



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF SOMALIA



# VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT 2022

2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





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# ACRONYMS

<b>AMISOM</b>	African Union Mission to Somalia	<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
<b>ATMIS</b>	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia	<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>CID</b>	Criminal Investigation Departments	<b>LME</b>	Large Marine Ecosystem
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer Price Index	<b>LTE</b>	Long Term Evolution
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>MOCI</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
<b>DG</b>	Director-General	<b>NACS</b>	National Anti-Corruption Strategy
<b>DNS</b>	Directorate of National Statistics	<b>NAR</b>	Net Attendance Ratio
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>NCCP</b>	National Climate Change Policy
<b>MOECHE</b>	Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education	<b>NDP-9</b>	Ninth National Development Plan
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>EMIS</b>	Education management information systems	<b>NPDRR</b>	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>ESP</b>	Electricity Service Providers	<b>NRF</b>	National Reconciliation Framework
<b>ESSP</b>	Education Sector Strategic Plan	<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister
<b>FCV</b>	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence	<b>OOP</b>	Out of Pocket
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment	<b>PESS</b>	Population Estimation Survey
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation	<b>IPRSP</b>	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>FGS</b>	Federal Government of Somalia	<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>FMS</b>	Federal Member States	<b>SARIS</b>	Somalia Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Services
<b>FRS</b>	Federal Republic of Somalia	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>FSNAU</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit.	<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and gender-based violence
<b>GAR</b>	Gross Attendance Ratio	<b>SHDS</b>	Somali Health and Demographic Survey
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>SHFS</b>	Somali High frequency Survey
<b>GBVIMS</b>	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System	<b>SNBS</b>	Somali National Bureau of Statistics
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage
<b>GER</b>	Gross Enrolment Ratio	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>MOHADM</b>	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>HIPC</b>	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology	<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistics Division
<b>IDA</b>	International Development Association	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced people	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>IE</b>	Inclusive Education	<b>MOWHD</b>	Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development
<b>IFPA</b>	Indicator of Food Price Anomalies		
<b>IGAD</b>	Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development		
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization		
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund		
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Phase Classification		
<b>IPRSP</b>	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper		
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence		

## FOREWORD



The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is privileged to present its first submission of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report. Under the leadership and coordination of the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS), the compilation of the VNR report followed an inclusive and participatory consultative process involving active contributions from civil society, women and youth groups, the private sector and the Federal level and Federal Member States' (FMS) representatives. All contributions have been incorporated into the report. SNBS would also like to acknowledge and thank UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for their support to Somalia's VNR process.

As Somalia continues to emerge from decades of civil strife, which has transformed society, the country has in the past decade been on an upward trajectory towards lasting stability and sustainable development. However, Somalia is still vulnerable to a myriad of domestic and global challenges, including Covid-19 and climate-related shocks, which have had adverse effects on livelihoods and displaced thousands. This has exacerbated poverty and inequality, thus decelerating the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite these challenges, the submission of this year's VNR is a clear attestation of Somalia's strong efforts towards undertaking multi-sectoral reforms and its commitment to the realization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as envisioned by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The 2022 VNR report has provided Somalia with a perfect opportunity to gauge progress against the Goals, share contextual challenges and experiences, and draw pertinent lessons, which we plan to present to UN member countries at the High-Level Political Forum meeting in July 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sharmarke Farah', written over a faint blue line.

**Sharmarke Farah**  
Director General  
Somali National Bureau of Statistics

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is honoured to present its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. As this is the first submission of the VNR report, the drafting of the report has been a welcomed opportunity to reflect and learn from Somalia's progress, including the challenges and re-align on way forward.

### SDG Performance Summary

#### Goal 1: No poverty

Poverty in Somalia is driven by political fragility, conflict, and insecurity and is exacerbated by climate emergencies. Sixty-eight per cent live below the poverty line comprising nearly seven out of ten Somalis, according to data from 2017<sup>1</sup>. The group most impacted by poverty are internally displaced persons (IDPs), and as of 2019, 17% of the population were displaced.

Poverty increased from 43 per cent in 2002 to 68 per cent in 2017. The increase can be attributed to recurrent external shocks and natural disasters, which have created widespread displacement and considerable demographical shifts.

#### Goal 2: Zero Hunger

The majority of Somalia's adult population, 79 per cent, is experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity<sup>2</sup>. In 2022, food security in Somalia worsened with an estimated 4.8 million people (or 31% of the total population) already experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes<sup>3</sup>.

Humanitarian assistance to affected populations reached 1.3 million in January 2022 and 2 million in February 2022<sup>4</sup>. However, this support is being outpaced by the rapid increase of the food insecure population caused by newly displaced populations, increasing gaps in household food consumption and loss of livelihood assets, and worsening acute malnutrition. Moreover, the ongoing war in Ukraine is expected to increase pressure on food prices for commodities such as wheat, thus

further exacerbating the food insecurity. According to the Observatory of Economic Complexity, in 2020, Ukraine exported \$18.6 million worth of food products to Somalia, which has likely decreased due to the war.<sup>5</sup>

Timely humanitarian interventions during the 2016-2017 severe drought stopped more extreme outcomes, and the same response is required to prevent the risk of life-threatening food security and nutrition results, including Famine in mid-2022.

Throughout the years, there has been a decrease in the proportion of children who are severely malnourished, from an average of about 17% to an average of about 10%, which is a testament to the increasing capacity of the Government as well as the FMS efforts to provide nutrition to young children. Consequently, Somalia made significant process in reducing the level of stunting among children. In 2019, 27 per cent of children under the age of five were stunted or too short for their age<sup>6</sup>, decreasing from 38 per cent in 2006<sup>7</sup>.

#### Goal 3: Good health and Wellbeing

Somalia has reduced maternal mortality from 732 in 2015 to 692 per 100,000 live births<sup>8</sup> in 2020. Despite the gains made, Somalia still faces significant challenges in maternal mortality rates, which can be attributed to low uptake of antenatal care and postnatal care and a low number of delivery at health facilities or with skilled health care providers.

The number of people living with HIV in 2014 was approximately 35,000, with an HIV prevalence (15-49 years) of 0.55%. The HIV prevalence (15-49 years) in 2014 is estimated at 0.78% in Somaliland,

1 Somalia High Frequency Survey Wave 2 2017  
2 Food and Agricultural Organization 2019 reported by United Nations Statistics Division in SNBS data  
3 Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit 2022  
4 Id.

5 Observatory of Economic Complexity 2021  
6 Somali Health Demographic Survey 2020  
7 Multi Indicator Cluster Survey 2006  
8 Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020



0.59% in Puntland, and 0.38% in South Central.<sup>9</sup> Health worker density remains very low at 1.12 per 10,000 in 2014. Additionally, 78.4% of healthcare workers are male, while 21.5% are female.

The Covid19 pandemic occurred while the country was still recovering from the 2017 drought, which had a harmful effect on an already fragile economy. Somalia has a total of 26,439 confirmed cases and 1,361 deaths from Covid19 although this figure is likely to be significantly higher due to the lack of recorded data. The Ministry of Health and Social Services delivered a vaccination campaign which led to the administering of 2.6million doses, reaching 1.3million people (approximately 17 per cent of the population). Covid-19's effects on the economy have been substantial, with Somalia's GDP dropping to -0.3 per cent in 2020, compared to the 3.2 per cent growth predicted for the same year.

#### Goal 4: Quality Education.

Weak institutions in Somalia have contributed to the privatisation of the educational sector, which has led to limiting access to education to families with financial resources able to meet the cost of private education. Unfortunately, those without financial means are consequently excluded from receiving education. As a result, only 53 per cent of children and 55 per cent of youth attend school in Somalia<sup>10</sup>. Nonetheless, Somalia made progress in increasing literacy, particularly for women, from 32 per cent to 44.4 per cent of Somali women aged 15-24.

Notwithstanding challenges within the educational sector, there is also a gender gap, which disproportionately affects Somali women. According to the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey, 47 per cent of females aged six and up have never attended school, compared to 44 per cent of men and boys. Men were 23 per cent more likely than women to have completed secondary or higher education. Youth and adult Enrolment rates are still low at 14 per cent, indicating that many children who are eligible for school are missing out. Males had a higher Gross Attendance Ratio than girls, with 41 and 37 per cent respectively at the elementary school level and 28 and 21 per cent at the secondary school level.

#### Goal 5: Gender Equality

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and gender-based violence (GBV) is most often under-reported in Somalia due to stigmatization. Data shows that 18 per cent ever-partnered urban women and girls of ages 15-49 have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months<sup>11</sup>. This is compared to 12.9 per cent of rural women and 8.7 per cent of nomadic women.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains prevalent in Somalia, with 99% of Somali women aged 15-49 having undergone female circumcision<sup>12</sup>. There is currently no legislation against FGM; however, notable progress has been made in the Government's Provisional Constitution with the defining of FGM as 'torture'. Moreover, the Government, with support from international partners, is currently developing a national strategy to advise efforts to eradicate FGM.

Somalia is making slow progress in improving gender balance in parliament. In the lead up to the 2021/2022 elections, advocacy work on securing a 30% quota of legislative seats continued but yielded fewer results. In the 2022 elections, a total of 54 women, 20 per cent, were elected out of the 275 House of the Peoples seats, falling short of the 30 per cent goal and attaining fewer than the 24% achieved in the 2016 elections.

#### Goal 6: Clean water and Sanitation

The proportion of the population using basic drinking water services, increased from 29 per cent in 2006<sup>13</sup> to 66 per cent in 2019<sup>14</sup>. Further, according to the 2020 Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SDHS), a considerable 78.6 per cent of the urban population are using basic drinking water services, whilst 53.5 per cent of the rural population use basic drinking water services. Overall, seven out of ten households, at 67 per cent, use an improved source that provides safe drinking water.

Forty per cent of Somalia's population uses basic sanitation services across the country, comprised of 33.6 per cent rural population and 49.5 per cent urban population.

Significant progress has been recorded in the

9 UNAIDS 2014

10 Somalia High Frequency Survey 2018

11 Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020

12 Somali Health Demographic Survey 2020

13 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

14 Somali Health Demographic Survey 2020

proportion of people practicing open defecation, which has decreased from 35% in 2015<sup>15</sup> to 18% in 2019<sup>16</sup>.

### Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

In Somalia, energy access in general and electricity access in particular are widely recognized as major drivers of economic growth. At present, the country has not achieved much progress on this sector. Due to inadequate infrastructure and regulatory framework, the supply is highly fragmented and therefore inefficient, leading to one of the highest prices in the world. There was a decrease in the proportion of the population with access to electricity from 52 per cent in 2017<sup>17</sup> to 49 per cent in 2019<sup>18</sup>.

### Goal 8: Economic Growth

The Government has made commendable progress toward establishing institutions which are key to sustaining and improving macroeconomic stability and managing aligning fiscal dynamics. Positive trends are manifest in remittance, capacity to produce credible statistics on economic performance, a fast-developing financial sector, a growing commitment by the diaspora to invest locally, and a more predictable environment in which to do business. The recovery from the 2017 drought and a slow recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 are further causes for optimism.

The economy is dominated by the livestock sector, which constitutes 50% of Somalia's exports and generates trade worth an estimated 30% of Somalia's gross domestic product (GDP). The Federal Government's efforts to re-introduce corporate and sales tax have yielded impressive results with an increase in domestic revenue by more than 37 per cent, from \$671.8 million in 2021 to \$918.7 million in 2022 (including grants), the largest budget ever passed by the Cabinet.

According to the SNBS 2019 Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate was 21.4 per cent, with respective rates of 18.4 per cent and 27.4 per cent for males and females. The unemployment rate was slightly higher in urban areas (21.7 per cent) than in rural areas (20.1 per cent).

### Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The Information Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Somalia has flourished under a self-regulated private sector system and is known to be a key contributor to the economy. ICT is one of the fastest growing sectors and the third largest industry by employment in the country. The sector generates substantial profit which has enabled a mobile penetration rate of about 10 subscriptions per 100 people. The most readily available ICT media are radio and mobile phones<sup>19</sup>. Somalia made significant progress in access to data with 38.7% of the population having 3G mobile data access in 2016<sup>20</sup> compared to 65.2% of the population in 2017.<sup>21</sup>

### Goal 13: Climate Action

Somalia is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. Since 2011, Somalia has suffered from more frequent and prolonged climate-related disasters such as droughts, floods with the addition of cyclones and even locust infestations in the last two years. These disasters continue to destroy Somalia's eco-systems, threaten food security and increase conflict over resource scarcity. The latest drought, in 2021, hit as the country was still recovering from the 2017 drought, which led to a humanitarian situation affecting 4.5million people and displacing 700,000<sup>22</sup>.

In 2016, The Federal Republic of Somalia became a signatory of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, which has helped nations with setting long-term goals to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions; and to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius. The Agreement also commits to providing financing support to developing countries to mitigate climate changes, strengthen resilience, and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts. The Government becoming a signatory of the historical agreement has helped to advance the inclusion of climate-related policies within the national agenda.

The Government has made considerable efforts to institutionalise and mainstream adaptations to the worsening impacts of climate change. The Office of

15 Knowledge Attitude Practice 2015  
16 Knowledge Attitude Practice 2015  
17 Somalia High Frequency Survey Wave 2 2017  
18 Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020

19 Compare 'Needs Assessment of ICT Sector in Somalia, July 2014

20 National Communications Authority 2016 in SNBS records  
21 National Communications Authority 2017 in SNBS records  
22 OCHA 2022

the Prime Minister (OPM) established the Federal Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, which is the agency tasked with leading the national agenda on climate change.

In 2017, the FGS established a new Ministry, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADMD), mandated to lead the Government's humanitarian aid and emergency response coordination. In addition, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources developed the National Water Resource Strategy for 2021-2025, which provides actions to safeguard Somalia's water resources.

### Goal 14: Life below Water

Somalia has a coast line of 3,330km square making it the longest coastline in continental Africa with sovereign territorial waters of up to 200 nautical miles. The country possesses a very substantive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), estimated at 825,052 square kilometres covering one of the richest fishing grounds in the region. Furthermore, Somalia's Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) has one of the strongest upwelling systems in the world creating one of the most productive ecosystems in the Indian ocean. However, despite this abundant resource Somalia's economy mainly depends on agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries. Somalia has a population of 16.69 million.

Somalia's fisheries sector has significant potential to contribute to economic development and poverty reduction. The estimated value of the domestic fisheries sector to the Somali economy was \$135 million in 2015 and 2016. The value of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was estimated at \$306 million in benefits to other economies, highlighting opportunities for this sector to better support Somali enterprises and livelihoods in the future. Furthermore, potential government revenues from regulated fishing activities is estimated at US\$4-17 million per year, which could be utilized to fund FGS and FMS co-management schemes necessary for effective fisheries and marine environmental management and invest in sectoral human resource development. It is worth noting that illegal fishing is likely to be reduced since Somalia has undertaken a series of measures against these activities in the past five years.

### Goal 15: Life on Land

Somalia is the eastern most country of Africa, covering a total area of 637,657 Km<sup>2</sup>. The key

environmental challenges the country faces are environmental degradation from the effects of climate change, controlled activities (charcoal and firewood) and the lack of governance structures to mitigate or stop associated risks and activities. Due to decades of conflict, there is limited scientific knowledge and research on the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources is non-existent.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates, 8.2 million trees were cut down for charcoal in Somalia between 2011 and 2017. As a result, forests in Somalia have been depleted to such an extent that the livelihood of the population has been severely impacted. Widespread deforestation has led to land degradation, food insecurity and increased vulnerability to flooding and drought. Environmental degradation is a major causal factor in increasing poverty, particularly among the rural poor, with degradation impacting soil fertility, quantity and quality of water, air quality, forests and wildlife. A National Charcoal Policy is now in place to counter deforestation.

### Goal 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions

In September 2019, the Somali Government passed the Anti-Corruption Law, which established an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission. The FGS also developed a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and has ratified the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention.

The Government is continuing to work on reaching a final political agreement on the Justice and Corrections Model, which shall provide an organized process for engagement between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States. A New Policing Model sets forth the organizational structure of policing at the Federal Member State level setting out reporting lines to respective federal and state-level ministries in charge of policing.

On the 1st April 2022, African Union's Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was replaced by African Union's Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). The new missions mandate functions until the end of 2024, after which Somalia's security responsibility will be handed over to the Somalia National Security Forces (SNSF) ■

## INTRODUCTION

Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa, mainland Africa's easternmost country, covering 637,657 square kilometres and a terrain consisting mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands. Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa, stretching over 3,330km along the Gulf of Aden to the north and the Indian Ocean to the east and south. It has land boundaries with three countries; Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Following 23 years of civil strife and state collapse that devastated the economy, infrastructure, and public institutions, in 2012, the Somali people agreed to a Provisional Constitution, formed its parliament, and constituted the Federal Republic of Somalia (FRS), comprising of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS). On May 15 2022, the third FGS election since 2012 was held, resulting in yet another successful peaceful transfer of power. The new administration's priorities include securing the entire country, completing the constitution, enabling direct elections, and spearheading youth employment.

Somalia is increasingly susceptible to environmental and climate change impacts due to its geographical setting, with most of the country considered Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS). The country suffers disproportionately from the climate-related crisis despite contributing very minimally to the causes. Environmental and climate change-related droughts, intermittent floods and desert locust infestation have resulted in the loss of livestock and crop production, which account for more than 60% of GDP and directly and indirectly employs millions. Moreover, the impact of climate change and conflict are interlinked in Somalia (environment-conflict nexus), disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, particularly women

In ensuring national transparency and enhancing joint stakeholders' efforts towards the attainment of the SDGs, SNBS has developed an online data visualising Dashboard and an online Goal Tracker to monitor the performance of the SDGs.

and children. Considerable demographical shifts from rapid urbanization caused by climate change have also negatively transformed the economy and Somali society.

### Ninth National Development Plan

Somalia developed its Ninth National Development Plan 2020 - 2024 (NDP-9), which acts as the country's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP). The Government adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has aligned and mainstreamed the NDP-9 with the SDG's to provide a national framework for institutional renovation. In fact, eighty out of the 103 indicators from the NDP-9 are directly aligned with the SDG's. Further, the NDP-9's aims to reduce poverty and inequality through four pillars: 1) inclusive and accountable politics; 2) security and rule of law; 3) economic growth; and 4) social development.

Pillar 1 of NDP-9 is inclusive and accountable politics, which sets out to achieve national stability and peace through inclusive political processes and effective decentralization. Pillar 2 is improved security and rule of law, which sets out to establish unified, capable, accountable and rights-based federal security institutions that provide basic safety and security for citizens, secure and improve access to affordable justice, and increase public confidence in the judiciary. Pillar 3 is inclusive economic growth (including increased employment), which was created to help sustain economic growth and provide greater employment opportunities by transforming traditional industries, such as livestock and crop production, while inducing growth in the private sector. Pillar 4 is improved social development, which aims to improve education and training, increase access to healthcare, strengthen social protection, improve disaster risk management, and ameliorate public service delivery.

With the implementation of NDP-9, Somalia has

achieved remarkable progress in advancing critical economic reforms, supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other donors, that culminated in the attainment of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Decision Point in March 2020. This achievement restored Somalia's regular access to International Financial Institutions' (IFI) concessional grants from multilateral partners, including the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), for the first time in three decades. Somalia is committed to continuing the reforms to reach the HIPC completion point by 2024 and maintain macroeconomic stability, including prudent debt management.

## Leave No One Behind

Leave No One Behind is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs. The motto represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.

Leave No One Behind is also an important principle central to Somalia's development objectives, as stated in NDP-9, and the Government has been making concerted efforts to incorporate this mantra within FGS policies. For example, the National Youth Policy recognizes the significance of good collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders involved in youth development to ensure adolescents have equitable access to opportunities to reach their full social, economic, and political potential. Furthermore, National Employment Policy establishes a pragmatic agenda that emphasizes efforts on vulnerable populations such as women, child soldiers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), nomadic people, and those with physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory disabilities. Additionally, the President signed the National Disability Law in 2018 fulfilling the legal commitment to disabled people in Somalia. This subsequently provided the basis for the establishment of the National Disability Agency in 2021, which strives to provide equal services to individuals with disabilities and is guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

These recent changes within Somalia's rapidly evolving policies highlight the Government's commitment to Leaving No One Behind and ensuring that all parts of society are considered and incorporated into policies.

## Statistical Development

Following 1991, the dissolution of Government institutions meant that Somalia's capacity to generate and manage data weakened. Data and statistics are crucial for attaining optimal service delivery across all sectors which ensures a better future for Somalia's citizens. Without data, evidenced based policy making with responsive baseline determination and planning cannot be achieved.

As the country transitioned out of conflict and with it the revival of Government institutions, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development established the Directorate of National Statistics (DNS). However, to scale up work and respond to the considerable demand for primary level data in Somalia, in 2020 the Statistics Law was signed into effect. This Law repeals the Somalia Statistical Law no: 35 published on 18th June 1970 and harmonizes it with Somalia's Federal System. The Law also established the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) as an autonomous institution mandated to conduct the collection, compilation, coordination, analysis, evaluation and dissemination of all national statistical information. Since then, SNBS has been spearheading efforts to fill the nation's statistical gaps and has recently embarked on taking a historical population and housing census for the country. The census will give comprehensive data on the Somali people's demographic, social, and economic progress ■

## METHODOLOGY, REVIEW PROCESS AND DATA

During the VNR process, SNBS engaged and consulted 200 prominent stakeholders through five consultation workshops with civil society, Government and the private sector, including a dedicated session with Somalia's youth.

Specifically, the consultation with Federal Member State (FMS) Directors Generals (DG) and Federal level DGs was an ample opportunity to deliberate progress, present and validate data on each SDG with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Furthermore, women's associations, academics and teachers, think tanks, people with disabilities, youth and private telecommunications companies and banks were also consulted. All participants were briefed on Somalia's first VNR engagement. The deliberation among experts in focus group settings, which reflected on the progress and gaps in SDGs, has produced valuable perspectives included in the VNR report. Further, a communications campaign was carried out where Somali media outlets were invited to cover the consultation workshops, which aired on national TV, radio, and social media platforms. The VNR process also provided a perfect opportunity to inform the general public of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Somalia's current progress and the reaffirmation of the attainment of the SDGs as a national priority.

In ensuring national transparency and enhancing joint stakeholders' efforts towards the attainment of the SDGs, SNBS has developed an online data visualising Dashboard and an online Goal Tracker to monitor the performance of the SDGs. Both platforms strengthen coordination and data availability providing all national stakeholders with a transparent and interactive platform to track and check Somalia's progress towards the SDG Goals. Specifically, the Dashboard presents all available data within each goal by reporting against the targets and indicators and reviews data trends. It also presents an overview of the VNR process and attaches all consultation workshop reports and photos from all stakeholder engagements, and includes a media section. The Goal Tracker explores the data and has in it the function to download sources. Notably, the Tracker also presents the Federal Republic of Somalia's VNR report as available to download.

### Challenges

The VNR process provided the opportunity to identify the various challenges which impede Somalia's ability to reach SDG targets and in the report writing process itself, most notably:

- Weak coordination for consolidating, measuring, and reporting on SDG national progress.
- Insufficient monitoring and reporting of SDG implementation by relevant institutions affected the quality of submissions on progress which required more time and capacity to rectify which SNBS didn't have.
- Dearth of primary level data sources meant that data has mostly been collected from secondary sources. Thus, it has been difficult to verify the data and discern which data sources to include and which to ignore.
- The lack of baseline data for some of the indicators made it difficult to track their progress.
- The VNR process coincided with an election period, which has at times made it difficult to get the full participation of relevant stakeholders.
- Time constraints made the consolidation of contributions from stakeholders with differing perspectives into a single report and translating it into a cohesive narrative difficult.
- Budget and cost constraints has limited the conducting a comprehensive consultative VNR process. This has limited participation of stakeholders compared to the needs and expectations. Lack of funding is also attributed to the difficulties faced in data collection and sourcing.



## Data

SNBS used both primary and secondary data to measure progress. Secondary data sources from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the United Nations as well as reports from prominent institutes, think tanks, INGOs and NGO's alike, were referenced in Somalia's VNR report.

Since the establishment of the SNBS, Somalia has made much advancement in generating primary level data. Specifically, SNBS and its predecessor DNS has produced, the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020 (SHDS) in partnership with UNFPA, Labour Force Survey 2019 (LFS) in collaboration with International Labour Organization, Somalia High Frequency Survey (SHFS) - wave one 2016 and wave two 2017 in partnership with the World Bank, Population Estimation Survey 2014 and the Banadir Region Covid-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report among others. These

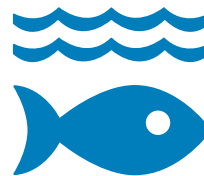
primary level surveys have informed and helped track the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals in the VNR report. Further, SNBS is currently implementing the Somali Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) and has launched the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-6), planned for the end of 2022. ■







# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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# 1 NO POVERTY



## GOAL 1

# NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Following decades of civil war, 69 per cent of the population live below the poverty line comprising, nearly seven out of 10 Somalis according to data from 2017. Poverty averages at 69 per cent among nomadic pastoralists, agropastoralists and residents of IDP settlements<sup>23</sup>. Poverty in urban areas is lower in comparison at 60 per cent. The group most impacted by poverty are IDPs and as of 2019, 17 per cent of the population were displaced though this figure has likely grown since the recent droughts. Further, three out of

four IDPs live on less than \$1.90 per day<sup>24</sup>. Poverty in Somalia is driven by political fragility, conflict, insecurity and exacerbated by climate emergencies.

Poverty increased from 43 per cent in 2002 to 68 per cent in 2017. The increase can be attributed to recurrent external shocks and natural disasters which have created widespread displacement and considerable demographical shifts. According to data from the Somali High Frequency survey, 66 per cent of Somali households reported experiencing

23 Ninth National Development Plan 2020-2024

24 Somalia High Frequency Survey Wave 2 2017

# 50%

of Somalia's population will be urbanized within the next four years as a result of climate related shocks

at least one type of shock in the previous 12 months. Consequently, Somalia, previously a predominately rural population, is projected to have a population that is 50 per cent urbanised within the next four years. Rapid urbanisation is likely to increase inequality and cause serious constraints on Somalia's weak institutions arising mainly from increased infrastructural needs.

## Social protection and disaster risk management

The number of people affected by disasters is 232 per 100,000 according to data from 2018<sup>25</sup>. Somalia has been hit with frequent and severe droughts and floods which have adversely impacted the country. This has led to a devastating repeated loss of lives, livestock and crops. In the last few years, the Somali Government has undertaken a number of initiatives to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the country. In March 2017, in a milestone response to the severe drought at the time, the Federal Government of Somalia established a new Ministry, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADAM) mandated to lead the Government's humanitarian aid and emergency response coordination. Early warning systems are critical for fostering livelihood resilience and most notable of these efforts is the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management's establishment of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre which coordinates disaster risk management activities across Somalia.

Social Protection is an important part of the FGS strategy to fight poverty and promote resilience. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the central institution mandated to establish frameworks for job creation, promote social inclusion and create and maintain stable social security systems. In fulfilling this mandate, in 2019 the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs launched

the National Social Protection Policy helping the Federal Government develop and implement a clear and realistic vision for social protection to protect the poor and vulnerable against shocks and manage risks. Under this Policy, in a milestone achievement, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs launched the Baxnaano programme, a safety net system which supports the poorest and most vulnerable households in Somalia through nutrition linked cash transfers. Thus far, the programme has supported 188,677 households reaching over a million of the poorest and most vulnerable people<sup>26</sup>. ■

25 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021

26 Baxnaano Safety Net Programme 2022



© AU UN IST PHOTO / ILYAS A. ABUKAR

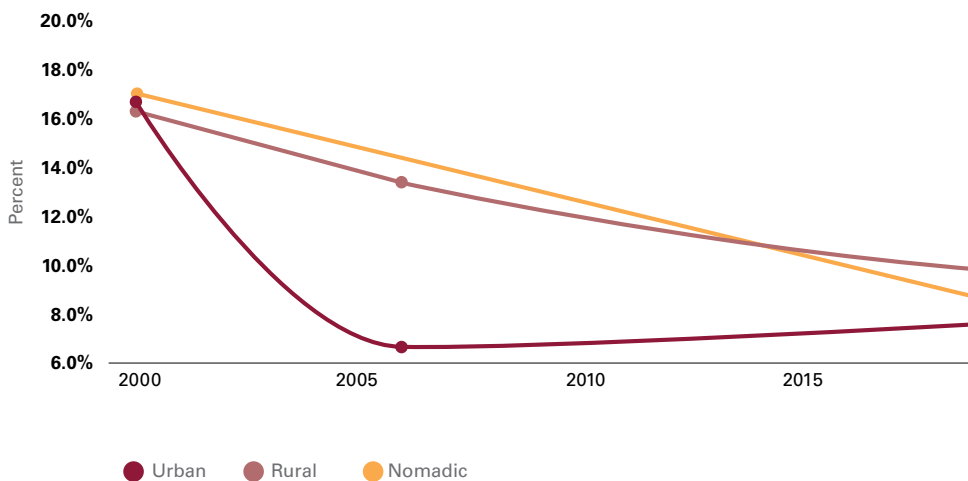
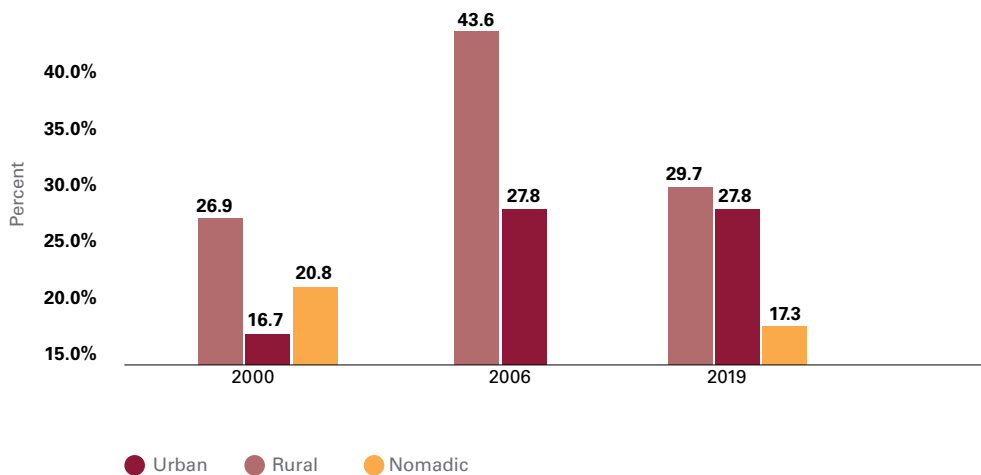
**GOAL 2****ZERO HUNGER**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**T**he great majority of data pertaining to nutrition and food security in Somalia is gathered by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of Somalia (FSNAU). FSNAU provides evidence-based analyses of Somali food, nutrition, and livelihood security to provide both short-term emergency responses and long-term strategic planning.

**Nutrition**

The nutritional status of Somali children is comparatively poor due to factors such as low economic status and the effects of severe droughts. Malnourished children are usually connected with high mortality and morbidity rates. Moreover, nutritional deficit also delays children's long-term physical and mental development. The nutritional status of children under five years of age are measured according to three anthropometric

**Figure 1** (2.2.2.a) Proportion of children under 5 years moderately or severely wasted (%)**Figure 2** (2.2.1) Proportion of children moderately or severely stunted (%)

indices—height-for-age, weight-for-height and weight-for-age. Twenty-seven per cent of children under five are stunted or short for their age, 12 per cent are wasted with 6 per cent severely wasted and 21 per cent are underweight with 11 per cent severely underweight<sup>27</sup>. An estimated 1.2 million children under the age of five are likely to be malnourished, including 231,00 SAM cases<sup>28</sup>.

According to Figure 2.2.2.a, in 2000, the proportion of children who were moderately or severely wasted was practically identical between nomadic, rural, and urban populations. Throughout the years,

there has been a decrease in the proportion of children who are severely malnourished, from an average of about 17% to an average of about 10%, which is a testament to the increasing capacity of the Government as well as the FMS efforts to provide nutrition to young children. Consequently, Somalia made significant progress in reducing the level of stunting among children. In 2019, 27 per cent of children under the age of five were stunted or too short for their age<sup>29</sup>, decreasing from 38 per cent in 2006<sup>30</sup>.

27 Somalia Health Demographic Survey 2020  
28 Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit 2022

29 Somali Health Demographic Survey 2020  
30 Multi Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

# 10%

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## Food security

Seventy-nine per cent of Somalia's adult population is experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity<sup>31</sup>. In 2022, food security in Somalia worsened with an estimated 4.8 million people (or 31% of the total population) already experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes<sup>32</sup>. Prices of locally produced maize and red sorghum unusually increased towards the end of 2021 even after the 'Gu' harvest in July. This can be attributed to the reduced availabilities from the already below-average cereal production in 2021. Overall, prices of local cereals and imported food increased considerably compared to prices from the last five years. Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA) for maize is at -0.3 per cent white maize, imported rice is at -0.81 per cent<sup>33</sup> and red sorghum is at -0.84 per cent according to data from 2020<sup>34</sup>.

Humanitarian assistance to affected populations reached 1.3million in January 2022 and 2 million people in February 2022<sup>35</sup>. However, this support is being outpaced by the rapid increase of food insecure populations caused by newly displaced populations, increasing gaps in household food consumption and loss of livelihood assets as well as worsening acute malnutrition.

Moreover, the ongoing war in Ukraine is expected to increase pressure on food prices for commodities such as wheat, hence exacerbating the nation's food insecurity. According to the Observatory of Economic Complexity, in 2020,

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Ukraine exported \$18.6 million worth of food products to Somalia, which has likely decreased due to the war.

## Agriculture

The agriculture sector comprises 52 per cent of Somalia's GDP as of 2019<sup>36</sup> and 80% of employment and 90% of exports<sup>37</sup>. However, only 1.54 per cent of Government expenditure is dedicated to the agriculture sector. Strengthening the sector through the increase of exports improves employment opportunities for Somalia's youth and provides better food security. However, this potential is hindered by the country's vulnerability to climate change and drought as well as the low levels of productivity.

Improved crop productivity, climate resilient techniques as well as the strengthening of the value chain, (the process from the products conception to the final consumer) would increase the economy in a sustainable way. There are also serious skills gaps in the agricultural and livestock sectors and even though universities are the main centres for agriculture and livestock education and training, most graduates lack the technical knowhow and skills to address and effectively implement technical activities<sup>38</sup>. However, there is wide recognition that actions to enhance the agriculture sector can only be achieved through effective government and institutional capacity to manage and execute necessary programmes.

Actions to enhance the agriculture sector can only be achieved through strong government and institutional capacity to manage and implement. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) is dedicated to creating an enabling environment for Somalia and other investors to enhance the agricultural sector which shall improve livelihoods and ensure reliable supply of quality and affordable food whilst sustaining the natural environment. Under the patronage of the FGS Ministry of

31 Food and Agricultural Organization 2019 reported by United Nations Statistics Division in SNBS records

32 Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit 2022

33 Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Online Database 2020 reported by United Nations Statistics Division in SNBS data

34 Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Online Database 2016 reported by United Nations Statistics Division in SNBS data

35 Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit 2022

36 United Nations Statistics Division national account estimates 2019 in SNBS records

37 European Union External Action Service 2018

38 Heritage Institute for Policy Studies 2020

# 4.8M

people (31% of the total population) are food insecure and are currently experiencing crisis or worse outcomes

Agriculture and Irrigation, the Somalia Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Services (SARIS) agency was established. SARIS regulates agricultural inputs/contributions in the country through quality checks and the enforcement of standards. The Federal Government is also reviewing a bill that regulates the use of agricultural chemicals by introducing a chemical registration system.

## Locust Invasion

In July 2019, the country was plagued with swarms of locusts, originating from Yemen, which destroyed tonnes of vegetation invading farmland and rangeland in northern Somalia and creating large-scale agricultural and environmental damage.

To remedy the damage caused by the invasion of locusts, MoAI, in partnership with the UN, helped deliver equipment and chemicals to support ground and aerial pesticide operations which will enable pest control operations in 155,495 hectares. Further, the National Desert Locust Unit was established along with two partner centres. Also, 59,620 farming households received quality agricultural inputs to enable them to resume production and 16,889 hectares of farmland gained improved access to irrigation water<sup>39</sup>.

In July 2019, the country was plagued with swarms of locusts, originating from Yemen, which destroyed tonnes of vegetation invading farmland and rangeland in northern Somalia and creating large-scale agricultural and environmental damage

# 80%

of Somalia's exports are livestock. This makes livestock the largest contributor to livelihoods with 65% of the population engaged in the industry in some way

## Livestock

Livestock is the largest export in Somalia accounting to 80 per cent of exports. It is also the largest contributor to Somali livelihoods with 65% of the population engaged in the industry in some way<sup>40</sup>. However, the sector has been intermittently interrupted by droughts which have limited pasture and grazing land for animals as well as and international bans. Somalia's livestock is shipped to countries in the Middle East and transported to markets in Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia.

Due to repeated livestock bans from Middle Eastern countries coupled with recurrent droughts, the country's macro-economy has been volatile. Thus, Somalia has experienced both flourishing and bust cycles in livestock export volumes, most recently from 2016 (due to Rift Valley Fever fears) and 2020 (Foot and Mouth Disease fear) livestock bans from Saudi Arabia.

FGS Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range endorsed the Somalia Livestock Sector Development Strategy. With support from the UN, a total of 14.4 million goats belonging to 360,000 households were vaccinated against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, a disease which can inflict serious economic hardship from its high morbidity and mortality rates. Furthermore, 3.5 million livestock were provided with access to veterinary services.

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## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



© Siyaad Mohamed /Ildoog/WHO SOMALIA

### GOAL 3

## GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**P**ace dividends, increased government capacity alongside investment from international partners has improved Somalia's health sector. However, investment still remains low with only 1.3 per cent of government spending dedicated to the health sector<sup>41</sup>. Health in Somalia is dominated by the private sector with at least 60 percent of health services and 70 percent of the country's medicines estimated to be delivered by the private sector, primarily in

urban areas. Due to Somalia's nascent health sector regulatory capacity, there are no quality standards nor functional regulatory bodies for health services or pharmaceutical products. As a result, the private sector is largely unregulated, and providers can operate without any oversight and produce services and products of unknown quality. This limits the full potential of the private sector; as effective private sector investment requires functional regulations to be effective.

41 World Bank (2021). Somalia Economic Update



Serious gaps remain which include weak government coordination mechanisms, limited data on health to inform decision making, shortage of good training institutions and qualified professionals as well as inadequate financing<sup>42</sup>. Due to these challenges Somalia is unable to meet the healthcare services for most of its population with women and children most affected.

Somalia struggles with scarce data on the health sector. In response to this, in 2020 the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics conducted the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey which presents information on the health and lives of Somalis living across the country. More than 100,000 nomadic, rural and urban households were assessed over two phases to collect data mainly on Somali women of childbearing ages and children. This survey is the most recent compressive data set collected measuring the health needs of Somalia's population.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is the institution responsible for attaining the better health of Somalia's population through good service delivery deriving from good policies.

## Universal Health Coverage

In 2019, the Ministry of Health and Human Services released the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmap 2019-2023, which was developed following consultations with UN, other development partners, donor community and civil society. The roadmap details three goals for Somalia's health sector, namely;

- More Somali people will benefit from universal health coverage
- More Somali people will be better protected from health emergencies
- More Somali people will enjoy better health and well-being<sup>43</sup>

Considerable work continues on increasing access to health services including increasing fixed and mobile health clinics, increasing vaccinations and the training of health workers. The Ministry of Health and its international partners provided essential health services to 488,745 out-patient department consultations, the immunization of 76,238 children, 87,564 antenatal care visits, 5,958 facility-based deliveries and 516,334 health

Essential health services provided by the Ministry of Health and its international partners by the numbers:

**488,745**

Out-patient department consultations,

**76,238**

Children immunized,

**87,564**

Antenatal care visits,

**5,958**

Facility-based deliveries

**516,334**

Health promotion

promotions<sup>44</sup>.

## National Health Policy

The Somalia National Health Policy vision is for people to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and quality of life and have universal and equitable access to essential quality health services with a priority focus on maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition, and on the prevention and control of high burden diseases and related risk factors.

The following principles and values underpin the health policy priority directions:

- Universal and equitable access to acceptable, affordable, cost-effective, and quality health services with maximum impact on Somali populations' health to ensure the realization of the right to health
- Effective, transparent and accountable governance and leadership in managing the different components of the health system with decentralized management of health care service delivery

<sup>42</sup> Second Phase Health Sector Plan 2017-2021

<sup>43</sup> The Somali Roadmap to Universal Health Coverage 2019-2023

<sup>44</sup> UN country results report 2020

# 3.7M

vaccinations were received through COVAX facility donations from countries

- Building effective collaborative partnerships and coordination mechanisms engaging local community, national and international stakeholders and pursuing the aid effectiveness approaches.

## Essential Package of Health Services

The 2009 Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS)<sup>45</sup>, which is currently being implemented, does not reach the entire population. EPHS implementation started in 2013 through the Joint Health and Nutrition Programme (JHNP) and the Health Consortium for Somali People.<sup>46</sup> While the full package was not delivered under the JHNP due to limitations in available financing and implementation capacity, the JHNP coordinated health service delivery between partners. However, following the closure of the JHNP after the end of external financing in 2016, the previously coordinated EPHS implementation became fragmented, with partial geographic coverage and varying package components supported by different funding partners. According to WHO 2017 figures, approximately 47 out of 89 districts (5.7 million people) were covered by part of the EPHS, representing approximately 41 percent of the population. In 2020, the Government updated the EPHS, developing a comprehensive package of health services supported by the development partners including the World Bank under the leadership of the Government.

45 The 2009 EPHS is comprised of core and additional programs. The EPHS 2009 six core programs were: Maternal, reproductive and neonatal health; Child health; Communicable disease surveillance and control, including WASH promotion; First aid and care of critically ill and injured; Treatment of common illness; and HIV, STIs and TB. The four additional programs are: Management of chronic disease and other diseases, care of the elderly and palliative care; Mental health and mental disability; Dental health; and Eye health. Compared to the 2003 BPHS prepared in Afghanistan, the Somalia EPHS was much broader and subsequently required more resources to implement.

46 JHNP was financed by DFID (currently FCDO), USAID, Finland, Australia, Switzerland, and Sweden; and managed by UNICEF with engagement from WHO and UNFPA.

## Covid-19

Covid19 hit in a period where the country was still recovering from the 2017 drought. Somalia recorded a total of 26,439 confirmed cases and 1,361 deaths from Covid19 though this figure is likely higher due to lack of recorded data. Data is underreported due to limited testing facilities, expensive testing costs, and the stigma associated with Covid-19, among other factors. Furthermore, the country's civil registration system does not exist, which hinders reporting the correct disease figures and the causes of deaths.

The Government selected the Astra Zeneca/Oxford University (COVAX) as the vaccine of choice. Somalia received 3.7million Covid-19 vaccinations through the COVAX facility and donations from countries. Subsequently, the Ministry of Health and Human Services delivered a good vaccination campaign which led to the administering of 2.6 million doses reaching 1.3 million people<sup>47</sup>. The first batches were allocated to health care workers, other frontline workers and elderly people. Thus far around 17 per cent of the population has received the vaccination.

The Somali Government has taken important steps to improve Somalia's COVID-19 response, including the establishment of a testing facility at the National Public Health and Reference Laboratory in Mogadishu and increasing the country's intensive care unit bed capacity.

Further, in 2019, the Ministry of Health and Human Services put in place a preparedness and response contingency plan to support the early detection, prevention, and control of Covid-19. Similarly, the Ministry of Education also prepared Somalia's Education Sector Covid-19 Response Plan to Support students and their families to prevent the transmission and spread of Covid-19 and ensure continuity of learning through the implementation of critical activities aimed at maintaining quality learning and well-being of teachers and students during the pandemic.

The pandemic highlighted that investing in

47 OCHA and FGS- Covid-19 response in Somalia 2022

Somalia's health system is crucial for reducing fragility and improving economic development. Prior Covid-19, Somalia's economy was on an upward trajectory, recovering from the 2016/17 drought. The economy grew at an estimated rate of 2.9 per cent in 2019, on par with population growth. In 2020, Somalia's GDP dropped to -0.3 per cent compared to the 3.2 per cent growth predicted for the same year. The growth shrinkage can be attributed to the Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns.

## Somalia's Key Health Indicators

Somalia's lagging health outcomes reflect the country's insecurity, vulnerability, and deep-rooted poverty, limiting opportunities for people to access basic social services, including education and health. As seen in Table 1, Somalia's health indicators remain among the worst in the world, with an average life expectancy of 56 years. Other indicators lag behind those in the WHO AFRO region as well as most indicators in select, comparable Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) impacted countries in WHO's EMRO region, of which Somalia is a part.<sup>48</sup> While most health outcomes in Somalia improved from 2006 to 2019, some indicators such as fertility and stunting have declined since 2016.

## Maternal mortality

Somalia has reduced maternal mortality from 732 in 2015 to 692 per 100,000 live births<sup>49</sup>. Despite the gains made, Somalia still faces significant challenges in maternal mortality rates which can be attributed to low uptake of antenatal care, postnatal care and a low number of deliveries at health facilities or with skilled health care providers.

Antenatal healthcare is vital for reducing the risks associated with the morbidity and mortality for the mother and child during pregnancy and delivery. A good antenatal healthcare programme ensures the timely detection and treatment of problems during pregnancy. Data from the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020, showed that only 31 per cent of women aged between 15-49 received antenatal care from skilled health workers during the pregnancy of their last birth (from doctors/clinical officers or nurses/midwives/auxiliary midwives) at least once. Twelve per cent of women received antenatal care from a doctor or clinical officer, while 19 per cent received care from a

**Table 1** Somalia's Key Health Indicators

Indicator	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2016 <sup>b</sup>	2019 <sup>c</sup>	WHO AFRO Regional Average (2016) <sup>d</sup>
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1040	865	692	536 *(2017)
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	45.1	39	N/A	26
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	103.3	80.4	N/A	51
Under-five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	170.5	128.4	N/A	80.5
Total Fertility Rate (no. of births per woman)	7.2	6.3	6.9	N/A
Adolescent Fertility Rate (births per 1,000 women; 15-19 years)	127.17	102.14	140	102.1 *(2015-2020)
Stunting (age-for-height among children under five years of age)	N/A	25.3% (**2009)	28%	29%

a World Bank 2006

b World Bank 2016

c The 2020 SHDS included no child mortality data including neonatal, infant, and under five mortality. This is a major gap in the results and discussions are currently under way with partners and UNFPA (which conducted the survey) on whether raw data exist to rectify this and other data gaps in the survey, including the absence of geographically disaggregated data.

d Although Somalia belongs to the WHO EMRO region, geographically and culturally, it is part of sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, AFRO region data are more applicable and are used here.

midwife, nurse or auxiliary midwife. Sixty-eight per cent of women did not make antenatal care visits during their most recent pregnancy in the five years prior to the Somalia Health Demographic Survey 2020.

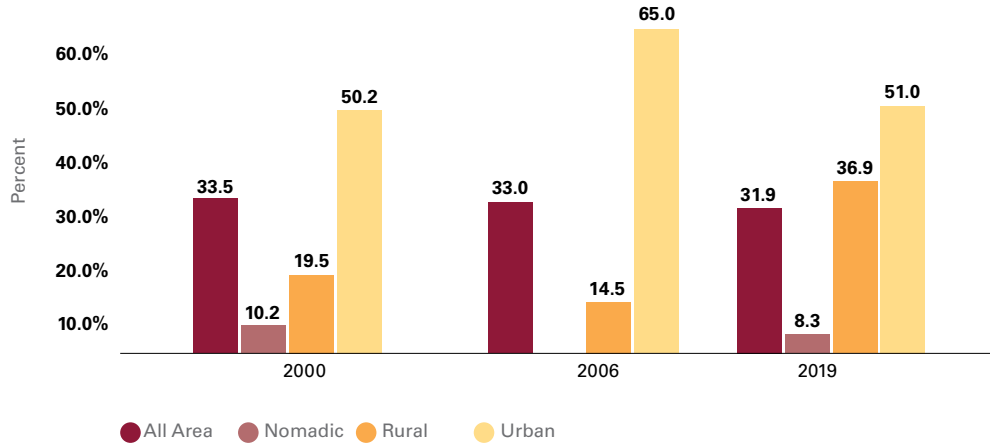
In urban areas 40 per cent of women received antenatal care from skilled providers compared to 35 per cent of women in rural areas. Only 9 per cent of women in nomadic areas had received ANC from skilled health personnel. The level of education and means of capital were strong determining factors for whether women received antenatal care

48 Although Somalia belongs to the WHO EMRO region, geographically and culturally, it is part of sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, AFRO region data are more applicable and are used here.

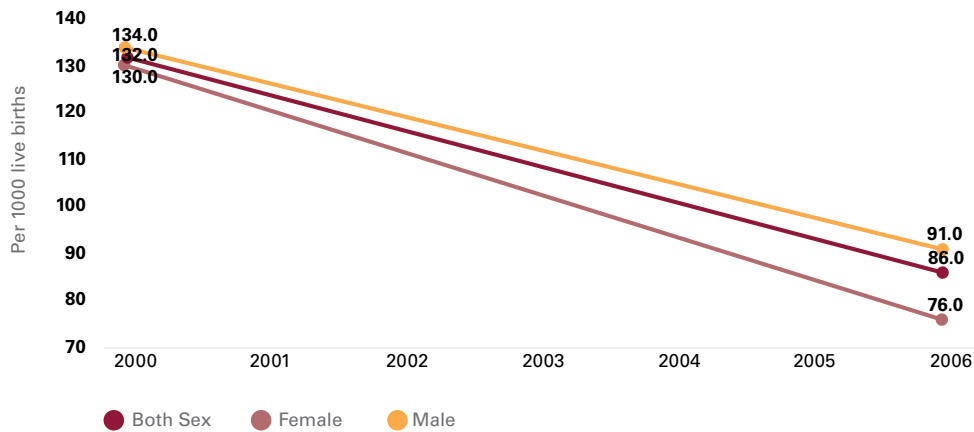
49 Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020

Somalia has reduced maternal mortality from 732 in 2015 to 692 per 100,000 live births

**Figure 3** (3.1.2) Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)



**Figure 4** (3.2.1a) Infant mortality rate (death per 1,000 live births)



from skilled health care providers. Seventy-seven per cent of women with higher education received antenatal care from a skilled provider, compared to 26 per cent of women with no education. Also, 33 per cent of younger mothers aged 20-34 years received antenatal care from skilled medical personnel compared to 25 per cent of older women aged 35-49 years.

### Infant mortality rate and postnatal care

Somalia has a neonatal mortality rate of 43 per 1000 live births according to data from 2006<sup>50</sup>. Most maternal and neonatal deaths occur 48 hours after delivery. Only 31 per cent of births were attended by skilled health personnel according to

data from 2019. Data from the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey showed that only 11 per cent of women received a postnatal check within the critical first two days of delivery. Eighty-nine per cent of the mothers did not receive any postnatal check-up.

Somalia has an infant mortality rate of 91 per 1000<sup>51</sup>. Further there is a 135 per 1000 mortality rate for infants under five years old from 2006 figures.

### HIV/AIDS

Somalia has one of the lowest HIV/AIDS infection rates in Africa and this is attributed to Somali society's strong adherence to Islamic morals. The infection rate is estimated to be very low at about

50 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

51 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

**Table 2** Country Performance on the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets

Health Indicators	Data	Year
Percentage of all people living with HIV who know their HIV status	32%	2019
Percentage of all people diagnosed with HIV that receive sustained ART	79.4%	2018
Percentage of all people receiving ART that have viral suppression	73.7%	2019

0.55 per cent<sup>52</sup> and an estimated figure of 2,370 annual deaths<sup>53</sup>. However, the actual prevalence may be higher as a result of undetected infections.

Somalia has adopted the UNAIDS ambitious 90-90-90 treatment target. Specifically, these targets state that: (i) By 2020, 90 per cent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; (ii) By 2020, 90 per cent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; and (iii) By 2020, 90 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. By 2019, Somalia was not meeting the three targets with the first and third 90 needing significant reduction if the national HIV burden is to be significantly lowered. There have been challenges with treatment adherence and capacity to monitor viral suppression in the country<sup>54</sup>. The lack of knowledge, social stigma and lack of services are major risks to the prevention of HIV/AIDS

## Health Worker Density and Health Utilization

There are gaps in essential provisions such as health workers, essential medicines, and medical equipment, particularly in public facilities. Somalia's public health worker density is 0.43 per 1,000 people and private health worker density is 0.49 per 1,000 people. The combined health worker density figure (0.92) is significantly below the WHO's cut-off for "critical" human resource shortages, which is 2.28 health workers per 1000 people. Under the health worker distribution indicator, 78.4 per cent of are male and 21.5 are female according to 2014 figures. The availability of qualified medical staff is predictably concentrated in urban areas, with

rural areas facing more pronounced recruitment and retention challenges. There are also many unqualified individuals believed to be providing health services, particularly in private facilities due to lack of regulation and weak government enforcement.

2,286,299 people require interventions against neglected tropical diseases. Somalia's international health regulations capacity is recorded at 20% according to data from 2018.

Health service utilization is low, particularly in the public sector, estimated at 0.23 outpatient visits per person per year and 0.81 hospital discharges per one hundred people per year (SARA, 2016). Traditional medicine, seeking health services from family members and outside of formal medicine are believed to be common. Reports on health service data indicate that patients prefer private facilities over public facilities based on perceived higher quality, pharmaceutical availability, and easier access. Pharmacies are by far the most accessible health care delivery points in Somalia.

Out-of-pocket payments (OOP) as a percentage of per capita health expenditure in Somalia are high at 46 percent. Average annual household OOP on health is estimated at US\$2 per capita out of a total of US\$6 (2019) and varies substantially between the richest quintile and the poorest quintile, indicating that households are accessing healthcare services based on the ability to pay instead of their healthcare needs, resulting in health inequities.<sup>55</sup>

Socio-cultural factors also play a significant role in the health seeking behaviours and status of women in Somalia. Responsibility for decisions related to health-seeking behaviour, such as when to get treatment at a clinic, resides primarily with men and contributes to delays in seeking care. According to the 2020 SHDS, 42 percent of women report needing permission to access services as a barrier to healthcare during pregnancy. Furthermore, early marriage is prevalent and a significant factor contributing to early first pregnancies, high fertility rates and the high maternal mortality ratio. Thirty six per cent of women between 20 and 24 years old were married before 18 years of age, and average age at first marriage is 20 for women and 23 for men.<sup>56</sup>

52 Somalia Health Demographic Survey 2020

53 UNAIDS 2014 Report

54 Somali HIV National Strategic Plan and M&E Framework 2021-2023

55 The Lancet 2020

56 SHDS 2020

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



© AMISOM Photo / Ilyas Ahmed

### GOAL 4

## QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**E**ducation is a critical element for increasing well-being and eliminating the poverty cycle thus creating economic growth. Education is a human right as stipulated in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms." Somalia's Provisional Constitution also specifies the right to education under Article 30, stating "Every citizen shall have the right to free education up to secondary school."

During the pre-conflict period, Somalia's education sector was publicly managed and advanced with all of Somalia's children enjoying free education. Following 1991, the sector was devastated with the dissolution of the Central Government. Protracted insecurity and the lack of government had a profound effect on the future of Somalia's younger generations. Yet, as security improved, Somalia's intellectuals and private sector revived the sector by establishing and re-opening educational institutions in the Capital and across the country which lasted for two decades.

# 377,213

children were supported to attend school including training 2,217 teachers to enhance teacher capacity

In recent years, the Government has begun assuming its role in undertaking key interventions to revive the public management of the education sector. The Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education (MoECHE) has the primary role of educating Somalia's children and promoting their well-being. The Ministry has made significant efforts in recent years to improve its capacity and actualize its function by developing policies and strategy papers which assist the Government in delivering services in a decentralized education system. However, this has proven to be a steep feat with a lack of technical and financial resources within newly formed Federal Member States, regions and district-level agencies.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Education has developed and adopted several education policies and regulations as part of its work to rebuild the sector and improve the functionality of relevant institutions, namely;

- Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) (2018-2020) detailing priorities for the next five years
- National Education Policy (2020) which guarantees access to free and quality basic education for all Somali children. It also extends provisions beyond basic education to all citizens of Somalia.
- Special Educational Needs Disability and Inclusive Education Policy (SEND & IE) (2018) which seeks to support children with disabilities access to educational services;
- Gender Policy for the Education Sector (2020)
- General Education Act (2021) which defines the objectives and functions of the education sector and details the responsibilities of different departments and agencies.
- The Teacher Policy (2021) which provides guidelines on teacher management systems including registration, licensing, remuneration, recruitment, deployment, and the Code of Conduct.

- The National Curriculum Framework (2017), this outlines the national curriculum and includes the milestone development, publishing and dissemination of textbooks in a step towards the reunification of the system.

Despite the challenges, considerable progress has been made in the establishment and functioning of FMS Ministries of Education, improved coordination between the Federal Ministry of Education and FMS Ministries which has enhanced overall sector coordination. Also notable is the establishment of the Education management information systems (EMIS).

In 2017 the Federal Government approved the national curriculum and curriculum resources were distributed to all primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the Somali Government in collaboration with International Partners have supported 377,213 children to attend school including training 2,217 teachers to enhance 'teacher capacity'. The Federal Government also built or re-occupied twenty-seven public schools. Additionally, thousands of students have benefitted from scholarships and Government teacher training centers have been built with thousands of teachers trained.

## Educational Attainment

According to the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey, 47 per cent of females aged six and up have never attended school, compared to 44 per cent of men and boys. Thirty-one per cent of female household members and twenty-seven per cent of male household members have completed elementary school. Men were 23 per cent more likely than women to have completed secondary or higher education. Children from poor households are up to 50% less likely than children from wealthy families to have attended formal school.

The completion rate at the primary school level increased from 4 per cent in 2006 to 15.5 per cent in 2016. The completion rate at secondary school level was 65.4 per cent in 2019. Enrolment rates are still low, indicating that many children who

# 44.4%

of Somali women in 2019 aged 15-24 are literate increasing from 32 per cent in 2006

are eligible for school are missing out. According to administrative data, there were approximately 171,000 learners registered in lower elementary schools in 2020, compared to a population of almost 1.2 million eligible. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) is 14%. At the primary school level, there is a slight variation in the Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) of boys and girls with 23 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively. At secondary level, males at 16 per cent had a greater NAR than girls with 13 per cent. In 2006, the NAR for primary school level was 23 per cent compared to 22 per cent in 2016. Data shows that the country progressed in the NAR for secondary school level at 7 per cent in 2006 increasing to 14 per cent in 2019. Males had a higher Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) than girls, with 41 and 37 per cent at the elementary school level and 28 and 21 per cent at the secondary school level, showing that males attend school more than females.

Somalia made progress in improving literacy, particularly for women from 32 per cent in 2006 to 44.4 per cent of literate Somali women aged 15-24 in 2019.

Many challenges remain which need urgent intervention. Specifically, the country is plagued;

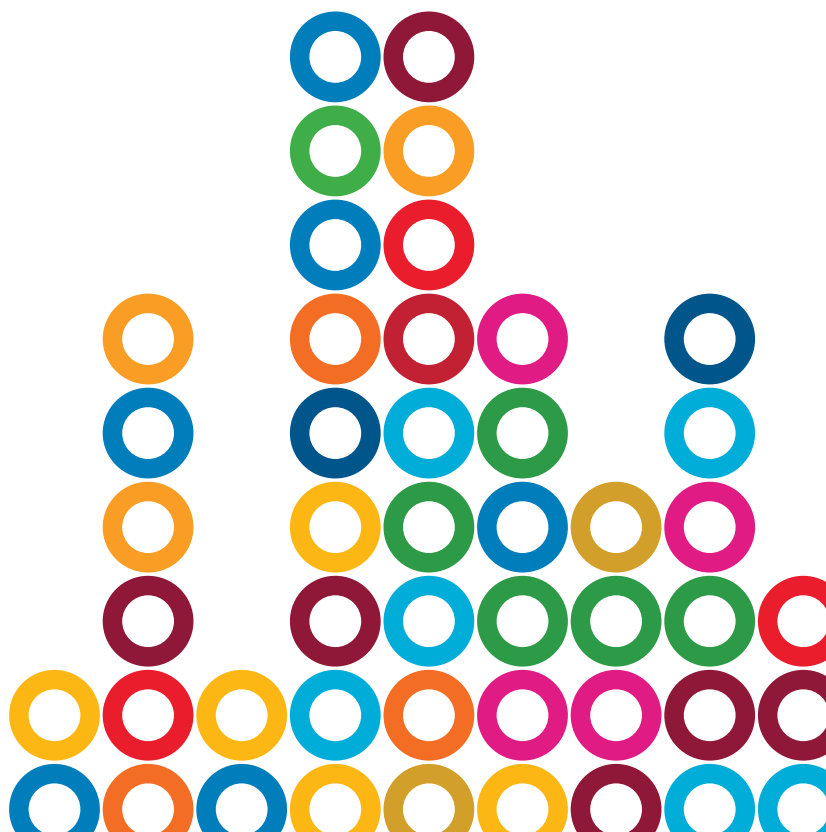
- Low literacy levels particularly among women
- Low primary and secondary school enrolment,
- Low primary school survival rates (girls education indicators lower than boys)
- High youth unemployment with few labour market skills
- Insufficient access in rural and IDP areas;
- Poor teacher qualifications.

- Poor regulation of non-state provision and high professional standards and provision.
- Underdeveloped education information.
- Discrimination against students with disabilities exists.
- Weak Governance
- Droughts that lasted for years in most sections of the country has affected schooling.

There are a number of steps which should be taken to improve the sector, specifically;

- I. Develop awareness raising programs to increase women's access to education.
- II. Continue reforms which improve overall quality of education and capacity of teachers.
- III. Mobilize adequate funding
- IV. Finalize the National Education Law ■





**5 GENDER EQUALITY**



AU UN IST PHOTO /TOBIN JONES

**GOAL 5**

**GENDER EQUALITY**

*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

**S**omalia is traditionally a patriarchal society but moderately so compared to other countries. Nevertheless, conflict has exacerbated discriminatory social structures including the clan system which perpetuates Somali women as subordinates and excludes them from decision making processes. This of course has a trickling down effect in the social, political and economic spheres which are detailed below.

The Provisional Constitution provides equal rights to both men and women. However, there is weak capacity to actualize the various equality provisions

in the Constitution. Despite this, the Government has accelerated its efforts towards gender equality and women empowerment across various sectors with efforts led by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights and supported by International Partners. It should be noted that investment towards attaining gender equality in Somalia is still very low compared to the immense needs.

**Somali Women’s Charter**

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHD), on 4-6

The Government has accelerated its efforts towards gender equality and women empowerment across various sectors with efforts led by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and supported by International Partners

March 2019, 350 women and gender champions from across Somalia and the diaspora convened in Mogadishu for the three-day Somali Women's Convention. The Conventions objective was to advance women's roles and develop shared demands in the review of the Constitution and electoral laws as well as build new coalitions for advocacy on gender equality and women's empowerment.

There was inclusive participation from active women leaders in local and national Government, civil society, private sector and the diaspora as well as marginalized groups such as IDPs, women from rural areas, youth and male gender advocates and religious leaders.

The Somali Women's Charter affirms that Somalia women are "equal partners working for peace and political processes, leading us towards security, stability and sustainable development for all" and calls "for the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia to enshrine the unconditional commitment to gender equality, human rights and empowerment of women"

The Conventions discussions were live-streamed reaching an audience 207,150 people and sparked lively discussions on social media. The participants deliberated on key issues and agreed on a number of actions for achieving gender equality which

were compiled into a single document: the Somalia Women's Charter.

The Somali Women's Charter affirms that Somalia women are "equal partners working for peace and political processes, leading us towards security, stability and sustainable development for all" and calls "for the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia to enshrine the unconditional commitment to gender equality, human rights and empowerment of women". The Charter was presented to the then Somali Cabinet which expressed their commitment to make the Charter a reality.

## Sexual Offences Bill

Somali women and girls are at a high risk of suffering sexual and gender-based violence with incidents likely to increase during times of conflict and displacement from natural disasters. Furthermore, women and girls also face increased risk when accessing water and sanitation, food security, shelter and child protection services<sup>57</sup>. There has also been a spike in reported SGBV incidents during the Covid19 pandemic's restrictions. However, due to stigma, SGBV and GBV are most often under-reported in Somalia. 18 per cent ever-partnered urban women and girls of ages 15-49 have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. This is compared to 12.9 per cent of rural women and 8.7 per cent of nomadic women.

In ensuring the human rights of Somali women and girls, the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development led the development of the Sexual Offences Bill following wide ranging consultations over many years with civil society, religious leaders, women and youth. This resulted in a comprehensive Bill which ensures the stronger protection of women and girl victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

In May 2018, the Sexual Offences Bill submitted by the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, was passed by the Cabinet of Ministers. However, since then the Bill has yet to be tabled in for reading and passage into Law. In August 2020, an alternative 'Sexual Intercourse Bill' was presented to Parliament for deliberation which triggered heated discussions and attracted some fierce criticism from international and national stakeholders. The Sexual Intercourse Bill was rejected by Parliament. The last two years have been a turbulent period for Somalia with

much and contentious focus on the elections. On 15 May 2022, a new President, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mahamud, was elected by Parliament. This presents a fresh opportunity to prioritize the Bill for discussion and adoption into Law, following the establishment of a new administration.

However, there have been some notable developments on passing legislation in Somalia's Federal Member States. In 2018, Somaliland made notable advancement for victims of sexual violence on the passage of the Sexual Offense Bill which criminalizes rape in Somaliland for first time.

Authorities in Puntland passed the Sexual Offenses Law in 2016 which criminalizes all sexual crimes including offenses perpetrated over the internet.

Prior to the recent developments in the drafting of the Federal Sexual Offenses Bill and the passing of Sexual Offenses Law's in Somaliland and Puntland, Somalia's legal framework for criminalizing and prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence remained the criminal procedures code and the penal code passed in 1962 and 1964 which are considered outdated and incomplete.

There remain some challenges in implementing the passed Laws in Somaliland and Puntland which can be attributed to stigma, lack of knowledge of the new Laws and use of the outdated penal code and criminal procedures code as well as reliance on customary traditions.

The Government is committed to providing safe and accessible services and justice for survivors of gender based violence and important work continues on capacitating Police and justice institutions to implement this.

## GBV service provision across Somalia

In 2016, there were over 7,200 reported GBV cases and in the months of January and February 2022 alone, there were nearly 1,600 cases of

In 2016, there were over 7,200 reported GBV cases and in the months of January and February 2022 alone, there were nearly 1,600 cases of GBV recorded . The increase is attributed to worsening drought conditions and floods

GBV recorded<sup>58</sup>. The increase is attributed to worsening drought conditions and floods. GBV service provision remains low compared to the needs and vast geographical landscape and IDP women and children in particular, face insecurity and violence in their displacement settings. The majority of the 76 per cent reported GBV incidents were reported by IDPs. Limited specialized and comprehensive services, such as rape treatment for rape survivors, case management, psychosocial support for traumatized women and girls, are major hindrance to expanding service provisions which are of quality, timely and confidential. Nevertheless, a limited number of GBV specialized service providers continue to create impact. Somalia's GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) comprises 74 partners that report on the 5Ws (What, When, Why, Where Who and How) matrix<sup>7</sup>, out of which only few are specialized service providers. In 2021, there was slight improvement in the prioritization of GBV prevention, response, and mitigation, however, the efforts remain inadequate in light of number of people in need of GBV services.

## Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Of the reported 7200 GBV cases, 72% were intimate partner violence. IPV has consistently remained the highest reported incident of GBV according to 2021 Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) reports. Women and girls in marriage relationships are the major survivors of IPV. Incidents of IPV are attributed to tensions in families mainly due to limited financial resources to cover needs which lead to tensions among women and men.

## Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Of the reported 7200 GBV cases, 13 per cent were rape cases and 12 per cent sexual assault cases. Increased hostilities perpetuated by communal violence and struggle over scarce resources, such as land and water, also negatively impact already displaced women and girls living in IDP camps and unfamiliar environments. In the last three years, there has been a spike in reported cases of rape of adults, adolescents, and female children. However, more recently, adolescents and girls have become major targets. Travelling long distances to seek health services, schools, water points and latrines are major factors which continue to increase the risks of rape of women and girls in Somalia.

# 99%

of Somali women aged 15-49 have undergone female circumcision. There is widespread stigma against the elimination of the practice stemming from the belief that uncut women or girls are more likely to be promiscuous or unfaithful to their husbands once married, thus uncut girls are often ostracized

## Early and Forced Marriage

Early and forced marriage continues to be pervasive in Somalia, particularly within the context of prevailing poverty and gender bias which perpetuates favouritism of boys over girls. While girls are usually married at an early age due to family's needs to ensure social and economic security, women are traditionally valued by their ability to procreate. Marriage is the means for women and girls to demonstrate their value in society, gaining privilege, respect and recognition as a mother of a clans' children. Early marriage is perceived to be both a cultural and a religious requirement in Somalia sine there is a lack of consensus among key stakeholders (i.e. religious and civil society actors) on the age of marriage or maturity.

## Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

IDPs are the most affected by GBV. The 2021 GBVIMS report indicated that 74 per cent of GBV victims were females IDPs. IDP camps are poorly resourced with inadequate shelter materials, overcrowded shelters, unsecured and inadequate latrines, and other sanitary facilities that are not separated by gender. Schools, health facilities and water points are usually located far away from the camps. The majority of those who experienced multiple displacements in 2021, due to drought, conflict and/or election-related insecurity across the country, were women and adolescent girls. The lack of recreational spaces within the IDP camps has affected the ability of affected women and girls to be able build social networks and learn new skills that would increase their ability to reintegrate into the community.

## Female Genital Mutilation

FGM remains prevalent in Somalia with 99% of Somali women aged 15-49 having undergone female circumcision. The practice has devastating consequences which include pain and bleeding, difficulty in passing urine, infections, permanent disability to genital tissue and even death caused by shock, severe bleeding and infection. The pain caused by FGM lasts way beyond the initial procedure continuing as ongoing torture throughout a woman's life. The practice is recognized as a violation of children's rights. Seventy-one per cent of Somali women aged 15-49 were circumcised between ages 5-9. In 2015, Somalia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

64 per cent have undergone Pharaonic type of female circumcision which is the most severe form. Additionally, 72% of women aged 15-49 believe that female circumcision is a religious obligation.

In measuring the overall attitudes of Somali women, 76% of women aged 15-49 want female circumcision to continue. There is a variation of beliefs on whether FGM is a religious requirement between women in urban areas at 60%, rural women at 72% and nomadic women at 78%.

In terms of education, 74 per cent of women with no education believe it a religious requirement compared to 44 per cent with higher levels of education. Wealth status also helps determine a women's beliefs about FGM with 77 per cent of women from the poorest households believing female circumcision to be a religious requirement compared to 59 per cent from highest wealth quintile who hold the same beliefs.

Although the practice remains prevalent, there has been a reported shift from the extreme type 3 Pharaonic FGM to type 1 Sunna. Most communities do not view type 1 Sunna as FGM or harmful.

There is widespread stigma against the elimination of the practice stemming from the belief that an uncut women or girl is more likely to be promiscuous or unfaithful to her husband once married, thus uncut girls are often ostracized. Furthermore, in Somali society, women conduct the procedure and force the practice on their young daughters.

Government, civil society and international partners lead work on advocacy, awareness raising, community engagement and empowerment programs. Most recently, a 'Dear Daughter' campaign was launched by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and UNFPA which sees Somali parents pledging not cut their daughters. The campaign puts forward advocacy, media and grass roots programs on a national scale centred around this basic premise.

There is no legalization against FGM however, notable progress has been made in the Constitution with the defining of FGM as 'torture'. Article 15 (4) of the Provisional Constitution which stipulates that "circumcision of girls is a cruel and degrading customary practice and is tantamount to torture. The circumcision of girls is prohibited."

Also, the Government with support from international partners is currently developing a national strategy to advise efforts to eradicate FGM. Specifically, it will include the following key pillars:

- A strong rights-based approach and high-level advocacy
- Capitalize on the role of religious leaders and religious beliefs.
- More work with the Ministry of Health and health workers in the treatment and prevention FGM.
- Emphasizing the message on zero tolerance since there is no reduction in the practice, though there has been a decrease from Type III, the most severe, to type 1.
- Increase community engagement, education and awareness raising to change social norms.
- Underline the importance of measuring progress and the impact of efforts through consistent monitoring and evaluation<sup>59</sup>.

### Covid-19 Pandemic

Somali families, especially female headed households, continue to feel the impact of COVID-19 with the loss of jobs and reduced purchasing power. While organizations were forced to terminate workers contracts to cope with the financial consequences of COVID-19, some businesses are re- opening with minimal staff. Micro-enterprises for women and adolescent girls

GBVIM reports from the last quarter of 2021, showed that IPV rates had reduced from 61 per cent to 43 per cent. This can possibly be attributed to the fact that women and adolescent girls are no longer in Covid-19 lockdown and are able to move out of the house to do their daily chores or business

suffered major setbacks, due to the limited cash flow available to support micro-enterprises. Most GBV services that were closed during 2020 to the second quarter of 2021 have re-opened and are currently providing services and applying COVID-19 protocols. GBVIM reports from the last quarter of 2021, showed that IPV rates had reduced from 61 per cent to 43 per cent. This can possibly be attributed to the fact that women and adolescent girls are no longer in lockdown and are able to move out of the house to do their daily chores or business. Nevertheless, it will take time to fully recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and businesses.

## Women in leadership and decision-making roles

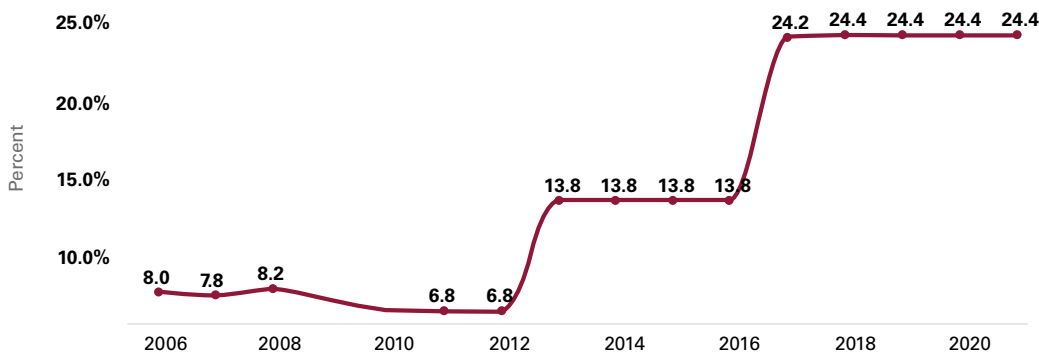
Over the years Somalia has made significant progress to raise the overall status of Somali women in leadership and decision-making roles. In legislation, Somalia's provisional Constitution includes a number of passages which underline the involvement of women in leadership and decision-making.

Somalia has yet to hold direct elections with the ballot only limited to Somalia's 329 Members of the lower and upper houses of Parliament. In 2016, following extensive campaigning by the Government, prominent women's organizations, civil society actors and international partners, 24%, almost a quarter, of lower house parliamentary seats secured by women. In the lead up to the

2021/2022 elections, advocacy work on securing 30% quota of legislative seats continued but yielded fewer results. In 2022 elections, a total of 54 women, 20%, were elected out of the 275 House of the Peoples seats falling short of the 30 per cent goal and the 24% achieved in the 2016 elections.

Somalia's achievement of equal and meaningful participation of women is compounded by a lack of access to financial support, promotion of male candidates by clan elders and political elites and a lack of connections compared to male peers. Despite these challenges, the Government with partners is committed to achieving the full equal and meaningful participation of women in leadership and decision making roles ■

**Figure 5** (5.5.1.a) Proportion of seats held by women parliaments (% of total number of seats)





AMISOM Photo.

## GOAL 6

# CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**W**ater scarcity, affecting more than 40% of the global population, is projected to rise as temperatures increase.<sup>60</sup> Although 2.1 billion people worldwide have improved the water sanitation infrastructures since 1990, dwindling potable water supplies affect every continent. Countries are experiencing increasing water stress, as well as droughts and desertification.

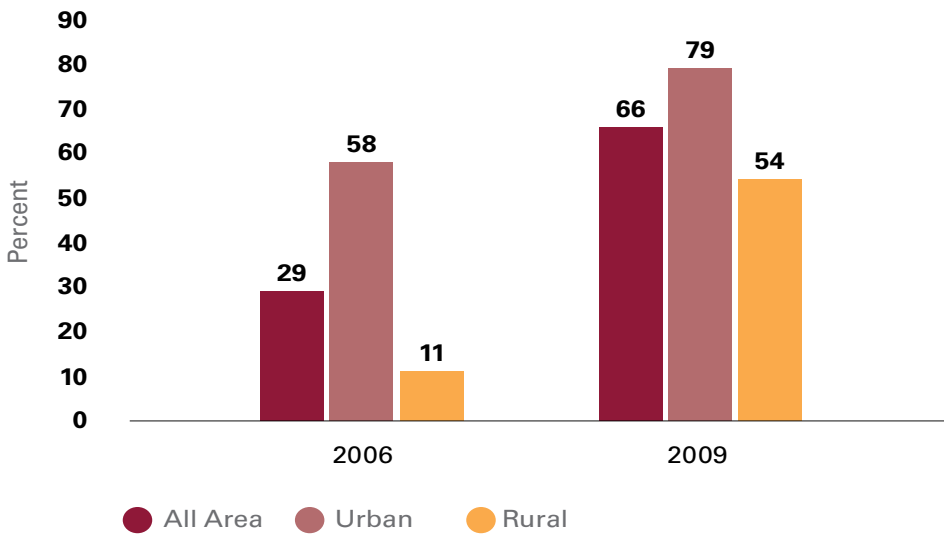
By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages.<sup>61</sup> Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires Government investment in adequate infrastructure, sanitation facilities, and public hygiene. Additionally, protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential. Ensuring universal, safe, and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people worldwide who otherwise lack basic services and

60 UNDP Seoul Policy Centre for Knowledge Exchange through SDG Partnerships, Goal 6.

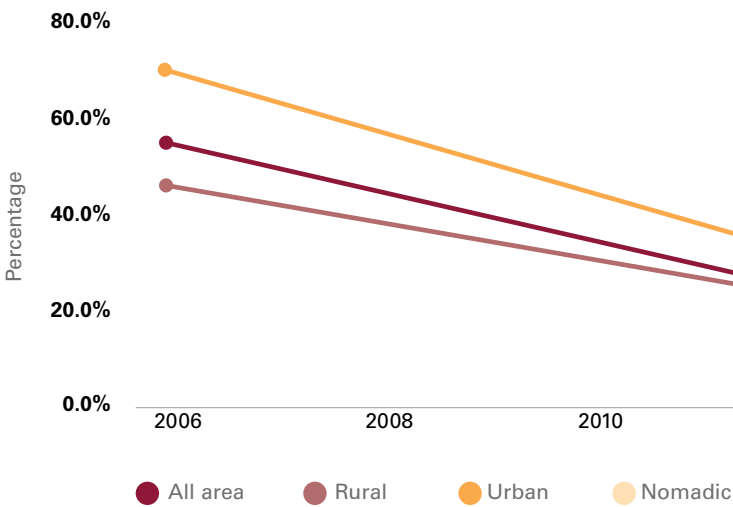
61 Id.



**Figure 6** (6.1.1) Proportion of Population using basic drinking water services by location (%)



**Figure 7** (6.2.1.a) Proportion of population using basic sanitation services, by location



Significant progress has been recorded in the proportion of people practicing open defecation, which has decreased from 35% in 2015 to 18% in 2019

improving the accessibility and safety of such services for over two billion people.<sup>62</sup>

Despite copious investments in the water and sanitation sector made by NGOs, multilateral development banks, and the private sector, the outlook for access to safe and adequate water supplies in Somalia is low. The water shortage is exacerbated by drought, which consequently increases water contamination. To improve Somalia's outlook despite the paucity of potable water, developing a national policy to ensure sustainable water management must

62 Id.

# 67%

of households use an improved source that provides safe drinking water and 43 percent of Somalia's households have access to piped water coming into their home or plot

be a government priority. The likelihood of poor households having access to improved sanitation is low. Moreover, fewer than half of schools and health clinics have access to clean water and sanitation.<sup>63</sup>

The proportion of the population using basic drinking water services, increased from 29 per cent in 2006<sup>64</sup> to 66 per cent in 2019<sup>65</sup>. According to data from 2019, a considerable 79 per cent of the urban population are using basic drinking water services whilst 54 per cent of the rural and 19 per cent of nomadic population use basic drinking water services. Overall, seven out of ten households, at 67 per cent, use an improved source that provides safe drinking water and 43 percent of Somalia's households have access to piped water coming into their home or plot. Further, 12 per cent of Somalia's households travel for at least 30 minutes or longer to get water<sup>66</sup>.

It is important to note that 40% of Somalia's population uses basic sanitation services across the country, which is comprised of 33.6% of the rural population and 49.5% of the urban population.

Significant progress has been recorded in the proportion of people practicing open defecation, which has decreased from 35% in 2015<sup>67</sup> to 18% in 2019<sup>68</sup> ■

63 Ninth National Development Plan 2020-2024

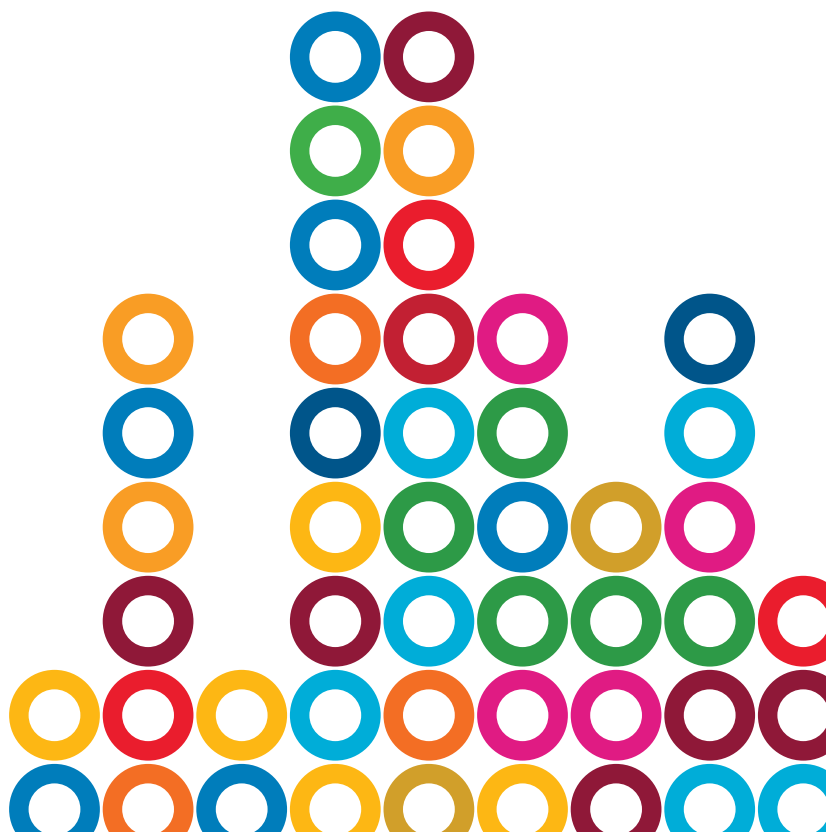
64 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

65 Somali Health Demographic Survey 2020

66 Id.

67 Knowledge Attitude Practice 2015

68 Knowledge Attitude Practice 2015



## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



AMISOM Photo.

### GOAL 7

## AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

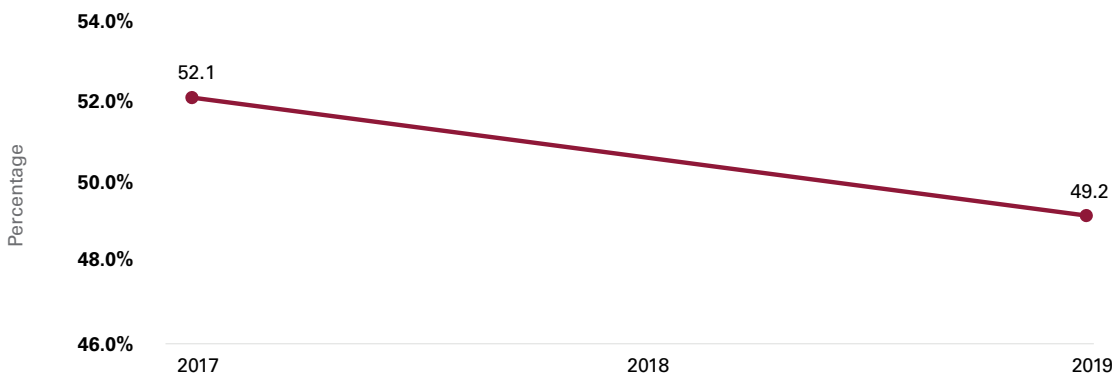
In Somalia, energy access in general and electricity access in particular are widely recognized as major drivers of economic growth. At present, the country has not done much progress on this sector. Due to inadequate infrastructure and regulatory framework, the supply is highly fragmented and therefore inefficient, leading to one of the highest prices in the world. There was a decrease in the proportion of the population with access to electricity from 52 per

cent in 2017<sup>69</sup> to 49 per cent in 2019<sup>70</sup>.

Currently the private sector supplies more than 90 per cent of power in urban and peri-urban areas using local private mini-grids, having invested in diesel-based systems of between 500 kVA to 5,000 kVA installed capacity per mini-grid. These mini-grids are usually zoned, with each operator building, owning, and operating the generation,

69 Somalia High Frequency Survey Wave 2 2017

70 Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020

**Figure 8** (7.1.1) Proportion of population with access to electricity

transmission, distribution and maintenance, as well as collecting tariffs. There is no physical national grid in Somalia. Therefore, the system of delivering electrical energy to users comprises a network of isolated distribution grids with isolated generation providers. These island networks are anchored to specific urban centres with dedicated electricity service providers (ESPs). Each ESPs owns and operates their complete generation- distribution- customer-revenue chain using a radial distribution island network.

Energy access is severely limited for the majority of the population and this includes both access to electricity and other sources of energy like biomass and fossil fuels. Through the years of instability, the energy sector has been unable to meet latent demand and provide for stable and affordable access for most of the population, which has negatively contributed to social indicators and hindered economic growth. Fragmented generation and distribution systems have resulted in considerable inefficiencies which have severely limited growth in the sector. Significant improvements can be made in the operations of the power sector throughout the country by increasing cooperation between ESPs under some supervision from one or more national regulatory authorities.

There exist a number of challenges in improving the energy or power sector. Namely; limited regulation and oversight of the sector, the monopoly of distribution control in some areas, acute shortage of qualified workforce, high (up to 40%) generation and distribution losses from poor infrastructure, high tariffs due in part to energy inefficiencies and insufficient generation capacity to meet the country's needs as well as of course persistent insecurity and political instability.

For cooking, most households cook with firewood, charcoal and even animal dung, which cause harmful indoor air pollution.

## Way Forward to Improve the Energy Sector

- I. Developing renewable and non-renewable energy sources to increase supply
- II. Establishing a national regulatory authority for energy market governance
- III. Strengthening the administrative and technical capacity of the federal and states ministries of energy in order to reach the 2030 SDG 7
- IV. Ensure the needs of vulnerable groups – particularly women, youth and displaced persons – in intervention design and implementation in the energy sector.
- V. Prepare legislation which establishes the national regulatory authority for the energy sector and operationalize the agency and to be implemented to make a real progress on SDG 7 vision 2030.
- VI. Undertake energy market regulatory reforms to improve efficiency of generation and supply systems which thus improve reliability of supply and bring down energy prices.
- VII. Increase the energy supply from both renewable and fossil fuel sources, and as result increase access to energy from 15% to 45% of population by 2030; or a good percentage of growth in access per year. ■

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### GOAL 8

## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**T**he Federal Government of Somalia has made commendable progress towards establishing institutions which are key to sustaining and improving macroeconomic stability and managing fiscal dynamics. Despite the country's conflict past which destroyed infrastructure and collapsed the economy, the macroeconomic indicators recorded between 2013 and 2021 are promising. Positive trends are manifest in remittance, capacity to produce

credible statistics on economic performance, a fast-developing financial sector, a growing commitment by the diaspora to invest locally, and predictable environment in which to do business. The revival from the 2017 drought and a slow recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 are a further cause for optimism.

The economy is dominated by the livestock sector which generates trade worth an estimated

# 30%

The economy is dominated by the livestock sector which generates trade worth an estimated 30 per cent of Somalia 's GDP, and over 50 per cent of exports

30 per cent of Somalia 's GDP, and over 50 per cent of exports. Nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists make up approximately 30 per cent of Somalia's population according to the 2014 population estimation survey (PESS)<sup>71</sup>. The Federal Government of Somalia has embarked on a process of structural, legislative, and institutional reform and the economy is starting to respond.

## Fiscal Policy

The Somalia Trade Policy has been approved by the Cabinet. The Federal Government recognizes that the private sector must play a role in setting the trade policy agenda and it is committed to a consultative process that involves key stakeholders in the development of a trade policy framework. The challenge however is to institutionalize the consultative process in order to enhance co-ordination and ownership of the policies that result therefrom.

The Federal Government's efforts to re-introduce corporate and sales tax have yielded impressive results with an increase in revenue by more than 80 per cent, from \$671.8 million in 2021 to \$918.7 million (including grants) in 2022, the largest amount ever passed by the Cabinet.

## Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative

During the last five years, Somalia has dedicated intense efforts to improving macroeconomic stability through a comprehensive set of reforms including financial governance and debt management, adopting a poverty reduction strategy and supporting inclusive growth. In March 2020, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's International Development Association determined that Somalia had met the conditions to begin receiving debt relief under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative which would see

Somalia's debt reduced from \$5.2 billion to £557 million once it reaches the HIPC Completion point. For Somalia, debt relief and regaining access to financial resources would mean lasting change by strengthening and diversifying the economy and introducing sustainable job creation as well as developing infrastructure; all of which shall raise millions of Somalis out of poverty.

## Tailwinds

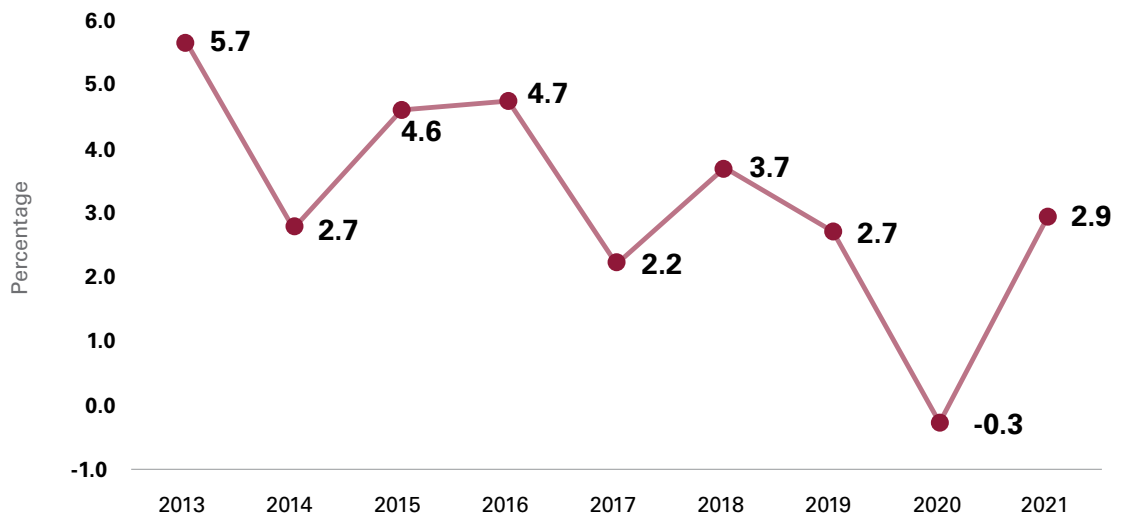
Somali's economy remains resilient due to its diversity, with services and construction comprising the highest proportion of GDP growth. This is expected to last as the country continues to rebuild its infrastructure, financial services and the increasing demand for information and communications technology due to the high youth population and increased urbanization.

Recent diaspora investment has picked up as a result of improved security and business-enabling environment. Foreign direct investment is projected to increase further within the next couple of years as a result of enhanced security and easing doing business in Somalia. Raising revenue is crucial for reducing aid dependency, financial service delivery, strengthening a sense of contract between the state and its citizens, and fortify intra-society relationships. Recent efforts by the Federal Governments to re-introduce corporate and sales tax has created much needed revenue.

Raising revenue is crucial for reducing aid dependency, financial service delivery, strengthening a sense of contract between the state and its citizens, and fortify intra-society relationships.

71 Population Estimation Survey 2014

Figure 9 (8.1.1) Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita 2013-2021



### Economic Performance

Somalia’s economy has registered several achievements since 2021, despite severe drought that affected agricultural production and livestock export. Some of the most notable achievements include 8% increase of GDP in the first and second quarters of 2018, up from 6% in 2016.

Somalia’s real GDP decreased by 0.3 per cent in 2020. This was the lowest growth over the last economically unstable decade. A significant factor has been the triple threats that include persistent effects of 2019 flooding, locust invasion, and the Covid-19 crisis as this value differs from the corresponding growth in 2019 (a 3.3 per cent increase). Figure 1 shows year-on-year growth rates measured in Somalia’s real GDP (measured in constant 2017 prices).

GDP increased by 2.9 percent in 2021, up from the economic contraction of 0.3 per cent in 2020 caused by Covid-19 containment measures including lockdowns coupled with desert locust infestation and droughts, with larger increases in per capita consumption of non-food products (relative to food) underpinning this result.

The per capita income has picked up from \$440 in 2016 to \$557 in 2018. Household final consumption expenditure grew by 5% largely due to consistent government salary payments and creation of more jobs. At the same time the number of businesses registered increased from 1200 in 2016 to 3046

in 2018, suggesting the private sector remains essentially strong and the business climate is improving.

Government final consumption expenditure increased by 9.4 percent in 2021, reflecting the revised 2020 supplemental budget which includes substantial donor support to respond to the triple crisis and allows for additional transfers to the Federal Member States and Banadir region.

Household final consumption expenditure increased by 3.9 percent in 2021. This result implies per capita consumption increased by 1.1 percent as Somalia’s population increased by 2.8 percent over this period.

### Trade

Foreign trade statistics play an important role in many economies and Somalia is no exception. It is an account of all transactions of merchandise between domestic residents and the rest of the world. The overall value of exports and imports for Q4-2021 were estimated at \$149,182,838.67 and \$1,411,933,094.48 respectively. Total trade (export plus imports) amounted to \$1,309,658,803 from \$1,091,320,224 recorded in the previous quarter. Somalia registered a trade deficit of \$1,262,750,256 during the December quarter of 2021. The observed decline in domestic exports was largely driven by low foreign demand for goods and services.



## Exports

The export of animals represents the largest share of Somalia's export earnings. The three types of livestock that Somalia exports are Sheep/Goat, camel, and cattle. The exports from Somalia other than livestock are Animal skin products, Crops & Vegetable Oil, forest products and others. Livestock (\$103,265,600.00), Crops and vegetable oil (\$19,566,966.67) as well as other exports (\$15,004,452.00) were the leading commodities exported by the local economy in Q4-2021. Together, these commodities made up 92.39 per cent of the total exports.

As the comparative figures between the fourth quarters of 2021 and 2020 below show, the fourth quarter for 2021 has the highest per centage increase in exports (10.21%) compared to the same quarter in the previous year. Other exports in the fourth quarter of 2021 were 622.67% higher than exports of the same quarter in 2020. In addition,

Animal skins products exports were 169.18% higher than the previous quarter. Livestock export contribution to the economy was in the tune of US\$110 million in the first quarter of 2021.

## Domestic Inflation

During the first quarter of 2021, the headline inflation rate remained in the single digits and relatively stable. The inflation rate in Somalia has been increasing in the last two years even though the rate of inflation for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas are the most significant items in the consumer basket in terms of expenditure and have the largest weighted influence on the All Groups CPI. There are major concerns that deteriorating macroeconomic conditions due to global oil crises, droughts and COVID-19 will increase staple food prices. while loss of income from remittances is likely to further exacerbate food security challenges.

**Table 3** Summary of exports (October – December) 2020 & 2021

S/N	Summary of Export			Percentage change
	Category	2021 Q4	2020 Q4	
1	Livestock	\$103,265,600.00	\$89,802,265.00	14.99%
2	Animal Skins Products	\$8,416,500.00	\$3,126,700.00	169.18%
3	Crops & Vegetable Oil	\$19,566,966.67	\$38,827,991.67	-49.61%
4	Forest Products	\$2,929,320.00	\$1,527,168.00	91.81%
5	Other	\$15,004,452.00	\$2,076,264.00	622.67%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>149,182,838.67</b>	<b>135,360,388.67</b>	<b>10.21%</b>

**Table 4** Domestic inflation

All group CPI	2020	2021
	Inflation Rate	Inflation Rate
<b>Total consumption expenditure all items</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>4.63</b>
Food and non alcoholic beverages	2.06	2.81
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	-3.25	-12.10
Clothing and footwear	17.17	11.31
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other construction materials	4.92	6.82
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	3.69	5.28
Health	15.64	16.15
Transport	3.52	4.89
Communication	4.15	2.70
Recreation and culture	-1.65	4.38
Education	1.87	2.00
Restaurants and hotels	1.21	1.96
Miscellaneous goods and services	6.80	9.40

As the coronavirus pandemic approaches its third year as well as the persistent climate-fueled droughts declared by the government on November 2021, households across Somalia are feeling the pinch of rising food, housing, energy prices, transport and health owing to record-high inflation of 6.84% since 2017 and 2011.

The annual inflation rate in 2021 increased to 4.63 per cent, compared with 4.11 per cent annual percentage change in 2020. In January 2022, the All Groups CPI (inflation rate) increased to 6.84 per cent, compared with 5.67 per cent in 2021. The most significant monthly price increases were Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (1.10 per cent). This was mainly due to an increase in prices of some foodstuffs as a result of unfavourable weather conditions and droughts that led to decreased food production and subsequently increased food prices for various commodities.

## Inflation Drivers

The main drivers for the increase in inflation are rising prices in health, food, transport, housing, water, electricity, and gas.

## Business Registry

Business Registry increased in 2017-2021 with over 3,046 businesses registered in Somalia, including big companies. Specifically, in Mogadishu about 1,246 business were registered with the other 1800 registered from the regional states of Jubbaland and Puntland. The Growth of registered companies drives forward business, economic, personal and professional development within communities by boosting employment, skills, investment and enterprise for the benefit of all.

The security improvement and government political commitment have played significant role in the economic performance of the country particularly, construction because investors are confident to invest and start new business, as new businesses registration is growing in 2018.

## Remittance

Remittances are an important source of income, especially in Somalia. The unemployment rate in Somalia was 21.4% with respective rates of 18.4% and 27.4% for males and females. This, coupled with a fragile economy, leaves a large part of the population without a stable and secure

**Table 5** Inflation Drivers

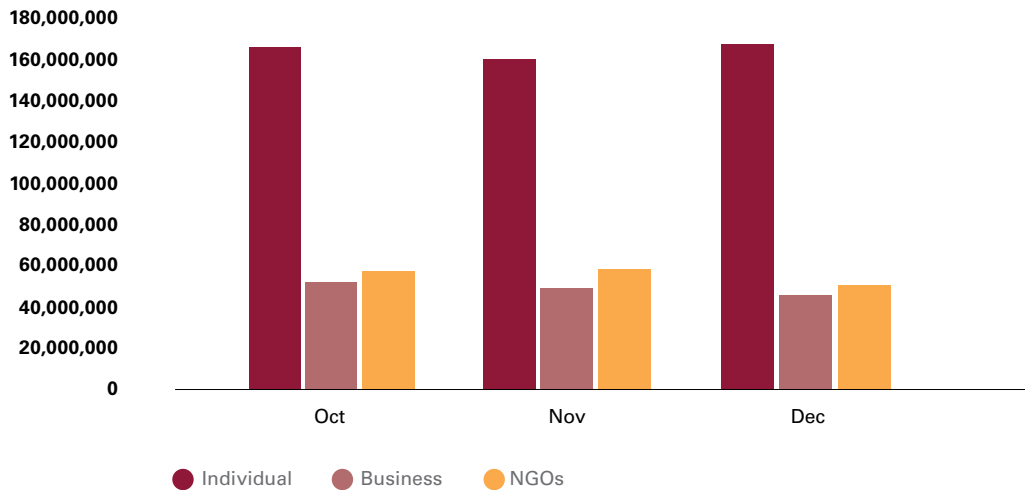
CPI 2020	Annual Change	CPI 2021	Annual Change	CPI 2022	Annual Change
Annual Inflation	<b>4.11%</b>	Annual Inflation	<b>4.63%</b>	Annual Inflation	<b>6.65%</b>
Food	<b>2.06%</b>	Food	<b>2.81%</b>	Food	<b>12.14%</b>
Health	<b>15.64%</b>	Health	<b>16.15%</b>	Health	<b>11.34%</b>
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas	<b>4.92%</b>	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas	<b>6.82%</b>	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas	<b>5.64%</b>
Transport	<b>3.52%</b>	Transport	<b>4.98%</b>	Transport	<b>5.47</b>

**Table 6** Business register data

No	Lists from different place	Number
1	MOCI & Chamber of commerce	1,246
2	Puntland Chamber of Commerce	993
3	Jubbaland Chamber of Commerce	807
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,046</b>

**Table 7** Remittance (October-December) 2021

2021	Individuals	Business	NGOs	Total
Oct	166,075,441.72	51,892,068.80	56,963,125.30	<b>274,930,635.82</b>
Nov	160,069,288.18	48,999,653.20	58,183,163.02	<b>267,252,104.40</b>
Dec	167,786,259.13	46,005,158.41	50,440,338.06	<b>264,231,755.60</b>

**Figure 10** Remittance(October-December)2021

income, these circumstances make remittances an important livelihood source for Somali households. Somalia has a heavy dependence on the US dollar in financial asset transactions, with 100 per cent of bank deposits in USD.

Individuals' remittance recorded an increase of 3.35 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter in the previous year. Business remittances in the December quarter of 2021 recorded a decline of 27.23% compared with Business remittances of the same quarter in 2020. Also, NGOs remittances were 31.35% higher than the previous quarter.

## Decent Work, creating more and better jobs

The global mandate for labour held by International Labour Organization (ILO) is expressed as "advancing social justice and promoting decent work". ILO's main instruments for exercising this mandate are the Conventions and Recommendations. Increased efforts have been made towards job creation and changing the standard of living of Somalia's population.

According to the SNBS 2019 Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate was 21.4 per cent with respective rates of 18.4 per cent and 27.4 per cent for males and females. The unemployment rate was slightly higher in urban areas (21.7 per

cent) than in the rural areas (20.1 per cent). The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years was 37.4 per cent, and is higher for female youth at 40.8 per cent, than the male youth at 35.2 per cent. Further, youth aged 15 to 24 made up 17.8 per cent of the labour force participation rate share. The employment to population ratio for the Federal Republic of Somalia was 25.5 per cent and with figures showing a much larger share for males at 37.5 per cent compared to females at 14.7 per cent.

Services employment comprises the largest share of total employment with 59.9 per cent. This is followed by industry at 18.0 per cent and agriculture at 13.5 per cent. Furthermore, the employment sector classed as 'other activities' contributed 17.8 per cent, followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing at 13.5 per cent and manufacturing at 11.4 per cent.

As is the case in developing countries, the informal sector is a major employer in Somalia. The recently published Labour Force Survey<sup>72</sup>, shows that there were about 572,818 persons employed in the informal sector, corresponding to about 83.1 per cent of total employment (excluding domestic workers engaged in households). However, jobs in the informal sector are unstable in nature. They are characterized by low pay, limited competitiveness, job insecurity and other atypical forms of employment.

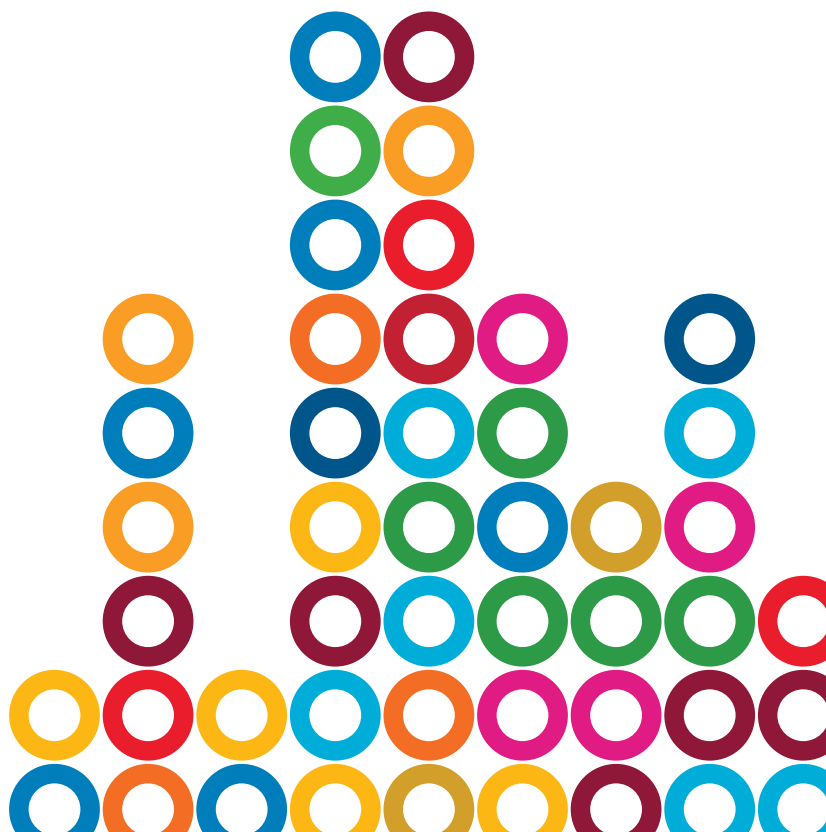
72 Labour Force Survey 2019

The growing informal economy and its size is important for various reasons. To begin with, the size of the informal economy in Somalia could decrease the possibility of evidence-based policy implementation to manage the informal economy with a strong indication of a direct correlation between the size and the levels of economic development. Secondly, as an employment factor, the informal economy has an impact on the sustainability of job security.

As per the NDP-9, part of the economic strategy is to formalize these businesses, offering them a framework of certainty through flexible regulation and tailored business services, offering greater protection from extortion while benefiting from tax revenue. Linked to the initiatives for creating enabling business environment captured above, the Somali government will look to incentivize the formalization of these businesses.

According to the World Bank paper on Country Economic Memorandum towards an inclusive jobs agenda<sup>73</sup>, the most important sector of employment is services. Around 75 per cent of household enterprises and 80 per cent of established businesses are engaged in services such as commerce, transport, and hospitality. As in other Fragility Conflict Violence (FCV) contexts, the share of jobs in manufacturing is low, at around 12 per cent for established businesses and at 10 per cent of all enterprise jobs, largely in food processing. Overall, only just over a quarter of jobs are in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. Only among nomadic groups do agriculture and livestock account for more than half of all jobs ■





## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



AU UN IST PHOTO/ David Mutua

### GOAL 9

## INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**S**omalia's infrastructure was subjected to severe damage and destruction during the course of the conflict. The restoration of infrastructure can be a major peace dividend and is a critical factor in the success of post-conflict recovery with the effectiveness of infrastructure acting as a barometer of whether a society will slip back into violence or make a peaceful transition out of the conflict cycle.

The Information Communications Technology (ICT)

sector in Somalia has flourished under a self-regulated private sector system and is known to be a key contributor to the economy. Somalia's ICT market consists of 11 operators and 4 million mobile connections, but tele-density is only about 7% however the proportion of Internet users is growing rapidly<sup>74</sup>. ICT is one of the fastest growing sectors and the third largest industry by employment in the country. The sector generates

<sup>74</sup> FGS and AfDB- Compare 'Needs Assessment of ICT Sector in Somalia, July 2014

The Information Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Somalia has flourished under a self-regulated private sector system and is known to be a key contributor to the economy

substantial profit which has enabled a mobile penetration rate of about 10 subscriptions per 100 people. The most readily available ICT media are radio and mobile phones<sup>75</sup>.

Somalia's telecommunications sector is governed by the National Communications Law (also known the Telecoms Act) which was signed into law on 2 October 2017 entering into effect immediately. This passing of the Act had taken a considerable amount of time with drafting beginning in 2005 and firstly approved by the Somali Cabinet in 2012. The new law paves the way for the establishment of a National Communications Regulatory Commission in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The Bill was passed following consultations between government representatives and communications, academic and civil society stakeholders.

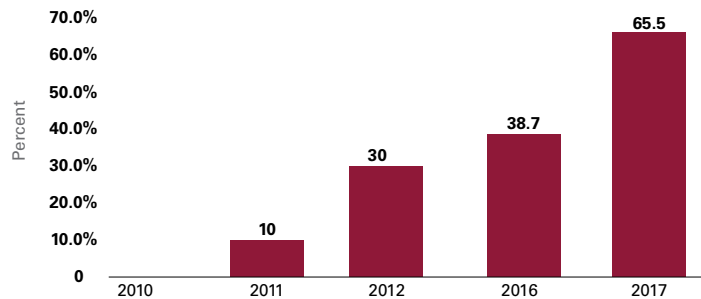
### 3G Mobile Network

Somalia made significant progress in access to data with 38.7% of the population having 3G mobile data access in 2016<sup>76</sup> compared to 65.2% of the population in 2017.<sup>77</sup>

LTE, 3G and satellite connectivity services have been available for several years. In late 2018, 4G services were also introduced in Mogadishu and the surrounding regions to help boost the e-business sector<sup>78</sup>.

The mobile and internet infrastructures have been almost entirely developed by private companies with internet and mobile access comparatively inexpensive due to significant competition between these companies. Despite this growth, Somalia, just like many other African countries has a very limited digital infrastructure such as Internet backbone, broadband services, and other critical digital infrastructure. Due to insecurity, there is

**Figure 11** Proportion of the population covered by at least 3G mobile network (%)



no internet backbone connection between main cities, thus limiting the ability to provide high-speed Internet to people living in different regions, especially those in the South and Central Somalia.

The Government has made plans to enact more efficient tax collection, as outlined in the 2017 Communications Act. However, this has been challenging to implement with companies arguing that they have invested significant resources in building an infrastructure that should have been provided by the State.<sup>79</sup>

Further, the extremely limited capacity of Somalia's existing four deep-sea ports combined with the high percentage of imported construction materials (hardly any in-country production) leads to high construction and transportation costs which creates a serious bottle neck for scaling up construction and rehabilitation investments and efforts.

Decades of conflict and thus weak institutional capacity have significantly hindered the country's development with regards to maintaining and expanding public infrastructure and developing the necessary regulatory and governance frameworks. This has left Somalia faced with complex and pressing challenges when reviving public revenue sources. However, there is growing change and acceptance of the Governments role to re-assume regularity authority ■

Somalia made significant progress in access to data with 65.2% of the population having 3G mobile data access in 2017 compared to 38% of the population in 2016

75 Compare 'Needs Assessment of ICT Sector in Somalia, , July 2014

76 National Communications Authority 2016 in SNBS records

77 National Communications Authority 2017 in SNBS records

78 Nation 2018

79 NDP-9



AMISOM Photo /Tobin Jones

### GOAL 13

## CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**S**omalia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change. Since 2011, Somalia has suffered from more frequent and prolonged climate related disasters such as droughts, floods with the addition of cyclones and even locust infestations in the last two years. These disasters continue to destroy Somalia’s eco-systems, threaten food security and increase conflict over resource scarcity.

The impacts of climate change have also been devastating on the economy which is comprised

heavily of natural resources and climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, livestock, water and forestry. This has put a massive strain on the humanitarian situation in Somalia impoverishing and displacing hundreds of thousands of the nomadic and rural populations. The latest drought, in 2021, hit as the country was still recovering from the 2017 drought which led to a humanitarian situation affecting 4.5million people and displacing 700,000<sup>80</sup>.

The Somali Government has made considerable

80 OCHA 2022



# 4.5M

The 2017 drought led to a humanitarian situation affecting 4.5million people and displacing 700,000

efforts to institutionalize and mainstream adaptation to build resilience to the worsening impacts of climate change. The Office of the Prime Minister established the Federal Directorate of Environment and Climate Change. The Directorate has developed a policy response in the form of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) which has a vision to:

(i) Promote a harmonized, articulate and effective response to challenges and opportunities that accompany climate change. (ii) Deliver a framework that will guide the establishment and operationalization of interventions and action plans. (iii) Safeguard the safety and health of citizens, their prosperity and states development in the advent of climate change through enhancement of resilience and implementation of adaptive ability to climate variability.

Further, to ensure effective implementation, the policy proposes a monitoring and evaluation system to track policy interventions and impacts of climate change. Five districts in Puntland State developed District Climate Adaptation plans to promote climate change resilience and enhance the capacity of local governments in risk mitigation measures.

In December 2021, the President inaugurated the IGAD (Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development) climate change research centre. The centre, which is located in the Capital, conducts research, collects data and analyses and disseminates new information on climate change in the Horn of Africa.

## National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies

The number of people affected by disasters is 232 per 100,000 according to data from 2018. In a milestone achievement, in March 2017, the Federal Government of Somalia established a new Ministry, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) mandated to lead the Governments humanitarian aid and emergency response coordination. In fostering livelihood

resilience, the MoHADM established of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre which coordinates disaster risk management activities across Somalia.

In December 2021, National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) was launched to facilitate disaster risk reduction efforts in the country and is aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as other global frameworks. The NPDRR functions on two levels, a ministerial committee led by the MoHADM with the Ministry of Agriculture as Co-Chair and a technical working group committee which works to coordinate and ensure coherence of the implementation of DRR technical agenda across ministries and stakeholders.

The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources developed the National Water Resource Strategy for the period 2021-2025 which provides actions to safeguards Somalia's water resources. As well as climate action, the availability of water has a direct impact on achieving many SDG's including good health and wellbeing, food security, gender equality, access to clean water and sanitation as well as promoting sustainable economic growth.

In 2016, The Federal Republic of Somalia became a signatory of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, which has helped nations with setting long-term goals to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions; and to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius. The Agreement also commits to providing financing support to developing countries to mitigate climate changes, strengthen resilience, and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts. The Government becoming a signatory of the historical agreement has helped to advance the inclusion of climate-related policies within the national agenda. It should be noted that Somalia only contributes less than 0.0003% of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>81</sup> into the atmosphere and its focus is mainly on adaptation to climate change yet it remains committed to mitigating climate change and achieving the targets set in the Sustainable

81 Voice of America 2021

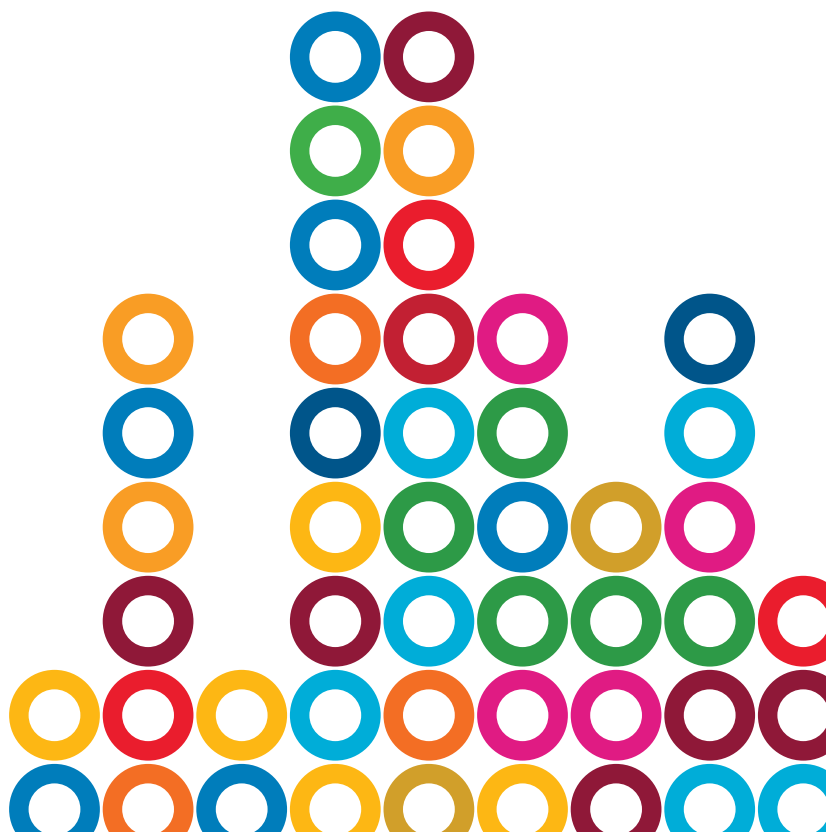
# 30%

Somalia has in its Nationally Determined Contribution committed to take action and reduce its estimated projected emissions of 107.40 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2030 by 30%

Development Goals. Somalia has in its Nationally Determined Contribution committed to take action and reduce its estimated projected emissions of 107.40 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2030 by 30%.

Current work on national climate change adaptation in very modest compared to the immense needs and considerable support is needed to realize national adaptation plans. This will require financial support from domestic resources which include the Government budget, private sector as well as contributions from companies, organizations and individuals. Financial support from the international community comprises of bilateral, multilateral source and international climate funds. Somalia is committed to finding financial resources to support the implementation of national climate related adaptation plans to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals ■







## GOAL 14

### LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**S**omalia has a coast line of 3,025km square making Somalia has a coast line of 3,330km square making it the longest coastline in continental Africa with sovereign territorial waters of up to 200 nautical miles. The country possesses a very substantive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), estimated at 825,052 square kilometres covering one of the richest fishing grounds in the region. Furthermore, Somalia's Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) has one of the strongest upwelling systems in the world creating one of the

most productive ecosystems in the Indian ocean. However, despite this abundant resource Somalia's economy mainly depends on agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries. Somalia has a population of 16.69 million.

Somalia's fisheries sector has significant potential to contribute to Somalia's economic development and poverty reduction. The estimated value of the domestic fisheries sector to the Somali economy was \$135 million in 2015/16. The value of Illegal,

# \$4-17M

Per year estimated potential government revenues from regulated fishing activities, which could be utilized to fund FGS and FMS co-management schemes necessary for effective fisheries and marine environmental management and invest in sectoral human resource development

Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was estimated at \$306 million in benefits to other economies, highlighting opportunities for this sector to better support Somali enterprises and livelihoods in the future. Furthermore, potential government revenues from regulated fishing activities is estimated at US\$4-17 million per year, which could be utilized to fund FGS and FMS co-management schemes necessary for effective fisheries and marine environmental management and invest in sectoral human resource development. It is worth noting that illegal fishing is likely to be reduced since Somalia has undertaken a series of measures against these activities in the past five years. The country has settled its longstanding dispute over the size of its EEZ by accepting a proclamation of 200 nautical miles from its coastline in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). A drastic reduction in piracy and resolution of a disagreement between the Somalia and regional countries over control of deep-sea fishing rights have in particular opened the door to the development of a fishing industry off the Somali coast with tremendous growth and job-creating potential.

Somalia's abundance in livestock and its nomadic culture sees the population underutilize the Somali Sea's resources. Furthermore, the absence of vital infrastructure to develop the sector also contributes to the lack of utilization. Political considerations can also be attributed with Somalia's newly established Federalized systems and the lack of the clarity on the division of power which has yet to be agreed upon with the absence of final Constitution also play a role.

There are a number of pressing interventions which can improve the fisheries sector, namely;

- Increasing administrative and regulatory capacity of the Federal and State level fisheries institutions.
- Enhance the fisheries protection and prosecution capability at the Federal and State level.
- Promote the development of fish value chains to increase both domestic consumption and export
- Ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups – particularly women, the youth and displaced persons – in interventions design and implementation.
- Ensure environmental protection is adequately factored into all interventions design and implementation.
- Development of a National Fisheries Law that is consistent with international law governing offshore fisheries, including licensing, monitoring and reporting of ocean fishing activities, as well as conservation of marine environment.
- Establishment of subsidiary regulations of the National Fisheries Law governing coastal fisheries at Federal Member State level. ■
- Development of a legal framework for effective management of fisheries resources and marine environment.



AMISOM PHOTO

## GOAL 15

### LIFE OF LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**S**omalia is the eastern most country of Africa, covering a total area of 637,657 Km<sup>2</sup>, with the longest coastline (3,330 Km) in continental Africa. The country borders Djibouti (58km), Ethiopia (1,600 Km) and Kenya (682 Km). Its land area is 98.4% (627,337 Km<sup>2</sup>) and water area 1.6% (10,320 Km<sup>2</sup>).

Somalia has a hot, arid and semi-arid climate, with two wet seasons, April to June, and October to November; and possesses approximately 500mm in the northern highlands, 50-150mm along coast, and 300-500 mm in the southwest. As a consequence of global climate change, local climate extremes such as drought, floods, storms, etc. are likely to increase in frequency and intensity.

The key environmental challenges the country faces are environmental degradation from the effects of climate change, controlled activities (charcoal and firewood) and the lack of governance structures to mitigate or stop associated risks and activities.

Topographically, the country comprises of highlands in the north with the rest of the country mainly plateaus and plains including coastal plains with the Juba and Shebelle rivers as the main and only permanent rivers. These rivers remain mostly subterranean before entering the Indian ocean. Irrigated agriculture is on around 1% area or 6,234 Km<sup>2</sup>, rain-fed agriculture is around 7% or 23,446 Km<sup>2</sup>, natural vegetation from closed to sparse is 83% or 528,400 Km<sup>2</sup>, bare areas 11.7 % or 74,819 Km<sup>2</sup>. Water bodies is at 1.6% or 10,320 Km<sup>2</sup> and built areas only 0.1 % (650 Km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>82</sup>

The key environmental challenges the country faces are environmental degradation from the effects of climate change, controlled activities (charcoal and firewood) and the lack of governance structures to mitigate or stop associated risks and activities. Due to decades of conflict, there is limited scientific knowledge and research on the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources is non-existent.

Rapid deforestation across the country has created the conditions for desertification. Charcoal and firewood remain the main sources of energy both in urban and rural areas. Moreover, illegal charcoal export from the country continues unabated despite a ban by the UN Security Council Resolution 2036 in 2012 as well as the Somali Governments ban.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates, 8.2 million trees were cut down for charcoal in Somalia between 2011 and 2017. As a result, forests in Somalia have been depleted to such an extent that the livelihood of the population has been severely impacted. Widespread deforestation has led to land degradation, food insecurity and increased vulnerability to flooding and drought. Environmental degradation is a major

causal factor in increasing poverty, particularly among the rural poor, with degradation impacting soil fertility, quantity and quality of water, air quality, forests and wildlife. A National Charcoal Policy is now in place to counter deforestation.

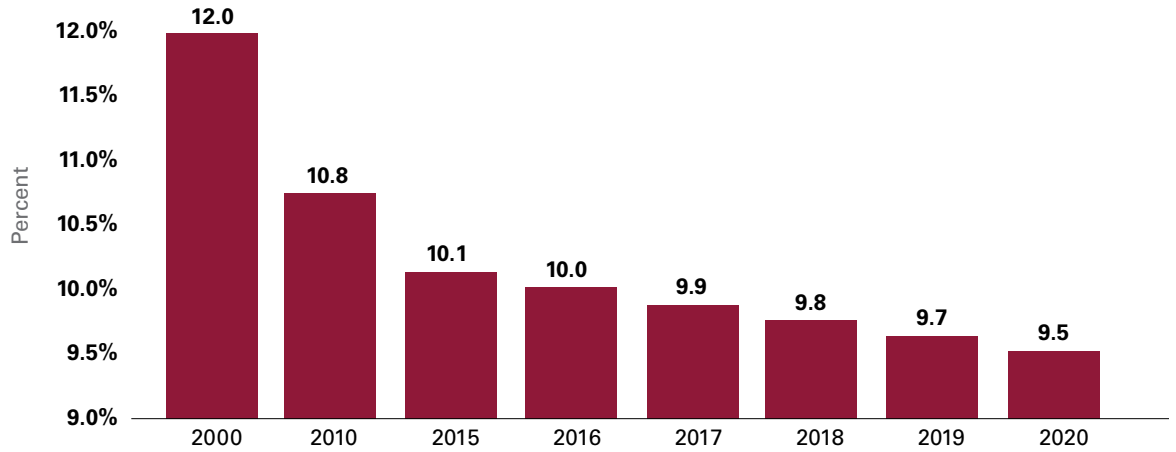
Equally, pastures and rivers are being unsustainably exploited, diminishing economic opportunities they could provide and diminishing essential resources required by the agricultural sector to manage in times of crisis.

Poverty itself can accentuate environmental degradation given that environmental resources such as charcoal are a source of income. Poverty and environmental degradation are also reinforced by, and linked to population growth, which in turn, depends on a complex interaction of diverse causal factors and stages of development. Further, rapid urbanization and the lack of waste management system in the country is creating a growing solid and liquid waste problem. Urban environmental degradation, through lack of (or inappropriate) waste treatment and sanitation, industry and transport related pollution, adversely impacts air, water, and soil quality, and differentially impacts the health of the Somali people. The absence of waste management legislation and enforcement will create a growing health and economic risk. It is increasingly evident that poor environmental quality has adversely affected human health. Environmental factors are estimated as being responsible in some cases for the increase of diseases previously unknown to the Somali people. Thus, it is found that environment and health factors are closely linked to each other.

On the other hand, absence of strong Somali coast guard has led to the unchecked dumping of toxic and hazardous waste in the territorial waters of Somalia. Such illegal activities present significant danger to human and environmental health of the country. In addition, the seafood resources of Somalia have been depleted through illegal fishing by foreign companies. Likewise, the absence of rule of law and enforcement institutions, gave rise to an unregulated marketplace. There are no

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates, 8.2 million trees were cut down for charcoal in Somalia between 2011 and 2017

Figure 12 Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)



environmental standards for the various industries. Imported fuel, medicine, machinery, telecommunication equipment's, construction and other projects and activities are not subjected to any environmental standards. Such unregulated market forces have adverse environmental implications.

Policies and Legislative Frameworks of Somalia related to the land and environment are weak and outdated. Pre-1991 environmental laws date back to the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Since the 1991, no laws were passed. Until the establishment of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Somalia lacked any central body responsible for environmental matters. Further, the more recently established Directorate of Environment and Climate Change at the Office of the Prime Minister also works to advance environmental issues.

Currently, there are a number of institutions both at the Federal and State levels that should play key roles in the management of the environment. However, the only existing environmental legislative frameworks are at State levels, in Somaliland and Puntland, though, enforcement remains weak. Consequently, adopting a national environmental policy and enacting updated legislations are severely needed in order to address the listed environmental challenges.

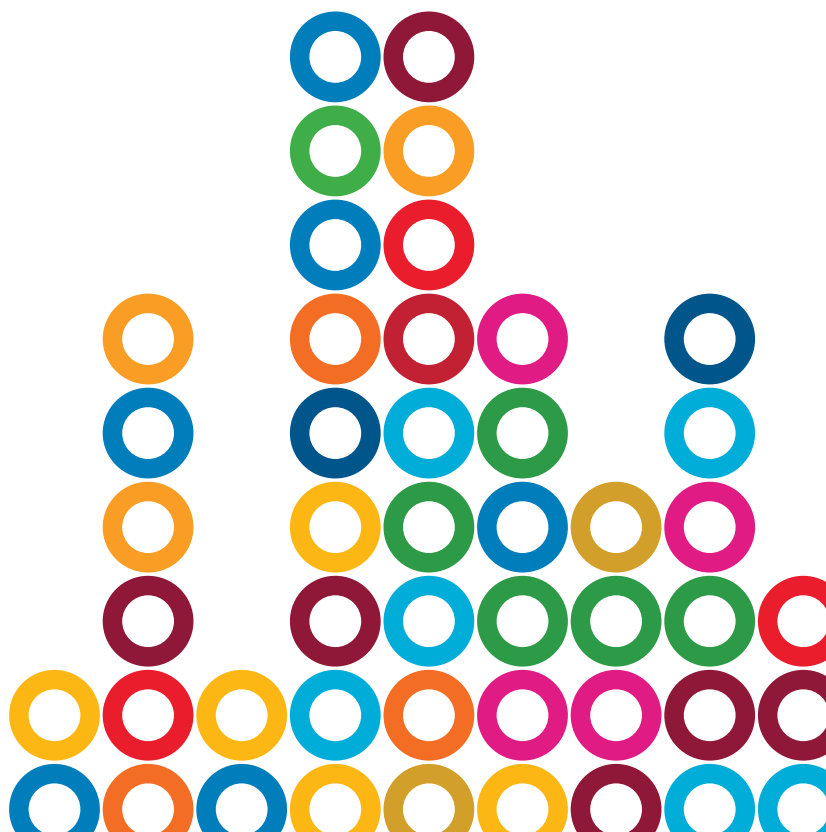
Despite the listed challenges, in 2019, the Federal Government developed the National Environmental Policy which is expected to improve health

and the quality of life by promoting sustainable development through sound management of the natural resources of the country.

There are a number of steps which shall be taken to make further progress under in the Life on Land Goal, namely;

- Review the existing legislations and identify, prepare and enact new legislations in line with the National Environment Policy;
- Encourage and facilitate the review of legislations at Member State levels to ensure consensus with policy;
- Ensure accountability of relevant levels of Government (Centre and State) in undertaking the necessary legislative changes in a defined time-frame, with due regard to the objectives and principles of the National Environment Policy;
- Establish institutional capacity building mechanisms to strengthen policy implementation and monitor the state of the environment in Somalia and update policies as new knowledge and scientific developments become known. ■





**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS




AMISOM Photo

**GOAL 16**

## PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### Justice

**S**omalia cannot achieve sustainable development without peace, security and prosperity. In the last decade with a sustained and increasing degree of stability, the country has made significant progress in state-building and the federalization process. The 2011

Provisional Constitution, the 2012 establishment of the federal government, and the formation of five new Federal Member States demonstrate the country's transition out of fragility and protracted conflict. However, three decades of internal conflict have largely damaged the country's economic infrastructure, security and justice institutions.

By name, *Xeer* is the legal system in which Elders serve as judges and help mediate cases and maintain relations among clans. Though it is widely trusted the traditional system has weaknesses and does not adequately protect individual rights

The lack of access to a fair and equitable justice system impedes Somalia's path towards achieving stability. Reforms have been ongoing to restore judicial organization and establish key justice institutions at FMS and FGS levels. The Ministry of Justice and Judicial Affairs is charged with the responsibility of administering legislation, delivering justice services and providing policy guidance and analysis on justice issues.

In achieving equal access to justice for the poorest and vulnerable including women, youth, children and members from minority clans it has been important to strengthen pathways for accessing legal and judicial services. The National Legal Aid Policy was approved by the Council of Ministries in 2016 and it promotes a mixed model of legal aid, where free legal aid is provided by NGOs, pro bono lawyering and paralegals. Further, significant reforms have continued in the Courts and the Attorney General's Office through sustained capacity building efforts which have strengthened expertise and overall coordination between rule of law institutions resulting in increased access to and use of services.

Engaging with alternative dispute resolution systems has been important to enhancing Somalia's justice sector since they are better placed to respond to the immediate justice needs of most Somali's. By name, *Xeer* is the legal system in which Elders serve as judges and help mediate cases and maintain relations among clans. Though it is widely trusted the traditional system has weaknesses and does not adequately protect individual rights. In this regard, the Ministry of Justice and Judicial Affairs prioritized seven *xeer* policy areas: (1) linkages between state and *xeer* mechanisms; (2) *xeer* compliance with the Provisional Constitution of Somalia and with international human rights standards; (3) gender equity in *xeer*; (4) protection of the rights and wellbeing of children; (5) the legitimacy of decision-

makers (elders) in *xeer*; and, (6) clan equity in *xeer* processes and decisions; and (7) miscellaneous issues. Furthermore, support to traditional systems are actualised through the establishment of community dispute resolution centres.

Work continues on reaching a final political agreement on the Justice and Corrections Model which shall provide an organized process for engagement between the Federal Government and Federal Member States. The Model will determine the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Constitutional Court and Judicial Commissions. An initial political agreement was signed 2018 but consultations on reaching a final agreement are ongoing.

Numerous challenges exist within the corrections system including the lack of qualified, trained and equipped personnel, poor infrastructure and working conditions, weak accountability and oversight mechanisms. The impact of these challenges extends to Somali prisons.

The Joint Corrections Programme (JCP) addresses the above challenges within Justice and Corrections services in Somalia and within the prison systems by supporting the construction of adequate prison facilities, capacity building of prison staffs, rehabilitation and successful reintegration of prisoners all with an aim to create a more secure prison environment that complies with international rules and standards and ensure equitable access to justice by the general community.

## Anti-Corruption

The past three years, Somalia has implemented comprehensive anti-corruption reforms which have bared fruits. In September 2019, in a milestone achievement, the Somali Government passed the Anti-Corruption Law.

Since the adoption of the law, efforts have been led mainly by the Integrity Coordination Unit of the Somali Ministry of Justice. In 2020, and for the first time, Somalia published the National Anti-Corruption Strategy ('NACS'). The NCAS, which

In September 2019, the Somali Government, passed the Anti-Corruption Law. The new law allowed for the creation of the independent anti-corruption commissions, at both federal and regional levels

In accordance with international human rights standards and norms the strengthening of the criminal justice system is a critical factor in the delivery of justice. Supporting Federal Member States in addressing crime prevention and criminal justice reform has been crucial

is due for renewal in 2023, is a frank document which recognises and seeks to address corruption in Somalia. Further, in May 2021, the Somali Independent Anti-Corruption Commission were appointed, and have since continued to engage with the Somali people and the international community across their mandated areas.

For the last decade, through the lens of the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, and the TRACE Bribery Index, Somalia has scored low globally. However, as a testament the work towards anti-corruption, in a breakthrough turning point, Somalia climbed the TI index according to the latest published results (2021).

In a landmark move in August 2021, Somalia Acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption ('UNCAC'), and has since been engaged with the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention, including the first ever Somali delegation to the Conference of State Parties ('COSP') to the Convention in Sharm el Sheikh in December 2021. In June 2022, and in another first, Somalia attended the Implementation Review Group ('IRG') of the UNCAC, sharing a platform with delegations from 180+ jurisdictions globally.

The Somali government is currently engaged with UN partners to establish a multi-year anti-corruption project that will support institutions throughout the FGS and FMS

## Police

Article 126 of the Provisional Constitution governs the Somali Police Force:

(4) The Federal Police force has the mandate to protect the lives and property, the peace and security of the citizens and other residents of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

(5) The Police forces established by the laws of the Federal Member States have the mandate to protect lives and property and preserve peace and security locally, alone or in cooperation with the federal police force.

The New Policing Model sets forth the organizational structure of policing at the Federal Member State Level setting out reporting lines to respective federal and state-level ministries in charge of policing.

Under the patronage of the New Policing Model the Somali Technical Working Group was established which acts as an operational coordination mechanism for Federal and FMS Ministries of Security and Police. Among the Working Groups responsibilities are the reviewing of approved policies in leadership and accountability, community policing as well as human rights and gender responses in policing.

In 2020, the Federal Police Act was endorsed by the FGS Cabinet.

In accordance with international human rights standards and norms the strengthening of the criminal justice system is a critical factor in the delivery of justice. Supporting Federal Member States in addressing crime prevention and criminal justice reform has been crucial. A lot has been achieved to strengthen the capacity of Police within Police Stations Criminal Investigation Departments (CID) and its coordination with prosecution services in order to proficiently prosecute cases in a timely manner, avert lengthy detention and reduce impunity.

Considerable efforts have also gone into mainstreaming gender perspectives in the Somali Police Force. For instance, in the prosecution of SGBV cases, a Specialized Prosecution Unit has been set up within the Attorney General's Office and a Standard Operating Procedure developed which makes sure victims and survivors receive quality and reliable services. Efforts have also gone towards awareness raising and supporting the recruitment of women Somalia Police Officers.

## The Somali Transition Plan

The Somali Transition Plan is a complete guide developed by the Federal Government of Somalia on the transfer of security responsibility to Somali

In February 2019, the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF) was validated in a Conference led by national leadership. The NRF is the government's commitment to the Somali people to begin a process of national reconciliation

National Security Forces. On 8th March 2022, the African Union's Peace and Security Council mandated the African Union's Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to replace the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and support the Federal Government of Somalia with implementing the Somali Transition Plan and prepare the transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces. On the 1st April 2022 AMISOM was replaced by ATMIS and the new mission's mandate functions until the end of 2024 after which Somalia's security responsibility will be handed over to the Somalia National Security Forces.

Pillar I: Re-imagining a national heshiis bulsho (social contract) by developing a shared vision of an interdependent, fair and secure society

Pillar II: Acknowledging and dealing with the past

Pillar III: Restoring and transforming community relationships

Pillar IV: Building trust in government institutions and structures

Pillar V: Supporting economic and social recovery activities ■

## Peace and Reconciliation

On 2nd December 2021, Somalia reconfirmed its commitment to peacebuilding and reconciliation by participating in the Peacebuilding Commission. In his statement, the Prime Minister underlined that peacebuilding efforts must work towards inclusive solutions which are Somali-owned and grounded on the local context. H.E. the Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of the National Development Plan, the National Reconciliation Framework and the Somali Women's Charter in guiding national peacebuilding efforts.

In February 2019, the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF) was validated in a Conference led by national leadership. The NRF is the government's commitment to the Somali people to begin a process of national reconciliation. It also defines a clear vision and ensures regional and national leadership in reconciliation processes. The NRF was developed following wide ranging consultations with 1,000 Somali's from across the country.

The National Reconciliation Framework has one overall goal and five pillars.

The NRF Goal: To contribute to a sense of sustained peace and stability by laying the ground for genuine, comprehensive national reconciliation for the Somali people by restoring trust among themselves and increasing confidence in all levels of government institutions, resulting in peaceful coexistence, renewed relationships, and social and economic recovery.

## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Somalia is firmly committed to achieving the SDGs, as demonstrated by the NDP-9, with eighty of the 103 indicators directly aligned with the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious undertaking, especially for a country such as Somalia. Tackling multidimensional poverty and implementing complex institutional renovations have been monumental undertakings within the country's fragile political and economic context.

**T**he nation's annual budget is progressively aligning to the SDGs to ensure policy outcomes and facilitate better monitoring.

The FGS is also adopting a pragmatic approach through a phased implementation of the SDGs under the principles of inclusion and sustainability.

The VNR process revealed that Somalia made significant strides toward achieving the SDG targets. Specifically, in achieving Economic Growth, despite a severe drought, the country's GDP growth has been on a positive trajectory despite the country still recovering from the considerably harmful effects of Covid-19, which not only dropped the predicted GDP growth for 2020 from 3.2% to 0.3% but also profoundly affected every sector in the country. Within Industry and Innovation, the ICT sector has flourished under a self-regulated private-sector system. This growing sector is also a key contributor to the economy, as demonstrated by the rapid access to 3G mobile data, increasing from 38.7% in 2016 to 65.2% in 2017. In Water and Sanitation, the proportion of the population using drinking water services increased from 55% in 2015 to 65% in 2019. Significant progress is also recorded in the proportion of people practising open defecation, which has decreased from 35% in 2015 to 18% in 2019. Under Good Health and Wellbeing and Quality Education, Somalia has reduced maternal mortality from 732 in 2015 to 692 per 100,000 live births and increased literacy, particularly for women, from 32 per cent to 44.4 per cent of women aged 15-24, respectively.

However, there was a lack of progress recorded in a number of SDGs, especially; in Affordable and Clean Energy, which saw a decrease in the proportion of the population with access to electricity from 52 per cent in 2017 to 49 per cent in 2019 due to inadequate infrastructure and regulatory framework. Somalia also fell short of the 30 per cent women quota in the 2022 elections, where a total of 54 women, 20 per cent, were

elected out of the 275 House of the Peoples seats, achieving fewer than the 24% attained in the 2016 elections.

Overall, to reduce poverty, economic growth must be sustained and accelerated through targeted interventions which are focused on increasing knowledge and skills to tackle high unemployment rates, address unequal and lack of access to education, increase the number of health facilities and healthcare providers, and increase the population's access to basic services such as public sanitation and potable water. To this end, Somalia's Government is working towards implementing policies that help educate women and youth, accelerate efforts to eradicate FGM, decrease gender-based violence, and increase women's representation in leadership.

Despite the Government's continued efforts towards achieving the SDGs, the country still relies heavily on support from International Partners to implement the NDP-9. Thus, it will take time, effort, and adequate resource allocation from both domestic and international sources to fully recover and realise the SDG targets by 2030.

In addition to a lack of funding, the VNR process revealed other challenges which impede Somalia's ability to reach SDG targets which are also captured in the executive summary. There is weak coordination in the implementation and consolidation of results; insufficient monitoring and reporting of SDG implementation by relevant institutions affected the quality of submissions on progress; scarcity of primary level data sources, which has led to SNBS gathering data from secondary sources; and insufficient resources, which is also attributed to the difficulties faced in data collection and sourcing.

To address these challenges, the following next steps are planned:

- The establishment of a dedicated national unit which measures, reports and promotes national progress on the implementation of SDGs. The unit will encourage and support institutions and stakeholders to accelerate implementation in the next eight years to attain the Agenda 2030.
- Establish an SDG task force or forum with the participation of Government, UN agencies and stakeholders as an instrument to discuss challenges and actions aimed at strengthening coordination, mobilising resource partners, expand the cooperation and understanding framework for data collection and reporting.
- Strengthen national technical level capacity to collect, consolidate, measure and evaluate SDG progress through the provision of appropriate technical assistance.
- Increase advocacy, awareness-raising and campaign on the SDGs and Agenda 2030 to reaffirm it as a national priority carried out on a national scale to ensure more participation during consultative processes.
- Improve data production and coordination through the strengthening of government ownership of data and minimising data production burden (e.g. duplication of effort).

Somalia's first VNR process has provided a unique and welcomed opportunity to take stock and reflect on Somalia's immense progress while also gauging national capacity and gaps, particularly

in policymaking. This process has also helped reaffirm FGS's national commitment towards the implementation and attainment of the SDGs. The June 2022 online launch of the SDG data visualising Dashboard and the online Goal Tracker to monitor the performance of the SDGs will improve SDG monitoring while increasing public awareness and participation in the process.

As the Government embarks on structural, legislative and institutional reforms to serve the people better and achieve the goals as set out, Somalia faces headwinds as a result of economic contraction brought on by Covid19, a locust invasion and a severe drought which continues to keep the region in the grasp of famine. However, with the SDGs through the NDP-9 providing firm pillars on which to base development, the country continues to move forward, instilling, peace, prosperity and unity at the heart of every Somali man, woman and child. ■



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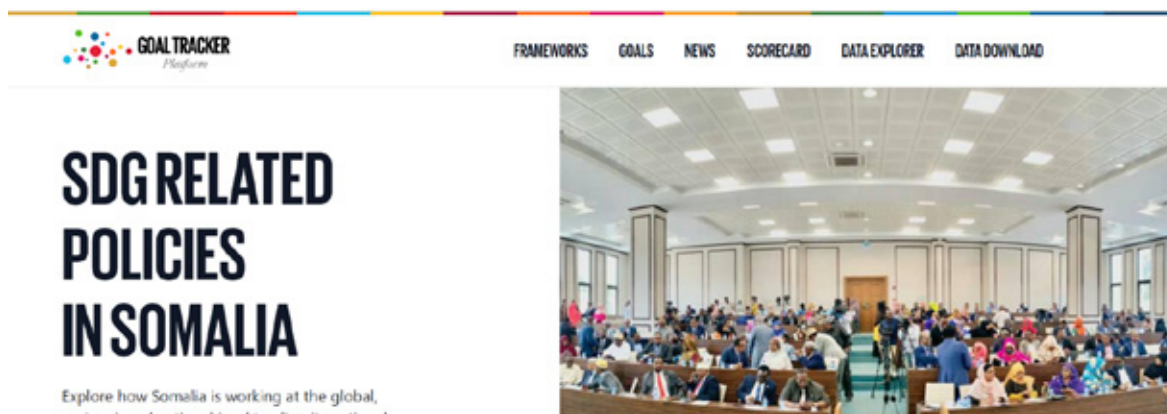
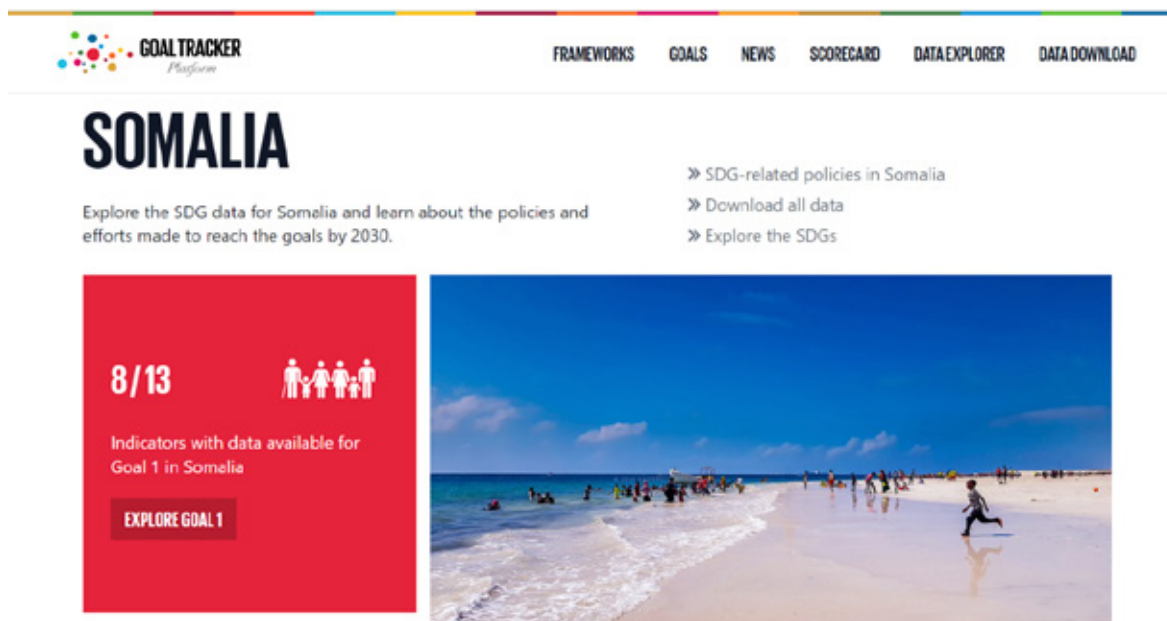
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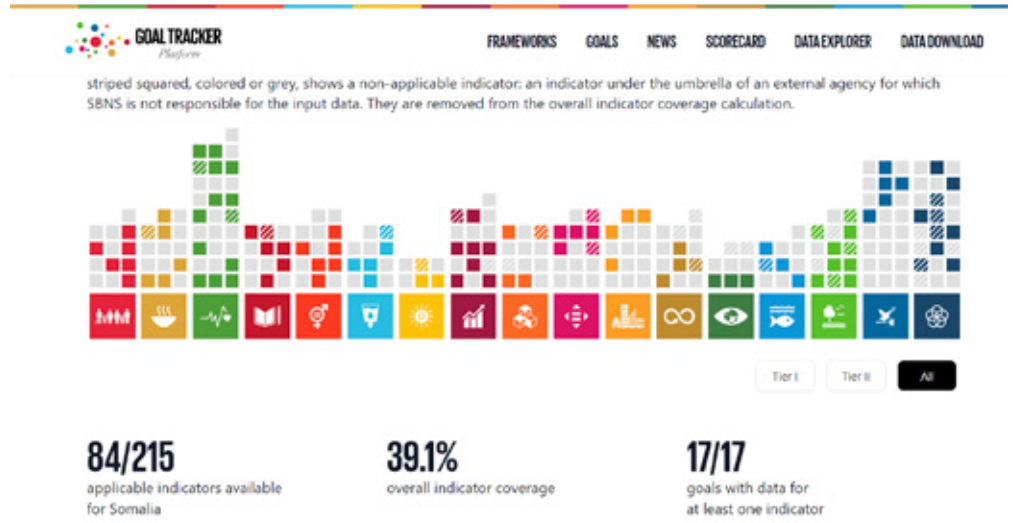
# ANNEX

## Goal Tracker

Available at: <https://goaltracker-ozsq8vd8t-goal-tracker.vercel.app/platform/somalia>



## All Indicators Data Coverage



## Tier 1 Data Coverage



## Tier 2 Data Coverage



## Dashboard

Available at: <https://somaliasdg.nbs.gov.so/landing-somalia.html>



## Consultation Workshop Photos

### Federal Level Technical Focal Points Consultation



### Federal Level and Federal Member State Level Director General Consultations



Civil Society Consultation



### Youth Consultation













**THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF SOMALIA**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**