

THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALILAND & UN WORKING PROTOCOL

Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The Government of Somaliland appreciate the continued and long-standing collaboration with the UN which has contributed to real and tangible achievements in the development progress Somaliland achieved over the years of its existence. Recently, this mutual relationship has become doubtful following perceived impartiality by the UN in resource allocation and lack of consultation as well. We believe this collaboration can only advance if the United Nations is a neutral partner providing equitable support and fully accountable to the GoSL for the development and humanitarian assistance taking place in its country.

The Government of Somaliland aims to reinstate the Somaliland Special Arrangement (SSA) with the international community. The Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 of the United Nations is required to align with the country's National Development Plans (NDPs) and SSA. The NDP defines the national priorities and guides external assistance it requires from the international community and other key stakeholders both domestic and international. The National Development Plan reflects the realities in Somaliland and is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The NDP2 is developed on a sectoral, results-based approach which constitute the government's national priorities and the overarching framework guiding all development interventions in the country while reflecting the specific situation and context. The next NDP3 will still focus existing pillars incorporated with lessons learned following review and assessment currently in progress.

Objectives

- The GoSL and the UN to sign a Cooperation Framework directly aligned with the National Development Plan II and beyond.
- Avoid politicisation of the AID for the Somali people through the alignment with the Federal Government of Somalia NDP,
- Provide a clear framework for strengthening collaboration between the GoSL and UN
- To establish a quota for the equitable distribution of funds challenged through the UN for Somaliland & Somalia
- Ensure UN support is not used to facilitate, expand and impose the federalist system of Somalia into Somaliland

The Republic of Somaliland has never been part of the federal system and has not had formal communications for three decades with Somalia. The UN is expected to engage with the Government of Somaliland as a separate entity while respecting its territorial integrity and right for self-determination.

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The GoSL expects from the UN not to politicise the development and humanitarian aid earmarked for the Somaliland population and not to facilitate, expand and promote in any form the federal system into Somaliland. The cooperation framework has to reflect the priorities of the country by aligning with the National Development Plan (NDP).

Principle Components

1. The political mission (UNSOM) Office in Somaliland

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) office in Somaliland to close on the 31st of December 2020. The UNSOM office is a political mission with the aim of supporting, strengthening and expanding federalisation in line with the federal governments' agenda and its' NDP. The Republic of Somaliland is not part of the federal system of Somalia and as such there is no need for this office in Somaliland.

2. Equitable share resources

The UN administration of funds are to be equitably allocated between Somaliland and Somalia, based on agreed formula at the time of the union of the two states in 1960 for the formation of their first parliament, which was worked out as 33% for Somaliland. Subsequently, this share will be held ring-fenced for programs through a separate management structure led by the GoSL.

3. A separate UN cooperation framework with the Government of Somaliland

A separate UN cooperation framework which is directly aligned with the National Development Plans is to be agreed and signed with the Government of Somaliland – not combined country programs with Somalia. All programs supported through the UN agencies for all sectors will be separated in planning, implementation and reporting and will be led by the government of Somaliland.

4. The Official Map, Regions, Districts and name of the Republic of Somaliland

All UN agencies are required to use the official name, map, regions and districts of the Republic of Somaliland for all official communications, project documents, business cards, reports and any form of printed materials in compliance with the directive and country's regulations. All assistance intended for eastern regions of

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Somaliland can only be supported from Somaliland and not from the other side of the border.

5. Official name of the UN Mission in Somaliland

The GoSL requires to agree with the UN on what will be the its name when in Somaliland other than “Somalia” which is definitely an itch on our back. GoSL wants something neutral to be used for all aspects of the UN deliberations; reports, documentations, visibilities and etc.

6. Country Representative/Head office

All UN agencies operating in Somaliland shall have their official country office headquarters and separate representative in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The head of the organisation will be independent from Mogadishu and the CR/HO role cannot be shared with Somalia.

7. UN Sub-offices in the eastern regions

The GoSL is requesting the establishment of sub-offices in Burao for key UN agencies to get closer to the communities in need and get assistance nearer to the beneficiaries. This will also build confidence of the population that resources are equitably distributed and will help remove misconceptions of concentrating activities to certain parts of the country.

8. Security report

The GoSL recognise its responsibility to protect all personnel from the government, humanitarian and developmental non-government organisations (UN and NGOs), large and small, to enable them to undertake their work safely.

The GoSL will develop a security plan specifying the approach, responsibilities and resources applied to manage security risks. The security plan allows entities to review the degree of security risk that exists in different areas of operations and take action to mitigate identified risks. This will include a capacity building plan for key personnel from different government institutions to form a body that will conduct the national security risk assessment, which will be guided by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines.

The plan will also establish a security risk management process which manages risks across all areas of security (government, non-governmental, information,

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personnel and physical) to determine sources of threat and risk, and potential events that could affect government or entity business. Security risk management includes:

- i. Security risk assessments, which are structured and comprehensive processes to identify, analyse and evaluate security risks and determine practical steps to contain or minimise the risks
- ii. Security risk treatments, which are the considered, coordinated and efficient actions and resources required to mitigate or lessen the likelihood or negative consequences of risks.
- iii. Produce security report that guides all government and non-governmental organisations operating across the country.

Programmatic Components

9. Signing of donor agreements and Annual Work Plans

The Ministry of National Planning and National Development to co-sign all donor agreements and will co-sign the annual work plans with the relevant government institution with each UN agency. All LoAs with implementing partners will be co-signed by the MoPND as the case is with other International Partners.

10. UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) – Somaliland

A separate component of the multi partner trust fund is established for Somaliland led by the GoSL that:

- is aligned with national priorities set out in the NDP
- the GoSL co-sign all project financing agreement with the donor
- the GoSL to chair the MPTF governance structure, i.e. steering committee or similar structures
- The MoPND Coordination Department perform the function of a technical secretariat.

11. Utilisation of the government financial system

Resources earmarked for the Republic of Somaliland will be channelled through the government's financial system in order to support the government PFM reform and at the same time help identify capacity gaps from the government institutions to tailor appropriate capacity building programmes.

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12. Somaliland Humanitarian Response Plan (SL/HRP)

Support the development of a separate government led annual Humanitarian Response Plan. This will not be incorporated with the Humanitarian Response Plan of Somalia at any point.

13. Handover of key programmes to the Government of Somaliland

It is time to transfer some of the programmes UN agencies were running for quite a long time to the GoSL. This includes The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit-under the FAO. Activities that require simple skills that are already available locally cannot be justified to remain in the hands of the partner for such a long time. UN agencies are to capacitate local people so that they lead their destiny in all aspects of life.

A government-led evidence-based analysis of Somaliland food, nutrition and livelihood security to enable both short-term emergency responses and long-term strategic planning to promote food and livelihood security for the people Somaliland is something the government can comfortably implement, therefore, to be handed over to the GoSL by March 2021.

Until then, data from FSNAU in Somaliland will not be aggregated with data from Somalia and it cannot be used to produce a joint report by any partner.

14. The Somali Humanitarian Fund (SHF) – a Somaliland component

A Somaliland component of the SHF that support the most urgent life-saving interventions should be developed and that:

- the SHF Advisory Board is held in Hargeisa
- aligned with the Somaliland Humanitarian Response Plan
- it supports the GoSL to respond to emerging humanitarian needs or rapidly deteriorating situations.

15. National Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

All partners are required to be in compliance, align with and support the MoPND to conduct Joint monitoring and evaluation of all programs at national level. Reports will

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be shared with all stakeholders and in the event of significant discrepancies, verification visits will be commissioned before final report is endorsed.

The MoPND will conduct a sectoral quarterly review with the Government institutions and supporting UN agencies to monitor and track progress.

16. Survey and Researches

All national surveys, researches and assessments will be coordinated by the MoPND and will adhere to the survey protocol set by the Central Statistics Department at the Ministry and in accordance with the Statistics Act. Any data from Somaliland cannot be combined with data from Somalia for producing a combined report, strategic plans, gap analysis, project planning or evaluation, and etc.

17. Social safety net projects

Projects that provide unconditional cash and food coupons and related interventions raise concerns pertaining to potentially encouraging a vicious cycle of dependency. There are a quite large portions of development assistance that are diverted to cash handouts without an envisaged time framework or an exit strategy. Continuation of such cash distribution programs are inhibiting beneficiaries from pursuing their own livelihoods and reduce them to dwell in uncertain future.

We are, therefore, proposing to work with the UN to review the usefulness of these interventions beyond the period of emergency, case-by- case, and find ways of reinstating previous occupations of the cash-recipient communities or equip them with skills and tools that help them find new jobs in the rural and urban markets.

18. Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Improved Policy Development, Analysis, Implementation and Sectors Coordination

The MoPND will lead the quarterly sectoral coordination mechanism and will not be reported to in any way or be linked to the cluster structure in Somalia. Department of Coordination is tasked to take up that role as part of its mandate and expect all partners establish their contacts or appoint Focal Points to interface with the department in carrying out these responsibilities.

In order this department provide services required by the international and national partners, it is necessary to build its capacity; technical and managerial, by allocating resources that enables staff become professional and efficient. The intention is:

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- To support the Government of Somaliland in developing policies, strengthen institutional management and enhance institutional capacity necessary for policy formulation implementation, and oversight.
- To promote evidence-based planning and strengthen core government institutions and functions for enhanced service delivery, economic growth, and poverty reduction.
- Improve Sector Coordination Mechanism for efficient and timely reporting.

19. Compliance with the directive from the Ministry of Planning and National Development dated 16th August 2020

All UN agencies required to be in full compliance to the directive from the ministry of planning and national development dated 16th August 2020 and updated in 18 November 2020.