



# MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

Dear Partners,



On behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Somalia, I am pleased to share with you the fourth quarterly newsletter of 2019 for the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN MPTF) for Somalia.

UNODC is an important partner in UN's work that supports the United Nations Strategic Framework Strategic Priority 2: Supporting institutions to improve Peace, Security, Justice, the Rule of Law & Safety of Somalis. The activities implemented through the Joint Corrections Programme (JCP) have produced a number of positive changes in Somalia's corrections system.

Having just celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, UNODC is proud to note that the gender balance has been a focus of UNODC's Basic Training for Prison Officers in Somalia, where at least 20 per cent of the officers were women. Gender equality and women empowerment is relevant to all spheres, including the Corrections sector.

While the number of women prisoners in Somalia is much lower than that of men, they have different needs than men. With that in mind, UNODC is planning to carry out an intervention after Ramadan to support distribution of much-needed welfare supplies to the women through the JCP. In addition, UNODC conducted vocational training to inmates as part of the Human Right to Education, Even When Incarcerated programme.

UN MPTF is a valuable mechanism through which UNODC has been able to implement projects that contributed to the overall safety of Somalis and to the country's continued path to peace.

I am thankful to the generous donors who have provided funding to all UN MPTF Joint Programmes and look forward to a continued partnership and collaboration.

Sincerely,

**Amelia Hannaford**

*UNODC Head of Somalia Country Office*

## UN MPTF OVERVIEW

- 19 Active Joint Programmes
- 11 Donor Partners
- \$406m Commitments
- \$360m Deposits

## FUND CAPITALIZATION

-  Denmark: USD 43.1 m
-  European Union: USD 78.8 m
-  Finland: USD 9.2 m
-  Germany: USD 29.2 m
-  Italy: USD 22.9 m
-  Netherlands: USD 11.5 m
-  Norway: USD 39.7 m
-  Government of Somalia: USD 3.3 m
-  Sweden: USD 92.6 m
-  Switzerland: USD 25.7 m
-  United Kingdom: USD 36.6 m
-  USAID: USD 4.5 m
-  UN Peacebuilding Fund: USD 8.6 m

## RECONCILIATION & FEDERALISM

During the fourth quarter, regional counterparts conducted nine federalism workshops/conferences and trainings on the concept of federalism explaining issues related to the distribution of power, resource sharing, state legitimacy and inter-governmental relations in four Federal Member States (FMSs): South-West, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and Puntland.

Overall, 566 participants (355 women) participated in these workshops comprised of various clan elders, women, youth groups, district officials and other governmental officials in the respective FMSs.

The federalism workshops have enhanced the participants' understanding of the key concepts shaping federalism debates and state building processes in Somalia.

These activities also clarified misgivings about the federalism framework among the participants through scenario-building and comparative case studies leading to enhanced understanding of related concepts in respective FMSs.

Similarly, eight reconciliation conferences and meetings were held in the following FMSs: South-West, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and Puntland. A total of 781 participants (407 women) attended these conferences, including clan elders, women & youth groups, and civil society organizations (CSOs) from the respective FMSs. These interventions led to a major breakthrough and produced a reconciliation communique between two warring clans who were engaged in a protracted conflict in the Karkaar region (Qardho) in Puntland. They have reached a ceasefire agreement and ended the long-standing hostilities. Likewise, these reconciliation conferences have contributed to enhancing the participants' understandings of reconciliation, conflict mitigation, community problem solving and peaceful dispute resolution.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

From 22-24 October, the Joint Programme supported a consultative forum to promote Somali women's political participation in constitutional review process with women representatives from FMSs, Banadir Region and members from both Houses of Federal Parliament. The participants of the Forum discussed ways to promote women's participation in the political representation process and enhance women's participation in the constitutional review process. It was recommended to develop strategies and legal frameworks to enhance women's rep-

resentation in the constitution and achieve gender equality. As an outcome, a joint communique by Somali women was released, reaffirming their commitment to participate in the constitutional review process and work towards issues related to the rights of Somali women.

From 13 - 18 November, the Project further supported consultation meeting with Somali Intellectuals and Professionals on the Constitutional Review Process. The participants focused on the constitution-making process and held discussions on the contentious issues in the constitution that need political agreement. The Somali professionals and intellectuals assured their commitment and full support to participate in the constitutional review process. It was agreed to hold consultations among key Somali interlocutors in order to have a unified perspective on the key constitutional issues and reach political settlements, which then will be incorporated in the constitution.

## PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

From 21 November to 3 December, a self-assessment exercise of the Somali Federal Parliament and Somaliland Parliament on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – 2030 Agenda was conducted to take stock of the institutional capacity of the two parliaments to effectively mainstream the SDGs in the Parliaments' work. The assessment exercise identified challenges, such as weak institutional capacity at parliament level; lack of parliamentary engagement in the formulation, discussion, prioritization of focus areas including on SDGs in the National Development Plan (NDP9) and further validation of the NDP9 by Parliament; weak policy space for SDG integration and lack of legal or procedural framework; limited capacity and lack of access to qualified information for holding implementing agencies accountable and limited coordination with other oversight bodies.

As a result, an action was developed with the following recommendations on key areas: organising training, information sharing and advocacy sessions on SDGs for members of parliament (MPs), staff and parliamentary committees; setting up a task-force or a committee with a focus and coordination of SDG-related work; development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for the parliamentary committee work with an SDG component; and developing a legislative checklist for the legislative department/committee.

The Project supported consultations and public hearings on the following legislations in different stages of the Houses of the

Somali Federal Parliament:

On 5 October, the Somaliland House of Elders (HoE) organized four-day consultation in Berbera, Sahil region. The objective was to brainstorm and share ideas to initiate the legal framework of the House that will determine the method of MPs selection. This is the second consultation targeting all six Somaliland regions. The participants included regional clan chiefs, traditional elders, lawyers, academic researchers and MPs from the Guurti (traditional form for elders for mediation).

On 13 November, the Committee of Social Services Development, Humanitarian Affairs, Media and Culture of the Upper House conducted an expert panel meeting with medical practitioners on the draft Health Professional Bills.

On 1 December, the Upper House Committee of Social Services Development, Humanitarian Affairs, Media and Culture organized consultations on the Amendment to Media Law with 38 participants (4 women) from media and CSOs. In the same vein, the committee held consultations with representatives from FMSs.

On 19 December, the Committee of National Resources, Infrastructure and Transportation of the Upper House held consultations of the draft Petroleum Bill with representatives from FMSs.

## WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

On 15 and 16 December, the Somali Women Annual Parliamentarians Conference was held in Mogadishu that brought together around 150 Somali women legislators (from FGS and FMSs) and CSOs to jointly discuss issues of importance for Somali women's empowerment and women's rights. The conference was a platform to enhance the effectiveness of women's parliamentary caucuses and to transform the caucus into an influential means to advocate and support women's rights agenda and ensure their protection through parliamentary processes. The forum discussed the need to pass new legislation, including the Sexual Offences Bill, Electoral and Political Party laws, and the inclusion of the women quota in the constitution. At the end of the conference, a communique to the government listed concerns about the gradual erosion of the Somali women's quota in the public offices and the recent setbacks at state elections, as well as the very high possibility of further setbacks during the upcoming 2020/21 elections, given the nature and ambiguity of

the current electoral bill that is being processed by the House of the People. The communique demanded that women's minimum 30 percent in parliamentary seats as well as in all other state institutions and bodies is enshrined and protected by the Federal Constitution.

Finally, women caucuses of both houses jointly launched a women coalition network and urged women groups, movements and coalitions at both national and state levels to build synergies with the national and state-level gender structures to sustain efforts in promoting women's political participation.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

A key senior official from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) participated in the Safety Nets Core Course held in October-November in Washington, DC. The two-week course aimed to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the conceptual and practical issues on safety nets or social assistance as part of broader social protection systems.

The Project has also supported MoLSA during the fourth quarter to employ eight staff members, including a Social Safety Nets Coordinator, a data manager, a procurement assistant, a finance/ administrative assistant and three interns. Physical facilities consisting of one vehicle, chairs, tables, printers, laptops and a photocopier helped with the improvement of the delivery capacity of the Social Protection unit. The rehabilitation of MoLSA with equipment and furniture provided to the office is another key achievement of the Joint Programme, which will allow the Ministry offices to become functional again following the damage caused by the March attacks.

## UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

The Project supported the Ministry of Health in the development of a deployment and retention policy for qualifying midwives, with a long-term goal of achieving equity of services in a severely understaffed environment.

Adna Mukhtaar Abdi, 20, was among 92 other graduates who graduated from the Kismayo Midwifery Training Institute in December.

"I immediately returned to my community in Afmadow as soon as I graduated. I want to serve my community and save the lives of mothers and newborn babies," said Adna.



Afmadow district is located in Lower Juba. It is about 120 kilometres away from Kismayo.

Adna conducts home visits and last month she came across a woman in labor who was planning to give birth at home. “I examined her and found out that she had some complications and I did my best to convince her to be taken to a health centre in Afmadow. I fear she and her baby would have not made it if I did not visit her house. I am happy to be midwife and I look forward to saving the lives of many mothers and their children,” said Adna.

“The schools are under the Ministry of Health of the Federal Government Somalia. The students are enrolled from their villages and they are required to go back to provide services in health facilities within their communities upon graduation. Midwives save lives. Well-trained midwives could help avert roughly two-thirds of all maternal and newborn deaths,” said UNFPA Somalia Midwifery Specialist Hawa Abdullahi Elmi.

According to the UNFPA midwifery specialist, a total of 514 midwifery students, were cumulatively enrolled into the national midwifery education program at 15 accredited and UNFPA-supported midwifery schools across Somalia in 2019.

## SUPPORT TO AID MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Five Pillar Working Group and two Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) Steering Committee meetings were convened in the fourth quarter. The total number of meetings organized by the Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) by the end of 2019 was 33 Pillar Working Groups and six SDRF Steering Committee meetings, bringing together multiple stakeholders from the FGS, FMSs, donor community, UN agencies, civil society, private sector and parliamentarians.

ACU continued to facilitate intragovernmental consultations, including with FMSs, for the refinement of the aid architecture so that it aligns to the new National Development Plan and government roadmaps. The unit visited the Banadir Regional Administration in Mogadishu on 17 October as well as Puntland State in Garowe from 26–28 December. The meetings sought to collect information on inclusivity, transparency in the sharing of government resources as well as to check on the degree of satisfaction of stakeholders with the aid coordination system. In addition, ACU facilitated sessions on mutual accountability and the Somali aid architecture in the Government’s retreat held in

late October in Mogadishu which brought together representatives from line ministries from the FGS and FMSs at the Director-General level. Findings of all these consultations fed into a first draft of a common position of the Somali government which was shared in late December with development partners for feedback and further discussion. It is expected that the refined aid architecture will be endorsed in the first SDRF Steering Committee meeting in 2020.

## JOINT PROGRAMME ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The Joint Programme on Local Governance and Service Delivery (JPLG) supported during the fourth quarter the renovation of Gabiley’s market including constructing toilets, expanding the size of the site and installing a concrete floor. The renovations have boosted the market’s business.

Khadra, a worker who has worked in the market for 21 years, approached with the Mayor of Gabiley, along with other market representatives, seven years ago to discuss ways to renovate the market. As highlighted by Khadra: “Before, we used to work in an empty place under a tree. After the construction of the marketplace, we are now protected from rain and the exposure of the sun. Nobody wants to be in a difficult place, under the heat of the sun and be soaked from the rain. We now have access to water and toilets. We also have workers who take out the rubbish each day. We are so blessed today; it is a blessing from God. We are in a much better place than before.”

When the work began on Gabiley’s new market, a transparent bidding process ensured that the best contractors and suppliers were hired for the job. Contracts and payments were handled with strict oversight and work was closely monitored from start to finish.

The market was built on time and to budget. In line with the market representatives’ requests, it included covered areas so trade could continue in the rainy season and in the heat.

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SOMALIA (YES)

An experience sharing study tour for 35 senior government officials, including ministers and director-generals from FGS and six FMSs was undertaken to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during 15 – 21 December. The study tour was concluded with an experience-sharing forum held in Mogadishu, in which the participants shared their acquired knowledge and experience with other JPYES partners. The main purpose of the study tour was to im-

prove their knowledge and understanding of the good practices and lessons learned from Ethiopia, in addressing employment issues in Somalia as well as developing partnerships with their government counterparts in Ethiopia. The participants received a first-hand experience on how to set up and manage a National Employment Council, one of the priorities of the FGS.

## SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

Ismail Mohamud Dayow is a 49-year-old man living in Burgabo Village, Badhaadhe District in Southern Somalia, supporting a family of nine. With the support of the Project, Ismail was one of 450 beneficiaries who received a beehive, honey jars and other tools necessary for honey production. Harvesting kits and wax extractors were distributed in groups that were used together by the beekeepers. It was the responsibility of each group to take care of the equipment in order for it to last.

As soon as Ismail received the beekeeping tools, he set up his honey bucket. Ismail hung empty metal containers on the trees above the ground to protect his beehive. He spoke of the knowl-

edge that he had gained through the training delivered by an implementing partner as part of the Project. During the November training, the beneficiaries learned the benefits of beehives, how to control the pests and diseases, how to use the harvesting tools, how to harvest, how to maintain the hygiene of the hives and how to market the honey to the local markets.

Ismail, having had his livelihood seriously affected by the lack of rain, stated that this project “really opened up a source of earning income for my family.” Through hard work and family cooperation, Ismail harvested 5kg of honey in December. He sold the honey at the market in Kismayo for US\$ 15 per kg making him a total of US\$ 75. He was able to buy food for his children, and with the income he generated, he was finally able to provide for his family. Ismail’s hive should continue to increase in the quantity of honey it produces to at least 10 kg per harvest. With three harvests expected per year, Ismail stands to earn US\$ 450 per beehive.

The beneficiaries expressed thanks for the “helpful project that supplies local residents with alternative ways to improve livelihoods.”

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