Dear colleagues,

With the closing of the third quarter for 2017, Somalia’s operational context is still significantly affected by protracted conflicts and recurring calamities, including the ongoing drought and resultant displacement. The UN MPTF newsletter for Q3 2017 continues to be shaped by the collective efforts of the UN Somalia and wider International Community to fight drought, internal displacement and its impacts. However, under the leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), efforts have also started to take shape on finding durable solutions and (re)building resilience, particularly under the ongoing Drought Impact Needs Assessment (DINA) and Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF).

IOM’s involvement under the UN MPTF is very much in line with finding long term solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), within the framework of the Somali Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) and the National Development Plan. Over the course of the year, a drastic increase in displacement due to drought has been putting additional strain on scarce resources in new and existing displacement settlements, as well as on host communities. The Midnimo (unity) programme under the Peacebuilding Fund aims to enable communities residing in these areas to coexist peacefully, access basic services and the means to sustain a living, withstand recurrent drivers of instability and participate fully in civic life. It ultimately intends to promote peacebuilding and stability on the one hand through enhancing local leadership capacities to lead, facilitate and coordinate inclusive planning and recovery programmes in target areas, and on the other hand to empower all individuals living in affected areas to engage in structured dialogue and analyse conflict triggers, prioritise needs, establish dispute resolution systems and eventually take ownership for driving their own recovery process. So far, the target priority areas are six locations within South West and Jubaland states.

Under Midnimo, IOM, in line with its comparative advantage, provides technical and capacity building support to authorities and government departments at federal and district level to facilitate durable solutions. One of the key outcomes of IOM’s work under the Midnimo as well as the Refugee Return & Reintegration joint programme, which is complementary to the Midnimo, is the production of Community Action Plans (CAPs). These plans are the outcome of community consultation processes, led by Core Facilitation Teams, a group of community and local authorities that have been trained by IOM on Community Planning and Consultation Methodology. In Baidoa for example, with support from IOM, the government has carried out community consultations with 100 representatives from IDP settlements, returnees and host communities to assess the current situation in their community and prioritise projects. As a result, projects such as road rehabilitation, bridge construction, construction of a police station and the rehabilitation of a football stadium were identified and prioritised.

As a result, the FGS and particularly local administrations have been increasingly taking ownership in leading grassroots social cohesion initiatives, including allocating land for implementation of community based projects, coordinating community wide culture, art and recreational event and launching Community Action Plans.

Looking ahead, IOM will continue to facilitate community consultations and CAPs in new districts, to which Midnimo is expanding, apply lessons learned and promote a holistic approach with drought/emergency actors to facilitate a smooth transition from humanitarian to long term solutions.

Un MPTF Secretariat Update

- An MPTF strategic workshop with donors, programme managers and technical staff is being held on the 13 November. The outcomes will be presented to and discussed with donors at the upcoming MPTF donor briefing on 24 November.

- The MPTF Report for Q3 2017 was issued to donors on 31 October.

- The MPTF Newsletter has been restructured and now aligns with the NDP Pillars.

- Four Joint Programmes have been approved for the SDRF pipeline: Aid Coordination, Human Rights, UNFPA Country Programme, Institutional Development & Capacity Building for Ministry of Internal Security.

Fund Capitalisation

Multi-year Pledges
USD 207.5 million

Paid-in Contributions
USD 194.5 million

- Denmark: USD 19.7 million
- European Union: USD 50 million
- Germany: USD 8.4 million
- Italy: USD 7.5 million
- Norway: USD 13.7 million
- Sweden: USD 33.8 million
- Switzerland: USD 9.5 million
- United Kingdom: USD 36.2 million
- USAID: USD 0.5 million
- UN Peacebuilding Fund: USD 28.1 million
**SUPPORT TO EMERGING FEDERAL STATES**

“The success of a Federal Somalia [reflects] the success of its public servants. Therefore, it is a win-win situation for the newly [joining] interns, officials, civil servants and advisors in the Federal Republic of Somalia at its central and state levels,” emphasised Yusuf Hassan Isak, a young Somali from Baidoa, who after his internship at the South West State Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation was recruited for a full-time job at the Ministry. As part of the Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) Joint Programme, the employment opportunities that young Somalis like Yusuf receive aim to support the Federal Member States in developing and expanding their human resources and public infrastructures.

In an effort to raise awareness and inform the public and stakeholders on the Boundary and Federation Commission (BFC), mandated by the Provisional Constitution of Somalia to make recommendations on the final demarcation and recognition of Federal Member States, a public accountability forum was held in early July in Mogadishu. Territorial and boundary disputes remain one of the main drivers of conflict in Somalia, and activities such as the accountability forum are meant to contribute to fostering peace and reconciliation.

The StEFS also supported reconciliation efforts through a peace conference in Galkayo to address clashes between pastoralist communities, with around 130 representatives from Puntland and Galmudug, including women, youth, and traditional leaders. The conference saw the formation of a Peace Committee, which aims to ensure maintaining peace between pastoralists in Galmudug and Puntland and to bring criminal acts to justice.

Finally, the StEFS provided support to Hirshabelle for its regional presidential elections and observed the process through a high-level delegation.

**CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW SUPPORT**

After developing a Master Plan to lead the review process of Somalia’s Provisional Constitution of 2012, the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA) prepared for the launch of the formal review process, which took place in Puntland. With support of the Constitutional Review Joint Programme, the Master Plan intends to lead to the review of the old Constitution in favour of a new, more popular and inclusive document, which is considered an essential prerequisite for the one-person one-vote elections in 2020/21.

To this effect, the Joint Programme supported MoCA with national and international experts, providing policy advice and technical expertise on the Constitutional Review. To guarantee inclusiveness and transparency, extensive consultations were held with all key role players and stakeholders, including Federal Member States, civil society youth and women representatives, and persons with disabilities, which are crucial for the inclusiveness of the review process. MoCA notably conducted visits to Kismayo, Aadado, Baidoa, and Garowe to ensure the Federal Member States’ support and to engage with them on their participation in the Constitutional Review process. Likewise, a forum was held in Mogadishu by MoCA on 21-22 September with all stakeholders from the federal and states level to exchange views and discuss support needed for the respective Ministries of Constitutional Affairs on their roles and mandates on the constitution, especially on civic education and public awareness.

Furthermore, to raise public awareness through public and print media, a draft media strategy, focusing on engagement of citizens, civil society organisations and community leaders was completed.

**ELECTORAL SUPPORT**

“Somalia and Nigeria have one thing in common – both are emerging from war to democracy. It is important to always share experiences. Indeed, it will be beneficial for the NIEC [National Independent Electoral Commission] to draw from us on how to build strong [electoral] institutions,” noted Mr. Idris, who was part of a Nigerian Delegation participating in a three-day conference in July in Nairobi, to discuss political party registration as a critical first step on the path to universal elections.

Supported by the Joint Programme, the workshop brought together Somalia’s Electoral Commission members with international experts from Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, Tunisia, Nigeria, and Kenya.

“This workshop is very important to us in our mandate of registering and regulating political parties as part of the electoral process. We want to gain experiences and lessons from different parts of the world,” said Halima Ismail Ibrahim, NIEC Chairperson. “At the end of the workshop, we want to be able to answer all the questions related to the electoral process – political parties’ fees, membership and other requirements.”

Following the event, the NIEC launched the temporary registration process of political parties at the end of September, which precedes parties’ official registration at a later stage, once voters will be registered across different regions. Alongside, a Voter Registration Feasibility Study was initiated to take stock of all aspects related to the introduction of a voter registration system for Somalia.

Another highlight for the Joint Programme was the development of a new, revised Programme Document for 2018, which focuses on the essential building blocks to prepare for universal one-person, one-vote elections in 2020/21.

**PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT**

“It is important to take concrete actions for gender equality, and our committee will investigate issues related to gender-based violence and discrimination,” said Mariam Mohamoud Isse, Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights, Women and Humanitarian Affairs Committee of the Federal House of the People during the “Leadership for Results” training in Entebbe in September 2017. With support from the Parliamentary Support Joint Programme, the five-day event focused on strengthening capacity of Somali Members of Parliament and Senators from Federal and State Parliaments to promote gender responsive reforms and on how to strategically address the underlying social causes of gender inequality.

The Joint Programme also continued to provide operational support to all Parliaments in Somalia, for example through the construction of the secretariat building for South West State Assembly, which was completed and handed over to the State Assembly on 15 August. This will enable the South West State Assembly to effectively undertake its functions of law making, oversight and representation.

A total of seven bills were approved in the past quarter by the Federal Parliament and the Puntland House of Representatives, including the draft bill on National Telecommunication, which was unanimously accepted by both Federal Houses of Parliament. The bill aims to establish a national telecommunications agency and to develop the legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for the country’s telecommunications sector.

**WOMEN’S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT**

In preparation for the upcoming elections in Somaliland, the Women’s Political Leadership & Empowerment Joint Programme supported the formation of a gender quota task force. Including representatives from civil society, line ministries and other women activists, the group conducted five major advocacy gatherings. Based on the experience and lessons learned from the federal elections in Somalia, and through to the advoca-
cy effort, three political parties have now enacted the 30% women quota for parliamentary elections in their political manifestos. As part of the advocacy gatherings, 38 women from Somaliland engaged with high-level party candidates on getting their commitment on the 30% gender quota.

Finally, a lesson learned assessment was conducted on Women's Political Participation in the 2016 Electoral Process and the Way Forward to advance Women's Role in Governance in Somalia. Informed by two forums led in Mogadishu and Nairobi, the assessment highlighted major challenges faced by women in elections, identified opportunities for the 2020/21 elections, and produced significant recommendations for the various stakeholders involved in the electoral process ahead of women’s political participation agenda.

**JOINT PROGRAMME ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

“We [the Federal Government of Somalia] are dedicated to forming district councils to realise and contribute to peace in the country and to fulfil the three tiers of government which Somalia has undertaken: Federal, State and Local Government. It is important that people living in a district receive basic services from their government,” said Somalia’s Federal Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation, Abdi Farah Saeed, at the launch of the landmark Local Government Law on 21 August in Kismayo, highlighting how the Federal Government of Somalia has prioritised district council formation.

Supported by the Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLF), this event followed the official launch of the enactment of the Local Government Law in South West State on 11 July and set the foundations for the first phase of district council formation in Baidoa, Hudur, Berdaale, Elberde and Barawe districts.

To develop knowledge in effective local governance, a high-level delegation from the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States and the Somali Local Governance Institute visited Uganda between 9-16 July 2017 for a benchmarking exercise. The delegation, who was received by high-level Ugandan counterparts at the Uganda Management Institute (UMI) in Kampala, responsible for civil service management training, gained first-hand experience of how civil service training and development is carried out in the country and will use the knowledge exchange to develop training in Somalia.

“The challenges faced by the Somali Local Governance Institute might be different from what we, UMI, face. But we’ll overcome all these by sharing knowledge and experience and by creating a platform where knowledge exchange can happen,” stated the Director General of the UMI, highlighting the importance of providing high quality civil service training and sharing knowledge on effective civil service management.

**RULE OF LAW / POLICE STIPENDS**

“The idea was to give women space to express how they feel about the traditional justice system and whether it protects women’s rights,” explained Virginie Blanchard, a Judicial Affairs Officer from the Rule of Law Joint Programme, who organised a series of consultative meetings with a cross-section of Somali women leaders to collect their views on the traditional justice system. With support of the Joint Programme, the meetings explored the challenges women face in accessing justice and addressed proposals for reforms.

Stressing the issues women face when trying to access justice, Ms. Abshira Qamis Ismail, the Chairperson of the Kismayo Women’s Cooperation organization, explained that “We don’t have women to whom we can report our cases. We don’t have female elders to whom we can tell our private issues. We don’t have women to address the problems we face.”

Lul Issak Adan of the Somalia South-Central Non-State Actors, a local NGO, described the meeting in Baidoa as an eye-opening exercise for women. “This forum has enlightened us about our rights. Since there is the traditional law and traditional courts and we are women, the rights of women are always violated as elders try to resolve our cases traditionally,” Ms. Lul said. The Joint Programme continues to facilitate access to justice in remoted areas of the country thanks to its mobile courts, in an effort to provide judicial services to more and more Somalis. To expand the use of mobile courts across the Federal Member States of Jubbaland, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmudug, a knowledge sharing tour on mobile courts and legal aid took place in July with judicial officials of the four states. This was also an occasion for participants to observe how legal aid provision, alternative dispute resolution and scholarship programmes work.

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

In July, a delegation of the Puntland Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (PGGAB) visited the Rwanda Ombudsmn’s Office in Kigali. As part of the Capacity Development Programme, the mission intended to support South-South cooperation between the PGGAB and its Rwandan counterpart.

During the week-long visit, the PGGAB Director General, Mr. Abdirahman Gureye met with the Rwanda Ombudsmn, Mrs. Aloysie Cyanzayire, and discussed at length issues around the fight against anti-corruption in both Rwanda and Somalia’s Puntland State as well as other issues, such as how Rwanda has developed its own anti-corruption system. A number of opportunities to engage with the Rwandan counterparts resulted from the mission. It also gave the delegation insights into how it can improve the structure of the PGGAB and how to create links with international organisations.

The Programme also continued its substantial support to the Aid Coordination Unit under the Office of the Prime Minister with staff, operational funds as well as technical advice. The ACU operated appropriately and successfully convened the first Pillar Working Group meeting on the National Development Plan on 24 July as well as the SDRF Steering Committee meeting on 26 July.

In parallel, the Puntland Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation hosted the second Puntland Development Forum (PDF) on 10 August. The forum hosted all chairs and co-chairs of the six newly set up regional working groups to discuss challenges faced by the forum and work on solutions. The Capacity Development Programme provided support through local advisors, who introduced new ideas, techniques as well strategies on how to handle the aid coordination mechanism through the Pillar Working Group strategy.

**JOINT PROGRAMME ON ENABLERS**

The RCO has been providing coordination support to a number of high-level developments, such as the implementation arrangements of the UN Strategic Framework, or the revised aid architecture, including support to the SDRF Steering Committees, to new or revised MPPT Joint Programmes going through the SDRF governance structure, and to the organisation of the Somalia Partnership Forum in December.

In a broader partnership with UNDP, the EU, the World Bank and line ministries, the RCO has been coordinating the Drought Impact Needs Assessment (DINA) with a view to develop a Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF). The DINA will assess the long-term impact of recurrent droughts and identify underlying drivers of vulnerability. As a result, a report with recommendations on how to build resilience and durable solutions to climate-induced
shocks will be finalised by the end of November.

In Somaliland, the RCO supported the Ministry of National Planning and Development on the launch of Somaliland’s second National Development Plan on 29 July 2017. The RCO has also sekconded a national staff to support the translation of the Somaliland NDP into Somali.

UNDSS continued to provide its Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) in Garowe, Hargeisa, Galkayo, Bossaso and Dollow, enabling UN agencies and international staff to operate in these locations and provide much-needed relief to drought-affected areas. However, due to lack of financial resources, UNDSS had to decrease its overall MERT capacity and drought support surge capacity over the past months.

The RMU, in cooperation with the NGO Consortium, has completed the study on impact and effectiveness of collective risk management systems established in Somalia since 2011. The recommendations are currently being reviewed by risk working groups on how to best operationalise them in a coordinated manner.

To increase knowledge on risk management and to provide visibility on ongoing risk management efforts across the International Community, the first quarterly ‘Risk Management in Somalia’ newsletter has been published on 9 October and was shared with donors, partners, UN staff and key government counterparts. The newsletter includes a quarterly overview of risk management activities and human-interest stories from NGOs and the UN and can be found here.

UN Women facilitated a national coordination platform on women peace and security in July, which aims at consolidating joint advocacy efforts to facilitate women’s effective participation in ongoing political processes and peacebuilding efforts. Finally, with UN MPTF support, UN Women provided technical support to ensure gender-responsiveness of the results and resource framework of the UNSF and is leading UN focal point on the National Development Plan Pillar Working Group 9 on gender and human rights.

**ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SOMALIA**

To empower disadvantaged communities in Bosaso, the Youth Employment Somalia (YES) Joint Programme conducted fish consumption campaigns, which included the promotion of dried fish consumption through cooking demonstrations and distribution of dried fish. To test the marketability of the small-scale commercial production of higher value chain dried fish, 20 kilos of dried fish are provided to a Nairobi vendor every six weeks.

The YES further undertook preparations ahead of the implementation of the skills training programme that will take place in the next months. To support the skills training programme, labour assessments for the major industries in Mogadishu were conducted to understand the challenges faced by particular sectors, and to take stock of the potential to employ young Somalis. In addition, young people in Mogadishu were surveyed about their aspirations, challenges to find jobs, and opinions on relevant skills and opportunities on the labour market.

In continuous response to the drought, cash-for-work activities created short-term employment for over 1000 drought-affected youth in Somaliand and South West State. In three villages in Aynabo, Somaliland, three water catchments were built or rehabilitated, and will help locals collecting water during dry season. In Bosaso, temporary employment for 150 young Somalis was offered thank to the construction of five fish processing facilities, while, in South West State, short-term job creation supported the sanitation and improvement of living environment of 51 new displacement camps in Baidoa through garbage collection from the camps to designated collection centers.

**SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL REDUCTION**

After its second Programme Steering Committee, the Joint Programme on Charcoal Reduction is embarking on a new implementation phase, gearing towards promoting businesses conducive to using alternative energy sources. The Steering Committee also saw the first allocation of funds to the UN Environment (formerly known as UNEP), who will support regional coordination, environment diplomacy and monitoring of charcoal trade. In addition, the Joint Programme allocated funds towards covering energy needs of vulnerable internally displaced communities in Somalia.

The Steering Committee was attended by representatives on federal and state level and led to several recommendations to frame and boost up deliverables over the next months. As charcoal production remains a main source of livelihoods for many poor and vulnerable households and alternative sources of energy are absent as of now, several strategies, such as investing in affordable alternative source of energy were highlighted by the Committee to tackle the demand side of the issue.

Through remote sensing activities conducted between the North of South West State to the South of Jubbaland State, the Joint Programme was able to spotlight severe damages on the environment. The analysis showed mass deforestation and an increase in charcoal production sites with a considerable estimate loss of one tree every minute. Based on those results, the Joint Programme completed the draft of a national and regional policy on Somalia charcoal trade and use.

**REFUGEE RETURN & REINTEGRATION**

To enhance Somali voluntary returnees’ capacities for economic revitalisation, various training institutions in Nairobi and Dadaab provided skills development and livelihood courses to 526 people through the Refugee Return & Reintegration Joint Programme.

The trainings that were offered to future returnees covered a wide range of areas such as solar/electrical installation, plumbing, motor vehicle maintenance services, leather works, or painter and decorator. In parallel, other trainings benefitting 465 prospective returnees to Baidoa focused on peacebuilding and conflict resolutions as well as community reconciliation and positive participation in democratic governance. These are key areas to ensure the success of the returnees’ reintegration and set the basis for peaceful coexistence with host communities.

To contribute to local employment creation and economic development, 60 teachers were trained on delivering child-centered pedagogy, gender awareness and psychosocial support for both host and returnee children as to ensure social cohesion among school children from different backgrounds. To ease the process, 14 child-to-child clubs were also established and received training on child-led advocacy and peer-to-peer learning approaches. In addition, 1,863 children from 14 target schools were supported with distribution of school furniture, school material and campaigns of hygiene prevention.

**NATIONAL WINDOW**

**PILOT PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY**

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) launched this quarter two projects under Phase 1 in Kismayo and Banadir: The construction of the Kismayo Regional and District Court House and Installation of Solar Street Lights in three roads of Banadir.
The two projects that are to be implemented in Galmudug state under Phase 2 were advertised for bids in August. In total, the PIU received 19 bids for the construction of the new Mayor’s office in North Galkayo district as well as a new office for the Mayor, with an annexed court room in Bandiiradley, South Galkayo. Two bids received for Bandiiradley were responsive and technically qualified while the invitation to bid for North Galkayo needed to be re-advertised for two weeks, with additional clarifications and additional outreach.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) Procurement Department and PIU bid evaluation committee underwent a training workshop in September to discuss bid opening and bid evaluation of civil works, integrity risks in public procurement and more specifically risks in civil works projects.

As issues related to procurement efficiency, project and contract management and monitoring were addressed during the mid-term review, the training intended to guide the final evaluation panel on the upcoming bidding process jointly with the other departments of the Ministry of Finance and local authorities.

In addition, PIU procurement specialists attended a three-day training on the strategy to expedite the preparation and evaluation of bids/proposals and familiarise with the World Bank online system for procurement activities.

**MIDNIMO**

The Midnimo Joint Programme continued technical and capacity building support to municipal authorities and relevant government departments to facilitate durable solutions in areas impacted by displacement and refugee returns. To ensure the internally displaced persons’ and returnees’ peaceful coexistence with their host communities while pursuing durable solutions, the Joint Programme facilitated participatory consultative processes with communities in Jubbaland and South West State and developed toolkits for community-action planning living in the outskirts of cities, mobile courts were further extended in Garbaharey and Kismayo, set up to further sensitize community members on civic education issues.

In addition, over 1,000 people attended a series of drama and poetry presentations in Garbaharey and Kismayo, set up to further sensitize community members on civic education issues.

Finally, to extend justice services to the rural, displaced and returnee population living in the outskirts of cities, mobile courts were further extended in South West State. 64 cases, including theft, misappropriation, damage, and family matters in particular, were adjudicated this quarter across Banadir, Jubbaland, South West State and Hirshabelle.

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**DALDHIS**

“Do I deserve this? I do not, which I will say!” Recited by a representative of a women’s group, these first lines of a poem picture the issue of marginalisation of women. The poem was recited at one of many community meetings in Kismayo, facilitated by KAAH Relief and Development, as part of their civic education activities. With support from Daldis, four community and government interface meetings were organised to raise awareness about civic rights, local government responsibilities for service delivery, and citizens’ obligations to participate in their own development. Among other issues, youth and women’s marginalisation and the consequences of the country’s 4.5 clan system of power-sharing on social cohesion were tackled by the 200 participants, which included women, youth, community elders and civil society representatives.

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