



UNITED NATIONS  
SOMALIA  
TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT



# SOMALIA

UN MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

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Dear partners,

In the first half of 2021 important steps were made towards bringing the global COVID-19 pandemic under control and the rollout of vaccines has raised our hopes that a return to normal is possible. However, vaccine inequality remains a major concern and vaccination rates in developing countries are lagging far behind those in wealthier countries. Similarly, governments in poorer countries often do not have the means (financial or otherwise) to control the spread through effective containment measures. The risk this poses in Somalia will continue to impact our ability to operate efficiently and to provide essential support to the people of Somalia.

Programme delivery in Somalia continues to be affected by the restrictions associated with the pandemic. Online platforms have allowed us to remain closely engaged with counterparts and have to some extent made it easier to exchange views and stay connected as compared to pre-pandemic times when physical meetings were the norm. On the other hand, there is reason to be concerned about our ability to engage with more peripheral stakeholders and for our programmes to reach those most vulnerable. In a recent UN Somalia survey, an overwhelming majority of respondents reported that relationships at the community level had been negatively or somewhat negatively impacted because of COVID-19 restrictions. We must not forget the imperative of leaving no one behind and the centrality of protection as we do our best to implement our programmes within the limitations of the current situation.

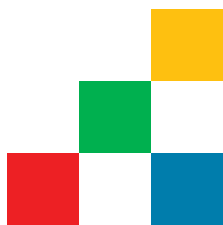
The political situation in Somalia also affected our programme delivery in the first half of 2021, as will become apparent when you are reading the report. Some of the programmes in the MPTF portfolio have played a critical role in supporting the ongoing dialogue to chart out the way forward, while others faced challenges in their implementation due to the prevailing uncertainty. The UN, through its programmes and political mandate, remains actively engaged in support of a Somali-owned and Somali-led process.

In the second half of 2021, the UN will engage with fund stakeholders on the development of a new investment and resource mobilisation strategy for the Somalia Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The strategy will form the centrepiece of our ongoing efforts to reform and improve the Fund to better position it as a strategic vehicle for UN delivery and a key partner to Somalia and international partners. More information on this work will follow from the MPTF secretariat in my office.

Thank you once again for your continuous support and your partnership.

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

### 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



- Aid Management & Coordination

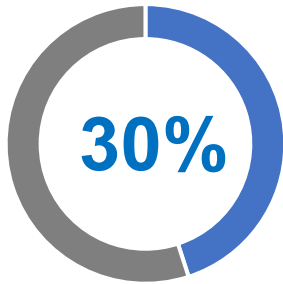
### Other



- Enabling Services

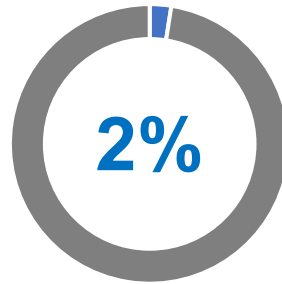
	Committed (USD)	Deposited (USD)	Deposit %
Sweden	123,473,952	123,473,952	100%
European Union	79,790,868	79,083,353	99.11%
Denmark	40,054,901	34,896,705	87.12%
Norway	38,956,149	38,956,149	100%
United Kingdom	36,636,133	35,976,002	98.02%
Germany	32,807,500	32,807,500	100%
Italy	28,763,850	28,763,850	100%
Switzerland	28,215,087	28,215,087	100%
Finland	18,336,781	18,336,781	100%
Netherlands	14,555,200	14,555,200	100%
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>458,329,904</b>	<b>451,804,062</b>	<b>98.58%</b>

## PORTFOLIO LEVEL RESULTS



of UN funds channelled or reported through SDRF\*

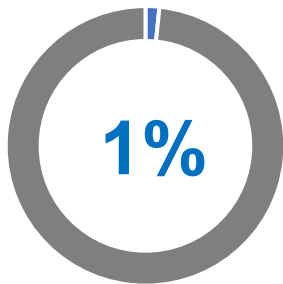
*(38% in 2019, 30% in 2020)  
\* Fluctuations in the financial data reported through the Somalia Aid Information Management System makes the share of SDRF funds challenging to calculate. Future reports will use the data reported through the Funding Framework for the UNCF.*



of MPTF resources going to National Window

*9.6% in 2019 and 2% in 2020 annual report. Target: Cumulative increase in proportion between reporting periods*

## DONOR ENGAGEMENT



of Un-Earmarked Contributions

*(8.6% in 2019 annual report and 6% in 2020 annual report) Target: Cumulative increase in proportion between reporting periods*

**US\$ 32,439,550**

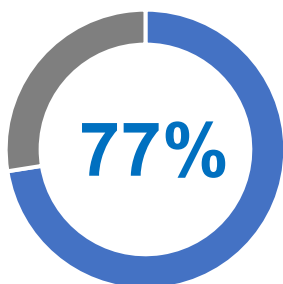
in donor commitments during reporting period

*Jan-June 2021*

**12** Active Donors to the MPTF

Based on commitments or deposits made in previous 12 months  
*(11 in 2019 and 12 in 2020) Target: Increase number of active donors year-on-year*

## QUALITY OF OPERATIONS



Disbursement ratio of active Programmes

*\*Annual Target: 90%  
\*Excluding data from Joint Police Programme*

1. With financial and technical support from the UN through the Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project (REFS), the National Consultative Council identified solutions to challenges of implementing the 17 September Agreement on holding elections for the federal constitutional bodies of Somalia, unlocking the political impasse, and resulting in the 27 May Communique on the electoral framework.
2. REFS engaged 20 Somali storytellers on the role of oral history to analyze and understand conflicts and design effective reconciliation strategies in Somalia. The learning exercise included a hands-on training on step-by-step process to design and implement oral history projects for conflict resolution. Twenty oral history case studies and micro narratives on peacebuilding in Somalia were produced.
3. The UN's Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG), through the Electoral Support Programme, advised the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) to advance the development of a five-year strategic plan. The UN also supported the NIEC to develop a roadmap for the 2024/25 general election and worked with the Office of the Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) to create a database to register political parties. To date 110 political parties have been registered.
4. The Joint Justice Programme (JJP) continued to support access to justice, particularly for rural and marginalised communities through the provision of legal aid, ADR centres, and mobile court services, reaching a total of 5,532 beneficiaries during the reporting period, including 2,988 women. Justice mechanisms have been brought closer to communities, particularly in rural areas and for marginalized populations, by the continuing support for access to justice through legal aid services, alternative dispute resolution centres, and mobile courts.
5. The Joint Corrections Programme (JCP) facilitated more than one hundred prisoners' participation in education programmes. This will enable prisoners to have basic literacy and numeracy skills to market themselves for employment upon their release.
6. The Joint Security Sector Governance Programme (JSSGP) streamlined monitoring of its capacity building support, including the agreement and assessment of key deliverables for funded advisers, the reintroduction of monthly reports, and the development of an online performance tracking platform. The measures have contributed to improved accountability and transparency at both individual and institutional levels. The number of programme-funded advisers was reduced from 177 to 108 during the reporting period, enabling merit-based right-sizing of institutions and increasing the sustainability of institutional payroll.
7. The Joint Programme on Human Rights (JPHR) supported a human rights and gender equality review of the Provisional Constitution. The findings can be utilized by the Government of Somalia to ensure that the Provisional Constitution adequately protects fundamental human rights and gender equality as cross-cutting themes.
8. The Joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Production and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL) supported the first draft of Somalia's National Forestry and Strategy. The Government of Somalia to enhance the role of forests as carbon sinks and to adapt forestry to the impact of climate change.
9. The Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP) worked with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on an assessment to address quality and standards requirements in light of Somalia's accession to the World Trade Organisation.

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10. The Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG) established public private dialogue platforms in capitals of federal member states to address critical constraints to economic development at the local level. The platforms facilitate practical and joint public-private responses to challenges faced by local governments and businesses by spurring enabling reforms.
  11. UNFPA, through its MPTF-funded country programme, supported life-saving sexual and reproductive health services across the country at 15 comprehensive emergency obstetric care centers and 40 basic emergency obstetric care centers despite challenges brought about by the pandemic. The programme supported 13 midwifery schools across Somalia with 526 midwifery students currently undergoing training.
  12. The Social Protection Programme was instrumental in building national social protection systems. In 2021, cash transfers to selected households were delivered by staff of the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) trained through the programme. BRA has undertaken cash transfers since 2020, completing four cycles of quarterly transfers of 35 USD per month to approximately 1,000 households.

More than one year into the pandemic, its impact continues to be felt across the programmes of the Somalia MPTF. Programmes have adjusted their delivery models to adhere to health requirements and restrictions and delivery against programme objectives have largely been kept at level after the initial delays of early 2020.

A snap survey was conducted in June 2021 by the MPTF secretariat to gain a better understanding of the impact of the pandemic on programmes. Some key findings of the survey include:

- 83 percent of respondents noted that the pandemic and its associated restrictions had negatively or somewhat negatively impacted programme delivery.
- 96 percent of respondents maintained that their programme's theory of change and results framework remain strategically relevant in Somalia.
- 58 percent reported that there had been programmatic adjustments, including reprogramming of funds and resequencing of activities, to respond to the pandemic. 90 percent of respondents said that their programmes had a COVID-19 adaptation strategy.
- Overwhelming support from partners (donors, government counterparts, and MPTF secretariat) for programmatic adjustments were reported. Donor support was given at 94 percent and government support at 93 percent. 84 percent of respondents noted that the MPTF had been sufficiently accommodating of adjustments.
- Online tools were hailed as excellent (8 percent), very useful (48 percent), or good (27 percent) for implementation of programme activities. However, it was noted that the online tools' usefulness for maintaining relationships with Somali counterparts gradually declined from the level of the federal government where online tools were seen as helpful, to the community-level where the tools were not seen as useful in ensuring relationships were maintained.
- 58 percent of respondents said programme development for the MPTF pipeline had suffered delays due to the pandemic and 65 percent of respondents predicted that the funding outlook in their programmatic areas would be either significantly reduced (40 percent) or modestly reduced (25 percent).





# JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Under the political guidance of UNSOM, the Reconciliation and Federalism Support (REFS) project provided vital and timely support to a succession of high-level dialogues. The National Consultative Council (NCC) meeting, held in Dhusamareb in July 2020 with REFS support, was the first face-to-face meeting of FGS and FMS leaders in over two years and led on 17 September to an agreement on the electoral framework; the agreement was approved by both houses of Parliament on 27 September. With financial and technical support from REFS, the NCC subsequently found solutions to outstanding challenges in implementing the agreement, resulting on the 27 May 2021 Communique on the electoral framework. REFS then supported the NCC Meeting of 28 - 29 June 2021, which resulted in the finalisation of the electoral agreement and a timetable for the various processes therein.

In an effort to develop an institutional mechanism for the effective coordination and management of horizontal government-relations in the federal structure, a Directors-General (DGs) Coordination Forum was established and terms of reference adopted by 27 DGs, with representation from the Office of the President and Office of the Prime Minister.

REFS completed conflict mappings in Benadir, Galmudug, Jubaland, and Puntland, resulting in empirical baselines to inform the formulation and implementation of regional reconciliation plans. Twenty Somali storytellers were trained in skills and techniques for using oral history to analyze and understand conflicts and to design step by step processes for effective reconciliation strategies.

REFS continued to strengthen FGS and FMS institutional and technical capacities for achieving practical reconciliation and federalism through effective and efficient policy planning and service delivery. Progress was also made on enhancing the role of women in national reconciliation; in cooperation with REFS, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation developed a draft action plan for women's participation in implementing the National Reconciliation Framework.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The pandemic continued to restrict possibilities for in-person activities and engagement with local actors. Disputes over the electoral process meanwhile impacted the larger political environment in which the project operates and curtailed opportunities to advance reconciliation processes.

## PARTNERSHIPS

REFS deepened the engagement of civil society organisations in Somalia's reconciliation and federalism processes; through its low-value grants initiative, the project initiated a dialogue on the potential role of civil society in informing and strengthening the social contract. REFS also collaborated closely with Finn Church Aid in a conflict mapping exercise and partnered with IOM to support reconciliation efforts in Hiraan region.

## LOOKING AHEAD

REFS will continue to improve project planning, implementation, management, and results reporting. REFS will begin publishing a newsletter to enhance information sharing, knowledge management, project accountability and the visibility of UN support to reconciliation.

Building on the baselines from the conflict mapping exercise, regional reconciliation plans will be initiated and completed by the end of 2021. In consultation with regional stakeholders, the information will be used to prioritise interventions.

REFS will deepen its partnership with civil society organization through a community of practice for reconciliation and peacebuilding practitioners to strengthen foundations for closer cooperation and information sharing.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Important milestones were achieved in the last quarter of 2020, culminating in a third revised draft of the constitution. The political dynamics nevertheless remained complex, directly impacting the completion of the review process and in turn the project's implementation.

Public consultations were organized in Mogadishu with Benadir Region, South West State, Galmudug, and Hirshabelle, as well as with civil society, to validate the third draft; Jubaland and Puntland did not participate. The Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), Parliamentary Oversight Committee (OC), and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) finalized their handover reports to the eleventh Parliament and the forthcoming administration, in line with the presidential decree of 24 December 2020 deferring the constitutional review.

In view of the deferment of the constitutional review for the eleventh parliament and the continued uncertainty over the timing of the electoral process, the UN and partners decided to close the project. UNDP revised the annual workplan, provided national counterparts one month's notice as stipulated in the Letters of Agreement, and completed all closure-related activities. A political strategy was developed to guide future UN support to the constitutional review process. The CRSP team then began drafting concept notes informed by the strategy as well as by the experience of the recently concluded project and a lessons learned session; the Parliamentary Support Project, using core funding (UNDP TRAC), served as the vehicle for development of the notes.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

As noted above, the UN and partners decided to close the project in view of the difficulties in completing the constitutional review process.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Although civil society organizations participated in the implementation of its activities, the project did not enter any formal partnerships during the reporting period. The project team coordinated closely with international partners to conduct a lessons learned session. In addition, the team organized consultative sessions with the World Bank and the Max Planck Foundation.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The political strategy argued that completion of the constitutional review is imperative for the state-building process and should be guided by the principles of participation, inclusivity, negotiation, compromise, consensus building and synergies with other political and governance support processes. The strategy also stressed the necessity of broadening the spectrum of actors to include not only government leaders at the federal and the member state levels but also community leaders, think tanks, civil society, women, youth, minorities, and persons with disabilities. It further underlined the need for stronger engagement of the international partners in the process.

The lessons learned session yielded a number of insights, including the need for 1) political will and joined up efforts by the UN and the wider international community; 2) inclusive and consultative approaches to reach agreement with national stakeholders in an incremental manner; 3) closer alignment between political strategy and programmatic implementation; 4) synergies between different political processes and closer coordination of related inclusive politics programmes; 5) more adaptive risk analysis and flexible programming to adjust to changes in the political context; and 6) safeguarding prior achievements on the constitutional review process early in the next political cycle.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The PSP-II supported the Parliamentary Oversight Committee in preparing a handover report to the eleventh Parliament on the constitutional review process and in facilitating jointly with the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) a final round of public consultations to verify the third revised draft of the Provisional Constitution. Representatives of Banadir Region, Southwest State, Galmudug and Hirshabelle, as well as of civil society, participated in those discussions.

PSP-II supported increased citizen awareness of the roles and responsibilities of parliament, including in Garowe and Qardho districts of Puntland and through consultations held with civil society and university students by Puntland's House of Representatives.

Technical support provided to the Somaliland House of Representatives resulted in the development of guidelines on parliamentary work that will support the newly elected members of parliament in undertaking their constitutional role. To support a smooth handover between the previous and new parliaments, the project supported the organization of training of trainers workshops for the secretariat staff of the House of Representatives.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The following challenges have significantly impacted implementation: (1) political dynamics that culminated in the House of the People extending the mandates of the current federal elected bodies by up to two years and precipitating outbreaks of violence in Mogadishu; against this backdrop, the National Consultative Council reconvened to reach agreement on organising the indirect electoral process and the main state-building priorities; (2) differences between the federal government and federal member states that impacted the constitutional review process and led to the decision to close the CRSP; (3) the cessation in functioning of the Federal Parliament; and (4) the impact of COVID-19 risk mitigation measures on project delivery.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Civil society organizations participated in the implementation of the activities; however, the project has not entered any formal partnerships with civil society organizations or the private sector. In Q3 and Q4, the project will launch a call for CSO low value grants to strengthen partnerships between civil society and the federal and state parliaments.

## LOOKING AHEAD

PSP-II has drawn lessons from its implementation, including the need to (1) strengthen partnerships between civil society and the parliaments so as to ensure transparency and involve citizens in legislative processes; (2) engage experienced legal expertise to provide hands-on support to parliaments and analyse legislation from the perspective of Somalia's international commitments; (3) support parliaments in organising constituency outreach; and (4) joint action by the FGS, FMS, UN and international partners to ensure that the eleventh Parliament picks up where the tenth had left off.

PSP-II has served as a vehicle for the development of a new programme addressing issues of constitutionalism and parliamentarianism in line with the UNDP CPD and the May 27 Communiqué. These activities should be reviewed with national counterparts, UNSOM and donors to ensure that the agreed statebuilding priorities have been appropriately supported. A forthcoming joint evaluation of the CRSP and PSP-II, together with the conclusions of the CRSP lessons learned session and the political strategy for the constitutional review process, will inform the development of a combined successor programme.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provided advisory support to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) to advance the development of a new five-year strategic plan. The IESG also worked with the IESG to consider the development of the 2024/2025 election roadmap. IESG, in collaboration with the Office of the Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) started developing software for a database to register political parties. To date, the Office of the Political Parties Registrar has provided temporary registration to 110 political parties.

The NIEC held a three-day all-staff reflection retreat in Mogadishu between 24-26 January 2021. The retreat provided an opportunity for the NIEC to review its internal functioning, assess the commission's accomplishments and identify challenges and the lessons learned since the NIEC was established in 2015. The exercise was based broadly on the NIEC's five-year Strategic Plan 2017-2021, which guided the overall agenda of the retreat with particular emphasis on NIEC's internal organizational functions. Staff and the NIEC commissioners participated in the retreat. A draft report including recommendations and follow up actions was prepared and approved by the Board of Commissioners. On 27 January, the NIEC Board of Commissioners, directors and senior advisers met with the IESG to discuss the way forward on developing an election roadmap. Universal suffrage elections are scheduled to be held in 2024/2025.

NIEC conducted several capacity building workshops both internally and with the support of IESG to help bolster staff knowledge and skills; institutional capacity development is essential in ensuring a strong and independent electoral management body. Many trainings were conducted virtually as COVID-19 has been increasing in Somalia since December 2020.

The NIEC conducted an internal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) exercise as part of their institutional self-appraisal which will inform the development of new Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 during the third quarter of 2021.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

The 17 September 2020 political agreement by the National Consultative Council to hold indirect elections resulted in both the NIEC and political parties being removed from the indirect process. Following third wave surge of COVID-19 cases in the country during the first quarter of 2021, most NIEC staff worked from home. However, with the improvement in the situation in the country, staff have returned to work at their offices. The NIEC continues to engage with IESG both virtually and in person.

It has been difficult for the NIEC to engage with stakeholders on the 2024/25 universal suffrage elections as stakeholders (government, parliament, political parties, media, civil society, etc) are all focused on the indirect electoral process and that process has been protracted due to political disagreements between the FGS and FMS. In addition, political frictions occurred between the House of People and the Upper House of the Federal Parliament over the past year resulting in a disputed legislative process in relation to the electoral legal framework. The amendments to the Political Parties Law and amendment to Article 9 of the NIEC Law related to the renewal of the term of office, were only adopted by the House of People. It remains to be seen if those actions by the House of People are legally valid and in force as the Upper House has not been included in the final decision-making process. Therefore, the challenge remains to create an enabling legal framework for the conduct of universal suffrage elections. However, it is not expected that these challenges will be solved soon as the focus shifted towards the indirect elections which are currently scheduled for August/September 2021 with the presidential election due to be held on 10 October 2021.

With the non-involvement of the NIEC in the indirect electoral process, IESG has encouraged the NIEC to use this time to focus on streamlining the organisation's internal processes and developing a new five-year strategic plan for 2022-2026, ensuring policies related to institutional governance are developed, adopted and implemented, organizational review is completed, and actions taken to improve overall management.

## PARTNERSHIPS

IESG plays a key role in coordinating the technical support to the process with non-UN technical partners on the ground including such as BUILD, the African Union, Folke Bernadotte Academy, ECES and EISA.

IESG also plays a key role in coordinating the information flow and planning in the fields of security and logistics respectively amongst the NIEC, AMISOM, Somalia security forces as well as between the NIEC and UNSOS.

## LOOKING AHEAD

IESG will provide technical advice and support to the NIEC to finalise their new five-year strategic plan and will facilitate discussions among stakeholders as part of the institutional review exercise and to socialise the plan. IESG will encourage and assist NIEC in completing the institutional governance policy documents to strengthen the organization. These documents must be approved by the board before implementation. IESG will hold discussions with international assistance partners to support the capacity building of NIEC staff both at the national and sub national levels. NIEC preparations and planning to conduct a pilot project for voter registration and subsequent assessment report will begin during the third quarter of 2021 with IESG support. Following the formation of the eleventh federal parliament, it will be essential to reach out to legislators to advocate for revisions to the electoral legislation. NIEC are planning to relocate its headquarters to their new compound following completion of constructions works that have been supported by the generous contribution of MPTF donors, UNSOM, the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the Government of Japan and coordinated by IESG over the past two years. Following the evaluation of the project by the independent consultant, IESG expects to develop a new project document for 2022-2025 to share with donors in the third quarter of 2021.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Joint Justice Programme (JJP) continued support for community-based, community-led conversation initiatives, conducting sessions at sites in all selected locations in each of the FMS and facilitated by partner NGOs. The sessions focused on enabling communities to identify and explore their shared concerns, and to develop strategies for dealing with these issues, both in the community and in partnership with local authorities. JJP has created a much-needed space for dialogue and has empowered communities, and in particular women and minorities, to speak with one voice on issues of security and justice. However, more work is needed to address concerns at a deeper level.

The programme continued to support access to justice, particularly for rural and marginalised communities, through the provision of legal aid, ADR centres, and mobile court services, reaching a total of 5,532 beneficiaries with legal aid services, alternative dispute resolution centres, and mobile courts during the reporting period, including 2,988 women. This justice service delivery was impacted by the second wave of COVID-19 in Somalia, as implementation had to account for precautions such as social distancing and restriction on number of attendees.

The sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) units at the attorney general's offices further strengthened their capacity to coordinate justice chain institutions, improve technical cooperation with the federal member states and prosecute SGBV cases. A total of 75 SGBV cases were handled by the Mogadishu and Puntland SGBV units during the reporting period, and the Puntland attorney general's office developed and launched an online database management system to track Gender-Based Violence cases based on the SGBV guidelines and protocols in Puntland.

Participation of 3,200 individuals (1,739 women and 1,461 men) in community conversations continued to empower communities to identify shared concerns and collaboratively develop strategies to address these issues, in partnership with local authorities. A detailed report on the progress and outcomes of the community conversations project is being prepared.

The Puntland Ministry of Justice was supported to conduct a three-day training for 20 participants, including local women leaders and female lawyers from the Puntland Women Lawyers' association, to develop their investigation and defence skills for handling cases in Puntland.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose a challenge to implementation, largely through the need to maintain social distancing and constraints on travel or large gatherings. The programme continued to adapt through alternative working modalities and was able to push ahead with most activities – conducted in-person where possible and safe, and conducted virtually when the risk was assessed to be too great. The rule of law working group meetings and programme steering committee meetings continued to be held entirely or partly online.

The reduction of funding for the programme in 2021 necessitated a refocusing on core activities relating to service delivery, particularly on access to justice, community conversations, and SGBV support mechanisms. Consequently, support for other activities, particularly those falling under output 2 of the programme, was reduced or removed for 2021, resulting in a reduced scope of programmatic activities and impact.

The delay of elections in early 2021 and the resulting political disputes and insecurity, whilst not directly affecting the programme, drew the focus of attention of the federal government and resulted in the temporary deprioritisation of other areas, including justice issues. However, the work in the federal member states was largely unaffected.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The programme continued its partnerships with the University of Mogadishu and Puntland State University to provide scholarships for legal students, to help develop the next generation of legal professional in Somalia.

## LOOKING AHEAD

A priority for the remainder of 2021 is the conceptualisation of a new take on the UN's justice programming, incorporating lessons learned from the current programme to inform the design and scope of an improved programme for 2022 and beyond.

Two detailed reports, on the community conversations initiative and the support for alternative dispute resolution centres respectively, are being prepared to assess the impact of these activities and to better enable stakeholders to understand the process of implementation and the resulting outcomes.

The programme will continue to build the capacities of women at the alternative dispute resolution centres and conduct initiatives to promote protection, end violence against women and girls and improve women's access to justice. It will do this through strengthening the knowledge and skills of women, linkages to the respective government institutions priorities and inclusion of women in decision making processes.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the challenges experienced due to COVID-19 and the electoral process, the Joint Corrections Programme (JCP) was able to address the needs in all five target facilities with continuous commitment by the implementing UN agencies and the national counterparts. In collaboration with the relevant implementing partners, some of the construction works initiated under the JCP to create a better and safer environment for people in detention were successfully completed.

More than one hundred prisoners have participated in education programs that equip prisoners with basic literacy and numeracy skills to help them find employment upon their release. JCP has ensured that COVID-19 preventive measures were in place throughout all of the activities and has therefore continued to provide necessary protective equipment to avoid harm to the beneficiaries.

In Garowe, UNODC delivered vocational training and educational sessions to more than one hundred prisoners as part of their rehabilitation. Prisoners, including women and youth, attended classes on a daily basis that provided them with the basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as general Islamic religion teachings. UNOPS completed the construction works for the additional block at Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex (MPCC) while the design for the construction at Kismayo prison in Jubaland is under review. The recruitment of software developers for the staff database and IDs in each target facility is also in progress. UNSOM recruited a prison law expert whose role is to guide the process of reviewing and adopting a corrections model for Somalia, including finalising the review of the Prisons Law and regulations, drafting of the Prisons Act, and establishing regulations to guide the operations of the Somali Custodial Corps. UNIDO facilitated the recruitment of a local technical and vocational education and training (TVET) expert as well as procurement of relevant equipment and installation services for vocational training pilot project at Beledweyne Central Prison. UNODC facilitated the delivery of prisoner welfare, hygiene and disease-prevention items, all specialised to the needs of Beledweyn central prison and the MPCC. Additionally, UNODC's Global eLearning Programme finalised the storyboard of the basic training of prison officers (BTPO) online training which will be translated into Somali and delivered to the prison officers across Somalia. This will enable the training to be delivered to the relevant beneficiaries in a way that is accessible and inclusive.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Risk mitigation measures taken in response to COVID-19 caused a slowing down of processes due to restrictions on travel and meetings. The newly appointed Director-General at the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Government of Somalia requested UNODC as lead agency for JCP to sign a letter of agreement before proceeding further with the activities, causing a delay in implementation. In March 2021, the Bossaso prison was attacked, and large parts of the prison were destroyed. After the attack, JCP in agreement with donors decided to redirect some programme funds to the rehabilitation of the abovementioned structure. The construction work will allow the programme's beneficiaries, convicted prisoners, to have a safe and humane environment for their detention.

## PARTNERSHIPS

JCP has benefitted from partnerships with the civil society as well as academia. As an example, in Garowe, JCP engaged the Puntland State University to facilitate an internship program for social work students at the prison.

## LOOKING AHEAD

A lesson learned from the first half of 2021 is to strengthen communication and coordination with national counterparts as it is crucial to guarantee the proceeding of programmed interventions.

JCP will proceed with rehabilitation at Bossaso prison. It will carry out the opening and handover ceremony of completed construction works at MPCC and Kismayo Prison. The e-learning BTPO sessions with training of trainers components will be rolled out across Somalia. The programme will complete the vocational trainings at the Beledweyne Prison. Finally, the programme will complete vocational training and workshops on interventions for community reintegration in Garowe Prison.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Following a six-month extension period, the Joint Security Sector Governance Programme (JSSGP) concluded implementation on 30 June 2021.

Functional capacity building assessments were undertaken by the Office of the Prime Minister with JSSGP support for several beneficiary security institutions. These assessments revealed significant institutional progress with an average 47 percent increase in capacity and facilities since the last round of assessments in 2019.

Improvements to monitoring, including the agreement and assessment of key deliverables for each JSSGP-funded adviser, the reintroduction of monthly reports, and the development of an online performance tracking platform, contributed to improved accountability and transparency at both the individual and institutional levels. As a result, the number of JSSGP-funded advisers was reduced from 177 to 108 during the reporting period, enabling merit-based right-sizing of institutions with capable staff and increasing the sustainability of institutional payroll.

A key priority of the reporting period was reform for greater sustainability, transparency, and accountability of both partner institutions and of individual advisers and consultants funded by the JSSGP. The programme was successful in significantly reducing the number of funded staff by identifying, through clear deliverables, regular reporting, and performance tracking, which funded personnel were vital for institutional functionality. This resulted in a leaner staff structure with greater accountability for individual performance. Oversight was also enhanced by interviewing all persons funded by the JSSGP, ensuring terms of reference were accurate and that beneficiary requests for funding were tied to priority areas, including electoral security.

Capacity building and institutional development of key partner security institutions continued through the reporting period, with a total of 18 major trainings and workshops conducted with JSSGP support, reaching 1,044 participants at federal and federal member state level. The most significant capacity building achievement was a four-week comprehensive training course to increase the capacity and professionalism of the planning and development and policy and legal departments of the Ministry of Internal Security.

Prior to the JSSGP programme Steering Committee on 23 November 2020, UNDP in cooperation with the federal government commissioned a joint national review of JSSGP. The review, which also drew from the EU's third-party monitoring report, identified several challenges with the programme and laid out critical areas for reform. The programme was set to end on 31 December 2020 but the review recommended a short extension of the programme to prevent a vacuum in supporting security oversight institutions and enable the reforms to be implemented as a precursor for a future programme with a new government.

At the programme steering committee meeting, the donors echoed findings in the review and called for reforms that would include leaner staff structures, enhanced programme management and accountability, a clear link between the programme objectives and real-world outcomes, addressing issues of sustainability that relates to JSSGP funded staff in the ministries, better coordination between FGS and FMS and coordination with other programmes. The programme team subsequently produced a six-month workplan that was endorsed on 22 December 2020 during a second round of the steering committee.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Lack of financial resources undermines progress. Financial resources are a major concern. There is an expectation that ministries and regional security offices should play a key role in security oversight and development, but their funding is either nonexistent or limited. Funding needs to be secured in the future in the budgets of the federal government and the federal member states.

Staff capacity remains a concern, in particular at the federal member state level, although in the case of several JSSGP funded personnel, constant support and engagement over a period of two and a half years has transformed some of the capacities that partially explain the increases in institutional capacity reported in the 2021 assessments. To make this sustainable, there needs to be more attention paid to civil service and a comprehensive solution found to capacitate ministerial staff. Many ministries have multiple staff on their payroll that do not turn up to work or contribute to ministry deliverables. Meritocracy and accountability need to be introduced to the ministries, as this will make room for more enthusiastic and capable staff.

Challenges in recruiting more women remain a concern. This is particularly relevant at the federal member state level, where the programme struggled to secure good female candidates through advertising.

The importance of comprehensive training and mentoring cannot be understated. While training initiatives were deemed to have made a difference in increasing capacities in the ministries, a more hands-on comprehensive training package is likely to have more lasting benefits, drawing from the lessons learned from the MOIS training package that can serve as a model in other ministries. Without proper leadership from senior government officials, reform will not take place. Involving the Director-Generals in planning and including them in the training is more likely to produce sustainable results.

Programme oversight requires serious effort and funding. UNDP had to build a huge infrastructure around JSSGP to ensure that payments, channeled through Letters of Agreement, would undergo proper scrutiny to reduce corruption or inadequate documentation. A single payment will go through at least seven persons in multiple steps. Holding national counterparts accountable when it comes to following rules and procedures takes effort. Inadequate documentation from national counterparts will increase transaction costs twofold and in some cases five-fold. Inadequate documentation or wrong procedures when choosing vendors or purchasing services or goods puts a serious strain on the programme team, which has limited capacity which delays all other payments. During the transition period the programme team invested in joint planning with national counterparts to prevent mistakes in carrying out activities, but this is an area that requires proper recourses and constant investment because it is a part of an important capacity building to improve overall governance.

Uncertainties and delays with donor funding hamper delivery. Delays in donor funding and confirmation of commitment presented serious challenges in 2020 and again in 2021. In both years there was a four-month delay associated with receiving funds through the MPTF.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The programme developed close partnerships with all beneficiary security institutions, supported through regular meetings and consultations.

UNSOM and UNDP have improved coordination significantly and are exploring how to make future programming even more effective including using the good offices of UNSOM to encourage reform.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The programme recommends that UNDP and UNSOM engage in the coming months with the federal government and federal member states after the electoral process, in collaboration with the World Bank and the Civil Service Commission, about future sustainability, affordability and expenditure projections; these cannot be tied to a single programme discussion. The UNSOM-UNDP Integrated SSR Section has presented a bridge project for 12 months that provides a bare minimum investment in beneficiary institutions to retain enough capacity to promote work around the STP and institutional development and capacity building. The issue of sustainability will need to be addressed through government funding and civil service reform.

Longer term strategic planning is needed. Supported by JSSGP, beneficiary institutions developed short-term plans focusing on training and capacity building needs. Lacking are longer term strategic plans for the partner ministries that take into consideration affordability, mandate, and a future vision of what the institutions should look like.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

As the programme concluded implementation on 30 June 2021, a key focus of the reporting period was to develop a new project document for a medium-term intervention on tolerance and dialogue in Somalia, based on lessons and learnings from the implementation of the P/CVE project. For this purpose, an external consultant was hired to conduct key stakeholder interviews and review past programming. Among the stakeholders interviewed were key government officials working on P/CVE, peacebuilding and security issues in Somalia, women and youth civil activists, regional and topic-specific experts, and relevant actors at the federal and federal member state levels. In addition to targeted conversations with UN officials, the project has held an internal brainstorm session with UN colleagues to seek their feedback and suggestions. This has allowed key actors to share their perceptions of PCVE-related issues in Somalia, including assessments of the previous programming, changes in the security environment, best practices, and other learnings. This analysis will ensure better coordinated and evidence-based programming for the next phase of the programme, focusing on Tolerance and Dialogue.

The project supported government experts, conducted regular needs assessments, and provided capacity-building training on gaps identified, enabling increased PCVE coordination and implementation. Due to the continued focus on supporting the staffing budget, the programme supported twelve qualified and experienced government experts, who have continued to work on P/CVE; six at the FGS level and an additional six at the FMS level. This has allowed the project to maintain capacity and the ability to travel to areas during the reporting period, which saw high levels of insecurity and restrictions due to COVID-19 and the electoral process.

During the reporting period planning and preliminary discussions on the revision of the P/CVE National Strategy took place, with consultations planned to gather community feedback and lessons and learnings of P/CVE programming. The project hired an expert to facilitate the consultations and lead on revising the strategy based on evaluation of the learnings and analysis of previous implementation.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

During the reporting period, programming took place with the backdrop of electoral uncertainty. Although programming was not directly affected by the political developments, careful consideration was taken to avoid any sensitive activities that could negatively impact the project.

In addition, COVID-19 continued to be the main challenge to project implementation. The second wave of the virus brought stricter social distancing measures which meant that it was not possible to convene in-person P/CVE Platforms. The project responded to these restrictions and the growing security situation by focusing efforts on evaluating past programming and drawing out key lessons and learnings. The increased focus on in-depth conversations with governmental counterparts at the federal and federal member state levels, and with civil society and community actors, increased relationships between the involved stakeholders, which will lead to greater coordination. Through these detailed discussions, the project has also identified the best ways for implementation in the second half of 2021. It has also strengthened relationships with key stakeholders to try to build buy-in from the community to ensure greater project implementation.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The project deepened partnerships with academic experts in the design of the new programming phase.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The project launched a Project Initiation Plan (PIP) that captures the programmatic shift to “Tolerance and Dialogue”, focusing efforts to contextualize the notion of P/CVE and tailor our programming closer to the Somali context. Based on the findings of the PIP, a new project document is under development for a medium-term intervention on tolerance and dialogue in Somalia. The research currently being conducted has found that there must be a shift from a top-down approach to a focus on the community level. It has also become clear that a continuation of the project requires context-specific tailoring to respond to the root causes of violent extremism in Somalia and to increase Somali ownership. The shift in programming would identify and capacitate community actors that are already working towards increased dialogue and conflict transformation, including leaders in the Somali ulema. Through increased local level interventions and support to mid-level community leaders, civil society and local government actors, the foundations and local pathways to peace can be supported through an inclusive process.

The project is also currently working on improving the monitoring and evaluation capacity to better capture the impact of community-based programming on peacebuilding, conflict transformation and reducing violent extremism. The project will continue building on current efforts to improve the data collection and analysis on P/CVE programming, including by key stakeholder interviews.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The human rights and gender equality review of the Somali Provisional Constitution resulted in a strong assessment that can be utilised by the government to ensure that the provisional constitution adequately protects fundamental human rights and gender equality as cross-cutting themes.

In addition, the Joint Programme on Human Rights (JPHR) supported the development and launch of the MARWO website, this digital platform is supporting the human rights monitoring and reporting during the elections through effective information gathering and sharing with different stakeholders, such as parliamentary candidates, delegates, and other election stakeholders. To ensure the sustainability of this website the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) will continue to use it after the elections to conduct regular human rights monitoring and reporting and to engage with the public on human rights issues and awareness raising. The MoWHRD utilised the JPHR to develop the second cycle national report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The MoWHRD conducted a comprehensive desk review, information gathering and wide-reaching consultations with government institutions through the inter-ministerial task force, federal member states and representatives from civil society organisations from across Somalia. At the end of the work, the Ministry conducted a validation workshop to discuss and validate the near final draft report, which was submitted and discussed at the Human Rights Council's UPR Working Group during the Somalia session.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The main challenges experienced during the brief reporting period were related to the uncertainty around the electoral process, which made it difficult to register progress with some of the activities. In particular, the civil society activity (ila soco) could not be implemented before the closure of the programme, as it was closely linked to the electoral process. Consequently, the key lesson learnt was regarding the limited scope of the extension period that was dependent on a conducive political situation. For the next phase of the programme, it will be important to ensure that the risk of such a delay is better mitigated by broadening and diversifying the scope of the different activities to ensure continuous implementation and lower reliance on a single political or electoral process.

## PARTNERSHIPS

During the last quarter of the JPHR, new partnerships were developed with electoral institutions and stakeholders working on the elections. As the elections are closely linked and have a significant impact on the enjoyment of human rights, the newly established partnerships are also relevant for the future and the second phase of the JPHR. As we move forward towards the second phase of the JPHR, nurturing the new partnerships will remain vital.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Phase I of the Joint Human Rights programme ended on 31 March 2021. Development of a new phase of the programme is ongoing, incorporating stakeholder consultations and lessons learnt from phase I. However, delays in the ongoing electoral process may impact the implementation and, therefore, the programme is prioritizing mitigation measures for potential delays or other situations that might impact the roll-out of the next phase.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

With support from the Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods Programme (PROSCAL), the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC) led five meetings in with counterparts in the first half of 2021. Engagement with the national and sub-national environment ministries and institutions for alternative energy solutions to charcoal use resulted in strong national and local ownership with capacity development of key institutions.

The first draft of National Forestry and Strategy was completed in the first quarter. The Federal Government of Somalia intends to promote its strategic priorities for forestry through regional and national planning to enhance the role of forests as carbon sinks and to adapt forestry to climate change.

One tree nursery was established by FAO in Jubaland while 23 members of the community committees (including seven women) mobilised to manage the tree nurseries. More than 6,950 assorted seedlings are available for distribution to restore degraded rangelands. The nurseries serve as a source of tree seedlings for the neighbouring camps for internally displaced persons and generate income for the community groups by selling seedlings to the local and business community.

UNEP partnered with the Green Watch Trust on the World Environment Week to promote public awareness and action around environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Integrated initiatives including TV and radio campaigns, art competitions for high school students, and sensitisation films benefiting more than 2,008,038 people (42 percent women). Powerful messages were highlighted in both Somali and Mai dialect on the World Environment Day as a collective wake call to enhance meaningful public participation. These actions have contributed to building partnerships on addressing the illegal export of charcoal by bringing together national environmental champions and experts, raising awareness at national and subnational levels.

A donor round table meeting was held to mobilise additional resources for the Next Generation charcoal Programme. New donor contributions through the MPTF to provide funding to the current phase are under discussion and the next generation project while a concept note is presented to the Qatar Foundation to support alternative energy solutions to charcoal use.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Reconvening the project steering committee did not materialize as planned due to COVID-19 restrictions and disruption due to the electoral process. Virtual conferences and meetings were adopted to the extent possible and coordinate with national counterparts and donors led to the approval of the 2021 annual plan at end of June 2021.

PROSCAL is at a critical stage, the first two quarters spent on negotiations around mainstreaming institutional mandates and approval of the 2021 annual workplan. With no possibilities for extension under fragile context, executing all pending activities by December 2021 and undertaking the final programme evaluation in the first quarter of 2022 which falls in a federal and federal member states transition phase, is a challenge. Technical level meetings were held to expedite the execution of pending activities, and fast-tracking strategies, and enhanced coordination, and a bi-monthly meeting engaging all stakeholders were agreed to provide timely guidance and course correction.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The project actively engaged with key multi-sectoral groups of stakeholders in the various stages of consultations, awareness around environmental protection, alternative solutions to charcoal use, World Environment Day, resource mobilisation, and operationalisation of tree nurseries. Engagement of the local communities and government agencies included government counterparts at federal and federal member state level, local partners such as Himilo Organisation for Development, the Green Watch Trust, Qatar Foundation, and educational institutions.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Planning for the next phase of the programme will continue. Advance resource mobilization is a timely step to build strategic partnerships and opportunities to present the success of the first cycle and integrating best practices and lessons learned for meaningful interventions and long-term sustainability.

Other key activities for 2021 will include legislative work, dialogue workshops, policy support, improved communication and media presence, and advocacy including outreach to the diplomatic community.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The operation of the Beledweyne Enterprise Development Unit (EDU) started and delivered support to join the already established network of three other units in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo.

UNIDO supported the assessment for the formulation of a Somalia Programme on Quality & Standards for Trade Facilitation & Development. Objective of this support is to define areas of intervention for Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) to be further prioritized based on current needs to comply with the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession requirement around quality infrastructure and standards. The assessment will cover: (1) quality infrastructure for accession to the WTO; (2) conformity assessment services; and (3) trade facilitation as complementary activity following WTO accession.

The appointment of a consultant to undertake a national occupational safety and health (OSH) profile study was completed. Data collection for the national OSH profile will begin. A nine-member OSH monitoring group was formed with representation of three members each from Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) and the Somalia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). The preparation for the training of OSH monitoring group finalized and held on 7-8 July. An adviser who will support MoLSA, FESTU and SCCI was appointed. ILO has planned a training course for the monitoring group in terms of the OSH systematic approach

Following consultations, FAO and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of the federal government, started to be engaged with partners to be involved in the exercise. Following to 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.

FAO engaged with UN durable solutions partners to launch a sector study to map rural mobility linked to rural food security and impact on displacement. The study will cover issues of food security and livelihoods in rural displacement, rural mobility and season stressors, and development of regional towns and hubs as a way to address rural displacement.

UNIDO made steady progress engaging MoCI on investment promotion, coordinating with WFP, IFC, Somalia Bureau of Standards, Som-Invest, and the World Bank. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) strategy paper on the various possibilities that lies ahead for Somalia to stimulate economic activities through establishments of Special Economic Zones was 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 July or August 2021. UNIDO recruited six experts as advisors and have been placed within MoCI in different functional areas.

Following initial consultations of FAO with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the annotated contents list, including contributing authors, for the Fisheries Master Plan was presented to the PSDP technical working group in May 2021. The annotated contents list included initial drafts of the strategic outcomes around which much of the Fisheries Master Plan is built and key areas of work for the future. This work will continue through 2021 with the preparation of a roadmap for Somalia charting the way forward to the establishment of a competent authority for the certification of the export of fishery products to the EU. Advisers to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources were appointed.



## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Despite challenges with COVID-19 activities progressed steadily. However, change of leadership at line ministries caused minor delays in the implementation of activities.

The implementation context remains the same with inaccessibility and insecurity posing major challenges. The project target area is under Al-Shabaab control creating access challenges.

Political issues surrounding the election have caused some delays in implementation particularly the collaboration with government counterparts and in the development of the Fisheries Master Plan which requires a degree of consensus and broad consultation for optimal outcomes.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Although still in development, the partnership with the European-based private sector in fisheries, through Federpesca, is an interesting opportunity and may generate benefits particularly in terms of market access to the EU.

## LOOKING AHEAD

UNIDO is looking forward to conducting the SEZ pre-feasibility study from July 2021 and rolling out a survey with Tor Vergata University in Rome to establish locational preference for hosting a SEZ. Assessment for the formulation of a Somalia Programme on Quality & Standards for Trade Facilitation & Development will be undertaken. Construction of the common facility centre for sesame producers to be completed, allowing the farmers to use modern technology for hulling, thereby increasing productive efficiency and reduction of wastage.

Enterprise development through gender sensitisation will continue through activity engaging women and rolling out business training and counselling through the network of EDUs. ILO received notification that the World Bank is undertaking an assignment in the re-establishment of the labour courts. As a result, ILO requested MoLSA to organize a meeting between World Bank and ILO to collaborate and assist ILO to develop a training course for the staff of the court. A collaboration with World Bank will significantly complement this component of PSDP.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

JPLG promoted government visibility and enhanced local government-community relations for established districts (Washeikh, Berdale, Baidoa, Afmadow) in federal member states through rehabilitation of district offices. This will also enable communities to participate and influence local government decision-making through having designated public offices. Technical capacities for state and district public works units improved for implementation of inclusive infrastructure investments at the federal member states, which reduce inequalities, disparities, and provide stability.

Established public private dialogue platforms in federal member states to address critical constraints to business growth and economic development at the sub-national level in Somalia. JPLG facilitated practical and joint public-private responses to the challenges faced by local governments and businesses by undertaking essential local business enabling environments reforms. This is where local government, businesses, women, and men come face to face to address barriers that inhibit their business growth. Hargeisa municipality registered 155 new business from large enterprises to small business. Of these 16 were women owned (10 percent as confirmed by the Somaliland Chamber of Commerce). Business registration takes six days and costs from 350 USD for grade one to 41 USD for small businesses.

The programme commissioned a review of leadership management training programme to reflect on feedback from the application of the previous training materials to better support newly constituted district councils.

JPLG produced a roadmap towards decentralised revenue generation and financial management systems and convened discussions with Southwest State and Jubaland state authorities. Registered properties in Baidoa were integrated into the Southwest State financial management system and thus, ready to generate tax bills to the taxable properties. The programme also facilitated peer learning workshops in Somaliland and Puntland with focus on revenue generation and automated systems where districts exchanged ideas and best practices.

Solid waste management bylaws were developed and updated for purposes of tightened measures to keep cities clean and healthy and to contain the spread of COVID-19, as well as broadening domestic revenues by imposing penalties and charges.

Supported Garowe Municipality to procure 10,000 property plate numbers to incentivise the municipality to undertake property registration and thus boost domestic revenue sources of the district.

Implementation of city extension plans in Puntland were undertaken and public space planning and development introduced. Preparatory work for the Mogadishu citywide visioning exercise was carried out.

The workplans for support to the federal government and federal member states were approved. JPLG supported the Benadir Regional Administration to establish inter-departmental coordination mechanisms to deepen inter-departmental cooperation and hence promote partnership with the wider JPLG programme. The first orientation on the Service Delivery Model /Mechanism (SDM) was organized by JPLG targeting all the FMS and BRA. The orientation has helped bring initial clarity on the concept and the expectation and commitment required from the government, including the collaboration required from the various ministries and local governments.

The first National Civic Education Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation with support from JPLG. The key partners implementing civil education and JPLG were brought together to revisit the strategy, review the civil education resource kit, discuss challenges and agree on the next steps.

In 2021, the government of Somaliland made its highest commitment for Service Delivery Model (SDM), amounting to 5,117,026 USD, increasing the government's commitment to 82 percent. This amount is an increase of 27 percent as compared to 2020 and is an indication of the government's commitment to decentralisation of primary public services to the district level and a step towards the sustainability of service delivery at the local level in the longer term by leveraging more resources from the district's revenues.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Implementation of the JPLG workplan was greatly hindered by late approval of the workplans and budget. Political tensions due to the electoral process may further affect implementation. Security constraints and limited means of travel pose limited access to newly established districts.

The COVID-19 pandemic that led imposing of lockdown in most countries continued to have a negative impact on the programme since government and UN staff and other workers could not undertake mission travel, field visits, workshops, and training. On the other hand, online trainings and virtual meetings were better coordinated and the use of mobile money platforms to pay taxes has ensured better revenue collection.

Gender mainstreaming and inclusion remains low. Despite the efforts of the JPLG and government counterparts to promote women in local elections, the results in Somaliland were discouraging

## PARTNERSHIPS

The work carried out in partnership with the local NGOs KAAH and PDRC allowed citizens to openly express their opinions and make themselves heard.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Key priorities going forward include finalisation of the 2018-2023 JPLG logframe, finalisation of the national decentralization policy, finalisation of the JPLG gender, youth and marginalised communities empowerment strategy, strengthening the focus on child rights in JPLG, and implementing plans for urban and city visioning exercises.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

UNFPA supported life-saving sexual and reproductive health services across the country at 15 comprehensive emergency obstetric care centers and 40 basic emergency obstetric care centers despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the operations and functioning of 13 midwifery schools across the country with currently 526 midwifery students undergoing training. During the first half of 2021, UNFPA supported the service delivery of 50,200 antenatal care visits and 16,469 facility-assisted deliveries of which 3,016 were C-sections. Services were rendered to 7,810 obstetric complications of which top three complications were noted as obstructed/prolonged labor, antepartum hemorrhage, and postpartum hemorrhage. This confirms with the global causes of maternal deaths as seen in other developing countries. Almost all these deaths are preventable maternal deaths and – keeping in line with UNFPA’s global mission to eliminate preventable maternal deaths. UNFPA supported the training of 155 health care workers in sexual and reproductive health including training in family planning counseling and services. 18,727 women of reproductive age received a modern family planning method. Additionally, 25 senior logistics information managers were trained in Logistics Management Information System (LMIS). UNFPA has procured and provided 20,000 intra-uterine devices (IUDs), 1,200 HIV testing kits and 20,000 packets of oxytocin, all contributing to preventing and reducing preventable maternal deaths. Furthermore, operating theatre (OT) tables, neonatal incubators, and other essential supplies were provided to the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care Center (CEmONC) center at Kismayo Hospital.

UNFPA contributed to addressing sexual and gender-based violence through legislative advocacy, improving opportunities for SGBV data protection and generation, and achieving a 30 percent quota for women in the forthcoming elections. UNFPA facilitated stakeholder collaboration between that led to the successful passage of the zero FGM bill by the Puntland State government. UNFPA contributed to the standardisation of operational protocols and standards for SGBV shelters in Somalia.

The youth programme contributed to the overall social economic empowerment of youth by supporting safe youth-friendly spaces that provide integrated health, social and economic empowerment coupled with in-reach and outreach awareness on child marriage, HIV, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health, among other areas.

The following knowledge products were finalized and launched: 1) Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) state level reports for Galmudug and Banadir; 2) Somaliland COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment; 3) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Country Profile for Somalia; 4) In-depth study reports on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and SGBV for Puntland and Somaliland; and 5) paper on determinants of child nutritional status in Puntland.

The launch of the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) state reports for Benadir and Galmudug was a significant achievement in 2021. The survey results provide data for planning, policy formulation and monitoring in the respective states. Over 50 key demographic and health indicators generated in the reports at the state and regional levels will be utilized for subnational planning and monitoring of the implementation of the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) programme thereby reducing inequalities and marginalization. The microdata library provides an opportunity for extended use of the data by the public. Using SHDS data, vulnerability maps and dashboards have been developed to show the differences in vulnerability for COVID-19 infection and mortality in selected regions and towns in Somalia. Moreover, an SHDS paper has been produced to help understand the determinants of child nutritional status in Puntland.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic added yet another challenge in an already protracted humanitarian situation and fragile environment. The country's protection and health outcomes are some of the worst in the world. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia in 2021 has increased from 5.2 million to 5.9 million due to the consequences of multiple threats including climatic shocks, COVID-19, protracted conflict, and desert locusts. And estimated 2.8 million people are at high risk of food insecurity and about 2.9 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the country.

## PARTNERSHIPS

UNFPA is in partnership with implementing partners in the programme areas on reproductive health, gender, population and development and youth. Other non-programme partnerships with media bodies and associations such as Somali Women Journalism Rights Association, Somali Media Association and National Union of Somali Journalists ensure advocacy and visibility in the broader scope. UNFPA is also working with midwifery schools across Somalia supporting and advocating for quality midwifery education and religious networks in advocating for the end of harmful cultural practices namely FGM and child marriage.

## LOOKING AHEAD

2021 marks the first year of a five-year cooperation cycle for UNFPA. The first half of 2021 represented the transition from the previous country programme 2018-2020 to the new country programme 2021-2025. The transition is complete as of June 2021. It is hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic will progressively stabilize by 31 December 2021, which will allow a return to full normalcy. In the next six months, UNFPA plans to launch additional sub-national reports derived from the Somali Health and Demographic Survey. UNFPA also plans to complete the distribution of reproductive health and family planning commodities donated through the global UNFPA supplies programme, to health facilities across the country. Additionally, UNFPA plans to expand the reach of its youth programme concretely by supporting the rehabilitation of youth centres and expanding opportunities for young people to access seed funding for start-ups through support to youth entrepreneurship.

UNFPA continues to expand its communication and visibility interventions and is currently working on creating an additional website in collaboration with the Ifrah Foundation. The new website will be dedicated to the campaign to end FGM. The Country Office is also working on boosting its social media platforms by engaging in paid promotions to reach even more people on UNFPA's areas of interventions and the humanitarian work it does in Somalia. More videography and photography missions will be undertaken to ensure the generation of evidence-based and human-centred content and effectively reach more audiences.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Social Protection Programme has been instrumental in building national social protection systems. With support from the programme, the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) has successfully undertaken cash transfers since April 2020, completing four cycles of transfers of 35 USD per month each to approximately 1,000 households. Furthermore, the World Bank and ECHO are investing in the national safety net, Baxnaano, the future social protection platform for all citizens in Somalia. With MPTF funding, WFP will support an additional study on the transition readiness of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to take over the safety net implementation from the UN to government implemented cash transfer systems.

The programme contributed to building MoLSA's capacity by supporting key staff in the ministry. MoLSA has taken a strategic leadership role in the social protection sector by developing and establishing a government social protection working group, operationalized this year. The ministry continues to lead and coordinate all ongoing social protection programmes, including Baxnaano, a World Bank-funded programme reaching 200,000 households (1.2 million individuals) in 21 districts. MoLSA, as the lead ministry, is preparing to gradually take over the implementation of the cash transfer component. The ministry has established a skeletal structure at the state level with two focal staff with social protection oversight roles. For the successful transition from WFP to MoLSA, a careful analysis needs to be undertaken to inform the optimal institutional structure at federal and state levels. During the final year of programme implementation, MoLSA will receive additional support to undertake a technical review of the federal and state institutional capacity to gradually take over the national cash transfer. The scoping study will help provide recommendations for an optimal institutional structure to be put in place complementing the other ongoing efforts of transition to government implemented safety nets. Any additional institutional policies and human resource systems managing the civil servants in delivering the cash transfer project will be done through the additional financial requirements.

Engagement with Somaliland was further strengthened. UNICEF signed a new rolling work plan which focuses on technical support to develop Somaliland social protection policy, capacity building training, and support to the coordination mechanisms.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the progress of the project initially. Project interventions experienced some delays introducing measures to mitigate the spread of the infection and safely carry out the activities. WFP supported and guided BRA staff to ensure hygienic practices and social distancing were immediately introduced in the project's roll-out. One of the key lessons learned is that all government officials were able to adapt to the online meeting option. Government staff and UN agencies could engage in meetings and conduct online training to ensure that field activities can continue adhering to social distancing and prevention protocols. Furthermore, as COVID-19 risk mitigation measure, the work from home protocol continued, and all meetings were held online.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The MPTF funds complement the national safety nets intervention with technical inputs, which has several key players such as the World Bank, other key line ministries, donors, and local NGOs investing in the core cost of implementing safety nets. In BRA, MPTF funded urban safety nets was complemented by ECHO funding to respond to shock through a vertical top-up to target beneficiaries (1,000 households). This urban safety net model is being tested at a small scale and has potential for scale-up in Mogadishu and other cities with a similar context.

In addition, WFP, in partnership with Gates Foundation, is supporting with technical assistance to the national and regional cash transfers to explore and expand financial inclusion, with special emphasis on women's economic empowerment. Furthermore, UNICEF under the Baxnaano programme is supporting establishment of key building blocks of a social protection delivery system that supports policy development, strengthens institutional capacity, and forms the foundation for a more comprehensive social protection system in Somalia.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As a result of project delays related to COVID-19, BRA will continue to undertake cash transfers to beneficiaries until December 2021. As the MPTF funding comes to an end in early 2022, UN agencies will continue to support joint fundraising with BRA due to the government's lack of fiscal capacity.

The programme will undertake a transition readiness study for MoLSA to gradually take over the national and regional cash transfer implementation from WFP. It will hold a three-day orientation and training workshop on the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) for federal member states and contribute to developing the Somaliland Social Protection Policy. A social protection curriculum for social workers will be developed and the programme will support the rehabilitation of the offices of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs in South West State.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

On aid information management and provision, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) managed to run a data collection process that led to the collection of data which was used to successfully produce the 2020 aid flows report. The Aid Coordination Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister contributed to the efforts toward a refined aid architecture with all the Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) now drafted and finalised and ready for deployment to all concerned stakeholders. This should strengthen and bolster a revived aid architecture system.

Pillar working group (PWG) meetings resumed and a total of eight were conducted. Four were conducted for the Economic Development PWG and two each for the Social Development and the Gender, Human Rights and Inclusion. All meetings were organized virtually, with the Aid Coordination Unit being the facilitator. Stakeholders, both national and international have adapted to remote meetings, and it is expected to keep using these systems even once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control (in combination with physical meetings), as they reduce implementation costs, contribute to lower carbon emissions, and allow for agile exchange of information and ideas.

Progress has been made from the initial use of manual Excel spreadsheets to today's fully automated online portal, which has gained real traction with stakeholders over the past year.

The Aid Coordination Unit has heeded calls to ensure that the work of the whole aid coordination system is digitized fully considering the pandemic and other exigencies that might make it difficult for people to meet physically. This work has included several activities included ensuring that previous work on updating electronic mailing lists, ensuring that the exchange and sharing of documents occurred online and that the review of documents occurred simultaneously online is now on course. The electronic mailing lists for all PWGs were put in place. PWGs developed workplans for the second quarter of the year, including regular review of implementation of MAF milestones. The ICT shared the MAF templates with the PWG core groups, along with guidance, they begun collecting inputs from members. With regards to aid information management, MoPIED has continued carrying out trainings on the use of the Aid Information Management System (AIMS), worked on the validation of data collected from implementing partners on the AIMS and advanced the preparation of the 2020 Somalia aid flows report, which was published in August.

With the project set to end on 30 June 2021, the last project board meeting was held on 2 June 2021. The meeting discussed progress, challenges and plans for the project. There was stocktaking of the progress made thus far and a discussion on the way forward. It was agreed to extend the ongoing "Support to aid management and coordination in Somalia" project from 1 July to 31 December 2021 using the estimated balance of approximately USD 350,000. While the aid coordination project will now come to an end on 31 December, a new project document in support to the aid coordination function to be implemented until December 2024 has been drafted. The project aims at operationalizing the refined aid architecture in a cost-effective manner, improving the strategic focus, and strengthening engagement of federal member states.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Project implementation has been significantly affected by external factors, including the ongoing electoral process, which has resulted in the halting of the operationalisation of many of the structures and processes of the aid architecture, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the discontinuation of in-person meetings and obliged the project to shift quickly to online communication tools.

Coordination support to the sub-national level remains a challenge with the absence of dedicated support focal points from federal member states. Though there has been concerted efforts to ensure inclusivity, there will be a need for all stakeholders to think through to support to identification of dedicated focal points to ensure effective and timely sub-national coordination and proactive inclusion in the decision-making process.



## PARTNERSHIPS

The project coordination with a separately funded project in support to women's active engagement in the gender-sensitive monitoring of the NDP-9 and production of communications products for use for advocacy and awareness-raising purposes. The funding for this project came from the UNDP internal resources.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Aid effectiveness workshop which will see the presentation of the new revised aid coordination and management SOPs for PWGs. Findings from the MAF survey reports will be presented to stakeholders in the third quarter. The project will continue providing support to the aid architecture, including potential SDRF steering committee meeting and Somalia Partnership Forum. The end evaluation will be carried out in the second half of 2021 with the recruitment of evaluators underway.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the multitude of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Enablers programme continued to provide enabling services to the UN system in Somalia and other partners, not least to continuously adjust to the operational requirements of the pandemic. The Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia (Integrated Office) with OCHA led the development and implementation 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 Integrated Office coordinated the development of the socioeconomic component of the plan.

The Risk Management Unit (RMU) coordinated with the UN entities, the Ministry of Finance and Office of the Auditor General, on the UN commitment to comply with 2019 Public Financial Management (PFM) Act which requires disbursement of funds through Treasury Single Account (TSA). The degree of funds disbursed through TSA shall take into consideration risks emerging from the macro assessment of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) and PFM. Enhanced risk analytical support and cooperation with UN entities was provided through regular information sharing, risk management discussions in the UN Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance (RMAQA) Group and partner risk assessment and verifications.

Data analysis of the information shared in the two-web based RMU systems Contractor Information Management System (CIRT) and Capacity Injection reporting Tool (CIRT) contributed to strategic discussions across the UN and partners to enhance coordination and informed decision-making. In the first half of the year, the RMU supported the UN in Syria and Libya to set-up and strengthen risk management tools and best practices.

UNDSS conducted security assessments and evaluations throughout the year with the support of a fully operationalized and maintained aircraft. Funds provided through the Enablers programme allowed UNDSS to clear pending aircraft bills.

The Integrated Office collaborated with UN entities and civil society organisations to support youth participation in the electoral process. Through training of young aspirants, awareness raising and campaign messaging, and a political dialogue, this engagement aims at strengthening the UN's support to youth participation in and around the electoral process. The Integrated Office also worked with the Ministry of Youth and Sports at federal and federal member state levels to develop the second National Youth Policy, an important step to enable a comprehensive, multi-sector response to the different needs and aspirations of young women and men. The new policy will guide interventions that will help youth to play their role in bringing peace and stability to Somalia.

## KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

COVID-19 severely impacted the ability of the Enablers programme to implement its planned activities. Alternative implementation modalities and virtual communication arrangements continued to be applied to ensure the provision of enabling services.

The major challenge facing implementation of the UNDSS component was the availability of funds. Moving forward it will be necessary to diversify funding to ensure critical services can continue uninterrupted.

RMU activities were constrained due to prevailing COVID-19 restrictions impacting the holding of capacity building activities, conduct of field visits, and the implementation of the Collaborative Risk Management Strategy.

## PARTNERSHIPS

RMU saw strengthened partnership with external partners and UN auditors supported data collection and data triangulation. While some of targets did not progress as anticipated, the RMU has significantly progressed on others and has taken over new responsibilities especially on PFM compliance and capacity injection.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Enablers II will come to an end on 30 September 2021. The third phase of the programme is currently under discussion with stakeholders. Enablers III will continue supporting the Integrated Office's role in providing the UN system and partners with enabling services required to leverage the full capacity of the UN's support to Somalia and the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with a focus on programming at the nexus of humanitarian, development, and peace.



# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



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

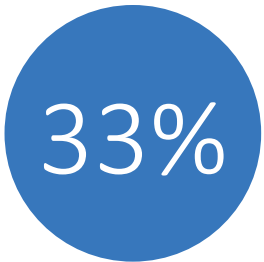
The electoral support programme works closely with partners across the UN system, civil society, and international partners to enhance participation of women as voters and participants in electoral processes. Targeted activities include capacity building of female personnel in electoral administration and field work. The electoral support programme, in collaboration with international partners, assisted the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) in developing a gender equality strategy as part of the NIEC’s leadership and staff commitment to promote gender equality within the commission and in the implementation of its constitutional mandate to be inclusive and representative, impartial, and neutral when conducting free, fair, and transparent elections in the Federal Republic of Somalia. The NIEC has underscored the importance of inclusivity and has urged stakeholders to respect and protect the 30 percent women quota in the upcoming indirect electoral process. UNFPA’s support to the establishment and operations of a call centre in Mogadishu is contributing to bringing attention and action to the rights violations of women candidates in elections. The call centre is also providing a much-needed platform to rally women and other stakeholders to advocate for the 30 percent quota for women in elections. At a local government level, the Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG) organised gender conferences in Puntland and Somaliland to advocate for increased participation of women in local elections. Civic education focusing on women’s rights in local governance were also organised and traditional sensitized on women’s rights in local governance and the benefits of women’s participation.

Gender equality is an integral part of the reconciliation efforts. As part of the Reconciliation and Federalism Support project (REFS), special efforts were made to include women’s views to ensure sustainable state-building and peacebuilding in Somalia at all levels of government. The inclusion of women in genuine reconciliation is echoed by the National Reconciliation Framework, which REFS is closely aligned with. Similarly, as part of the UN’s support to constitutional review process women were prioritised as stakeholders in dialogue and the importance of the constitution to enshrine aspirations of equality emphasised.

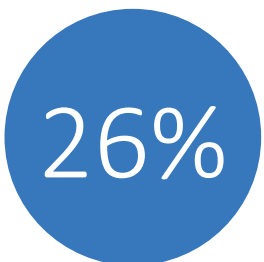
In the support to inclusive parliaments, parliamentary committees conducted public hearings and consultations with various societal groups, representatives of the institutions of the government and civil society, including women’s groups and activists. As a result of these consultations, women got a chance to actively advocate for women rights, women’s political participation and gender equality in Somalia, while women MPs got empowered to bring the voices of women in the Parliament and influence legislative drafting and constitutional review from the gender rights’ perspective.

The Joint Justice Programme mainstreams gender throughout all its activities, ensuring that gender markers and concerns are articulated in the description of the activities and that gender-sensitive indicators are in place. The programme implementation has specifically focused on access to justice and participation in justice reform for women and vulnerable groups and the transformation of social norms. Steps were taken to promote the inclusion and active participation of women in all activities, and to encourage leadership of women. For example, in the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, the programme enhances access to justice for women by increasing and ensuring their participation and addressing their issues in the ADR centres. 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.

dropped to 19 percent because of the reduction of staff numbers for sustainability. This is a concern and reflects the challenge of attracting qualified women to work in the security sector. Advertising posts is not enough, and there needs to be an active outreach to increase the role of women in the security sector, including fast-tracking or the introduction of junior professional programmes that empower women in the sector. This is particularly relevant at the federal member state level, where the programme struggled to secure good female candidates through advertising.



of outputs across Joint Programmes are gender specific<sup>1</sup>



of staff of all Joint Programmes have responsibility for gender issues<sup>2</sup>

With regards to the community conversations, every group of master trainers in the five federal member states includes female and youth trainers, and the training of trainers focused on SGBV. The community facilitators have been selected on the basis that they are representative of local communities and specifically include women leaders, minority clans and youth. Community conversations have been conducted inclusively, to include diverse participants that bring together a range of perspectives about the issues of the community.

In relation to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) specifically, support to SGBV prosecutorial units continues to contribute to the number of rape cases being prosecuted. Since the onset of COVID-19, particular attention has also been focused on monitoring the trends regarding sexual and gender-based violence with the establishment of the SGBV task force in Mogadishu.

UNFPA's support to the passage of the FGM bill at cabinet level is expected to contribute to strengthening the legislative framework for protection for women and girls against SGBV. It is also hoped that when the FGM bill is eventually successfully passed by parliament, it will create a momentum and accelerate similar efforts at other states and regions in Somalia. Women's participation in governance is of utmost importance to delivering power to make decisions to improve the welfare of women and young girls in Somalia.

Gender markers are indicated under each output of the Joint Corrections Programme's workplan. Specifications were undertaken regarding the management of female prisoners by female staff; the separation of female prisons from male prisoners to assure equality of treatment in the prison between genders; recruitment of female staffs to manage the prisoner's databases; participation of 50% female representation in rehabilitation programmes; inclusion of female representatives in SoPs development process. Essential needs unique to women such as sanitary pads, adequate clothing, sanitation soaps and creams were also provided for the female inmates.

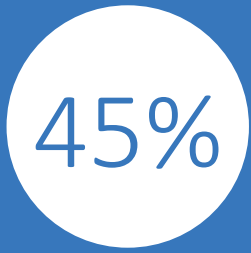
The Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project integrated human rights perspectives in its activities related to state formation, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution at the federal and federal member state levels. The Constitutional Review Support Project contributed to a reflection of human rights and protection concerns of vulnerable groups during the consultations on the Constitution. Government stakeholders, including the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, Parliamentary Oversight Committee, and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission expressed their full commitment to the requirement to ensure that the third version of the Constitution is compliant with Somalia’s international and regional human rights commitments. As part of the project, the UN provided technical assistance for the third revised version of the constitution to ensure amendments are in accordance with the country’s international and regional human rights commitments. It is important to highlight that the third version of the Constitution ensures 18 years as the age of maturity.

Somalia is a signatory to different international and regional human rights treaties and is obliged to follow key human rights standards. For example, article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 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 Electoral Support Programme was designed to support this fundamental right with the aim to move the country from a clan-based limited franchise electoral process to universal suffrage elections. Specific objectives in this regard, amongst others, include enhancing the independence of the National Independent and Electoral Commission (NIEC), promoting inclusiveness, and ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders is included in electoral legislation.

Following a political agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia and the federal member states on 17 September 2020 on an indirect electoral formula to conduct the 2021 federal elections, the NIEC and political parties were excluded from this process which is essentially a slightly expanded version of the 2016 electoral process. The indirect model is based on electoral constituency caucuses. Each caucus of 101 delegates will elect a member of parliament to a seat in the House of the People. The delegates will be nominated jointly by clan elders, civil society organizations and by the leadership of federal member states.

The Joint Justice Programme (JJP) follows human right principles in its implementation. The human rights-based understanding of access to justice underpins the 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. JJP’s support boosts the institutional capacity of attorney-general offices to promote access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and address protection challenges relating to women and girls. One of the main responsibilities of the specialized units is effective data collection and management on SGBV cases while focusing on the use of specialised prosecution services to reduce the existing gaps that affect female access to justice and to increase the effectiveness of case management through early and speedy investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases.

UNFPA’s work on SGBV adopted a survivor-centered approach which prioritises respect for the rights and wishes of the survivor and putting the needs of the survivor at the center of service provision. The provision of clinical management of rape services was done in line with protocols of safety and confidentiality to protect the identity of the survivors. Field officers from other clusters were trained to apply the principles of do-no-harm and non-discrimination when receiving disclosures from vulnerable women and girls and in providing referrals. Dignity and menstrual hygiene kits were also prioritised and distributed to ensure bodily integrity and improve mobility for vulnerable women and girls to access information and services that strengthen their resilience to SGBV.



*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*

As part of the Joint Corrections Programme (JCP), UNSOM developed standard operating procedures specifically targeting identified gaps in human rights and the protection of vulnerable groups in prisons including women, youth, and prisoners convicted of engaging in violent extremism in the corrections sector of Somalia. UNODC's basic training of prison officers (BTPO) curriculum also includes human rights components that seek to inform prison staff on how to ensure prisoners are treated with dignity and respect in line with international human rights standards. Specific learning outcomes for the BTPO include how human rights standards are applied to the work of a prison officer, the use of force and proportionality, and the importance of recognising the needs of vulnerable groups among the prison population.

Somalia's prisons are often over-crowded, unhygienic, and insecure. UNOPS recently completed construction of the additional block at the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex that will provide prisoners with a fairer and more humane environment to serve out their sentence. All the efforts undertaken by the implementing agencies of the JCP towards promoting human rights and protection of vulnerable groups have strengthened the capacity of the Somali Custodial Corps in dealing with prisoners in compliance with human rights standards.



The 2020 MPTF annual narrative report was released on 24 March, covering the full portfolio of MPTF programmes in Somalia. The 2020 annual financial report for the Somalia MPTF was released on 31 May. Two newsletters have been released in 2021, with two more planned before the end of the year.

The MPTF organised two donor meetings, on 22 February and 14 June respectively. The meetings presented opportunities to discuss measures taken by the UN to strengthen the management of the Somalia MPTF in response to donor feedback and how to better position the Fund as a strategic vehicle for UN delivery going forward.

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 public can find information about the full width of the UN's support to the country.

The MPTF secretariat will implement further changes to the format of its consolidated narrative reports and newsletters. This will include changes to reporting templates used by implementing partners, changes to the context and layout of the reports, and to better highlight the interlinkages between programmes in the portfolio where relevant, and between the UN's programmatic support and broader engagement.

In the first half of 2021 the Risk Management Unit (RMU) of the Integrated Office continued to strengthen collaboration across the UN Country Team and international partners in managing risks through advising, coordinating, undertaking risk assessment and due diligence activities.

The RMU completed nine risk assessments and twenty verifications and five monitoring activities on behalf of the UN. Five UN Risk Management, Accountability and Quality Assurance Group meetings were held in the first six months of 2021.

New information was uploaded to the RMU databases Contractor Information Management System (CIMS) and Capacity Injection Reporting Tool (CIRT). Five data analysis reports were released by the RMU on CIMS (two) and CIRT (three). The volume of UN contracts' value in CIMS increased by 55 million USD, reaching the total value of contracts to 6.6 billion USD.

Following findings in the 2020 CIRT data analysis, a workshop was facilitated by the RMU in March 2021 with participation of development and humanitarian organisations. The analysis and discussions highlighted the need for better coordination, harmonisation, information sharing, and collaboration across partners financially supporting government capacities through civil servants and advisers. Further, data analysis prompted engagement of the UN senior management on matters related to the capacity injection and the decision to develop the capacity injection protocol between the UN and the Office of Prime Minister. 2021 bi-annual CIRT analysis report indicates 923 ongoing contracts on 908 individuals, and eight potential overlapping contracts which are further being verified with the respective organisations.

As part of its responsibilities, the RMU has overseen projects being implemented under the National Window of the Somalia MPTF. The two projects that started in 2020, the first phase of the construction work of correction facilities in South West State (Baidoa) and Galmudug (South Galkayo) respectively funded by Sweden and Italy, were successfully completed.

The RMU played a key coordinating role in undertaking due diligence joint activities, such as audits, micro- and macro-assessment. The latter was carried out for assessing the federal Public Financial Management and Supreme Audit Institution as a mandatory requirement for transferring funds through the Treasury Single Account and deliver on the UN commitment to comply with 2019 Public Financial Management Act. A response plan on the findings of the report will be jointly developed with Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Auditor-General.



# HUMAN INTEREST STORIES



*\*In this section we are sharing glimpses of the human impact our programmes have on Somalis across the country.*

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS IN KISMAYO<sup>1</sup>

Amina Abdi is a mother of seven children from a minority clan in Kismayo. As a respected leader in the camp for internally displaced where she lives, Amina was selected to be a participant in the community conversations in her location. Realising the subject matter and key discussions in the community dialogue directly affect her life, Amina volunteered to share her story with participants, including influential community representatives and community facilitators.

During the 1990-1992 civil war in Somalia, Amina Abdi's father was killed and she and her family fled to Kenya. Amina Abdi and her little sister grew up in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya with their mother. Amina Abdi's little sister was fortunate enough to get a sponsor from a relative to relocate to the USA and now lives in Washington DC. Their mother died in 1999 in the refugee camp. Amina Abdi met her husband and father of her seven children in the refugee camp. After living in Dadaab for several years, Amina Abdi and her family decided to relocate and return to KISMAYO.

Prior to the civil war, Amina Abdi's family lived in small two-bedroom house built by their father, but Amina Abdi had received information that another family from the dominant clan was living on her family's land while she was still in Dadaab. She was determined to get back her land, confident that witnesses would support her claim, and returned to Kismayo, initially staying in a camp for internally displaced persons.

Once Amina Abdi had shared her story, the community members agreed to lobby on her behalf to get back her land. The community interviewed witnesses and confirmed that the land belonged to Amina Abdi's family. Community representatives, supported by religious leaders from the local mosque, began to negotiate with clan elders from the family that was staying on Amina Abdi's land.

Through this community mobilisation and activism, and with support of local elders and religious leaders, Amina Abdi successfully got back her family's land, 30 years after they were forced to flee. She said "the HDC community dialogue was a blessing in disguise for me; through the people sitting here in this dialogue session and community mobilization, I got my land back after it was out of my hands for close to 30 years".

## Mayor of Buhodle wants to extend her vision in the local council<sup>2</sup>

Khadija Aden is a young woman who was elected by the local council of Buhodle as the mayor of this district on 21 June. Buhodle lies in the south of Togdheer region with no history of women participating in local politics. Born and bred in Buhodle and taught in Las'anod, Khadija Aden is the second female mayor since the first local council elections in Somaliland in 2002.

Prior to her election, Khadija Aden worked on social development activities serving as a nurse and advocating for health development, peacebuilding and other local initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the Buhodle community. Despite being the only female local councilor in Buhodle, Khadija Aden was sensitized by trainings as part of the JPLG women's electoral support programme, which increased her advocacy skills to collaborate with other male councilors to achieve her mayoral position to serve Buhodle. JPLG did not only provide Kadija Aden with campaigning and advocacy skills, it also helped her to expand her networking capacities to collaborate with more influential figures in the local council elections. As a result of these continuous JPLG efforts in the pre-election period, Khadija Aden employed her networking strategies to influence the local councilors and convince them to select her as the mayor of the district.

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1 Joint Justice Programme

2 Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery

Khadija Aden explaining this strategy said:

During our first local council meeting, I proposed my plans to provide local government services with the most vulnerable which helped me to get matched vision with the most councilors who later elected me as the Mayor of Buhodle.

While this shows Khadija Aden's willingness and commitment to extend services to the poorest and most vulnerable in Buhodle, she is one of the most proactive and committed local councilors who made their positions clear during the pre-elections capacity building injection by JPLG. During the training in Buhodle, she stated her vision to further extend her current efforts when she is a decision-making role:

I currently provide limited guidance and consultations to Buhodle health centers but will reach the wider communities, particularly women and children, when arrive in the mayoral seat in June 2021.

JPLG supports women local council elections candidates to build their capacities on campaigning, networking and advocacy which builds on the existing efforts of the JPLG to uplift women's political participation and decisions. Out of the 15 women candidates in the Somaliland local council elections, only three were elected as the women's quota was rejected by parliament.

### Quality emergency reproductive health services<sup>3</sup>

Farhiya Abdi is an 18-year-old first-time mother living in Hurdiya village in Bari, Somalia. She gave birth to a baby boy in the only health facility in her village, Hurdiya Health Centre. The facility, which just opened in February this year, has since provided free maternal and reproductive health services to more than 250 women. The services include focused antenatal care, deliveries, and postnatal care services.

Hurdiya Health Centre is part of the cyclone Gati response project, an integrated reproductive health and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) project. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) is implementing the project with financial and technical support from UNFPA Somalia.

Cyclone Gati, the strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded in the East African country, made landfall on November 22, 2020. The cyclone left behind a trail of destruction; hundreds of houses were destroyed, several boats and fishing gears damaged, and many families lost large numbers of livestock. Women and girls continue to face the worst consequences, including rising cases of GBV.

Farhiya Abdi was among one of the first clients that gave birth in the facility. She first came to the facility for a check-up because she felt weak and had an irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath, and light-headedness. After a couple of tests, Farhiya Abdi was diagnosed with anaemia, a condition in which one lacks enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to the body's tissues. She was given iron supplements for her anaemia, among other supplements. Farhiya Abdi eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy two weeks after she came to the facility for the check-up.

"I was very lucky that I went to the facility for the checkup. I received good quality care from qualified staff. If I didn't get treated for anemia, the midwife told me I would have needed a blood transfusion, which I cannot get in Hurdiya. I would have travelled 10 hours to the nearest facility, and I wouldn't have afforded to get the transfusion," says Farhiya Abdi.

She says she is grateful to the organizations that made it possible to establish the health facility in her area; SRSC and UNFPA Somalia. "The facility offers free services. It is a real lifesaver. I can't imagine what would happen to me if I had to travel for more than 10 hours in the poor condition that I was in," Farhiya Abdi says.

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<sup>3</sup> UNFPA Country Programme

Dear partners,

A key deliverable in the second half of 2021 will be the development of the Somalia MPTF's first investment and resource mobilisation strategy. The strategy will form the centrepiece of ongoing efforts to reform and improve the Fund and to clarify its strategic role in support of core UN programmes in Somalia. This work has now begun with an international consultant with long experience of strategic planning and providing advice to UN pooled funds has been engaged to support us in this in this process.

The investment and resource mobilisation strategy will reflect global guidelines on the role of country-level pooled funding for the UN Development System and how this translates to the funding environment in Somalia, including the relationship with the two other main pooled funds under the administration of the World Bank and the African Development Bank. It will use as its basis the 2030 Agenda as reflected in the current National Development Plan (2020-2024) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Somalia (2021-2025). It will articulate key criteria that will guide the Somalia MPTF's investments in programmes and how to promote synergies between programmes in the portfolio. It will include options for the use of fully unearmarked, partially earmarked, and earmarked contributions to the Fund, recognising the particularities of individual donors and the ambition to attract so called non-traditional donors to the Somalia MPTF. The strategy will incorporate best practices for risk management, building on the expertise of UN Somalia's Risk Management Unit. Finally, the strategy must be aligned and coordinated with the Terms of Reference for the Somalia MPTF, which are currently under review and forms a key part of efforts to improve decision-making processes for the Fund. Our MPTF stakeholders will be consulted over the next few months as part of the work on the new investment and resource mobilisation strategy and we look forward to engaging in these discussions with you.

The staffing of the MPTF secretariat in the Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, is not complete. Pending are recruitments that will be instrumental in improving financial and administrative efficiency of the Fund. Discussions are ongoing within the UN to resolve remaining issues to ensure the Fund has adequate staff capacity to improve its operations.

Peter Nordstrom  
Senior Trust Fund Manager

## ANNEXES

- |   |   |    |                                 |
|---|---|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project             | 9  | Joint Programme on Human Rights |
| 2 | Constitution Review Support Project                       | 10 | Sustainable Charcoal Reduction  |
| 3 | Support to Building Inclusive and Accountable Parliaments | 11 | Local Governance                |
| 4 | Support to the Electoral Process                          | 12 | UNFPA Country Programme         |
| 5 | Joint Justice Programme                                   | 13 | Social Protection               |
| 6 | Joint Corrections Programme                               | 14 | Aid Management & Coordination   |
| 7 | Joint Security Sector Governance Support                  | 15 | Productive Sectors Development  |
| 8 | Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism                 | 16 | Enabling Services               |

## ENDNOTES

- 1 MPTF Gateway as of 5 September 2021
- 2 Gender specific outputs are those that are specifically designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- 2 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.



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