



UNITED NATIONS  
SOMALIA  
TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT

# SOMALIA

UN MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

January - December 2020



**UNITED  
NATIONS  
SOMALIA**



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Dear partners,

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2020 annual report for the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in Somalia. The report follows a most unusual year with far-reaching and tragic consequences for Somalia and her people. The COVID-19 pandemic, while initially seemingly sparing Somalia and the region its worst ravages, caused widespread disruption to all aspects of Somali life. The desert locust infestation undermined an already fragile food supply and put extra strain on communities' resilience. Cyclical drought and flooding put further strain on Somalia's coping mechanisms and further impacted those most vulnerable.

The UN remained a steadfast partner and continued to provide critical support throughout the year, but the UN was not spared the disruption, which will become evident as you read through this report. Most programmes in the MPTF portfolio suffered initial delays as restrictions were put in place that impeded delivery and as the UN recalibrated its operations to adjust to a new operating environment.

I am thankful for the continuous support from partners, who maintained contributions at largely the same levels as the previous year. I am concerned, however, that the earmarking remains unsustainably high, which limits the UN's ability to exercise the flexibility required in Somalia, undermines our efforts to operationalise the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peacebuilding), and which goes against the core rationale of pooled funding. We are also registering a downward trend in the levels of funding channelled through the MPTF's National Window to support government-led implementation, which goes against our collective commitment to increase support through national systems. The MPTF was among the first to facilitate such funding streams and should remain at the forefront of advocating for it as an integral part of partnership with Somalia.

In planning for the future of the MPTF in Somalia the signing in October 2020 of the UN's new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) was a key achievement during a difficult year. The new Cooperation Framework forms the basis for the UN's support to Somalia's priorities as outlined in the National Development Plan. Maintaining an adequate level of MPTF funding is imperative for the successful implementation of the Cooperation Framework and, therefore, the NDP9. In addition, the MPTF will have a central role in facilitating the UN to delivering as one along the triple nexus lines. I am pleased to inform you of the appointment of a Senior Trust Fund Manager for the MPTF, who together with a small secretariat in my office will lead our efforts to improve the operations of the Fund and strengthen its strategic relevance, in line with expectations from our national and international partners.

I thank you once again for your support.

Warmest regards,

Adam Abdelmoula

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

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

3. Economic Development



- Sustainable Charcoal Reduction & Alternative Livelihoods
- Productive Sector Development Programme

4. Social Development



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

Cross-cutting



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

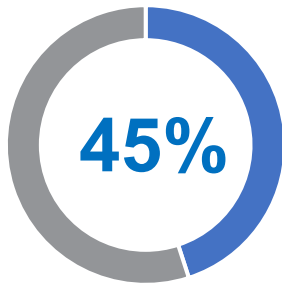
Other



- Enabling Services

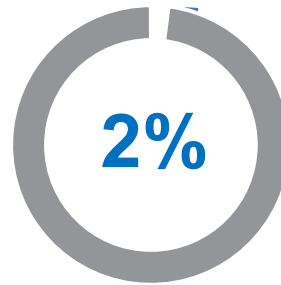
	Committed (USD)	Deposited (USD)	Deposit %
Sweden	101,280,889	107,280,889	100%
European Union	79,790,868	79,083,353	99.11%
Denmark	40,054,901	34,896,705	87.12%
Norway	38,956,149	38,956,149	100%
United Kingdom	36,636,133	35,976,002	98.02%
Germany	32,807,500	32,807,500	100%
Switzerland	28,215,087	28,215,087	100%
Italy	25,097,463	23,991,203	95.59%
Finland	12,314,446	12,314,446	100%
Netherlands	15,705,200	14,555,200	92.68%
Peacebuilding Fund	8,572,120	8,572,120	100%
USAID	4,535,000	4,535,000	100%
Somalia	3,332,364	3,332,364	100%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>433,298,118</b>	<b>424,516,016</b>	<b>98%</b>

## PORTFOLIO LEVEL RESULTS



of UN funds channelled or reported through SDRF

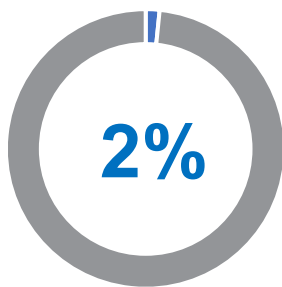
*(26% in 2017, 35% in 2018, 52% in 2019) Target: Increase proportion year-on-year*



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 Unearmarked Contributions

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

**US\$ 72,597,292**

in donor commitments during reporting period

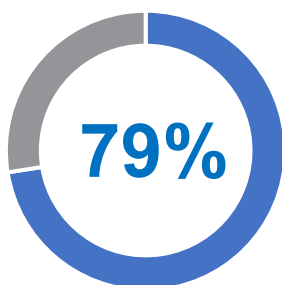
*Jan-Dec 2020*

**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*

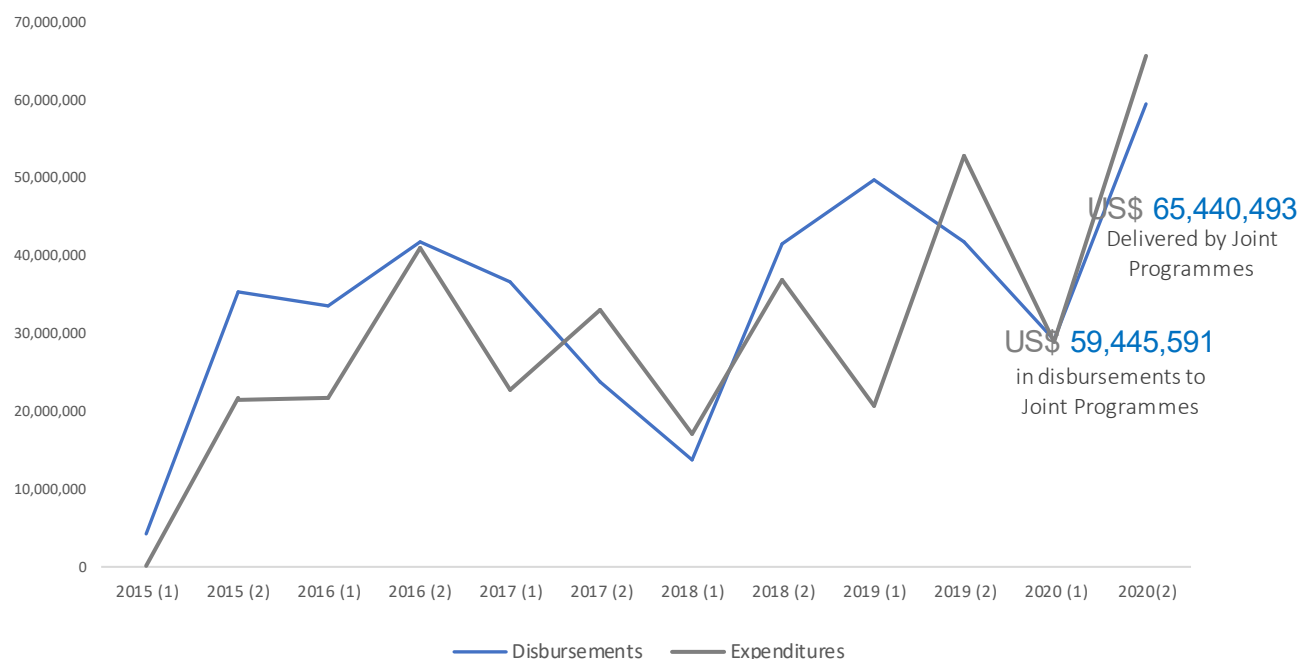
## QUALITY OF OPERATIONS



Disbursement ratio of active Programmes

*Annual Target: 90%*

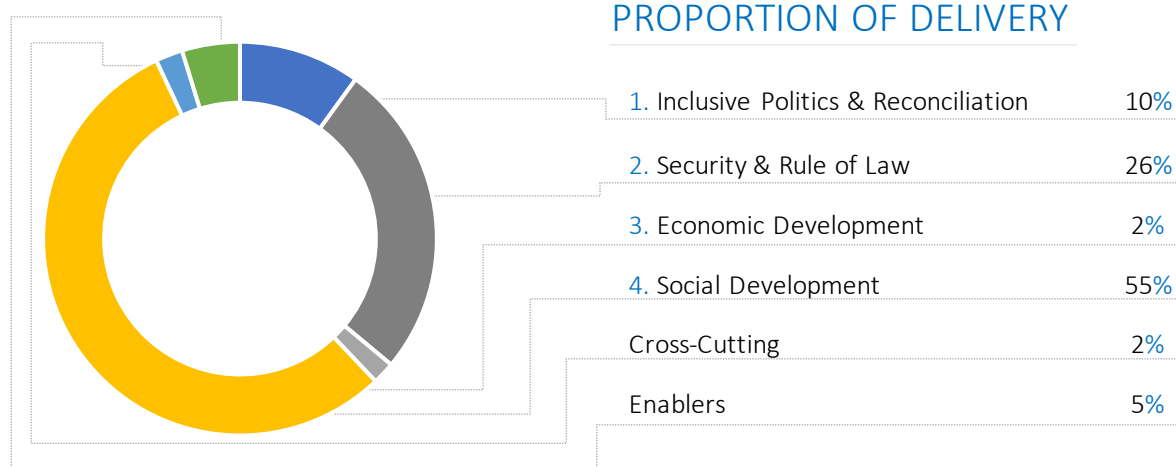
## DISBURSEMENTS & DELIVERY



## DISBURSEMENTS & DELIVERY PER NDP-9 PILLAR

NDP-9 Pillar	Disbursements (USD)	Delivery (USD)
1. Inclusive Politics & Reconciliation	7,078,975	6,545,822
2. Security & Rule of Law	15,746,685	17,073,395
3. Economic Development	3,572,048	1,205,039
4. Social Development	27,719,257	36,093,951
Cross-Cutting	1,447,843	1,460,397
Enablers	3,880,783	3,115,889
<b>Total:</b>	<b>59,445,591</b>	<b>65,440,493</b>

## PROPORTION OF DELIVERY



1. The UN provided support to Dhusamareb Political Reconciliation Dialogue towards 2021 Elections by facilitating three rounds of crucial national dialogues in July and August in Dhusamareb, which culminated in the 17 September agreement between the Federal Government (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMSs) on the Electoral Constituency Caucuses Model.
2. Following a direct request from the President of South West State, H.E. Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed, the UN supported the establishment of the Second Parliament of South West State. Based on the technical assistance provided, 95 members of parliament (16 women) of the SWS Parliament were selected and the state parliament was fully functional.
3. Following the UN's support, the Somali Bar Association registered a 22 percent increase in membership compared with 2019, with 223 registered members (of which 40 are women). Additionally, the draft law and bylaws on the establishment of a legal aid board were drafted and awaited submission to the Council of Ministers.
4. The UN supported access to justice through legal aid services, alternative dispute resolution centres, and mobile courts. Collectively, these efforts expanded access to justice for 12,958 individuals, bringing justice mechanisms closer to communities, particularly in rural areas and increased access to justice for women and marginalized.
5. The UN supported the gender equality agenda identified by Somali women in the Somali Women's Charter. Over 10,000 women across Somalia participated in a survey to increase women's voices and engagement in defining their priorities. The findings added weight to the demands for gender parity and protection of women's rights outlined in the Charter. A network of Somalia Women Charter Champions was established. The network is tasked with organising advocacy and raising awareness activities to support achievement of the Women's Charter, implementation of the national action plan, and the realization of the 30 percent women's quota in the electoral process.
6. With the UN's support, Dialogue and Mediation Committees were established in Jowhar, Warsheikh, Balcad, Dhusamareb and Kismayo and successfully engaged religious actors in countering hate speech and violent extremism. Religious leaders were engaged to amplify public health messaging on the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. Across Somalia, 15,870 households (85 per cent women-headed) transitioned to environment-friendly sustainable sources of energy, comprising fuel-efficient cookstoves and Liquefied Petroleum Gas alternatives to charcoal use and solar solutions. Seven green charcoal workstations were established including three in Somaliland and three in Puntland.
8. All 13 UNFPA-supported midwifery schools continued the fully accredited International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) curriculum application despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Two hundred and fifty additional midwifery students were enrolled to the midwifery education programme in 2020, bringing the total number of enrolled students in 2020 to 590. One hundred and eighty midwifery students graduated as qualified midwives from these schools. More than 63,444 women received family planning counselling services and a total of 28,209 women used a modern method of contraception through health facilities supported by UNFPA.
9. The Somali Aid Information Management System (AIMS) was completed and launched virtually on 15 April. Trainings were carried out to focal points in the use of the AIMS, allowing users to visualize aid flow information in the system and download reports and data.



# UN MPTF RESPONSE TO COVID-19



At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, to minimize staff exposure to the virus, ensure the limited medical capacity in Somalia was not overwhelmed and that the UN did not contribute to importing the contagion to the country, the international footprint was reduced based on location-dependent functions. Most staff across the MPTF portfolio transitioned to remote working arrangements, resulting in an adjustment period with delays to delivery in the second quarter of the year as UN staff, government counterparts, and implementing partners adjusted to the new reality. National UN staff showed their strong commitment by continuing socially distanced programme delivery across the country and more than usual acted as the eyes and ears of the UN in Somalia.

While there was limited reallocation of funds for the COVID-19 response, most programmes found ways to support the response within their existing budgetary frameworks. The UN supported national counterparts in adjusting to a virtual world by providing the required equipment and software licenses to ensure close cooperation could be maintained, albeit remotely. Networks of religious and traditional leaders established as part of efforts to prevent violent extremism were engaged to amplify public health messaging on the risks of COVID-19 and ways to prevent its spread. Health and medical information were combined with religious guidance on what defines the daily routine for most people in Somalia, especially attending mosque prayers and other religious gatherings and sending children to madrassa schools. In addition, religious leaders were encouraged to incorporate messages of peace, solidarity, and support in a time of global crisis, and to counter misinformation by Al-Shabaab that the virus was deliberately spread. Programmes responded to address concerns of increasing human rights violations and occurrences of sexual and gender-based violence during the pandemic.

Beyond targeted responses to COVID-19, all programmes reported disruption to implementation plans. Activities that could be shifted to the virtual sphere were kept on track, while certain activities requiring more in-person engagements were put on hold – altering the sequencing of programme implementation.

Finally, the MPTF portfolio was affected by the disruption caused by COVID-19 to international aid coordination, where only two SDRF Steering Committee meetings and five pillar working group meetings were held in 2020. Management of the MPTF was similarly affected, with insufficient and irregular communication and interaction with partners.



# JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS



# NDP-9 PILLAR 1:



INCLUSIVE POLITICS & RECONCILIATION

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Reconciliation and Federalism Programme (REFS) supported national dialogues on the electoral process. Three critical meetings of the national leadership held in Dhusamareb in July and August were facilitated. by facilitating in July and August in Dhusamareb culminating in the 17 September agreement on the electoral model.

In close partnership with the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), UNDP and UNSOM continued its support to operationalising the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF). Through REFS support, MoIFAR presented the National Reconciliation Plan (NRP) to the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA), Galmudug and Jubaland, relevant public institutions, civil servants, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders for them to develop their Regional Reconciliation Plans (RRP) aligned with the NRP. With REFS's support, MoIFAR conducted training to Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and federal member state (FMS) line ministries. The training focused on the background, process and methodology of conflict mapping exercise and development of RRP.

In supporting community-level conflict resolution and mediation, REFS partners UNDP and UNSOM provided strategic, technical and operational support to counterparts facilitating an end prolonged inter- and intra-clan conflicts through restoration of trust and mutual forgiveness in Afbarwaqo-Towfiq (Mudug region of Galmudug), Qardho (Bari region of Puntland) and in Kismayo corridor (Lower Jubba region of Jubaland). REFS' strategic, technical, operational and logistical support played a critical role in facilitating several sensitive processes in Galmudug. Following a fraught electoral process, inclusive dialogue and reconciliation led by the new President of Galmudug brought stakeholders together around a shared vision of establishing a viable state and making a break with the pattern of recurring political crises in the past five years.

REFS supported the Independent Commission for Boundaries and Federalism to continue to enable its mandated functions regarding the boundary demarcation between federal member states. Boundary de-

limitation between South West State and Hirshabelle was finalised and boundary consultations initiated with REFS support between Galmudug and Puntland as well as Galmudug and Hirshabelle. Somali and English versions of the Formalization Report were finalised and were ready to be presented to the Federal Parliament for endorsement.

In addition to facilitating reconciliation activities across Somalia, REFS supported rehabilitation and construction of offices, provision of office equipment, and other operational support to national counterparts to sustain functions of institutions mandates to lead processes on reconciliation and federalism. Finally, REFS financed key advisory functions supporting government counterparts.

### KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic had a disruptive effect on the programme, especially due to the nature of reconciliation which doesn't lend itself to remote and virtual platforms. The pandemic required a revision of the annual workplan to accommodate the new operating environment and ensure continued engagement and delivery.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,074,425

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,176,935 <sup>3</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In February 2020, the programme facilitated inter-ministerial meetings to agree on critical issues related to power-sharing and resource allocation and to find common ground on the constitutional review process. In March 2020, consultations were organized with Constitutional Review Support Project (CRSP) support in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Jowhar and Dhusamareb. Further consultations in October and November resulted in a third draft of the revised Constitution currently being analyzed to ensure compliance with human rights conventions. Despite high-level political engagement by the UN and international partners, Puntland and Jubaland declined to participate in the process until a new parliament and federal government were formed.

With the programmes support, the UN and international partners together with the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), the Parliamentary Oversight committee (OC) and the Independent Constitution Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) in September 2020 adopted a strategy for the constitutional review process and to navigate the political impasse between the FGS and the FMS, as well as how to adjust to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the overall objective of safeguarding the gains made thus far. The strategy entails inclusive dialogue and consensus building between the FGS and the FMS, civil society, and the general public while ensuring full compliance with human rights conventions. Though important milestones were achieved the strategy could not be implemented due to ongoing political tension between the FGS and FMS.

A master plan adopted by MOCA, OC and ICRIC outlined steps toward completion of the constitutional review process through with all political role players from the FGS and the FMS, civil society and citizenry, before placing an amended text of the constitution before the Federal Parliament for debate and adoption.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Somalia in March 2020, the UN in coordination with the World Bank ensured provision of technological tools to allow for the constitutional review process and parliamentary business to continue. The UN also supported draft amendments of the Federal Parliament's Joint Rules of Procedures to ensure business continuity.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

COVID-19 caused significant disruption to programme implementation, requiring reprioritization and creative solutions to ensure continued delivery. Political tension between the FGS and the FMS furthermore impacted implementation of planned activities, the second round of constitutional consultations and associated outreach and civic education.

Realizing that the constitutional review process could not be achieved within the timeframe agreed to in the Mutual Accountability Framework, MOCA, OC and ICRC requested to extend the programme until 31 December 2020, which was approved by the board on 1 October 2020.

Current conditions for reaching agreement between the FGS and the FMS on a revised constitution are not favourable. A complex and volatile political environment characterised by a lack of trust requires a change of strategy to advance the process. The natural point of departure is political will. Though the CRSP programme benefitted from stronger political engagement, the constitutional review process must incorporate key peacebuilding and state-building aspects, including rule of law, reconciliation, and democratization. International facilitation and good offices are critical to facilitate closer dialogue between FGS and FMS leadership and to connect high-level consultations with community-level engagement. CRSP was primarily deployed as a technical support programme, strengthening coordination, knowledge-sharing, and constitutional analysis. However, constitutional review is a political process requiring political considerations to guide project implementation. More proactive political engagement using the full range of tools at the disposal of the UN should be considered and to ensure that the constitutional review process does not happen in isolation from other political processes in the country. Finally, the UN through its support to the constitutional review process can ensure inclusion of all segments of society through outreach and consultative process in order to secure grassroots momentum and ownership for the process.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,250,887

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

At the request of the President of South West State, H.E. Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed, the programme supported the establishment of the second parliament of the state. As a result of technical assistance provided, 95 members (including 16 women) of the SWS Parliament were selected and the parliament is fully functional.

Induction workshops for new MPs from Galmudug, Jubaland, Hirshabelle and South West State were organized and MPs were equipped with foundational knowledge about parliamentary processes, practices and procedures.

The programme supported live broadcasting of the proceedings of the Puntland Parliament on Puntland TV, which enabled citizens to follow the parliament work in real time.

In February 2020, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo” signed the Electoral Bill into law laying the foundation of one-person-one-vote elections in Somalia. A Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee was established to provide recommendations on the implementation of the law.

Navigating the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of parliament, the programme supported the Federal Parliament to use virtual technology to ensure business continuity. As a result, plenary halls of both houses and all committees were fully functional. Technical support was also provided to amend Joint Rules of Procedures, in line with COVID-19 protocols, and amendments have been drafted and submitted to the Speakers.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed reconvening of the Federal Parliament for almost six months, impacting also the supported anticipated from the programme. Political dynamics between the FGS and the FMS affected all the major processes in the country and the work of parliament. Dynamics between the Speakers of both houses of the Federal Parliament complicated parliamentary work particularly in the second half of 2020. Shifting donor priorities, some related to the COVID-19 pandemic, had an impact on the financial situation of the programme, inhibiting some delivery.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 0

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 397,023



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In February 2020, the Somalia Federal Parliament adopted the electoral bill, which was signed into Law by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The last time Somalia had a universal suffrage election was in 1969. The Electoral Law proposed a 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 and following advocacy by the UN and the international community, the Federal Parliament established a joint ad hoc committee to formulate recommendations to address key issues in the Law, in consultation with the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the FMS and other stakeholders. The UN's Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) supported discussions between the ad hoc committee and the NIEC from 31 March to 2 April. The committee presented its recommendations to the Parliament (House of the People) on 17 June. Four resolutions were passed by including a commitment to guarantee a minimum of 24 percent women's representation in parliament among other issues.

On 27 June 2020, the NIEC Chairperson presented the Commission's report on preparations and options for the upcoming federal elections to the House of the People as close as possible to the constitutional deadline. IESG deployed 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 Amendments to the Political Parties Law was passed by the House of the People in July 2020 and currently awaits the President's assent.

NIEC provided provisional registration to 45 political parties during the year, bringing the total number of parties provisionally registered to 108 on 31 December.

The House of the People passed an amendment to the NIEC Establishment Law in December to extend the NIEC Board of Commissioners term of Office for another six years to July 2027. The endorsement of the Upper House is also required.

IESG provided support for the construction of a data centre at the new NIEC headquarters in Mogadishu, which was handed over to the NIEC in May 2020. The data centre is part of the operational support provided by the UN to enable the NIEC to efficiently conduct electoral operations. Financial support of US\$ 835,922 was provided through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

IESG received the endorsement of the international donors in December for the Electoral Support Programme's continued support to the NIEC to fulfil its constitutional mandate of preparing and conducting universal suffrage elections in 2024/25. The project board met on 16 December and approved the Annual Work Plan for 2021 and the project cost extension for one year until December 2021.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The Electoral Law adopted on 20 February delegated the authority to Parliament to regulate fundamental aspects of the electoral process rather than give the authority to the NIEC. The law lacked clarity in many articles and as a result a parliamentary ad-hoc committee was established to clarify four key issues without which it would not be possible to implement the law. The Amendments to the Political Parties Law was passed in July 2020 and is awaiting the assent of the President. The delay in adopting this law impacts the ability of political parties to gain official registration and become fully operational. The quality of the legal framework remains a challenge as it is contradictory and insufficient, clearly reflecting the lack of legal drafting knowledge in the parliament and the executive.

The Mogadishu Agreement signed by the National Consultative Council on 17 September to hold indirect elections and to remove both the NIEC and political parties from the indirect process has resulted in a protracted and challenging political dispute between stakeholders. This has resulted in the indirect electoral timeline being postponed several times. Although excluded from the indirect electoral process, the NIEC continues to underscore the importance of inclusivity in the forthcoming polls and has urged stakeholders to respect and protect the 30 percent women quota and underscored the need for equal representation in the upcoming polls.

Following the 17 September political agreement, the UN and donor principals consistently engaged with Somali leaders and stakeholders throughout the evolution of the electoral process on the need for a more participatory and inclusive electoral process and that the consensual commitments made in the Mogadishu agreement are kept.

The Federal Parliament approved the Mogadishu agreement on 26 September, and clarified that the current Parliament will remain in office until the new Parliament is sworn in. The federal electoral management body has issued revised timelines for the election of the Upper House on 23 and 29 December but neither of these calendars were honoured. The FGS has requested technical, financial and logistical support from the UN for the indirect elections. Electoral donors have been clear that they would not be in a position to support the electoral budget until the outstanding political issues are resolved including confirmation on how the women's quota will be achieved.

The NIEC is moving ahead to develop a new strategic plan for 2022-2026 to ensure preparations are in place for universal suffrage elections in 2024/25. The NIEC has shared a roadmap with the Prime Minister that establishes key milestones to achieve this goal. The Prime Minister has established a taskforce to consult with all stakeholders on the roadmap before submission to parliament for endorsement.

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

**MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period:** US\$ 2,662,707

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme continued to support the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) and FMS-level ministries of women to drive the gender equality agenda articulated by Somali women in the Somalia Women's Charter. The programme surveyed over 10,000 women across Somalia to increase women's voices and engagement in defining their priorities. The findings have added weight to the demands for gender parity and protection of women's rights outlined in the Women's Charter.

To maximise the current opportunities in Somalia's political transition, the programme focused on building networks for women leadership and platforms to channel the demands for affirmative actions in the constitutional review process and the new electoral and political parties' law, although subsequently the election model was changed.

As Somalia entered the election period, the advocacy work with MoWHRD and women's groups for ensuring 30 percent women representation in the elections was the critical feature of the programme's work. Over 285 women candidates and political aspirants were equipped with leadership, campaigning, and fundraising skills to enable them run for regional and federal parliamentary seats. Through strategic media engagement, the programme fostered a deeper understanding of the importance of increasing women's voice and representation in Somali politics and in the country's peacebuilding and state-building processes. Over 22,000 people reached through the media advocacy campaigns promoting women as role models actively engaged in the public and political life to advance positive shifts in gender norms and in line with advocating for the 30 percent female representation.

In the electoral context, the programme produced a study on violence against women in elections that identified potential risks and possible responses. One hundred civil society representatives improved their skills in gender-sensitive electoral violence monitoring and reporting. On the normative work, the programme held consultative meetings with 170 parliamentarians, civil society and religious scholars to push for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The programme produced a review of 25 years of Beijing Platform for Action that highlighted priorities, achievements and challenges in implementation and provided a detailed analysis of measures to accelerate gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

COVID-19 delayed the implementation of several critical activities, primarily as a result of restrictions preventing in-person consultations and efforts in shifting to virtual platforms.

The uncertainties surrounding the electoral model and last-minute changes of the electoral model affected the objectives of various activities designed to empower women as candidates and voters in a one-person-one-vote election.

Security restrictions and limits to operational movements hampered programme implementation and monitoring thereof. Turnover of key officials in MoWHRD affected the sustained and productive engagement and affected the buy-in by key government institutions, denting the programme's ability to deliver on all its activities.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 860,000

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,058,267

# NDP-9 PILLAR 2:



SECURITY & RULE OF LAW

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme achieved results in institutional capacity-building and bottom-up approaches for transformative change of Somalia's justice sector.

With the programme's support, the administration and functioning of courts have improved. In Banadir region, the case management system in the courts was revamped to ensure more seamless case flows through a secure online case recording system. The public information helpdesks were reviewed to increase the information available to court users and improve their experience of navigating the Banadir court system. Professionalization of the judiciary is moving forwards with the implementation of the basic judicial training programme and establishment of a pool of judicial trainers 2019 made progress with the finalization of nine out of eleven training modules and the continued training of judicial trainers.

With programme support, the Somali Bar Association registered a 22 percent increase in membership compared to 2019, with 223 registered members (of which 40 were female). Additionally, the draft law and bylaws on the establishment of a legal aid board were drafted for submission to the Council of Ministers.

The programme supported access to justice through legal aid services, alternative dispute resolution centres, and mobile courts; collectively expanding access to justice for 12,958 individuals. The efforts brought justice mechanisms closer to communities, particularly in rural areas and increased access to justice for marginalized populations.

The programme increased technical capacity of key justice institutions to address cases involving juvenile justice and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in accordance with international standards. Support to SGBV prosecutorial units in Puntland and Banadir resulted in prosecution of 105 cases in Banadir and 70 in Puntland. Overall, the Attorney-General's Office of the Federal Government registered a 33 percent rise of cases in comparison to 2019.

The programme initiated projects to encourage transformational change for justice reform. The initiation of community conversations across five locations in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland and South West State, built trust among community members and their community facilitators. While on hold for several months due to COVID-19 restrictions, the community-based initiative enabled the programme to explore new creative approaches and plan for future programmatic activities.

Transformative change in the justice sector was facilitated through the programme's continuation of nonviolent communication training across several locations. The training continued to transform the perception of the role of women and increase the capacity of traditional elders for empathy in order to take better account of women's needs during the administration of justice.

The programme supported media awareness on the Puntland Anti-Rape Act and increased community awareness of SGBV risks, with particular focus on the rights of the victim and of the important role played by women, girls and family members as victims, survivors and witnesses. Programme partners expect that media awareness programmes on the Anti-Rape Act would consolidate efforts to prevent SGBV incidence and facilitate social change in terms of zero tolerance of SGBV. Additionally, the programme continued to build and strengthen the skills of the judiciary and traditional actors in Puntland, Jubaland and South West on women's human rights, the rights and protection of victims and witnesses and means of conducting a successful prosecution and sentencing to further emphasize standardization of implementation of the Anti-Rape Act and to improving their knowledge towards the gender responsive justice

system and to end SGBV.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

During the year, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant delays in the implementation of activities and delivery of the programme. Contingencies were made to facilitate business continuity where possible, with alternative modalities in the interim. Training, particularly those conducted by international consultants, were moved online. Key coordination meetings were also conducted entirely or partly online. Some activities that were suspended, such as community conversations, resumed with special measures to ensure social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment. Hotlines for alternative dispute resolution centres were established in two FMS to provide support to potential victims of domestic violence. An SGBV task force was established to address the likelihood of increased SGBV during the pandemic. The programme continuously adapted to an evolving operational environment, including heightened security threats as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme developed business continuity plans to sustain delivery and minimize disruption. Alternative modalities were introduced for both formal and traditional justice mechanisms in the interim. The programme supported partners to continue working remotely through virtual platforms. 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 or alternatives found, activities were suspended causing loss of momentum. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic had a personal toll for some national partners, including the death of the Hirshabelle State Minister of Justice in April 2020.

The programme suffered cash flow problems due to inefficient fund management, resulting in some activities such as mobile courts had to be suspended. Additionally, the need to save funds for 2021 in order to ensure continuity of services until a new programme is in place meant that some activities such as judicial training, support for help desks, and case management in some FMS, had to be cancelled or reduced.

Lack of agreement between the FGS and FMS on several important political issues continues to constitute one of the main challenges for the achievement of 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 federal government and federal member states continues to be a barrier for implementation. Commitment and political will by the federal government 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.

Recognising that institutions typically reflect existing societal dynamics and tend to perpetuate inequalities, the programme has slowly moved away from the traditional view of Rule of Law reform to instead adopt a bottom-up approach that is based on the recognition that societies and communities are complex adaptive systems. However, entrenched traditional ideas of Rule of Law are still widely shared by government institutions, communities programme staff and partners. This requires deep transformative change to let of traditional methods and embrace more complex, community-based approaches. This process has started with the Community Conversation project, which focuses on generative dialogue, however broad transformation will only occur over a longer period.

**MPTF Funds received during reporting period:** US\$ 9,131,331

**MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period:** US\$ 7,908,449

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Joint Corrections Programme (JCP), through UNOPS and UNSOM and in partnership with Finn Church Aid, continued to deliver basic and civic education, vocational training and psychosocial support to prisoners in Baidoa convicted on charges related to violent extremism. In Garowe, JCP supported vocational training as part of a rehabilitation initiative for prisoners, have resulting in the construction of staff accommodation units, and repairs to plumbing and electrical items at the facility. Prisoners who had completed their sentences were provided with tools required to find gainful employment and income upon their release. The programme supported the construction of an additional block at the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex (MPCC), which reached its final stages in December. JCP facilitated the delivery of two batches of prisoner welfare, hygiene and disease-prevention items, all specialized to the needs at the central prisons of Baidoa, Beledweyne, Kismayo, Garowe and the MPCC.

Despite restrictions limiting gatherings and in-person meetings, JCP continued closed engagement with key national focal points at the office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Justice and the Custodial Corps to plan for the implementation of in-person activities when circumstances allow. In light of such restrictions, the Project redesigned the Basic Training of Prison Officers (BTPO) with the help of UNODC Global Platform for E-learning. This approach will be sustained with the required equipment and software readily available for new recruits to make use of at target facilities to become certified. The Project progressed with the creation of the platform in 2020, and the initial delivery and Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions are planned to take place in 2021.

UNODC, under JCP was the lead agency in the provision of hygiene materials and disease prevention equipment to target facilities MPCC, Kismayo prison, Baidoa prison, Beledweyn prison, Garowe prison and Bossaso prison. Following consultation with respective prison commanders and focal points on the ground, lists of most urgent requirements were drawn up specific to each facility. Deliveries were separated into two batches, the first of which involved emergency COVID-related items such as masks, gloves, sanitizers, dispensers, miscellaneous medical equipment, and cleaning products. The second batch contained additional disease prevention materials and equipment, as well as prisoner welfare items including wash buckets, clothing, mattresses, eating implements and personal cleanliness items.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

As per the last reporting period, implementation of projects is extremely dependent on the receipt of funds. Funds were only made available for initiation of transfers by September. Following the request for funds, MPTF office was only able to transfer the funds three and a half months later. This resulted in a funding delay on all projects for eleven and a half months. Certain projects such as the Kismayo prison project, the community reintegration project in Garowe, or the capacity building interventions at the office of the AG and Somalia Custodial Corps, were fully dependent on the second tranche of EU funds and were unable to move beyond the planning phase.

In addition, the projects that had been initiated with previous funding from the transfer in 2019 faced hindrances due to travel restrictions and the limited movement of staff, as well as health concerns of beneficiaries where social distancing was not assured to be respected in implementation and a halt on all activities was deemed the safest option for all.

Communication with the MPTF office posed a challenge as JCP management struggled to get response on matters throughout the year. This resulted in little to no information for management to pass onto implementing partners and equally to donor member states. This can have repercussions on the relationships between implementing partners and their beneficiaries.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 729,419

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 2,020,168



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Joint Police Programme continued delivery of its support despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Payment of stipends contributed to increased morale amongst police officers, reduction in incidences of corruption, and higher retention of police officers. Through its non-lethal support, the programme provided vehicles used for the implementation of the Mogadishu Security Plan and patrolling duties. The programme contributed to restoration of state authority in locations with significant Al-Shabaab presence. Collectively, the achievements of the programme increased police presence and visibility in the targeted locations, leading to improved security and access to policing services for civilian populations in accordance with provisions set in the New Policing Model (NPM), the security pact and the national security architecture.

Under the programme in 2020, 200 recruits (22 females and 178 Males) graduated from Hirshabelle State Police Academy in Jowhar. An average of 2,041 police officers received monthly stipend payments in Hirshabelle State, South West State, Jubaland and Lower Shabelle from January 2020 to December 2020. Stipends were only paid to police officers who meet specific conditions including having attended the 90-day basic training, having biometric registration, certified as being in active service, have a bank account, and are compliant with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. As part of the implementation of non-lethal support, the programme procured 35 police patrol vehicles and handed these over to the Somali Police Force, Hirshabelle and South West State authorities respectively. The programme's infrastructure component continued to take shape with the construction and handover of six vehicle check point. The check points constituted important contributions to the implementation of the Mogadishu Security Plan to deny Al Shabaab the space and opportunities to prepare and launch attacks in Mogadishu and neighbouring areas. Other significant achievements included construction and refurbishment of the Police Training Facility that was completed and handed over on 13 May.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The major challenge faced during the reporting period was the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic had substantial impact on programme delivery in 2020. Since mid-March, most of the JPP Secretariat and implementing partners have worked full time using flexible working arrangements and home-based work. From June there was a gradual return to work in the office for several government institutions, whilst the UN only implemented a gradual and layered return to Mogadishu of essential staff towards the end of the year. A business continuity plan was developed, refined and implemented in order to find ways to implement programme activities depending on different scenarios.

Due to low participation of females in the vetting process, considerations were made to include women in the national vetting committees to improve mobilisation of female recruits at the state level through women's group engagement activities. A gender strategy and action plan to guide mainstreaming of gender across the programme is under development. The community policing training in Galkayo revealed a need for future trainings and workshops to improve engagement with private sector in order to encourage greater support for police operations from the business community.

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

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 2,019,781

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Capacity building of the beneficiary institutions in the security sector has increased in both scope and reach throughout the reporting period, despite the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pilot virtual workshops were employed to guide FMS institutions to develop their Institutional Development & Capacity Building Plans (ID&CBPs) and 13 institutions have now finalized ID&CBPs that set out the structure, development priorities, personnel and trainings requirements that will allow the institution to function better and provide civilian oversight and security function in accordance with their mandates and the national and state security policies.

Based on the training priorities outlined in the ID&CBPs, a training curriculum and a training package was developed that included basic civil service training on both technical and thematic areas. In order to anchor the training in national institutions and to cascade the efforts to a large number of institutions, three Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops were held using a mixture of virtual and face-to-face sessions, resulting in the training of 28 trainers (5 women) from both FGS and FMS institutions. The trainers were then able to make use of their knowledge to build the capacity of their respective ministries through in-house trainings, reaching a total of 132 participants (35 women).

During the reporting period, the 167 consultants and advisors (42 women) funded by the JSSGP were reported by the partner security institutions as providing expert support. This support has strengthened the capacity of the institutions to deliver in accordance with the National Security Architecture, the Security and Justice Roadmap and the Somali Transitional Plan. At the FMS level, the capacity injection has been critical for enabling the functioning of the ministries of security and the regional security officers. Further, the consultants and advisors have been instrumental for the institutional capacity building efforts and resulted in the development of the ID&CBPs and the ToT workshops as described above.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The two key challenges faced by the programme during the reporting period were the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the programme and the difficulties connected to the ability of the programme to reach the desired long-term impact of improving the effectiveness, accountability and sustainability of the Somali security sector governance institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic had substantial impact on programme delivery in 2020. Since mid-March, most of the OPM JSSGP team, UNDP and UNSOM technical teams, and the UNDP operational team have worked full time using flexible working arrangements and home-based work. Since June there has been a gradual return to work in the office for several government institutions, including the OPM and the MOIS, whilst the UN organizations has only implemented a gradual and layered return of some key staff towards the end of the year. A Business Continuity Plan was developed, refined and implemented in order to find ways to implement programme activities depending on different scenarios.

At the outset of the pandemic, many of the beneficiary institutions were not accustomed to working virtually, but substantial progress has been achieved throughout the year. This situation, that delayed implementation of many programme activities at first, was gradually, to a large extent overcome by a shift in working methods. The use of online tools enabled not only regular level coordination and planning but also organizations of capacity building activities and workshops. In June 2020, the first UN I-SSR team virtual pilot training was organized for OPM staff, providing a proven format for the further planned virtual trainings. This was followed by workshops for HirShabelle and Jubaland in order to support the drafting of their ID&CBPs. This development led to the organizations of the ToT trainings in August to November, that held a mix of virtual sessions with UN expertise, and face-to face trainings through the support of Somali expertise from NSCI and IFSA, working with the support of training manuals and documents developed by the UN I-SSR Team. Throughout the year, it is clear that the pandemic delayed the pace of implementation of activities and particularly trainings, but through adapted working methods it was still possible to reach full, or in some cases partial, implementation of the workplan for 2020.

During the year, in-depth discussions have been held with international partners and government authorities and the UN on how to restructure the JSSGP in order to better achieve the intended impact of the programme of improving the professionalism and accountability of the security sector institutions to perform their vital functions and civilian oversight. In addition, it has been a top priority to align the deliverables of the programme to better ensure implementation of the strategic objectives of the national security policies at both FGS and FMS level. This has been based on a third-party EU monitoring report as well as a joint UN-government JSSGP Review that has analysed the successes and short comings of the programme.

The outcome of these reviews and the following discussions have concluded that the JSSGP programme had an inadequate initial design, was too broad in scope, and lacked sufficient M&E framework and mechanisms to ensure accountability. As a result, although the programme has delivered on the sub-outputs, the impact on improving security oversight has been hard to measure and unclear. However, the programme had helped to lay important foundations and established the networks and processes that are necessary upon which a more sophisticated programme can be formulated. Upon reaching these conclusions, and considering the upcoming election period, it was agreed (see below under section Looking Ahead), that the programme should undergo a transition period, that would see essential reform of the JSSGP in terms of alignment of working methods to reach strategic security sector objectives, and a new longer term programme would be formulated, based on the lessons learned during the first phase of the programme.

**MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 2,378,015**

**MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 3,141,722**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

An awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 responded to harmful misinformation and worked closely with religious leaders to support COVID-19 response efforts. Religious leaders responded to misinformation surrounding the virus and through this work have developed a network of trusted leaders promoting tolerance and peace. The awareness-raising campaign 'Clerics vs COVID' contributed to debunking harmful misinformation and sharing lifesaving health information. It also triggered a social debate about the need to limit gatherings for congregational prayers and the application of social distancing measures at other places of worship. The campaign's success at countering the COVID-19 misinformation was a possible trigger for al-Shabaab to eventually acknowledge the dangers of the pandemic and mirror the government's efforts of establishing a committee of doctors and religious leaders in response to the disease.

Dialogue and Mediation Committees were established in Jowhar, Warsheikh, Balcad, Dhusemareb and Kismayo to engage religious actors into conversations on countering hate speech and violent extremism. The committees ensured that implementation of P/CVE priorities could be rolled out also during the pandemic. Progress was made encouraging inter-ministerial collaboration towards managing religious institutions across Somalia, for example through assistance and capacity building to the Federal Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs (MoERA).

Public events, such as the 14 October commemoration, as well as the P/CVE platforms, have facilitated dialogue around conflict transformation and peace building.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

COVID-19 was the main challenge to project implementation in 2020. The impact and effects of the pandemic required both adjustments to consultative approaches and committee formations involving gatherings of people, as well as tailoring the intervention itself towards addressing emerging hate speech and discrimination used by violent extremist groups with reference to COVID-19.

Despite adjustments made due to COVID-19, the project delivered expected outputs and was able to respond to new external challenges and ensure that implementation continued. When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Somalia in early 2020, the OPM together with the UNSOM/UNDP PCVE team decided that it was not safe to convene PCVE platform meetings - especially in newly recovered areas - in order not to fuel into al-Shabaab's narrative that government representatives are spreading a virus said to affect non-believers. Instead, the OPM PCVE unit in coordination with the PCVE focal points at the FMS presidencies started in-depth conversations with the FMS authorities to understand more about the needs of the communities in the potential project locations. New areas for potential activities have been identified through consultations at the local level and have been integrated into the 2021 annual work plan.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 230,260

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 419,578

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme continued support enhancing skills and capacity of the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD), together with the other key stakeholders working on human rights promotion and protection in Somalia. The MoWHRD and the inter-ministerial task force on human rights were trained and exposed through in-depth study visits to Rwanda and Uganda to learn more on how to effectively mainstream human rights in government institutions. As a result, the MoWHRD and the task force played a key role both in the implementation of human rights commitments including reporting and advocacy on human rights issues within their institutions. They also followed-up on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and supported the drafting and the validation conference for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) state party report.

In addition, the capacity of other key human rights actors (such as elders, police, prosecutors, judges, prison officers and doctors) increased through trainings on responses to sexual and gender-based violence and the rights of detainees. The capacity of civil society organizations to monitor and report on human rights violations has been increased through Low Value Grants which enabled the delivery of human rights training and advocacy on different thematic areas.

The federal member states (FMS) implemented basic human rights trainings, capacity building, setting up coordination structures to address thematic areas such as children and armed conflict, women protection, human rights and harmful traditional practices and activities under the National Action Plan on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Progress toward the fulfilment of Somalia's human rights reporting obligations continued, with the development and submission of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right's State Party report of Somalia and the Child Rights Convention's State Party list of issues from the Child Rights Committee, and the drafting of the UPR's state party report which is awaiting final validation and submission as of end of December.

The MoWHRD initiated the Women Charter activities with support of the programme, which included the research on the historic Diinsoor district elections, resulting in an unprecedented 50 percent political seats for women. The work included amapping exercise of the parliamentary candidates across the FMS and Banadir region and vacant positions at different levels of government. The mapping will ensure that these candidates are engaged, informed and supported on the different matters around the electoral process including their own security.

In addition, the MoWHRD, in close coordination with the FMS and civil society, organized a women's conference with the participation of several high-level officials, among which the Speaker of the House of the People, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and several sitting Members of Parliament (MPs). The conference brought forth the women's advocacy efforts that had been ongoing at grassroot levels for the 30 percent campaign, emphasize and raise awareness for the importance of women's political participation, and further call for action for unhindered implementation of the 30 percent women quota for parliamentary representation.

The communique from conference demonstrated a strong commitment of the government for the achievement of the 30 percent women quota. In this context, the MoWHRD worked closely with the FMS Ministries of Women and Human Rights to conduct an aspiring female parliamentary candidates' mapping exercise, which resulted, as of 31 December, in a list of 59 female candidates that have registered to this database through the FMS. This will allow the MoWHRD to inform and support these candidates throughout the electoral processes.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

In this reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic affecting Somalia and globally have resulted in severe delays of the implementation of activities and delivery of the Programme. Contingencies were made to facilitate business continuity where possible, with alternative modalities in the interim. Due to the uncertainty around when and how the operational environment will evolve, further plans for most of the programme for the rest of the year have been tentative.

In August, the FGS went through a transition. The subsequent period meant some delay for the implementation of the programme, as the required political approval and guidance in certain areas was lacking. This was aggravated by the prolonged caretaker status of the Council of Ministers, which was the longest caretaker Government period in Somali history.

There were significant delays, due to political issues and the COVID-19 pandemic, in the development, finalization and approval of the annual work plan. This has highlighted the need to start planning for the next generation of programmes, as ample time is required for discussion on priorities.

Low capacity affects particularly the implementation of activities in the context of 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 require continued advocacy and political engagement, including from international partners.

The programme, despite the myriad challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in the incremental achievement of some important outcomes. It provided effective technical and financial support to an innovative and transformative process, thus building a culture of respect for international human rights and humanitarian law in Somalia. The commitment and dedication of the Federal government and its ministries is vital for the efforts to set up and consolidate institutional mechanisms and formulate policies to mainstream human rights in national programmes, policies and legislation. Although the delivery rate increased, the pace of implementation needs to accelerate, which can only happen with greater urgency on the part of the FGS and FMS to improve its commitment to and protection of human rights.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 2,177,870

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 1,563,693

# NDP-9 PILLAR 3:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme demonstrated continued progress to reduce unsustainable charcoal production in Somalia. Close cooperation was maintained with the federal Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Puntland Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Rural Development. As a result, one national coordination meeting and four sensitisation campaigns were conducted including one nationwide and one private-public partnership dialogue in Puntland. These events brought together a total of 329 people (91 women) representing government authorities, Somali artists, civil society organizations, traditional elders and women's groups in promoting environmental protection and alternative energy solutions to charcoal use. The two Somali dialects of Maay and MaxaaTiri were interchangeably used, to reinforce the message of the anti-charcoal campaign, while twenty-three banners were displayed to encourage the use of alternative energy solutions. In addition, key Somalia telecom companies, television and radio stations were engaged for wider outreach.

Across Somalia, 15,870 households (85 per cent women-headed) transitioned to environment-friendly sustainable sources of energy, comprising fuel-efficient cookstoves and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) alternatives to charcoal use and solar solutions. Seven green charcoal workstations were established including three in Somaliland and three in Puntland. Forty-two members of the community (25 women) representing 30 from Somaliland and twelve from Puntland were trained and adopted improved designs for energy-efficient solutions. Youth-focused innovative home-grown solutions on alternative energy sources for cooking and water heating were piloted. All these actions contributed to the reduction of charcoal consumption and hence improving the conservation of the ecosystems through curtailing deforestation and rangeland degradation while creating employment opportunities as an alternative livelihood by transitioning to clean energy cooking.

Interventions comprising tree nurseries, surveys and remote sensing in main charcoal hubs were demonstrated. These include the operationalization of two tree nurseries in Yoontoy and Gobweyn in Jubaland. Field surveys were held in Badhaadhe, Kismayo and Afmadow districts and remote sensing units were established in Badhaadhe, Kismayo and Afmadow districts to strengthen the record charcoal production and trade. The overall analysis indicates the production of 20 million bags over nine years with a substantial 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).

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

COVID-19 restrictions impacted the revision of the programme strategy and continuation of key planned activities including national awareness campaigns and distribution of LPG in federal member states as an alternative to charcoal use. Virtual meetings were adopted resulting in a revised Strategy was finalised and adopted. The distribution of the LPG was completed in late December 2020

Community-level engagement by the programme was limited due to poor internet connectivity.

In Somaliland, installation of solar thermal heating systems was delayed due to delivery and procurement problems.

Insecurity and the upcoming national election hinder post-distribution monitoring assessments under the alternative energy options to charcoal use and livelihood component to understanding emerging issues from the interventions, lessons learned, and gaps

The no cost extension approval was delayed and implementation stalled until all documents were finalised in September 2020.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,620,071

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 969,024

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme made steady progress engaging the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and coordinating with other key counterparts including the International Finance Corporation, World Bank, Somalia Bureau of Standards, and SomInvest. An Enterprise Development Unit (EDU) was established in Beletweyne within the Hiraan Chamber of Commerce. A Training of Trainers on entrepreneurship was conducted where seven local experts were trained, which in turn will enable entrepreneurship training to local business communities with priority for women entrepreneurs. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Strategy paper on the various possibilities that lie ahead for Somalia to stimulate economic activities through establishments of SEZs was prepared and submitted to MoCI for review. The procurement process for conducting a national pre-feasibility study for the development of SEZ started and the contract is expected to be signed in April 2021. Six experts were recruited as advisors and placed within MoCI.

A nine-member Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) monitoring group was formed with representation of three members each from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU), and the Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). A training course was developed to equip the group with the minimum skills to monitor the process and validate documents. Terms of reference for the development of the OSH national profile was prepared and shared with MoLSA, FESTU and SCCI for comments after which a consultant will be appointed.

Following consultations, FAO and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of the FGS, engaged with partners to be involved in the development of a National Fisheries Masterplan. Following government recommendation, Federpesca, an Italian federation of Industrial companies in the fishery sector, was identified as a potential partner for the formulation of the masterplan.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Despite challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, programme activities progressed steadily. Change of leadership at the line ministries caused minor delays in the implementation of activities.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,951,975

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 236,015

# NDP-9 PILLAR 4:



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the reporting period JPLG continued to refine local government financial management systems working to integrate the AIMS (Aid Management Information System) more closely with FMIS (Financial management Information System) with the objective of switching all local governments over to the FMIS systems in 2021.

Registration of 25,000 property units was carried out in Baidoa, which was a complete enumeration of all habitable properties in Baidoa, in a bid to maximise domestic revenue sources. JPLG supported the production of a local government budget paper for Somaliland based on analysis of crucial data for budgeting and planning on revenue and expenditure performance. Local governments and citizens have in target districts in both Somaliland and Puntland adopted the new mobile money payment system, through which citizens can pay their taxes in a very effective and transparent manner. The new mobile money payment application has reduced cash transactions during the COVID crisis and boosted speed and efficiency of revenue collection.

Eleven districts in Somaliland benefited from the Service Delivery Model (SDM) mechanism used for emergency response through the COVID-19 Local Government Response Project in Somaliland.

In Baidoa, an enabling environment for service delivery was created for the municipality with the support of the JPLG through the rehabilitation of the district offices and provision of office furniture and equipment.

Local government procurement guidelines and frameworks for the federal member states (FMS) were developed and validated to enhance accountability and transparency of use of public resources. Furthermore, JPLG facilitated business licensing and registration guidelines supporting revenue collection, improving the efficiency of business-registration and licensing services in the FMS.

Finally, in the capital districts of the FMS, a communication action plan on business registration was developed and the Programme facilitated aware-

ness campaigns.

JPLG supported the adoption and implementation of online platforms for trainings and dialogue forums at the local government level. JPLG showcased its Somaliland COVID-19 response at a high-level global webinar (organized by UNICEF HQ) on the role of local governments in supporting COVID-19 efforts.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the implementation of planned activities. This affected several capacity building activities, dialogue sessions, and monitoring missions – all of which lend themselves best to in person interaction. Furthermore, delays in district council formation in the new FMS hindered implementation of activities in those localities. Gender mainstreaming remains a challenge and additional efforts are required in this regard.

Inadequate district staffing levels for the FMS are hindering capacity-building support and are directly linked to resource shortages, such as lack of revenue to fund recurrent expenditure. Finally, security constraints and limited means of travel continue to pose limitations on access to newly established districts.

Other challenges included the decline in diaspora remittances as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19 on which the Somali economy is highly dependent, further limiting the local governments' capacity to provide services. The technical problem of the RapidPro system delayed the release of survey questions and hence halted the timely community feedback.

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

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 14,865,026

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

All 13 UNFPA-supported midwifery schools stayed on course with the fully accredited International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) curriculum application. Two hundred and fifty additional midwifery students were enrolled in the midwifery education programme in 2020. This was possible due the additional funding received to expand the midwifery education programme in Somalia. This brings the total number of enrolled students in 2020 to 590. During the reporting period, 180 midwifery students graduated as Qualified Midwives from these schools to serve women and families of Somalia. More than 63,444 women received family planning counselling services and a total of 28,209 women used a modern method of contraception through health facilities supported by UNFPA.

The awareness and behavioural change of youth, as well as their knowledge, attitude and practice regarding HIV/AIDS and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, increased noticeably during the year. In addition, their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues, including on family planning, increased.

The programme strengthened the national capacity of all actors and service providers dealing with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors, particularly in the areas of medical care and treatment, such as clinical management of rape and sexual offenses. A total of 59 health workers gained skills in management and provision of rape treatment services for SGBV survivors while 95 social and health workers gained skills in provision of culturally-sensitive and age-appropriate counselling. In addition, 190 Government and CSO actors gained skills in legislative advocacy and SGBV prevention and response. The Programme supported a media protocol for journalists to report SGBV and provided orientation for 350 journalists in Somalia to apply the protocol.

The launch of the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) was a significant achievement in 2020. The survey results provided much needed data for planning and policy formulation. The SHDS national report, Somaliland and Puntland reports of the SHDS were published and officially launched in 2020. The reports were shared widely across government ministries, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international partners for use in planning and policy formulation. The SHDS reports enabled: (a) real-time planning, policy formulation and programme monitoring; (b) generation of key indicators used as baselines for monitoring the localized Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and (c) the Government in setting baseline data and targets for monitoring the progress of the newly developed National Development Plan (NDP-9). The reports data also helped assess the performance of the previous national development plans, and other strategic development frameworks for the FGS and the FMSs, the UN, and

international partners.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Somalia in March, the De Martino Hospital in Mogadishu was dedicated as the isolation and treatment center for COVID-19 cases for Mogadishu and surrounding areas. Until June of 2020 the hospital continued to be a dedicated center for COVID-19 to respond adequately to the threat of the pandemic. As cases stabilized around June 2020, De Martino Hospital gradually re-introduced regular health care services, including obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, medicine and emergency medical services, while at the same time maintaining isolation and treatment facilities for COVID-19 cases.

COVID-19 severely affected the supply chain for approximately six months for medical supplies, both at the international level, in procuring supplies from international vendors, as well as local distribution due to the restrictions on travel and movement of people and supplies.

Travel and social distancing requirements limited the in-person conduct of the midwifery school classes, including several clinical trainings that were planned for the year. It also disrupted the delivery of other in-person training events and meetings that were planned for the year.

In the area of SGBV, challenges included continued lack of consensus and resistance by conservative leaders to enact and implement sexual offences bills that adequately protect women and girls from SGBV. Contentious views around the age of marriage and perceptions that the legislation would contravene Islamic provisions were major barriers to a progressive discourse to pass the bill.

Lack of adequate modern family planning supplies in some parts of the country was a challenge for the Somalia family planning programme. UNFPA Somalia successfully championed this cause corporately to be included in its global strategic supplies programme and more supplies have been earmarked for 2021 and beyond by UNFPA Headquarters. These will be donated in-kind to Somalia.

UNFPA mitigated challenges to gender empowerment through more interventions at the level of the community and working with faith-based leaders, religious leaders and Imams to impact societal change.

**MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 20,044,780**

**MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 19,916,710**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Implementation of the programme continued with activities to operationalize Somalia's Social Protection Policy. Key stakeholders were consulted to review and finalize the implementation framework for the policy. Based on the need to align the policy to track SDG indicators, the programme provided the Government with technical support to identify key indicators that could be tracked using through the implementation framework

Consistent programme support enabled the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to establish leadership in managing and providing guidance to the FMS. Increased capacity enabled MoLSA to engage with the World Bank and establish the national safety net programme. In addition, MoLSA, with support from the programme, worked with the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) to strengthen their local monitoring and evaluation systems and improving the BRA's capacity to identify and enrol vulnerable populations in their social protection work. With funding from the programme, MoLSA hosted a national seminar for federal member state (FMS) representatives to review the policy and discuss the implementation progress of the National Safety Net, Baxnaano.

A needs assessment in the FMS acknowledged that government staff lacked minimum equipment to perform day-to-day functions. Office furniture and equipment were provided in ministries in charge of social protection in all FMS to strengthen delivery and improve working conditions.

Engagement with the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) in Somaliland was formalized through the signature of an annual work plan with UNICEF, which focused on technical support that will be provided to the development of a social protection policy.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted delivery. Planned activities experienced delays to as0 measures were devised to mitigate the spread of the infection and safely carry out activities. The programme supported and guided BRA staff to ensure hygienic practices and social distancing were immediately introduced in the roll-out of the project.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 1,178,183

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 807,316



# NDP-9:



CROSS-CUTTING / ENABLERS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme supported the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) to establish a network of Somalia Women Charter Champions. To date, 30 champions (including two men) representing a broad spectrum of civil society have been drawn from the field across Somalia. They were tasked with organising advocacy and awareness-raising activities to support the Women's Charter, National Action Plan implementation, focusing on advocacy for the realisation of 30 percent women representation in elections. The Benadir-based champions will support the operation of a call centre supporting women in elections. To ensure inclusivity, the MoWHRD will continue identifying champions from among the youth and marginalised groups across the country.

The Sexual Offences Bill (SOB), comprehensive legislation aiming to provide stronger protection of women and girls and ensure all victims of sexual harassment and violence can seek justice, was endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2018. However, the Speaker of the Lower House unilaterally withdrew the bill before it could be discussed on the parliament floor. To address the issue, the programme supported an advocacy campaign supporting the passing of this critical bill by parliament.

The programme partnered with a media house to conduct a public outreach campaign to combat sexual and gender-based violence. By broadcasting 720 spot messages on radio and TV, the campaign reached approximately 30,000 people across five FMS. The campaign also stood against the alternative draft, the 2020 Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill, which would represent a significant setback in the fight against sexual violence in Somalia if adopted. Joint meetings with development partners were held to coordinate collective advocacy. Based on a detailed analysis of the draft bill, the UN urged authorities to withdraw the latest draft as it seriously breached international human rights norms and standards and encouraged the authorities to reintroduce the draft law from 2018. As a result of the advocacy and high-level engagement, the alternative bill was withdrawn from parliament. The reintroduction of the 2018 SOB is one of the priorities of the MoWHRD. The consensus on the 2020/2021 elections reached by the FGS and the FMS on 17 September includes a minimum 30 percent quota for women in parliament and the electoral colleges. A similar quota was declared for the previous 2016/2017 elections, but the target was not met. The programme supported the MoWHRD in undertaking field visits to advocate with clan elders, political leaders and other influencers on the quota for women. The regional events culminated in a National Conference held on 15 December with all stakeholders committing to the 30 percent women representation in the upcoming elections. The trends of SGBV in Somalia confirm that displaced women and girls continue to be the most

vulnerable and need protection. The programme supported the Ministry of Women Development, Family Affairs and Human Rights (MoWFAHR) of South West State to establish two safe hubs in IDP camps in Baidoa to provide psychosocial trauma counselling for SGBV survivors. A total of 100 SGBV survivors/victims (including one man) visited the centres and received trauma counselling.

MoWFAHR recruited two psychosocial trauma counsellors to provide support to SGBV survivors. The programme also provided training to 85 women in the IDP camps to protect themselves from sexual and gender-based assaults and on the post-trauma referral support and redressal system. These women were also trained as front level community workers to disseminate the messages of COVID-19 prevention, including the need to wear masks and practice hand hygiene. 342 women in the camps were sensitised on keeping safe during the pandemic.

Meaningful engagement of men and boys is increasingly recognised as critical to advancing gender equality and transforming the social and gender norms that reinforce patriarchy and inequality. To engage men in the efforts to combat violence against women and girls, MoWFAHR brought together 20 traditional elders and religious leaders (all men) and ten women to discuss the prevalence of SGBV and the need for community-led prevention.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuing restrictions, was a significant challenge for the programme resulting in delays and reduced community-level activities.

The unpredictable security situation hampered effective implementation of planned activities. Other challenges included the political volatility and uneven capacity among counterparts.

MPTF Funds received during reporting period: US\$ 724,250

MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 602,670

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the second quarter of 2020, after a period of internal discussions within the FGS on the refinement of the aid architecture, an agreement was reached. As a result, the refined aid architecture was endorsed at the SDRF Steering Committee meeting held on 24 June. After the endorsement, the focus was placed on starting operationalization, by setting up the required structures and appointing co-chairs from the government and donor sides, as well as UN Focal Points for each of the pillar working groups. While maintaining an inclusive spirit, the refined aid architecture is leaner and more streamlined than the previous one, aims to be strategic and sets up a structure to promote high level dialogue between security, justice and development partners.

The Inclusive Politics, Security & Justice, Economic Development, Social Development, and Gender, Human Rights & Inclusion pillar working groups were activated. The pillar working groups monitored progress of implementation of agreed 2020 milestones of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) and agreed on commitments to be achieved in 2021 for both the FGS and the international community also under the MAF, which were endorsed in the Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) held on 7 December. With support from the programme, the MAF Task Force led the process of organization of the SPF, while the Partnership Principles and Use of Country Systems Task Forces convened several times and contributed to the MAF.

A set of options were proposed to the Government to improve the online collaboration and information sharing amongst membership of the aid architecture, which are expected to be adopted in the first months of 2021, while a new project document in support to the operationalization of the refined aid architecture is being developed.

The Somali Aid Information Management System (AIMS) (<https://aims.mop.gov.so>) was launched virtually on 15 April, and the 2020 Aid Flow Report validated by the Government. Trainings were carried out to donor and implementing partner agencies' focal points in the use of the AIMS, as well as to government officers. Almost all traditional bilateral donors and UN agencies updated their project data in the system at the request of the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development. Users can visualize aid flow information in the system and download reports and data, greatly improving transparency of aid flows in Somalia and opportunities for coordination of international support.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic, the transitional period in the FGS after the departure of former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire in July, and the electoral process slowed down the operationalization of the refined aid architecture. The programme is being extended until 30 June 2021 to provide continuity to the aid coordination function during the electoral process period. During that period, it is expected to further roll out the refined aid architecture and the implementation of the MAF.

**MPTF Funds received during reporting period:** US\$ 723,593

**MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period:** US\$ 857,726

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Enablers programme continued to play a central role for the UN's ability to deliver as one in Somalia and to provide coordinated support to the national and international response to COVID-19.

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 UN in Somalia finalised its 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.

The UN Risk Management Unit (RMU) enhanced analytical support at the strategic, programmatic and operational level, strengthened cooperation with the UN Country Team and external partners, especially through risk analysis and assessments, collaborative risk management, information sharing, substantive risk management discussions in the UN Risk Management and Accountability and Quality Assurance Group. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the RMU applied an adoptive way of conducting business and responded in an effective and efficient way to a higher volume of requests and due diligence required by UN entities and other partners. To be highlighted is development of a new contemporary virtual learning platform that has allowed RMU to continue engaging with partners.

Progress was achieved on the National Window component of the MPTF Joint Justice Programme overseen by the RMU and implemented through the country systems. Acquiring of the services of companies for undertaking prisons' construction work in Baidoa and Galkayo were completed in the first half of

the year, while the construction work commenced in July 2020 and has progressed according to the plan.

Besides challenges encountered due to remote management and operations, RMU contributed to enhancing CIMS and CIRT (two web-based RMU managed databases) database with additional features and upgrading and improving its data security. Contract value in CIMS has reached US\$ 6.5 billion and data has been extracted from Somalia POE 2019 report and uploaded in CIMS. Number of organisations sharing information in CIRT have increased to 13, hence contributing to comprehensive data analysis and identification of overlapping contracts.

UNDSS conducted Security Assessments and Evaluations throughout the year with the support of a fully operationalized and maintained aircraft. These funds enabled the programme to be sustained after USAID, who were the main donor, pulled out of the Programme.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

COVID-19 impacted the ability of the Enablers programme to implement its activities according to plan, with some delays and resequencing as a result. Alternative implementation modalities and virtual communication arrangements were introduced to ensure continuity in the provision of enabling services.

The RMU has not been able to conduct any risk management courses during the first half of 2020 and by the end of the year only one course has been delivered in the new RMU virtual platform.

The major challenge facing the UNDSS programme implementation is the availability of funds, especially after the main donor pulled out. This slowed down the project and may have caused it to end, especially if UNDSS was unable to find a consistent donor in time.

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

**MPTF Funds expenditure during reporting period: US\$ 3,115,898**

# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

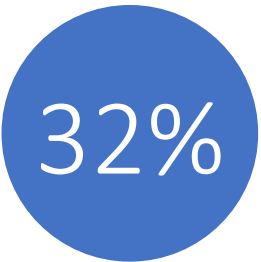


*\* Please note that the Joint Programmes on “Women’s Political Participation, Leadership and Empowerment” and “Strengthening Women’s Capacities as Agents for Change in Peacebuilding, Reconciliation & Ending Violence Against Women” are not included in this section as Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment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

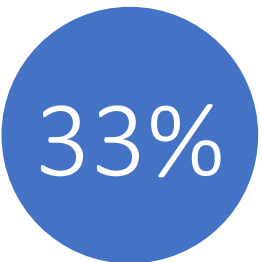
Gender equality and women’s empowerment remain key tenets of the MPTF portfolio in Somalia. All programmes in the portfolio are required to integrate gender aspects during design and implementation, including monitoring of gender markers as part of results frameworks. The MPTF portfolio in Somalia has the potential to be a formidable force for advancing women’s participation in economic, political, and social life in Somalia, as well as to safeguard women’s protection and human rights. Combined with the commitment of the UN Peacebuilding Fund to dedicate the lion share of its funding over the next five years to programming that directly support the women, peace and security agenda as outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the UN is well-placed to support Somali women through coordinated efforts and strategic use of the multilateral funds it manages. As the UN in Somalia continues efforts to strengthen the operational functioning and strategic value of the MPTF, gender equality and women empowerment will be a key priority.

The Electoral Support Programme worked to enhance participation of women in electoral processes as candidates and voters. Targeted activities in support of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) included capacity building of female personnel in electoral administration and field work. The original draft electoral law did not include a quota for women’s representation in parliament. However, the parliamentary ad-hoc committee established in February 2020 to develop recommendations in consultation with the NIEC and other stakeholders, proposed a resolution which was passed by the House of the People in June providing for a 24 percent women’s quota in parliament. Following the decision of the National Consultative Council to conduct indirect elections in 2020/21, the September 17 agreement includes a clause to protect the 30 percent women’s representation – an important achievement of the advocacy efforts of Somali women and high-level engagement by Somalia’s international partners, including the UN.

The Parliament Support programme supported public hearings and consultations with women’s groups by parliamentary committees as part of the legislative process. Following engagement with the women caucuses of the Federal Parliament on the draft electoral law, particularly on the section related to women’s political participation, the law was amended. In coordination with the Constitutional Review programme, the Parliament Support programme supported consultations with women leaders and activists to collect their views on the needs related to the constitutional review process. These consultations con-



of outputs across Joint Programmes are gender specific <sup>4</sup>



of staff of all Joint Programmes have responsibility for gender issues <sup>5</sup>



tributed to strengthen women's advocacy for women's rights, women's political participation, and gender equality in Somalia.

The Joint Corrections Programme ensured women's access to welfare items in six correction facilities across Somalia, including sanitary pads, adequate clothing, sanitation soaps and creams. Vocational training and education were made equally accessible to women, and in some cases, separate sessions targeting solely female prisoners were facilitated at their request to ensure protection of gender privacy.

The Joint Justice Programme continued mainstreaming gender across all its activities, ensuring that gender markers and concerns were articulated and that gender-sensitive indicators were included at design phase. Implementation throughout the year focused on access to justice and participation in justice reform for women and vulnerable groups and the transformation of social norms in favour of promoting gender equality. Steps were taken to promote the inclusion and active participation of women in all activities, and to encourage leadership of women. Through its support for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, the programme enhanced women's access to justice by increasing their participation and ensuring their specific issues were given hearing. The training of ADR members on non-violent communication created a deeper connection between women leaders and male elders and enabled the elders to better understand women's concern while solving disputes. In relation to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) specifically, support to SGBV prosecutorial units contributed to an increase in the number of rape cases being prosecuted. Since the onset of COVID-19, particular attention was given to monitoring trends with the establishment of the SGBV taskforce in Mogadishu.

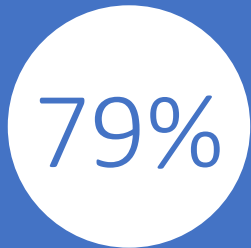
Gender was well-incorporated in outputs of the Joint Security Sector Governance Programme. Gender markers were closely monitored during planning and evaluation of activities to ensure that the programme was working towards their fulfilment. The programme aimed to fill a minimum of 30 percent staff positions by women. Of the 167 staff employed under the programme as of December 2020, 42 were women, representing a proportion of 25.1 percent, which is lower than the target and requires additional efforts going forward. The programme supported the South West State Ministry of Security that sets out a non-discriminatory gender policy and confirms the right to maternity and paternity leave for eligible staff.

*\* 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.*

During a year of great upheaval, disruption and distraction risked undermining progress made on human rights and derailing efforts to further deepen their respect in Somalia. The year saw some setbacks on the human rights agenda in Somalia, notably on the protection of the rights of women and the rights of children due to legislation that presented serious challenges to Somalia’s regional and international human rights commitments, such as the draft “Law on Sexual Intercourse-related Crimes”, which was a suggested alternative to the 2018 Sexual Offences Bill that had been endorsed by Cabinet, and Somaliland’s “Rape Fornication and Related Offences” bill. The UN, the international community, and many representatives of Somali civil society engaged in advocacy regarding their mutual concerns. The “Law on Sexual Intercourse-related Crimes” has not been presented to Parliament. However, despite efforts the Somaliland bill passed the Lower House and awaits consideration by the Upper House. In other parts of the MPTF portfolio, the UN’s collective efforts continued the push for universal human rights through the mainstreaming of human rights-based approaches in programming.

Somalia is a signatory to international and regional treaties protecting human rights of its population. Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights stipulates that “Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without unreasonable restrictions, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, the right of every citizen to vote”. The UN’s Joint Programme for Electoral Support was designed according to this fundamental right with the aim to support Somalia’s move from a limited franchise electoral process as in 2016/17 into universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021. Specific objectives in this regard, amongst others, include enhancing 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. However, following intensive discussions in Dhusamareb in July and August between the FGS and FMS, a political agreement was reached on 17 September in Mogadishu on an indirect electoral formula to conduct the 2020-2021 federal elections and the agreement was endorsed by Parliament on 26 September. The agreement excluded both the NIEC and political parties from the indirect electoral process which is essentially a slightly expanded version of the 2016 electoral process. The indirect model is based on electoral constituency caucuses.

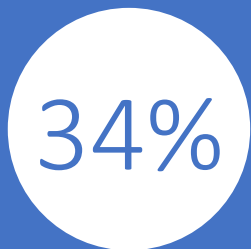
The Joint Corrections Programme works to promote human rights and protection of vulnerable groups in Somalia’s corrections system. Efforts to increase the capacity of officers of the Somalia Custodial Corps placed emphasis on the protection of human rights in the Basic Training of Prison Officers (BTPO) intervention. The training curriculum used by UNODC prison experts includes the functioning of the criminal justice system, codes of conduct, use of force, vulnerable groups, rehabilitation and reintegration, and the Nelson



*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*

Mandela Rules as the standard international rules on the treatment of prisoners. UNOPS's construction of the additional block at the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex serves to equip the target facility with fair and humane infrastructure. Prisoners across Somalia are often detained in overcrowded, unhygienic and insecure circumstances. The construction of the 240-bed block in Mogadishu with full basic infrastructural amenities strengthens the capacity of the Somali Custodial Corps to detain prisoners in manners that are compliant with human rights.

In coordination with the UN's broader rule of law support, the Joint Programme on Parliament Support engaged members of parliament 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 adopted the International Convention of People with Disabilities and the AU Convention on IDPs in Africa, to promote and protect the rights of IDPs and persons with disabilities. In addition, as reported, in coordination with other UN agencies, UNDP analyzed human rights compliance of the second revised version of the Constitution, focusing particularly on the age of maturity issue.

The Joint Justice Programme promotes human right principles throughout its implementation. The human rights-based understanding of access to justice underpins interventions that aim to improve the equal access to justice for all. This includes not only access, but also effective justice that incorporates both procedural and substantive justice. Furthermore, the programme considers the intersectional impacts of discrimination, and is alive to the clan as well as gender-based issues that perpetuate the existing power dynamics and social structures. Through the programme, UN Women and IDLO support institutional capacity of attorney-general office to promote access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and address protection challenges relating to women and girls.

The Joint Security Sector Governance Programme included specific human rights training, delivered by UN human rights experts, as a substantial component of trainings delivered during autumn 2020 centrally and then cascaded through in-house training in the beneficiary institutions.

Right to health is a basic human right. Sexual and reproductive health and rights protect against coercion, discrimination, and violence. Human rights recognize that all individuals have equal rights and entitlements to access sexual and reproductive health education, information, and services, irrespective of who they are and where they live. The UNFPA Country Programme adopted a human rights-based approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable women and girls including women and girls living with disabilities by making deliberate efforts through the utilization of participatory approaches to ensure target beneficiaries' participation and involvement in programme design, implementation, and monitoring. The programme adopted strategies that reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to SGBV such as improving proximity to services, ensuring that service providers understand and apply the SGBV principles in a way that maximizes healing, recovery, protection and empowerment of vulnerable women and girls.

The 2020 semi-annual report captured an overview of major achievements by the UN MPTF Joint Programmes in the first half of the year. It was published and disseminated to the donors on 7 August 2020. Furthermore, two quarterly UN MPTF Newsletters – Q2 and Q3 – were also shared with the donors, partners and colleagues on 17 August and 8 November respectively. These newsletters seek to feature ‘human interest stories’ that showcase how Joint Programmes impact the lives of Somalis on a daily basis.

Two quarterly donor briefings were also held in July and October respectively. The MPTF secretariat has committed to addressing the donors’ concerns about the quality of the reporting in future iterations of the UN MPTF reports.

COVID-19 response communication continued throughout the year. The 2020 MPTF semi-annual report also included a separate section on COVID-19 response by the UN MPTF Joint Programmes as well as challenges associated with implementing activities during the pandemic.

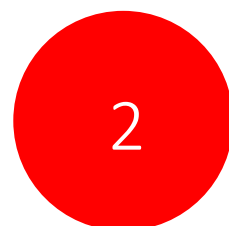
The UN in Somalia website continues to provide a platform and a depository in which communication materials are stored and updated regularly and where the general public can find information on all areas of UN Somalia’s work.<sup>7</sup>



Adherence to reporting timelines <sup>6</sup>



Newsletters Published



Quarterly Donor Briefings Held



Key achievements of the Risk Management Unit (RMU) support to the MPTF in 2020 include: risk assessment and verification services; information-sharing across UN and other partners; coordination and facilitation of joint financial spot-checks, audits and partner capacity assessment; development and endorsement of collaborative risk management strategy and its implementation plan; oversight of the UN MPTF national funding stream; adapting and delivering online managing project risks courses; enhancement of partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Office of the Auditor-General concerning public financial management compliance requirements.

The RMU completed 15 risk assessments of potential implementing partners, more than 150 due diligence verifications, provided risk analysis for the UN Common Country Assessment and new UN Cooperation Framework, as well as risk analysis for the planned Sameeynta joint programme and advised joint programmes on matters related to risk management. The Contractor Information Management System (CIMS) and Capacity Injection Reporting Tool (CIRT), established to coordinate provision of capacity injection in terms of personnel to government, have two databases managed by the RMU.

Under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) Framework, the RMU played a key role in coordinating and facilitating joint activities, such as joint audits, micro-assessment, financial spot-checks and macro-assessment. The RMU has guided and advised HACT compliant agencies through opportunity analysis and implementation plan for UN Somalia's Business Operations Strategy.

Implementation of activities under the MPTF national funding stream made progress, implemented by national authorities with technical support provided by the RMU on procurement and construction standards. Key achievements included construction of correction facilities in Baidoa and Galkayo under the Joint Justice Programme, expected to be completed during quarter two of 2021.

Through the new UN Cooperation Framework, the UN commits to complying with the 2019 public financial management (PFM) act, which requires partners to disburse funding for government through country systems – keeping international development aid on budget and on treasury. The UN is coordinating with the Ministry of Finance in preparation for implementation of the new requirements, including establishing needs for additional capacity support to implementing partners and strengthened controlling mechanisms.

The Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance Group has held 9 (nine meetings) and Multi-Party Risk Working Group held 4 (four) meetings in 2020.

6

Risk Management Group meetings held

Perfect foresight is a rare quality in Somalia and any attempt to predict the course of 2021 would be foolhardy. Throughout 2020, the UN balanced safety protocols related to the pandemic with our responsibility to stay and deliver. Familiarity with the new working arrangements, experimental delivery models, and genuine dedication from national and international staff bode well for our ability to live up to expectations and achieve agreed results in 2021 while we wait for the arrival of a new normal. Beyond the pandemic, uncertainty is brought about by ongoing dialogue on the electoral process. Several programmes part of the MPTF portfolio provide support to these efforts. This year will see a generational shift in the MPTF portfolio. Several of our joint programmes have or are soon ending. New programmatic initiatives are at various stages of the design and approval process in line with the requirements of the SDRF Operations Manual. The teams from across the UN system are committed to work closely with partners to ensure new programmes reflect previous experiences, align with national priorities, and bring sufficient strategic impetus to our collective engagement in support of Somalia's state-building and peacebuilding priorities of the National Development Plan and the UN's commitments under our new Cooperation Framework.

Turning to the management of the Fund, the addition of a fund secretariat in the Integrated Office will have a positive impact on both operational and strategic aspects of the MPTF. The concerns and constructive criticism conveyed by our partners have been well-taken and we have begun the process of addressing them. With continued support we will succeed in building a better MPTF that is the preferred option for government, donors, UN implementers, and civil society organisations alike. Delivering as one is the only viable option if the UN is to successfully deliver on its mandate and commitments. A well-functioning, amply resourced, and effectively coordinated MPTF has a central role to play in this regard.

As the new and first Senior Trust Fund Manager for the MPTF, I look forward to engaging with partners on proposed changes to the Fund aimed at its improvement. In the next couple of months, it is expected that we will present to you the Fund's first investment plan and results framework, both which will seek to address donors' conditions for increasing unearmarked contributions. In consultation with stakeholders, we are reviewing the terms of reference of the Fund, unchanged since its creation in 2014, to reflect the positive changes in Somalia and the role the Fund should play going forward. We will step up strategic communication on achievements under the MPTF portfolio and maintain a regular dialogue with all partners on the strategic direction of the Fund. We will ensure the Fund is a driver for gender equality and women empowerment in Somalia and that human rights are integral to all joint programmes.

Thank you once again for your support to and interest in our collective work under the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Somalia. Many uncertainties remain, but I am confident that 2021 will see Somalia take yet another step forward on its path to peace.

Best regards,

Peter Nordstrom  
Senior Trust Fund Manager

## 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. Productive Sectors Development Programme
14. Local Governance & Decentralized Service Delivery
15. UNFPA Country Programme
16. Social Protection
17. Aid Management & Coordination
18. Stengthening Women's Capacities as Agents of Change
19. Enabling Services

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> MPTF Gateway as of 25 March 2021

<sup>2</sup> Most indicators are cumulative if not otherwise indicated.

<sup>3</sup> 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/4SO00>) in May 2021 upon submission of certified financial reports by participating UN Agencies.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 2020 MPTF semi-annual report sent on 7 August 2020.

<sup>7</sup> UN in Somalia website: <https://somalia.un.org/en>

### CONTACTS

Ms. Jo Nickolls  
Head of the Integrated Office  
[jo.nickolls@one.un.org](mailto:jo.nickolls@one.un.org)

Mr. Peter Nordstrom  
Senior Trust Fund Manager  
[nordstromp@un.org](mailto:nordstromp@un.org)