Dear colleagues,

The UN MPTF’s second quarterly newsletter for 2017 comes after a period of collective efforts by the UN Somalia and wider International Community to battle a looming famine and the impacts of an extended drought – from water-borne diseases to wide-scale displacement, and, as a result, a slowdown of peace and state-building efforts that could have endangered achievements made over the past years.

Now, with growing cross-system activities on early recovery, the Daldhis programme under the Peacebuilding Fund starts to pick up where short-term efforts phase out. Through its participation in the programme, UNIDO has been able to join the UN MPTF as a new Participating UN Organisation under the Youth Employment for Somalia (YES) programme. This is thanks to the unique structure of the Daldhis programme, which supports the implementation of activities from three existing joint programmes – the Joint Programme for Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, the Joint Programme for Rule of Law, and the YES – through an area based approach in Jubbaland and South-West State of Somalia. This has allowed UNIDO to deliver on the ground and deepen its engagement with the country team through joint programming.

The Daldhis programme, which means build your country in Somali, is an integrated approach to re-establish the state-citizen link in those two states. It serves in complement and as a successor to the Midnimo (unity) programme. While Midnimo focuses on social healing and peace dividends, Daldhis looks into longer-term rebuilding of states’ legitimacy towards its citizens. In addition, it seeks to provide a rapid mechanism for displacement and return in Jubbaland and South-West State, two areas that have been heavily impacted by drought-related displacement and returnees from Dadaab refugee camp in neighbouring Kenya.

UNIDO has been focusing its efforts on delivering quality technical and livelihoods skills trainings to various at-risk and target beneficiary groups, particularly young people. Through its support to improve sanitary and living conditions in the Baidoa prison, it is laying the ground for the second phase of the initiative in cooperation with ROLSIG – a pilot project to rehabilitate Al-Shabaab detainees. This is in line with another focus area of UNIDO’s work: the reintegration of ex-combatants and restoring a functional base for peace and community stabilisation. The latter has been pursued through a number of trainings for particularly women and youth on boat engine repair, blacksmith for agriculture, tie and dye, and garment production. One training session alone, which was conducted in Kismayo, allowed local women to produce over 100 tie dye advocacy bags to promote peacebuilding.

In consultation with FAO and local partners, UNIDO is currently exploring further skills capacity development for young people dependent on the fishing sector for livelihoods in Kismayo. As part of its successful methodology, which has enabled it to grow its portfolio for economic growth in Somalia, UNIDO has stressed the importance of trainings of trainees and technical toolkits, which empower young beneficiaries to train their peers and develop productive activities.

Finally, UNIDO has also actively engaged with its Somali interest group on Twitter and has made an effort to provide regular updates on activities and human interest stories, and has also launched online questionnaires to get feedback from the Twitter community on what market sectors to focus its skills trainings on.

– Jonathan Eischen, Chief Technical Advisor UNIDO Somalia

UN MPTF Secretariat Update

- The new Joint Programme on Refugee Return and Re-integration has started reporting under the MPTF in Q2 2017.
- The MPTF Report for Q2 2017 was issued to donors on 31 July.
- The MPTF Report for Q2 2017 includes now an overview on how MPTF Joint Programmes have contributed to the drought response over the past quarter.
- Two new Joint Programmes on Aid Coordination and on Human Rights are being developed and will go to the SDRF for approval process within the next quarter.

Fund Capitalisation

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<tr>
<th>Multi-year Pledges</th>
<th>Paid-in Contributions</th>
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<td>USD 205 million</td>
<td>USD 181.3 million</td>
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- Denmark: USD 19.2 million
- European Union: USD 50 million
- Germany: USD 8.4 million
- Italy: USD 6 million
- Norway: USD 13.6 million
- Sweden: USD 33.9 million
- Switzerland: USD 9.4 million
- United Kingdom: USD 36.1 million
- USAID: USD 0.5 million
- UN Peacebuilding Fund: USD 28.1 million
**Highlights from the Joint Programmes**

**SUPPORT TO EMERGING FEDERAL STATES (StEFS)**

“With regard to religious reconciliation we are counting on you, the religious leaders, to engage in dialogue and give us a positive interpretation of what religion provides for,” Deputy Prime Minister Mahdi Ahmed Guleed, said at the 5 days National Conference on the reconciliation process in Mogadishu. The Chairperson of the Somali National Women’s Association, Batulo Sheikh Ahmed Gaballe, noted that Somali women have a crucial role to play in uniting the people of Somalia and fostering peace. “The reconciliation process in Somalia lies in the hands of women in terms of funding, making peace among warring factions and healing the wounds caused by conflict to restore the dignity and integrity of the Somali people. […] we are ready to take the lead,” Ms. Batulo stated. The Joint Programme on Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) supported the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) to organise the National Conference, with the objective to plan the development of a reconciliation strategy through a conflict mapping exercise. During the conference, delegates identified and charted out conflict zones, types, causes, and levels of conflict in the country. The formulation of this framework is meant to help lead the ongoing state formation and peacebuilding process in Somalia.

As part of the UN system-wide priority to avert famine in Somalia, the Joint Programme also supported MoIFAR to facilitate a public accountability forum on the drought response. Relevant stakeholders, civil society organisations, elders and youth groups gathered to discuss an action plan and share progress with each other.

Between 15-19 May, 22 high-level Somali delegates visited the Kenyan Government departments in an effort to share knowledge on state devolution. During the study trip, the Somali delegates learned about the concept of devolution, planning, budgeting, public sensitisation and reporting. The Kenyan government affirmed its commitment to continue the concept of devolution, planning, budgeting, public sensitisation and reporting. Relevant stakeholders, civil society organisations, elders and youth groups gathered to discuss an action plan and share progress with each other.

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**CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW SUPPORT**

“We must seize this momentum”, concluded Hon. Mohamed Sh. Osman Jawari, Speaker of the House of the People, when the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), along with the Speakers of the National Federal Parliament introduced to international partners a master plan for the review of Somalia’s Provisional Constitution of 2012 on 21 May. With support from the Constitutional Review Joint Programme, MoCA has relaunched the review process, after it was put on hold until a new government would form after the 2016/17 elections.

The review and finalisation of a new popular and inclusive Constitution will be a conditional stepping stone for one-person one-vote elections in 2020/21. To ensure the inclusiveness of the process, extensive consultations with regional administrations, National Federal Parliament and civil society will be led to enable a consensus-driven approach.

The amendments to the Somali Constitution must address complex issues, such as the allocation of powers and resources, the status of the capital, and the compliance with international treaties signed by the government. A first consultation with all regional administrations was held in Mogadishu from 14-16 May.

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

After concluding its milestone support to the 2016/17 electoral process, the Joint Programme on Electoral Support is under revision to prepare for universal one-person, one-vote elections in 2020/21. To this effect, several activities have set the preparations in motion.

First, an electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) has produced recommendations to renew and redefine the parameters of the UN electoral support to Somalia in preparation of universal elections in 2020/21. Informed by the NAM, the Joint Programme is working on a revised project document which will be in line with the new National Independent Electoral Commission Strategic Plan. In addition, by assisting MOIFAR’s Electoral Law Working Group, the Programme supported the Federal Government of Somalia with the development of the critical Electoral Law through a public information session on the drafting process of the law.

This is in line with the commitments made by the Federal Government of Somalia during the London Conference to develop an Electoral Law by the end of 2018.

Finally, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties was inaugurated and holds the mandate to oversee the process of registration of political parties, according to the Provisional Constitution. Its establishment marks a departure from the election of representatives through the clan system, to a more inclusive system of political parties.

“After almost half a century, we are doing registration of political parties and opening an Office to register political parties that are going to lead this country to peace and democracy,” remarked Ms. Fawzia Yusuf H. Adam, a Member of the Federal Parliament and Chairperson of the National Democratic Party, during the launch.

**PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT**

The Joint Programme on Electoral Support continued its support to “I believe the quality of women leadership, whether in parliament, the executive, or civil society, depends on their training to promote their leadership qualities and address women’s issues”, said Mohamed Sheikh Osman Jawari, Speaker of the House of the People during the first Annual Somali Women Parliamentarian Conference. The event took place at the end of April attended by 129 federal and state women MPs and civil society members and aimed at enhancing the skills of female Members of Parliament to effectively and competently execute their core functions and responsibilities, and to learn from good practices that other parliamentary jurisdictions have used effectively to push for women’s agenda within parliament.

“I know if we become united - the women MPs in regional states and the Federal Parliament, the ministers and members of the civil society working on women issues - our voice will be heard, and we can attain our goals”, stressed Hon. Deega Yasin Yusuf, the federal Minister for Women and Human Rights, who called on women members of regional and federal parliaments to foster unity.

To strengthen communication with the citizens and increase the awareness of the public on parliament activities, the Joint Programme supported the South-West State Parliament to establish its first website, which can be accessed via [http://southwestparliament.net/](http://southwestparliament.net/).

Finally, the young graduates programme under the Parliamentary Support Joint Programme continues to build capacity of young people, including 8 men and 2 women who support Somaliland’s House of Representatives and House of Elders. They support the daily activities of the houses, especially committee works, archiving tasks, taking minutes, and producing timely reports for the leadership of the houses.
WOMEN’S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

The Joint Programme on Women Political Participation, Leadership and Empowerment supports activities related to women’s political participation and representation in higher positions. To that end, the Programme organised several meetings for the cabinet, MPs, political parties, religious and traditional leaders in Somalia, to secure a quota for women in the upcoming parliamentary and district elections. As a result, political parties renewed their commitment to the 30% voluntary quota.

The Joint programme also trained 25 women political aspirants on leadership skills and effective campaigning strategies in Somaliland, eight of whom have registered as candidates for the parliamentary elections.

To integrate women’s political participation and empowerment into national and international frameworks of Somalia and the International Community, the Programme facilitated active engagement and participation of women leaders and actors during the London Conference. This enabled the incorporation of the women, peace and security agenda into the Conference and, as a result, the integration of gender issues into the newly adopted Security Pact and New Partnership for Somalia.

RULE OF LAW & POLICE STIPENDS

“The country’s political architecture has changed and this has an impact on the judiciary. As a result, we need to undertake judicial reforms,” Mr. Idle Suleyman, the country’s Chief Justice, explained during the launch of a new unified curriculum for the judiciary by the Federal Government of Somalia and the UN.

The extensive programme, which has been developed with and is being supported by the Rule of Law Programme, aims to train over 350 judicial officers countrywide to assist in the rebuilding of the country’s justice sector and will initially benefit judges, prosecutors, and registrars. Later on, it will be further expanded to judicial staff from the Federal Member States of Jubbaland, South-West, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, and Puntland.

In parallel, to increase the number of qualified officials of the judiciary and law enforcement, the Programme also supports long-term legal education. As a result, 45 scholarship recipients have graduated with a Bachelor’s in Law from the Faculty of Law of Puntland State University in the past months.

The Joint Rule of Law Programme also supported institutions beyond capacity building and handed over to the Somali Police and the Ministry of Internal Security vehicles, furniture and solar power installations for 24 police stations. Expected to be distributed based on the agreement in the New Policing Model for resource sharing between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States, the equipment will contribute to respond to security threats in the Federal Member States.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SOMALIA (YES)

The Joint Programme on Youth Employment Somalia (YES) has embarked on a new phase and is working on expanding its activities to other regions in Somalia. To that effect, it led missions to Bossasso in Puntland and Berbera in Somaliland, in order to inform local authorities and stakeholders about its new objectives and to design the implementation based on local youth and market needs.

The meetings were also a good opportunity to highlight successes of the first phase of the Programme. The fishery apprenticeship scheme in Bossasso for example has provided continuous employment to 45 of the 150 youth apprentices. Almost 70% of all employers who offered the apprenticeships noted increases in sales of up to 9% attributed to the youth’s efforts. Thanks to this achievement, a formal agreement on partnership and cooperation with the Puntland Chamber of Commerce will be developed on skills development, notably in the fishery sector, and will be replicated in Berbera.

Similarly, the Shaqeyso training programme, which was hosted at the One Stop Youth Centre in Mogadishu intends to help people with difficult family situations and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to gain comprehensive life skills training, construction skills training and to give them tools to start their own business. With a total of 359 participants, out of which 349 have graduated, the programme has reached a success rate of over 97%.

In the future, stronger focus on start-up tool packages (such as tooling equipment relevant to the respective business sector) instead of loan products for youth will be explored in order to prevent young people from being burdened by debt.

To place youth in meaningful vocational and professional employment, an Africa Working Employability Ecosystem programme for Somalia (Somalia Working) has also been developed and is expected to be operational by August.

SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL REDUCTION

“It’s time to act effectively at national and regional level”, said Moalim Mohamud Ahmed, Environment Minister for South West State, emphasizing the urgent need for strong political commitment, regulatory frameworks, and community sensitization on all levels to fight the illegal trade of charcoal.

The damages on the environment of charcoal production are severe, with massive depletion of forest and a wide range of resources observed across Somalia. To promote energy security and more resilient livelihoods through a gradual reduction of sustainable charcoal production, trade and use, the Joint Programme on Sustainable Charcoal and Alternative Livelihoods undertook a workshop in Mogadishu to organise and coordinate the joint implementation of activities with government and stakeholders.

Charcoal production remains however a main source of livelihoods for many poor and vulnerable households. Opening up alternative livelihood opportunities for the population is therefore considered as key to the programme’s success. With that in mind, the Programme has integrated compatible activities in areas of livestock and agriculture, benefitting women and young people as much as possible. Additionally, the Programme aims to explore businesses promoting alternative energy sources, such as liquefied petroleum and solar energy.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Capacity Development Programme continued its support to key federal and regional ministries and has been instrumental in drafting the new aid architecture under the National Development Plan. At the federal level, during a workshop with federal and state representatives, a consensus has been reached to change the ‘Pillar Working Groups’ to ‘Sector Working Groups’ in agreement with civil society and international-
al partners, which joined the workshop.

To that effect, the Programme supported the Puntland Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in hosting six Sector Working Group meetings in Garowe to fulfil the objectives of the Puntland Development Forum.

The Programme further supported Puntland’s Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDFAF) to host a training of a group of elders in order to enhance gender mainstreaming and train regional traditional leaders on gender issues.

To address the critical capacity gaps in Somalia’s civil service, which has not yet been institutionalised, the Programme supported several important meetings in Mogadishu and South-West State to discuss issues related to recruitment and appointment policies. To spearhead these discussions, a Recruitment and Appointment Policy as well as a Young Graduate Recruitment Manual have been drafted and are being currently discussed.

In line with the Somali National Development Plan to improve the transparency of external aid delivery, the Joint Programme also held a 3-days training in May with government partners on how to deliver, monitor and report effectively on development projects in Somalia.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE (JPLG)

With support from the Joint Programme on Local Governance, the South-West State Assembly passed the Local Government Law, which was subsequently launched in early July, and kicked off the district council formation process in the state. The Federal Government of Somalia, with support from the Programme and international donors, is working to create strong, organised and representative district councils, as part of its efforts to improve effectiveness and openness in local governance. The launch of the law on local government and commencement of the district council formation process means that these efforts can now officially move forward in the state. Speakers at the launch in Baidoa underlined the importance of devolving power to the lowest level, in order to ensure that ordinary people can elect the leaders of their choice.

The Participatory Planning and Public Expenditure Management has been validated in its new form in Puntland and Somaliland. Based on consultations and lessons learned, the document has been revised and includes now the Local Government Finance Policy. The Participatory Planning and Public Expenditure Management has been renamed to District Planning and Financial Guide. Through support from the Joint Programme, representatives from South West, Galmudug, Jubbaland and Hirshabelle took part in Puntland’s review of the District Development Framework and the validation of the District Planning and Financial Guide.

Looking forward, JPLG will support Somaliland and Puntland in preparing and delivering on their respective guides. The process will focus on bringing the various government institutions together to streamline the process and enable the expansion of the local government planning cycle to all districts within the states.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON ENABLERS

“The New Partnership for Somalia should reflect priorities highlighted under the National Development Plan and clearly articulate the role of civil society in its implementation.” - this was one of the outcomes of the Mogadishu pre-event, in support of the London Conference Somalia.

The RCO has been supporting the development of a new aid architecture, including support to the preparations of the London Conference for Somalia and the Mogadishu pre-event, as well as the development of the New Partnership for Somalia, which will guide the partnership framework between Somalia and the International Community. Aligned with Somalia’s aid architecture under the National Development Plan, the finalisation of the UN Strategic Framework (UNSF) for Somalia has marked a milestone achievement of the RCO, which has been instrumental in supporting the consultation, drafting and approval process.

In Somaliland, the RCO, through cooperation with OCHA and the NGO Consortium, enabled the improvement of overall coordination of drought response efforts, particularly concerning improvements of government/UN/NGO relations and information sharing, as well as overall UN communications.

In line with the prioritisation of drought response, UNDSS has added surge support and maintained its Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) in Garowe, Hargeisa, Galkayo, Bossaso and Dollo, enabling UN agencies and international staff to operate in these locations and provide relief.

In addition, RMU continued its support to UN agencies engaged in drought response through accelerated due diligence and a number of risk assessments and analyses. The RMU also worked with several MPTF Joint Programmes to strengthen their own risk management procedures and approaches.

Finally, with UN MPTF support, UN Women has been able to support the government in delivering a chapter on gender in the National Development Plan, including targets and milestones which will enable accountable work on gender over the coming years.

National Window

PILOT PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the Ministry of Finance has completed design work for additional two projects under phase II. The projects will be implemented in Galmudug state and foresee the construction of the new Mayor’s office in North Galkayo district as well as a new office for the Mayor in Bandiradley in South Galkayo.

The PIU has been reaching out to local residents and communities in areas of implementation, as part of its communication and outreach strategy. These efforts have already raised significant awareness among target communities, who have been interested to learn more about the projects and have contacted their local administrations for more information. To that effect, the PIU will increase information sharing and awareness activities with the target communities over the next quarter.

On the broader spectrum of the National Window, the Support to Stabilization Project, which augments stabilisation efforts by the government through the establishment of district administrations, is now fully implemented through the National Window.

Peacebuilding Fund

MIDNIMO

As a result of the community consultations, the urban profiles of Kismayo and Baidoa have been drafted. The profiles serve as a toolkit to spatial and socio-economic analyses with an approach to respond to the humanitarian and displacement crises. The toolkits will help the local leadership to lead planning and recovery programmes.
The participatory community consultations are also empowering the various socioeconomic groups and community members, such as women and youths, by engaging them in structured dialogue. The dialogue allows them to analyse their circumstances and conflict triggers, prioritise their needs, establish systems for dispute resolution and peaceful co-existence, and ultimately take ownership for driving their own recovery processes through community-based projects, based on priorities that they have identified. The programme has already set up planning dialogue platforms for communities in Kismayo. This institutionalisation of community-based planning will help the local government respond to the recovery and stabilisation needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities.

A major case study on land conflicts, including land ownership and land use patterns in Kismayo and Jubbaland has been initiated in June. Land ownership, and as a result evictions, is a central issue to finding durable solutions for IDPs and returnees and is often a trigger for unrest with local communities.

DALDHIS

With support from the Peacebuilding Fund funded Daldis programme, Baidoa’s Chief Justice and members of the judiciary agreed to expand mobile courts in Baidoa, where access to justice for many people, particularly IDPs and returnees, is limited or non-accessible. Through this initiative, judges will be periodically deployed to remote areas of the region to form decisions on claims. The mobile courts system will rely on traditional leaders to bring cases to the formal judicial system if they exceed their competencies and is expected to considerably expand judicial services within the state.

With the support of the Traditional Dispute Resolution Unit, currently being established in the Ministry of Justice, traditional leaders will be trained to identify sensitive cases that need to be referred to the mobile courts.

The Police Commissioner for Bay region and acting Police Commissioner for Southwest State, Mahad Abdirahman, noted that “In Southwest State we use Islamic sharia, traditional dispute resolution and formal laws. We, as police, acknowledge the role traditional dispute resolution elders play and view them as a support system. They often have a bigger capacity than the Police in Southwest State”, during a workshop dedicated to the establishment of priorities in South-West State for 2017.