete the prison design package.

Support to the Somali Custodial Corps and Office of the Attorney General has focused more on COVID-19 information sharing, coordination, and issuance of guidance for facilities as they attempt to decongest prisons and other detention facilities.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,328,083

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

On 20 February 2020, a Joint Assessment team comprising of the Joint Police Programme (JPP) Secretariat, UNSOM Police, AMISOM, Somali Police Force, Somali Police Support Office, UNOPS and representatives of the Hirshabelle State authorities visited the Hirshabelle State Police Training Academy in Jowhar. They undertook an assessment as well as provided technical support to the training.

Two hundred recruits (22 women) graduated on 12 March 2020 from the Hirshabelle State Police Academy in Jowhar. After the passing out parade, all trained police officers were airlifted back to their respective regions in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle for deployment.

515 police officers received monthly harmonized stipends payments of US\$ 80 in January and February in Kismayo, Jubaland State. However, Jubaland State did not pay salaries for March prompting UNOPS to retain stipends for the month. 408 police officers in Baidoa, South West State, 178 in Galkacyo, Galmudug State, and 181 Phase 3 police officers in Jowhar, Hirshabelle State, received monthly stipends of US\$ 100. JPP police stipends team registered 198 Phase 3 police recruits (22 women) in Jowhar on 20 February who received their US\$ 100 stipends in March. Other completed verifications include Baidoa officers, Kismayo officers and Phase 1 Jowhar officers.

Five hundred and fifteen police officers in Kismayo received monthly stipend payments of US\$ 80 during the month of April. Payment of salaries is in progress for the months of May and June. Four hundred and seven police officers in Baidoa, 177 in Galkayo, 572 in Hirshabelle and 376 in Lower Shabelle received stipends of US\$ 100 for the months of April, May and June.

Twelve police patrol vehicles were procured and received on 5 February. Construction of five vehicle checkpoints was completed in Q1. The checkpoints were constructed at Jaziira, Galgalato, Maslax, Daarasalam and Tiida and were handed over to the Somali Police Force on 4 and 5 February. The design and review process for six vehicle checkpoints (Medina) was completed in Q2 and the contract awarded for the commencement of work. The checkpoints are contributing towards the implementation of the Mogadishu Security Plan. The design, review and procurement process for construction of office space in Tiida and Daarasalam vehicle checkpoint was completed in Q2 while construction of Perimeter HESCO wall in Dolow and the construction and refurbishment of the police training facility was also finalized. The design and review for the Bossaso and Garowe police stations was also completed and the procurement process for a construction contractor has been initiated.

On 18 February 2020, the JPP undertook a site assessment of the newly allocated site for the construction of the Police Training Facility in Baidoa. The site which was formerly the Agriculture Development Center (ADC) is too small to host 400 officers at the same time, therefore, South West State MoIS agreed to reduce the number of police officers to be trained to 200 per batch.

The detailed design for the second phase of the upgrade of the Jowhar police training facility, including designs for the male and female dormitory, was completed on 2 March. The design package for the construction of a police station in the District of Bulo Burte was successfully completed in Q2.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Responses to COVID-19 revealed the need for closer coordination of JPP implementing partners, advisors and the Somali Police Support Office. As a result, coordination activities have been intensified by undertaking weekly JPP Coordination meetings.

Due to low participation of females in the vetting process, considerations are being made to include women in the national vetting committees in an effort to improve mobilization of female recruits at the state level through women's group engagement activities. There is also a need to develop a JPP gender strategy and action plan to guide mainstreaming of gender across the programme.

The community policing training in Galkayo revealed a need for future training and workshops to improve their engagement with local businesspeople, in order to encourage greater support for police operations from the influential business community.

Noting the experience of other UN Agencies and NGOs, it will be feasible to conduct in-person training if the format is altered to adhere to guidelines on social distancing and gatherings. However, this will necessitate a significant reduction of workshop size and careful planning to minimize the health risk to participants.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,099,789

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 567,239

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Capacity building of FGS and FMS security institutions continued under the Joint Security Sector Governance Programme (JSSGP) through the development of institutional development and capacity building plans and the design of a comprehensive training concept. Ten institutions at FGS and FMS level have now created development and capacity building plans - seven of which were finalized - that set out the structure, development priorities, and personnel and trainings requirements that will allow the institutions to implement their mandates and provide civilian oversight and security function in line with the national and state security policies. These capacity development areas have formed the basis of the JSSGP training concept that will guide capacity building training for all beneficiary institutions. The concept is based on a Training of Trainers modality and anchored in the government structures to ensure sustainability. The JSSGP has developed 11 training modules that will be delivered virtually in the second half of 2020.

Regional security offices have significantly improved coordination capacity and worked towards increasing civilian oversight capacity in all FMSs and Banadir region. The offices are also facilitating Regional Security Council meetings and providing technical expertise in their respective regions, including developing strategies for and coordinating the state security forces, supporting force generation, and assisting in professionalising the police to deliver security services, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing security modalities for the upcoming elections.

The 160 Programme funded consultants and advisors provided expert support for partner security institutions which has strengthened the capacity to deliver on their mandates in accordance with the National Security Architecture, the Security and Justice Roadmap and the Transitional Plan. The expert injection has also been instrumental for the development of the institutional development and capacity building plans.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The key challenge during the reporting period has been the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since mid-March, most of the Joint Programme and partner staff have been working from home. By the first week of June, several institutions, including the JSSGP team in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Internal Security, reported back to office. A business continuity plan was developed to assess the impact on achieving programme objectives and to undertake scenario planning for the future.

At the outset of the pandemic, most Programme counterparts were not accustomed to working virtually, however, regular coordination between the FMS and FGS institutions is being undertaken through these modalities. Consequently, day-to-day technical meetings, planning for trainings and partner engagements were completed. However, restrictions have delayed progress in capacity building efforts, which were originally planned as face-to-face trainings. In order to mitigate this, the UN completed a successful virtual training pilot for staff in the OPM. Additional virtual trainings are planned for the second half of 2020.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,560,146

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the first half of 2020, the Joint Programme ensured that the OPM PCVE Coordination Unit and FMS PCVE focal points were staffed and capacitated to coordinate PCVE activities and implement priority interventions from their PCVE action plans. The capacities of qualified and experienced government experts on PCVE were also developed while the salaries of OPM and FMS focal points were sustained. The Programme continued to support inter-ministerial exchange at both FGS and FMS levels.

Government PCVE coordination structures were able to respond robustly to the challenge of COVID-19 to ensure that implementation of the PCVE priority action points could commence and continue during the pandemic. Through engagement with the COVID-19 response task force, PCVE was mainstreamed into the work of the key line ministries in their response to the pandemic.

Building on pilot activities in Hirshabelle State, the programme continued to establish networks of like-minded religious leaders to promote Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace and to identify its misuse by violent extremist groups to curb and counter the spread of hate-speech and incitement to violence. An awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 successfully responded to harmful misinformation and religious leaders were activated to support COVID-19 response efforts.

The campaign contributed to debunking harmful misinformation that Muslims cannot be affected by the virus while sharing life-saving information. The campaign also triggered a debate on the need to curb congregational prayers resulting in the official temporary closure of madrassas countrywide and mosques in at least three FMSs, and the application of social distancing measures at places of worship. Al-Shabaab propaganda that the pandemic is a divine punishment for the non-believers brought to Somalia by foreign forces that need to be eliminated was countered. This potentially helped trigger Al-Shabaab's acknowledgement of the dangers of the pandemic and mirroring the government's efforts to combat the virus. Finally, the campaign facilitated collaboration between the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and the Somali ulema by establishing a network of moderate mosques willing to collaborate with the government in disseminating information on the pandemic.

Progress was made on inter-ministerial collaboration on managing religious institutions across Somalia. The Federal Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs was supported to develop its vision, mission statement and mandate -- including the key objectives of promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace – which was published on the Ministry’s new website (mera.gov.so).

Building on existing small action research interventions, data collection is being finalized in the two remaining research locations, Galkayo and Cadado. All research pilots apply a theory of change accompanied by a set of tools designed to measure the programming impact on the evolution of violent extremist beliefs and activities of target groups. The initial baseline data has been analysed and preparations for interventions continued.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The impact and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have required both adjustments to consultative approaches and committee formations involving gatherings of people, as well as tailoring interventions towards addressing emerging hate speech and discrimination used by violent extremist groups with reference to COVID-19.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 175,298

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on Human Rights participated in a study tour to Rwanda, which improved the knowledge and capacities of delegates to respond to human rights violations, mainstream human rights in a post-conflict environment, operationalize human rights commitments, and to develop and implement policies and practices. Other key actors involved in human rights protection, including elders, police, prosecutors, judges, prison officers and doctors, received trainings on responses to SGBV and prisoners' rights. Civil society organizations were capacitated to monitor and report on human rights and were supported with low value grants to deliver human rights training and advocacy to marginalized and minority groups, persons with disabilities, IDPs, women, children and youth.

A study tour to Uganda focused the domestication of disability rights commitments and mainstreaming the disability rights agenda, which increased the capacity of Members of Parliament, representatives from line ministries and disability rights organizations, to adopt lessons learned for application in Somalia. Consultations for the Disability Rights Bill have started and information sharing sessions were held in Puntland, continuing from the series of information sharing sessions in other FMSs during the previous reporting cycle.

The implementation of Somalia's human rights commitment has also focused on improving its human rights reporting and the development of key thematic policies. This includes preparation of the report to the Human Rights Committee on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, preparation of replies to the list of issues regarding implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, preparation for the Universal Periodic Review and progressing on the Protection of Civilians Policy.

Coordination has improved between the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and the Puntland Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs, and information-sharing contributed to the development of the Protection of Civilians Policy.

Further advances were made on the rights of persons with disabilities with regard to the domestication and mainstreaming of disability rights. Disability outreach facilitators visited Puntland for information-sharing sessions, and to document challenges faced by persons with disabilities, which will inform draft Disability Rights Bill.

The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development also developed communication materials, such as videos and leaflets to improve human rights awareness and education. Short videos focus on basic human rights, SGBV and the protection of civilians. A series of documentary-style videos provide a more in-depth focus on various human rights issues including: protection of women and children in Somalia, the rights of persons with disabilities, development of a National Protection of Civilians Policy, street children, freedom of expression, access to justice and due diligence, and gender equality.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The commitment and dedication of the FGS and its ministries is vital to establish and consolidate institutional mechanisms and formulate policies to mainstream human rights in national programmes, policies and legislation. Although the delivery rate has increased, the pace of implementation needs to significantly accelerate. However, this can only happen with greater urgency and commitment on the part of the FGS and FMSs to improve protection of human rights.

No progress was made on the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission which remained stalled at the Cabinet level, where the list of commissioners submitted to the Council of Ministers is yet to be considered. This continued delay continues to impede progress in the establishment and operationalization of the Commission, which is a key protection institution envisaged in the Constitution and the Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

Due to the need to conduct consultations on human rights priorities with FMS institutions, there were significant delays in the development, finalization and approval of the annual work plan for 2020 due to COVID-19. This has highlighted the urgency to start planning for the next generation of programmes.

Low capacity continues to affect the implementation of activities in support to the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee. There are also challenges linked to political realities and impediments, such as those affecting the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the resolution of which requires continued advocacy and political engagement, including from international partners.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 527,564

NDP-9 PILLAR 3:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In March, a coordination meeting was held in Baidoa by the FGS Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range which was attended by FMS environment ministries and their technical experts. Joint Programme activities were discussed and reviewed considering the findings of the Programme's mid-term review and NDP-9 priorities while 2020 milestones were set incorporating FMS priorities. A full-scale nation-wide reforestation programme was proposed to mitigate the impact of deforestation.

A national awareness campaign was held in Baidoa. Sixty-seven officials (18 per cent women) representing key environment ministries at FGS and FMS levels, Somali artists, civil society organizations, traditional elders, and national and regional women's groups were engaged to promote environmental protection and alternative energy solutions to charcoal. Twenty-three banners encouraged the use of alternative energy options while telecoms companies, and television and radio stations were engaged to achieve greater visibility.

Field surveys were successfully conducted in Badhaadhe, Kismayo and Afmadow districts to record charcoal production and movement. In addition, FAO's Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) has undertaken the monitoring of the impact of charcoal production on natural vegetation. The exercise identified and recorded all charcoal kiln traces observed from 2011 – 2019 with high resolution satellite images to establish trends and provide updated production estimates. The study indicates an overall production of 20 million bags over the nine-year period and shows an overall decrease of charcoal production in the north-northeast section of the study area (along the Juba river) as opposed to an intensification around the central and south areas of the country (near Buur Gaabo and Kismayo). While the analysis was affected by the availability and quality of images, it provides a useful insight on the magnitude of charcoal production, its spatial origin, and the shift in production locations over time. The final report is expected by the end of July 2020 which will provide crucial information to Somali authorities for use in land rehabilitation, national planning and decision making.

To respond to the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, the FGS, with UN support, finalized the National Environmental Policy and Act, the Somalia National Charcoal Policy, Water Policy and Act, draft Energy Policy and established the National Resource Management Committee within the Na-

tional Federal Parliament. The Charcoal Policy tackles some critical points of the charcoal value chains by supporting Somali institutions in raising awareness on its negative costs and side effects. Its design is centred on the formulation and implementation of the Charcoal Policy at the national, regional and local level and strengthens FGS leadership in coordinating capacity building initiatives, awareness raising and implementation of innovative solutions for reducing the exploitation of the rangeland biomass and illicit export of charcoal. The National Energy Policy facilitates regulatory frameworks in the energy sector and forging of partnerships with the private sector in demonstrating the viability of reliable and affordable clean energy. Likewise, the Water Policy and Acts will enhance water governance and equitable access to clean and affordable water. The National Environment Policy supports climate change adaptation and sustainable Natural Resources Management.

The construction of two tree nurseries in Gobweyn and Yontoy villages began in late January. Natural resource management trainings on tree nursery establishment and management were conducted in both villages in February. The trainings established natural resource committees with community by-laws at both tree nursery sites, and a community based environmental organization in Gobweyn village.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the implementation of planned activities, including the revision of the Joint Programme strategy, convening of the Programme steering committee meeting, undertaking national sensitization campaigns, and distribution of liquified petroleum gas cylinders in FMSs.

Security issues delayed implementation of activities, especially data collection. FAO SWALIM staff were unable to travel to Kismayo due to security challenges. Consequently, a trainer was brought from Somalia to Kenya to be trained on data collection which was then provided to field staff in Kismayo. This process delayed implementation of field activities by around two months.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 581,584

NDP-9 PILLAR 4:



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, the JPLG supported the completion of the multi-stakeholder revision process of Somaliland Local Government Law No. 23. The final version has now been translated into English. The programme provided support for 37 local development fund projects in Puntland. The projects were technically supervised and monitored by district public works units with technical backstopping by the Ministry of Public Works. This achievement demonstrates the positive impact of the capacity building provided to the technical staff that has enhanced competencies in the delivery of infrastructure services.

Local taxation regulations continued to develop and improve during the reporting period. The mobile tax payment system developed in Garowe district is currently being utilised. Streamlining these processes has resulted in a significant growth in business tax collection in the Garowe Municipality during the first quarter of 2020. The system is also operational in Borama and Burao. Data from the existing databases is being synchronized with the new digital payment system. In addition, a guide to local taxation was developed for FMSs to enable them to tap into potential sources of tax at sub-national levels. This simple, detailed and contextualized guide will be followed by trainings designed for local government leaders and their staff. In addition, the English versions of 12 local leadership management handbooks were reviewed ahead of the upcoming training sessions, planned to take place across the FMSs.

Training was provided to six local trainers (two women) for Hirshabelle State to produce local trainers. The trainers were equipped with local leadership management and conflict management training, facilitation and coordination skills and will soon be facilitating trainings in Hirshabelle. In Puntland and Somaliland, a training impact assessment was conducted with focus on local leadership management, conflict management, and gender mainstreaming.

The Programme supported Local Government Association of Somaliland in producing a paper on local government budgets that examined revenue and expenditure performance of eight JPLG supported districts in Somaliland. Evidence showed that there was a significant rise in own-source-revenue from 2008 to 2018 which enabled the financing of a wide range of local services including health, education, solid waste management, and road infrastructure.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, JPLG, in coordination with donor partners, operationalized an emergency funding window to support 33 local governments across the country to undertake initiatives to prevent the spread of the virus. These included civic education, provision of sanitation facilities in public spaces, and boosting the capacities of primary health care.

A councillor's guide to COVID-19 was developed in both English and Somali while research was produced on the fiscal impact of the virus on local governments. A guide on proper waste management was developed while an innovative interactive radio series to address the response of local governments to COVID-19 in Banadir region was completed.

Somaliland's 2020 investment for Education and Health Service Delivery Model was US\$ 3,753,562. Of the total budget, 69 per cent came from local governments, 14 per cent from the central government and 17 per cent from JPLG. To leverage additional resources for basic services and further strengthen inter-governmental fund transfers for Service Delivery Model resources, a review was initiated to assess options for transfers through the Puntland Ministry of Finance.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Implementation of the JPLG workplan was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions which affected many capacity building activities, dialogues, and monitoring missions. The programme has adapted to functioning through online interactions. COVID-19 has also resulted in a significant decline in remittances impacting the Somali economy and further limiting the capacity of local governments to provide services.

Delays in district council formation in the new FMSs has also hindered implementation. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion continues to move at a slow pace. Inadequate district staffing levels for FMSs is delaying capacity-building support and is directly linked to resource shortages. Continuing security constraints and limited means of travel limits access to newly established districts.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 6,558,296

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 6,552,202

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

UNFPA support to the Midwifery Education programme in Somalia has continued to expand and training activities have continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty-two midwives graduated across the country by June. Programme continuity was ensured by adapting to virtual learning and training approaches. For instance, family planning and infection prevention and control trainings were combined and provided to midwifery students. UNFPA trained 60 trainers and 140 providers of family planning services across the country. Sayana Press, a method of modern family planning, was introduced to the public sector and approval was obtained from the Ministry of Health and Human Services for its use in health centres. Basic emergency obstetric and newborn care centres continued to be strengthened on their signal functions.

During the reporting period, 7,935 complicated deliveries were managed, and 879 babies were delivered through lifesaving caesarean-section procedures. Almost 2,000 new users of modern family planning methods were served. However, during Q2, all service delivery numbers reduced compared to the previous six months, or over the same period of 2019, and the uptake of preventive care such as antenatal care visits was weak, even for normal deliveries.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services was supported in the procurement of personal protective equipment as well as printing of information, education, and communication materials for community education on COVID-19. Collaborative efforts with other UN Agencies were strengthened (WHO, UNICEF, IOM) and standardized COVID-19 relevant training materials were used by all Agencies to ensure uniformity of skills and messaging around the utilization and control measures for the pandemic.

UNFPA-supported youth centres produced 1,470 masks that were distributed in internally displaced persons camps. In addition, 2,400 young people received services and 468 were trained on entrepreneurship skills. Advocacy on sexual and reproductive health, FGM, early marriage and HIV/AIDS integrated with COVID-19 awareness directly reached 42,414 young people with over 500,000 estimated to have been reached indirectly through social media, radio and TV spots.

UNFPA's gender programme continued to work to achieve a zero tolerance to female genital mutilation (FGM) among religious leaders that would lead to a cancellation of a pro-sunna FGM fatwa and to anti-FGM legislations in both Puntland and Somaliland. The programme also contributed to promoting dialogue among young persons on the need to abandon FGM. This was done through tweet chats covering issues relating to: social norms and practices that promote FGM, response to the abandonment of FGM by religious leaders and the lack of legislation against

FGM. The programme is also working with UN Women to support the development of a digital gender-based violence (GBV) reporting system in Puntland. GBV rapid assessments were supported arising from the flood emergency in Gedo. The programme is also providing both technical and financial support to an ongoing assessment on GBV/FGM within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first half of 2020, the key achievements for the Population Dynamics programme included delivery of hands-on capacity building for 20 staff from the FGS and FMS Ministries of Planning and Health on demographic and health survey data analysis and report writing. Utilizing the acquired skills, the team produced the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) report which was launched in late April. It is noteworthy that countries normally solicit the support of the US-based Demographic and Health Survey programme to undertake data processing for a survey of this nature, scope and magnitude. The Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey report writing process is in its final stage.

Utilizing SHDS data, a COVID-19 vulnerability mapping exercise was completed for major urban centres, including Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garowe, Galkayo, Kismayo, Hargeisa and Burao. These maps are being utilized by the Ministries of Health to identify COVID-19 hotspots and develop appropriate control measures to minimize the spread of the disease.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

A major challenge has been the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which has had significant consequences for the regular work of the UNFPA Country Office and programme implementation. The entire country office adopted alternate working modalities in mid-March. International procurement of health commodities has been delayed due to global market constraints, both in production as well as in logistics and transportation. Adaptation approaches have been adopted to mitigate, to the extent possible, the effects of the pandemic on the country programme. The country office already had in place robust virtual and teleworking capabilities prior to the pandemic. The country office has remained fully operational, while also ensuring delivery of key activities virtually. While this situation is not unique to Somalia, its effects are arguably worse given the existing weak infrastructure and huge needs even during normal circumstances. However, it is positive that some activities can be successfully delivered via virtual means and the country office can continue to operate even when most staff are working from multiple locations.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 6,502,176

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 7,841,558

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Following the endorsement of the National Social Protection Policy in September 2019, the main messages of the policy were disseminated nation-wide to raise public awareness on the policy objectives, principles and medium and long-term goals. This involved design and erection of 17 billboards with the main messages of the policy in prime locations throughout the country, as well as two drama plays produced and aired on 10 local radio stations.

The Social Protection Policy implementation framework was drafted, involving consultations with a wide range of community stakeholders from all FMSs, clans, civil society and government. The framework describes the seven policy priorities selected to be the focus in the medium term (2020-2024). The framework also maps the stakeholders who will be working towards those priorities, namely the private sector, civil society, government and development partners, and outlines the institutional arrangements necessary for inter-ministerial collaboration at federal and state levels.

A communication and advocacy strategy for the National Social Protection Policy aimed at raising awareness on the importance of establishing a social protection system was developed and endorsed by MoLSA. This process involved engagements with civil society, FMSs, line ministries, private sector leaders and the international community.

Support provided by the Joint Programme enabled MoLSA to recruit a new Senior Social Protection Advisor, a function that was critical to the development of the Social Protection Policy and is now essential for its implementation and in the coordination of different social protection programmes and related initiatives.

The Programme also supported the Ministry to employ an additional five staff for MoLSA and three at Banadir Regional Administration (BRA). This additional capacity has enabled both agencies to actively engage in social protection interventions. The Durable Solutions Unit of BRA is also taking the lead in implementing a pilot unconditional cash transfer to 1,000 households. BRA was supported with developing targeting tools to guide the selection of the households which has provided a clear rationale in their discussions with district governors and community leaders.

Similarly, the BRA is being exposed to hands on experience with SCOPE enrolment -- a beneficiary and transfer management platform. This hands-on engagement and understanding on how the system works is providing invaluable experience for future scale-up where government can build its own systems and undertake safety net interventions directly.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

COVID-19 significantly impacted progress of the project. Interventions experienced delays due to the introduction of measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and to safely carry out the activities. The Joint Programme supported BRA staff to ensure hygienic practices and social distancing measures were immediately implemented. Due to movement restrictions imposed by the government to limit the spread of COVID-19, all learning and training events, as well as activities related to the implementation of the communication strategy of the Social Protection Policy, could not be implemented. These activities are now all rescheduled for Q4 at the earliest. At the same time, contingency measures are being taken to undertake some of those activities virtually.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,116,181

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 309,028

NDP-9:



CROSS-CUTTING / ENABLERS

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the first half of 2020, the Joint Programme continued to work in close collaboration with the FGS, FMSs and relevant ministries to strengthen the role of women in peacebuilding and state-building processes, focusing on their leadership and empowerment.

The Programme supported the review of the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Pursuant to the review report and the development of Somali Women Charter, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development prepared an analysis highlighting the links between the Somali Women's Charter and the WPS agenda. On this basis, the Ministry developed a paper that further details synergies between the Women's Charter and the WPS process and makes recommendations on the implementation of the WPS agenda the action plan for the Gender Equality Strategy.

In an unprecedented move and against parliamentary orders and procedures, the Speaker of the Lower House unilaterally withdrew the Sexual Offences Bill before it could be presented and discussed on the floor of the Parliament. The Bill has faced opposition from many quarters, especially the clerics, mostly using the media. UN Women teamed up with the National Union of Somali Journalists and UNFPA is organizing digital campaigns on sexual offences legislation to bring together human rights activists, women activists, journalists, trade unionists, parliamentarians, youth and religious elders to discuss the importance of the Bill and its potential positive impact in the Somali society. The conference is being organized to highlight the challenges in advancing the Bill and the urgency for it to return to the parliament.

With Programme support, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development in South West State established two safe spaces or hubs in or around IDP camps in Baidoa. The objective is to provide support and counselling services to survivors of SGBV. A total of 39 victims (99 per cent female) of SGBV visited the hubs and received support and psychosocial trauma counselling services. The cases comprised of physical assault, sexual assault, rape, early marriage, FGM and forced marriage.

Additionally, 85 vulnerable women in the IDP camps in Baidoa were reached through awareness raising sessions on promoting their understanding and increasing capacity on how to protect themselves from sexual and gender-based assaults. The women were also informed on post trauma referral support and redressal systems and trained how to spread messages on COVID-19 prevention measures in their communities.

Thirty potential female candidates from South West State expressing interest in joining politics attended a workshop to improve opportunities of women's political participation and decision making. The workshop included trainings on development of campaign materials, advocacy, and lobbying skills for the upcoming elections in 2020/21. The women were also updated on the Somali political landscape and how to identify opportunities within the existing dynamics.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The continued tense relationships between the FGS and FMSs remains a constant challenge. However, the Programme is mitigating some of the issues through coordination and better engagement with the different stakeholders to ensure synergies in interventions across Somalia. In addition to COVID-19, the unpredictable security situation and continued attacks on the UN continues to hamper effective outreach of planned activities.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,064,250

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,198,682

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Following the outbreak of the global pandemic, the Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) coordinated the COVID-19 Task Force established by the Prime Minister. The ACU showed its capabilities of being a coordinating instrument of the FGS by directing the drafting and submission of funding proposals, which were successful in attracting funds for the COVID-19 response. The ACU managed to quickly refocus its work and organised the logistics, communication and even the catering for health workers responding to the COVID-19 emergencies who had to spend long periods of time without going home.

The ACU also managed to adapt to the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic where travel restrictions and physical meetings in large groups were discouraged by the Government. To ensure that coordination work continued, the ACU hosted and organized virtual meeting with stakeholders.

Following extensive consultations with stakeholders during the second half of 2019, the government agreed on a revised aid architecture structured in accordance with the four pillars of the NDP-9. The updated architecture aimed at making coordination more robust and effective in advancing the development priorities of the NDP-9. The first formal Somali Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) Steering Committee meeting was held on 24 June where the revised structure was endorsed. Furthermore, the Mutual Accountability Framework Task Force was reconstituted and met to deliberate on effective monitoring of the framework.

The Aid Information Management System (AIMS) was completed and launched in the second quarter of the year. All relevant stakeholders can now input project data and download information and reports as per their needs online. The AIMS replaces an Excel based, centrally managed database. The transition to an open online platform ensures greater efficiency, accuracy and accountability between the international agencies and the people of Somalia as virtual access to aid information is now possible.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The Programme is supporting the use of online communication tools. However, weak internet connections in some FMSs remains a challenge. While the ACU is lobbying aid partners and other stakeholders to support improvements, the Programme is developing a plan enhance communication amongst members of the aid architecture.

The separate coordination architectures for development and security and rule of law actors poses challenges to effective and integrated coordination. As such, the organization of joint meetings of the SDRF and the Security and Justice Committees are essential.

Finally, while the AIMS is now operational, it is important to ensure that it is effectively used. While donors and implementing partners need to regularly enter and update data of the projects they fund, national institutions, partners and structures need to effectively utilize the available information in their planning processes.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 672,113

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 348,176

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the multitude of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Joint Programme entities aimed to ensure continuity in the provision of enabling services to the UN system in Somalia and other partners. In this regard, significant progress has been made during the reporting period.

Following the arrival of COVID-19 in Somalia, the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO) with OCHA led the development of the Somalia COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP). The CPRP is a joint effort by UN agencies and cluster partners, including NGOs, to respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19. The RCO coordinated the development of the socioeconomic component of the plan. The RCO also supported the UN family's Crisis Management Team and Task Force, local Federal Member State (FMS) level coordination and also the WHO-led technical COVID-19 response Task Force.

Support continued to be provided on issues related to aid coordination mechanisms and aid flows tracking and analysis. Following extensive consultations with stakeholders during the second half of 2019, the Government finalized a revised architecture aligned to the pillars of the new NDP-9. The first SDRF Steering Committee meeting of the year was held on 24 June 2020, with RCO support, in which the proposed structure was endorsed.

On 15 April, the FGS launched the online Aid Information Management System (AIMS). The system, which is openly accessible to the public, enables partners to share data on development and humanitarian aid flows for Somalia and aims to help make aid more effective by increasing transparency, accountability and coordination. The system was developed with the financial and technical support of UNDP, with the support of the RCO and World Bank.

The Government also released the 2020 Aid Flows Analysis report, presenting analysis of aid flows to Somalia based on the 2019 aid mapping exercise carried out by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development between September and October 2019 with the support of the RCO and World Bank.

With the pending expiry of the UN Strategic Framework for Somalia (2017-2020), the UN in Somalia commenced the development of a new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNCF) to guide its collective work in support of the NDP-9 priorities from 2021-2025. As a key part of this process, at the beginning of 2020, the RCO initiated the process of formulating a Common Country Analysis (CCA), an independent, impartial, and collective assessment of the situation in Somalia to guide and inform the development of the UNCF. This was the first time the entire UN system in Somalia had undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the situation in the country through the prism of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a goal-by-goal basis. Informed by the CCA and other processes, the RCO is now coordinating the development of the UNCF.

Following the second full year of implementation of the UN Strategic Framework, the RCO coordinated the publication in May of the UN Country Results Report for 2019 which represents the total UN contribution to Somalia's development and state-building achievements, including through the UN MPTF.

The UN Risk Management Unit (RMU) enhanced its risk analytical support and cooperation with the UN Agencies, especially through contextual and operational risk analysis, information sharing, substantive risk management discussions in the UN Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance Working Group. The Contractor information Management System (CIMS) database has been enhanced and data security improved. A draft collaborative Risk Management Strategy for the Aid Community has been completed and is under review. Contract value in CIMS has reached US\$ 6.5 billion and data has been extracted from Somalia Panel of Experts 2019 report and uploaded in CIMS. The draft NGO Bill is under review by the Somalia lower house of parliament.

UNDSS maintained security aircraft during the reporting period to conduct security assessments and evaluations.

KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Like all other UN MPTF Joint Programmes, COVID-19 impacted the ability of the Enablers programme to implement its plans activities. The spread of the virus in Somalia also significantly increased the demands for RCO engagement and coordination both for the COVID-19 response and for activities related to the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. Alternative implementation modalities and virtual communication arrangements had to be implemented to ensure continuity in the provision of enabling services.

As the RMU increases its provision of timely, accurate and specific information analysis in response to growing requests, it is refining its support across the programme cycle. This has resulted in the prioritisation of quality over quantity, and therefore adjustments to the numerical annual targets for risk analysis.

COVID-19 has limited activities that require face-to-face interaction and reduced field monitoring activities planned for the reporting period under the national window. While some consultations took place during Q1, most Q2 engagements were through virtual interactions. The RMU was unable to conduct any risk management courses during the first half of 2020. Course materials are being adjusted for virtual learning platforms and it is expected that activities will resume in August.

UNDSS experienced challenges in maintaining security aircraft due to funding shortages. Alternative bilateral funding needs to be secured to ensure continuity of operations.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 3,880,783

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,320,193

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



** Please note that the Joint Programmes on “Women’s Political Participation, Leadership and Empowerment” and “Strengthening Women’s Capacities as Agents for Change in Peacebuilding, Reconciliation & Ending Violence Against Women” are not included in this section as Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment is a central function of these projects.*

The Joint Programme on Reconciliation and Federalism provided technical assistance and other support to increase the capacity of women and youth groups in the areas of governance, government and community engagement. Youth inclusion and women’s participation in reconciliation and peace building dialogue activities is on the rise, as was witnessed in the interventions leading up to the reconciliation between Towfiq and Afbarwaqo villages in the Mudug region. In addition, of the current 46 embedded advisors and interns with Programme counterparts, 30 per cent are women.

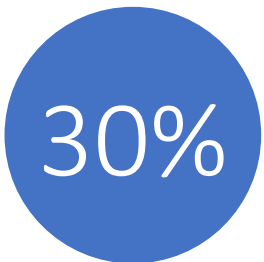
With the support of the Joint Programme on Constitutional Review, women participated in consultations advocating for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Similarly, MoCA, OC and ICRIC highlighted the need to include women’s voices in all discussions on the review of the constitution. The Parliamentary Support Programme supported consultations with women MPs from the women caucus of the Federal Parliament on the Electoral Law, particularly on women’s political participation. As a result, women MPs actively advocated in Parliament for women rights, women political participation and gender equality, and influenced the drafting of legislation and review of the constitution from the gender rights’ perspective.

The Joint Programme for Electoral Support carried out targeted activities in support of the NIEC, which included capacity building of female personnel in electoral administration and field work, as well as planning and conducting interventions to promote participation of women in electoral processes – including as potential voters, candidates and election officials, and as overall participants in electoral processes.

Access to justice for women was enhanced with the support of the Joint Justice Programme by ensuring their participation and addressing their issues in the alternative dispute resolution centres. Continuous training was provided to the elders and religious leaders at these centres to help them transform their perceptions of women and change social norms. With re-



of outputs across Joint Programmes are gender specific ⁴



of staff of all Joint Programmes have responsibility for gender issues ⁵

gards to the community conversations, each group of master trainers in the five FMSs includes female and youth trainers. The Programme also assessed progress on the prevention of SGBV and analysed the enduring challenges with regards to SGBV in the rule of law sector. Since the onset of COVID-19, attention has also been focused on monitoring SGBV trends.

The Joint Corrections Programme continued to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into every aspect of work, including ensuring enough female officers are available for female prisoners, separation of men and women in prisons, and participation of women in rehabilitation programmes and training. The importance of increasing the representation of women in the security sector is frequently emphasised to partners by the Joint Security Sector Governance Programme through trainings on key gender concepts, mainstreaming and equality against the background of international instruments.

Recognizing that the religious space in Somalia is heavily male-dominated and that religious leaders are exclusively male, the Joint Programme on Operationalizing National Strategy & Action Plan on P/CVE undertook efforts to ensure the inclusion of women, their perspectives, experiences and knowledge into the work with the religious community. During the consultative process on the manual of religious counter-narratives in Jowhar district, women were invited to the discussions and their inputs informed the drafting of the manual. In efforts to encourage and promote the role of women in the religious space, three women were identified in the district of Jowhar who themselves lead madrassas.

The UNFPA Country Programme continued to support advocacy for the approval of the original Sexual Offenses Bill. Working through the GBV sub-cluster, the programme supported the formation and operations of a civil society coalition to advocate for the passage of the Bill in Parliament. The programme also supported the development and dissemination of messages against FGM and SGBV, and the development and dissemination of guidelines for SGBV and COVID-19.

With the support of the Joint Programme on Local Governance, Berbera district in Somaliland has taken steps to increase gender balance by nominating female heads of departments, particularly in the local municipality.

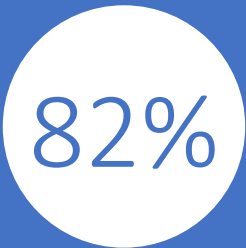
** Please note that the Joint Programme on Human Rights are not included in this section as human rights is a central function of this project.*

The Joint Programme on Reconciliation and Federalism supported a number of state formation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution conferences during the reporting period at federal and state levels thereby improving the human rights situation and state capacity in conflict mitigation and political reconciliation, thus resulting in a reduction in rights violations.

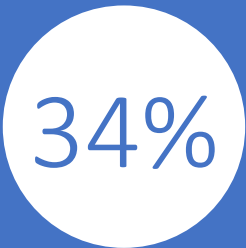
Technical advisory support was provided by the Parliamentary Support Programme to the Women and Human Rights Committee on the original Sexual Offences Bill. In addition, the programme helped to build the capacities of MPs on human rights principles and conventions as well as legal and policy matters related to promotion and protection of human rights, highlighting particularly women and children’s rights. Embedded advisors, in addition, performed comparative analysis to secure human rights principles in legislation and supported MPs to organize public sessions with the various societal groups, CSOs, women, and youth on drafted bills. The Federal Parliament also adopted the International Convention of People with Disabilities and the African Union Convention on IDPs in Africa.

The Joint Programme on Elections is designed according to the fundamental right to vote, with the objective to enhance the independence of the NIEC, promoting inclusiveness during the voter registration, and ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders is included in the electoral legislation. This work continued throughout the reporting period.

The Joint Justice Programme supported building institutional capacity of Attorney General offices to promote access to justice for victims of SGBV and address the particular protection challenges relating to women and girls. The project also supported the deployment of trained social workers with the government in Puntland. The social workers provided psycho-social support to survivors and their families throughout the legal process to mitigate against re-traumatization, stigma, or re-perpetration. They also provide support to children in contact with the law



of Joint Programmes included protection risk assessments in their context analysis



of outputs across all JPs designed to address specific protection concerns



of outputs across all JPs designed to build capacity of duty bearers to fulfill human rights obligations to rights holders

(either as alleged perpetrators of crime or other) to ensure they receive age-appropriate guidance and support to understand their legal rights and to navigate administrative processes. The Joint Corrections Programme continued its work to ensure that the human rights of prisoners in Somalia are at the forefront of efforts to support the Somali corrections sector.

With the support of the Joint Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, a human rights-based approach to programming ensured that support reaches those most vulnerable, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNFPA Country Programme promoted activities based on a GBV survivor-centered and human rights-based approach which intentionally seeks to respect the rights and wishes of the survivors and makes the survivor the major decision maker in the process of service provision. It also adopted the “do no harm” approach in the implementation of activities and inclusion of target beneficiaries and partners in defining strategies that will protect women and girls and not expose them to further harm. In delivering the FGM activities of building consensus among religious leaders and improving the assets of young girls to stand against FGM, programme planning, design and implementation fostered collaboration and ensured enough flexibility for meaningful participation and representation. As a result, a total of 5,066 persons (2,618 women, 698 men, 1,481 girls, 269 boys) accessed and utilized GBV multi-sectoral services including psychosocial support and counselling, rape treatment for GBV survivors, minor treatment for physical injuries as a result of intimate partner violence or sexual assault and transport support for referrals. In addition, 10,037 persons (4,966 women, 1,801 men, 2,029 girls, 1,241 boys) gained knowledge and information on referral pathways, negative impact of FGM and the need to abandon the practice.

Providing an overview of the activities and achievements of Joint Programmes across the portfolio, the 2019 UN MPTF Annual Report was published and circulated to donors on 4 March 2020. In addition, the Q4 2019 and Q1 2020 UN MPTF Newsletters were shared with the donors, partners and colleagues on 8 March and 7 May respectively. The newsletters provided insights and updates on the success stories from the UN MPTF Joint Programmes.

The UN’s Country Results Report for 2019, which reports on the totality of the UN’s contribution towards Somalia’s peace and development priorities, was published in May 2020. The report also outlines the contribution of the UN MPTF to these priorities within the context of the overall support provided by the UN in Somalia. This was the second Results Report published detailing progress against the priorities and goals of the UN Strategic Framework 2017-2020.

The UN in Somalia website was launched in February. The website streamlines and consolidated content from various UN communications platforms and provides a one-stop-shop for information on the work of the UN in Somalia. It is a welcome addition to the UN in Somalia’s digital presence and significantly enhances our efforts to communicate as “One UN.”

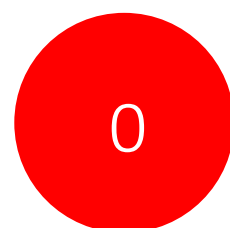
To address the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Communication Group carried out a number of interventions in coordination with the government. These included messaging via social media platforms, TV and radio stations, as well as distribution of printed materials in communities to raise awareness about the virus and educate the public on prevention measures.



Adherence to reporting timelines ⁶



Newsletters Published



Quarterly Donor Briefings Held

The UN Risk Management Unit (RMU), in collaboration with UN and other stakeholders, expanded the scope of risk management support and information sharing through facilitating the coordination of joint activities to respond to risks identified in partner capacity assessments and audit observations.

For instance, the former UN Risk Working Group has expanded its scope and transformed into the Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance Working Group. The Group has been operational since January 2020 and held six meetings in the first half of the year to discuss issues of collective interest.

Joint audits of UN MPTF Joint Programmes were undertaken which led to the cross-checking and cross-verification of results, activities, and relevant documentation on common partners. There was also strong collaboration between UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA on the implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer Framework, as well as implementation of collaborative risk management collaborative approaches with coordination, guidance, and support of the RMU.

Information sharing across UN organizations, UN MPTF Joint Programmes, partner trust funds (World Bank/African Development Bank) and other partners continued during the reporting period. UN partner information in the Contractor information Management System (CIMS) recorded an increased value of US\$ 100 million in value of contracts in the first half of the year. Progress continued in the recording of information the UN/World Bank Capacity Injection Reporting Tool (CIRT) on internationally funded advisors embedded in Government. The tool has also been updated to capture support provided in response to COVID-19. The bi-annual reports on both systems are being generated and disseminated accordingly.

The draft Collaborative Risk Management Strategy has been completed along with the Capacity and Capability Assessment and Strategy implementation plan. The documents are currently under review and will be shared with the Multi-Party Risk Working Group members with representation from the government, donors, NGOs and UN for review and endorsement.

Finally, progress has been made under the UN MPTF national window objectives of the Joint Justice Programme. Overseen by RMU, the procurement process for the construction of correction facilities in Baidoa and south Galkayo was completed by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the FGS and FMS Ministries of Justice. Construction work commenced in July.



Risk Management Group meetings held

UN & WORLD BANK PARTNERSHIP



The UN and World Bank's ongoing partnership in Somalia continues to be one of the leading examples globally of how collaboration between these institutions can yield innovative and constructive outcomes. Policy commitments for stronger partnership continue to be translated into tangible action in Somalia at different levels of engagement, from strategic planning to operational coordination in the field.

The UN and World Bank are closely coordinating their analysis and responses to the COVID-19 crisis in terms of both the health response and efforts to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. The World Bank provided input to the UN's Country Preparedness Response Plan while the UN contributed to the World Bank response. The World Bank, International Finance Corporation and UNIDO launched an enterprise survey in June to review the impact of COVID-19 on the operation of micro, small and medium enterprises. UNDP, with support from UNIDO, IOM and the World Bank, is preparing a socio-economic impact analysis, which will include a review of macro-economic and business level risks.

On 18 April, the President of Somalia launched a government-led cash transfer program known as Baxnaano, meaning "uplifting" in Somali. Baxnaano is one of the main activities under the US\$ 65 million World Bank-financed Somalia Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP). WFP and UNICEF have been contracted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Activities to support implementation of the cash transfer system and to support system building. Activities are closely coordinated with the Somalia Technical Assistance Facility and the Joint Social Protection Program funded through the global Sustainable Development Goal Fund and implemented by ILO, UNICEF, and WFP, as well as with UK DfID, the Somali Cash Consortium and the Somalia Donor Group.

The Somalia Shock Responsive Safety Net for Locust Response Project was approved by the World Bank Board of Directors on 29 June. The US\$ 40 million project operationalizes the shock responsive aspect of the SNHCP, developed in response to the impacts of the recent locust outbreak. It aims to provide time-bound emergency cash transfers to locust-affected households. It will be implemented through existing SNHCP/Baxnaano arrangements, with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs signing an agreement with the WFP to deliver the cash transfers.

On 15 April, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) launched the online Aid Information Management System (AIMS). The system, which is openly accessible to the public, enables partners to share data on development and humanitarian aid flows for Somalia and aims to help make aid more effective by increasing transparency, accountability and coordination. The system was developed with the financial and technical support of UNDP, with additional inputs provided by the World Bank, building off the joint UNDP-World Bank review of the AIMS carried out in 2015. The government also released the latest aid flows report, presenting analysis of aid flows to Somalia based on the 2019 aid mapping exercise carried out by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development between September and October 2019 with the support of the UN and World Bank.

Finally, the institutional partnership continues to be supported with a dedicated UN-World Bank Aid Coordination Officer, a co-financed position in place since 2017.

The prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty on when and how regular operations can resume is likely to continue to impact UN MPTF Joint Programme activities through the second half of 2020. However, alternative working arrangements and implementation modalities instituted in the first half of the year should allow Joint Programmes to continue to deliver against many of their objectives and commitments.

Joint Programmes will continue to contribute to the response to the pandemic to mitigate its socio-economic and health impacts on the country, one of which will be the new Productive Sector Development Programme which commenced at the beginning of July. Implemented by UNIDO, FAO and ILO with an initial budget of US\$ 2 million, the Programme aims to promote interventions at macro, meso and micro levels of the Somali economy to stimulate investment in infrastructure and in the private sector, stimulate sustainable production, and to foster inclusive economic growth and job opportunities, particularly among youth and women.

The last six months 2020 will be critical in framing the UN's cooperation with Somalia in the coming five years. The UN Common Country Analysis will be finalized and published while the formulation of the priorities and outcomes for the UNCF will continue. Consultations with a broad range of stakeholders will continue to inform the development of the UNCF. It is expected that the Framework will be finalized and endorsed by UN and government leadership in the coming months, thereby kick-starting a new phase of UN support to Somalia, for which the UN MPTF will have a key role.

To ensure that the UNCF is implemented in a coordinated, transparent and risk informed manner, a next generation Enablers Programme will be developed. In addition, the recruitment and onboarding of a dedicated senior portfolio manager for the Fund is expected to be completed in the second half of 2020 to provide effective secretariat support to the UN MPTF, its Joint Programmes, participating agencies and donors.

Finally, the launch of this report will be followed within a week by the release of the second quarterly UN MPTF Newsletter of 2020. The Newsletter will provide key information on the latest updates on the UN MPTF and will include human-interest stories from the various Joint Programmes across the portfolio.

ANNEXES

1. Reconciliation & Federalism
2. Constitutional Review
3. Support to Building Inclusive Institutions of Parliament
4. Support to the Electoral Process
5. Women's Political Participation, Leadership & Empowerment
6. Joint Justice Programme
7. Joint Corrections Programme
8. Joint Police Programme
9. Joint Security Sector Governance Programme
10. Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism
11. Joint Human Rights Programme
12. Sustainable Charcoal Reduction & Alternative Livelihoods
13. Local Governance & Decentralized Service Delivery
14. UNFPA Country Programme
15. Social Protection
16. Aid Management & Coordination
17. Stenghtening Women's Capacities as Agents of Change
18. Enabling Services

ENDNOTES

¹ MPTF Gateway as of 30 July 2020

² Most indicators are cumulative if not otherwise indicated.

³ Please note that expenditures reported for all Joint Programmes are uncertified. Certified annual expenditures will become available with 2020 Annual Financial Report of MPTF Office (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/45000>) in May 2021 upon submission of certified financial reports by participating UN Agencies.

⁴ Gender specific outputs are those that are specifically designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender indicators are not colour coded as others as targets have not yet been established.

⁵ Staff members are those contracted to undertake work for the Joint Programme including full time staff, consultants, advisors, interns, etc. Staff members with responsibility for gender issues are those who have gender related activities included in their Terms of Reference.

⁶ 2019 MPTF annual report sent on 4 March 2020.

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