

FINAL REPORT

Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities Project in Somalia 8 May 2025



Figure 1: A person with a physical disability leaves the distribution centre in Baidoa with a new wheelchair — one of 1,240 individuals who received wheelchairs to improve mobility

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1. Project Report - Summary Sheet

Project title	Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities Project in Somalia		
Country & Location	Somalia: Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Dhusamareeb, Baidoa and Kismayo		
Project dates	Agreement signature's date	28 January 2024	
	Start date	Original	Actual
		01 January 2024	04 March 2024
	End date	Original	Actual
31 December 2024		03 March 2025	
Implementing partners details			
Type	☒ United Nations ☐ International non-governmental organization ☐ Local non-governmental organization ☐ Others		
Focal Point	Christopher Laker, Deputy Resident Representative - Programme UNDP Somalia, AAIA, Mogadishu		
Telephone	Telephone: +252613642609, WhatsApp M: + 256 753776724		
E-mail	Email: christopher.laker@undp.org		
Budget USD			
Total Approved	968,264.40 USD (excl. 29,946.32 for KSRelief M&E)		
Actual Expenditures	790,114.40 USD		
Progress Summary			
Percentage of completion	100%		
Type of report			
Final report	Period covered	04 March 2024 - 03 March 2025	

Executive Summary: (Brief summary of project performance)

The Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Project has successfully implemented its targeted interventions aimed at improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Somalia, with a particular emphasis on addressing the needs of women and girls with disabilities. The project developed evidence-based methodologies that promoted rights, improved quality of life, and empowered PWDs. These efforts have led to tangible progress in reducing stigma and discrimination against PWDs, thereby fostering a more inclusive and rights-respecting environment.

During the project implementation period from 4 March 2024 to 3 March 2025 (one year), the project reached a total of 22,913 individuals directly (10,060 men, 12,590 women, 52 boys, and 211 girls), including 5,037 persons with disabilities (2,348 men and 2,689 women) through various interventions. This represents 101.2 percent of the planned direct reach target of 22,650 individuals. In terms of indirect reach, the project reached 52,700 individuals (15,558 men, 22,353 women, 6,300 boys, and 8,489 girls), exceeding the planned target of 25,000 by 210.8 percent. The overachievement in both direct and indirect reach was achieved within the project budget and underscores the project's effectiveness in mobilizing communities, strengthening inclusive service delivery, and promoting the rights of PWDs in Somalia.

The project has made progress in strengthening national policy frameworks and systems to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The project procured and handed over a customized 15-seat minivan to the National Disability Agency (NDA) to address critical transportation and mobility barriers and enable PWDs to access essential services and participate more actively in the community. Additionally, the project renovated three psychosocial support centres, incorporating accessibility improvements such as ramps and disability-friendly toilets to create safer environments for PWDs and survivors of gender-based violence. To enhance mobility and independence, 1,240 wheelchairs, 750 white canes, and 750 crutches were distributed across five major locations, significantly boosting beneficiaries' confidence and participation in daily activities while easing the burden on caregivers.

To further advance policy dialogue and advocacy, four roundtable workshops were conducted, engaging 339 participants (215 men & 124 women), including policymakers and civil society actors, to discuss challenges and generate actionable recommendations for strengthening disability rights frameworks in Somalia. Additionally, recognizing the need for better communication access, the project developed two Somali Sign Language manuals and renovated two training centres, creating an enabling environment for sign language development. As a result, 50 individuals (22 men & 28 women) were trained in Somali Sign Language interpretation, many of whom are now integrated into national institutions, including offices, schools, and hospitals, where they provide essential interpretation services to facilitate effective communication between service providers and individuals with hearing impairments.

The project has also made progress in increasing awareness of disability rights and enhancing access to support services for PWDs in Somalia. During the project implementation period, the project Identified and mobilized 50 community influencers who raised awareness about disability rights across project locations, directly reaching 13,946 individuals (6,226 men and 7,720 women), including 1,392 persons with disabilities (596 men and 796 women) , and 52,700 people through radio and social media, leading to positive shifts in community attitudes and more registration of PWDs for essential services. Further strengthening the justice system, six comprehensive training sessions equipped 235 justice providers (126 males, 109 females) with the knowledge to uphold disability rights, while six recruited paralegals provided direct legal support to 378 individuals and reached over 4,831 people through awareness initiatives. To enhance accessibility and support, three fully operational hotline centres were established in Kismayo, Dhusamareeb, and Baidoa, handling 304 cases and providing psychosocial support, counselling, and referral services—primarily for women facing violence and discrimination.

The project has demonstrated measurable positive contributions in supporting PWDs' autonomy and participation, enhancing institutional capacity, improving access to essential services, and raising awareness about disability rights.

2. Project Overview

2.1. Context

Through its Country Programme Document for 2021-2025 (CPD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting Somalia to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisions a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity through removing legal, social, and economic barriers to empowerment. This project is in line with NDP9 (Somalia) to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and support vulnerable and socially excluded segments of society per the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Persons with disabilities (PWD) are one of the largest minority groups in the world, estimated to represent over 15 percent (approximately 1.5 billion people) of the world's population. Three out of five persons with disabilities are women and disability are more common among children and adults who are poor. PWD are among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in Somali society. Although the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia guarantees the equal rights of PWD, they often face different types of political, economic, social, physical and cultural barriers including stereotypes, discrimination, and exclusion.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006 and came into force in 2008. The overarching goal of the CRPD is to ensure equality and non-discrimination in the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities and that they are included in all development efforts. On the 7th of January 2019, the Federal Government of Somalia ratified the Convention, which is legally binding on States parties, to meet its obligations in relation to the rights of PWD. Disability inclusion is recognised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other development frameworks. It is a cross-cutting development issue and a human rights imperative, calling for the recognition of and commitment to the specific needs of PWD in all fields of development, from disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian action, to financing for development and urban development.

UNDP supports the domestication of CRPD features and principles, the localisation of programmes and strategies to address disability inclusion in development, and the setting up of processes to monitor CRPD implementation in Somalia. This includes the development of laws, regulations, and policies based on the CRPD's social and human rights models of disability in Somalia and building the capacity of Somali government institutions and civil society organisations related to this. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) experience stigma and discrimination universally, driven by multiple attitudinal barriers, prejudice, and stereotypes, which limit both the full exercise of the rights of PWDs and sustainable development. Women and girls with disabilities are particularly impacted by intersectional stigma and discrimination based on gender and disability.

2.2. Purpose and Expected Results

The project aimed to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities (PWD), with a particular focus on women and girls, by implementing evidence-based interventions that drive advocacy efforts and influence societal attitudes. Through targeted initiatives, the project sought to foster behavioural change among both rights holders and duty bearers, ultimately reducing stigma and discrimination. By strengthening national policy frameworks and enhancing access to essential services, the project ensures a more inclusive environment where PWD can fully exercise their rights.

To achieve this, the project focused on two key outcomes. First, it supported the development and reinforcement of national policy frameworks, ensuring that governance and social systems are more responsive to the needs of PWD, particularly women and girls. This enhanced legal protections and promoted inclusive policymaking. Second, by equipping government bodies, civil society, and community actors with technical and operational skills, the project improved access to legal services and mobility equipment for PWD, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). This component not only facilitated service accessibility but also fostered broader societal acceptance and inclusion, ultimately shifting community perceptions and reducing discrimination.

3. Activities Completed and Achievements

The table below provides a summary of the activities successfully completed by the project.

Activities	Target	Achievements	Achievements %	Average weighted % of completion	Deviation Narratives (if applicable)
Sub-Result 1.1 Capacity of relevant agencies and institutions to support PWD increased				28%	
Purchase of one 15-seater car customized for disabled persons	1	1	100%		The project procured and handed over a 15-seater minivan, customized for Persons with Disabilities to the National Disability Agency. This vehicle is now providing mobility support to over 600 Persons with Disabilities on average in a month, enabling them to attend meetings, workshops, trainings, and social events, thereby reducing transportation barriers and promoting their active participation in society
sign language trainers	1	3	100%		The project Completed the Term of reference for sign language trainers to be used for recruitment of sign language

					trainers. During the project period 2 trainers were recruited (1 in Mogadishu
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Activities	Target	Achievements	Achievements %	Average weighted % of completion	Deviation Narratives (if applicable)
					and 1 in Hargeisa) due to political sensitivity between the two regions. Additionally, at request of NDA, an assistant with hearing impairment was also recruited in Mogadishu to enhance engagement with trainees, and knowledge transfer and backup. This has not affected the budget as the Mogadishu salary is split between the trainer and assistant.
sign language curriculum	2	2	100%		The project developed one curriculums, in the form of two manuals one for Somalia and another for Somaliland, due to political sensitivities between the two regions,.
4 round table workshops - preparations and conduction	4	4	100%		The project conducted four roundtable workshops to promote the protection and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The workshops, which reached 339 participants (215 males & 124 females), facilitated dialogue on policy and service improvements to empower persons with disabilities and strengthen advocacy efforts.
Renovation and equipment of the training facility in Somalia	1	1	100%		The project renovated two training halls in Mogadishu and Hargeisa. The halls have been furnished with tables, chairs, a projector with a screen, a desktop computer with a screen, and a whiteboard.
Annual report developed	1	1	100%		The project developed the annual Report.

One technical advisor recruitment by NDA	1	1	100%		The project recruited one technical advisor who supported NDA in facilitating the roundtable workshops and other activities.
Purchase of office furniture/ICT (NDA offices)	1	1	100%		The project procured 1 laptop, 1 SSD portable hard drive (2TB), and 1 55-inch TV for the NDA conference room. ICT equipment was prioritised over furniture, as per request from NDA.

Activities	Target	Achievements	Achievements %	Average weighted % of completion	Deviation Narratives (if applicable)
Train a group of trainers of trainers on sign language for Somalia	5	25	100%		The project identified and trained 25 (13 Male and 12 Female) participants for sign language training. This number was expanded from the originally planned five to enhance the reach of sign language within communities and institutions, and to increase the availability of individuals who can train others. There was no change to the associated budget.
Renovation of the Training location in Somaliland -	1	1	100%		The project renovated the MESAF training hall and fully equipped it with 3 tables, 12 chairs, 6 whiteboards, and ICT equipment including a projector, 2 laptops, and a screen.
Train a group of trainers of trainers on sign language for Somaliland	25	25	100%		The project identified and selected twenty-five trainees from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from national institutions, marginalized communities, and women with disabilities. This number was expanded from the initially planned five to broaden the reach of sign language within communities and institutions, and to increase the availability of trainers with sign language knowledge. There was no change to the associated budget.

Conduct Sign language training Somaliland	1	1	100%		The project completed the sign language training in Somaliland for 25 participants (15 females and 10 males).
Sub result 2.1 Communities influences identified who advocate for disability rights				3%	
Launch event	1	1	100%		The project launch event, held on December 3rd to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, brought together representatives from KSRelief, the Saudi Embassy, UN agencies, persons with disabilities (PWDs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and other key stakeholders. During the event, UNDP and KSRelief distributed assistive

Activities	Target	Achievements	Achievements %	Average weighted % of completion	Deviation Narratives (if applicable)
					equipment to attending PWDs, while community influencers performed drama and poetry, reaching a total of 335 individuals (200 men and 135 women).
NDA identifies community influencers from 3 FMS and discusses issues and engages them for international disability day	50	50	100%		The project identified and engaged 50 community influencers from three Federal Member States (Jubaland, Galmudug and Southwest States). The community influencers conducted awareness activities, including door to door awareness and social media campaigns, drama and radio talk shows. These campaigns reached over 13,946 Persons with Disabilities and the broader communities, reducing stigma and promoting inclusion.
Sub result 2.2 NDA implementation - Online counselling established				3%	

Two staff hired and trained for hotline service.	2	3	100%		The project recruited three hotline staff members instead of the initially planned two, following the advice of the National Disability Agency (NDA), to ensure representation from all three Federal Member States (FMS). This adjustment, which was made within the existing budget, enabled the project to maintain gender inclusivity, as all three staff members are women. Although the staff joined later than anticipated in July 2024, this delay allowed for salary allocation for the full team for the remainder of the project, ensuring effective coverage and support across all targeted regions.
SOP developed	1	1	100%		The project developed an SOP for the establishment of the hotline services.
Hotline established and continues to function	1	1	100%		The project established a hotline toll free number that provides counselling, psychosocial support, and referral services to Persons with Disabilities. Since its launch, the hotline service has reached 320 (1 male and 319 female)

Activities	Target	Achievements	Achievements %	Average weighted % of completion	Deviation Narratives (if applicable)
					individuals, offered critical support and improved access to essential mental health and protection services.
Sub-Result 2.3 Implementation through 3 Ministries of women and human rights development for Protection of women and girls from SGBV through psycho-social and legal services				18%	

Support renovation and toilet facility for 3 psychosocial centres in 3 locations	3	3	100%		The project renovated three psychosocial support centres (one-stop centres) in Kismayo, Baidoa, and Dhusamareeb and equipped them to provide improved access and accessibility for PWDs. The centres are now able to more effectively offer medical, legal and psychosocial services to PWDs.
Training provided to formal Justice Providers on Disability rights	6	6	100%		The project conducted the planned 6 trainings for formal justice providers, reaching 235 participants (126 men and 109 women) in Baidoa, Dhusamareeb, and Kismayo. The participants were trained on disability rights.
Hiring one paralegal each for 3 districts	3	6	100%		The project hired 6 paralegals instead of the planned 3, with 2 stationed at each of the 3 project locations Baidoa, Dhusamareeb and Kismayo. To enhance access to justice and ensure gender-responsive legal support, the project doubled the number of paralegals hired, from the originally planned 3 to 6, deploying two (one male and one female) in each of the three target locations: Baidoa, Dhusamareeb, and Kismayo. This strategic adjustment was made in direct response to priorities identified by the respective Federal Member State (FMS) ministries, ensuring that individuals, especially survivors of gender-based violence, could receive legal counselling from a practitioner of

Activities	Target	Achievements	Achievements %	Average weighted % of completion	Deviation Narratives (if applicable)
					the same gender, fostering trust and comfort in handling sensitive cases. The result is a more inclusive and responsive legal aid service, which has strengthened community engagement and improved the quality and accessibility of support provided. Importantly, this enhancement was achieved within the existing project budget, without compromising other activities such as training and community awareness campaigns
Interpreters identified	3	3	100%		The project identified Sign language interpreters in the FMS. The interpreters provided translation services as needed to support trainings, awareness-raising initiatives, and legal advice sessions.
Sub result 2.4 # of pieces of assistive equipment distributed to PWD				49%	
Purchase of 1,240 wheelchairs for NDA and MESAF	1,240	1,240	100%		The project procured and distributed 1240 wheelchairs to Persons with Disabilities in the project locations. This was a 24% increase of equipment secured under existing budget.
Purchase of 750 white canes for NDA and MESAF	750	750	100%		The project procured and distributed 750 canes to Persons with Disabilities in the project locations. This was a 25% increase of equipment secured under existing budget.
Purchase of 750 crutches to be disseminated through NDA and MESAF	750	750	100%		The project procured and distributed 750 crutches, to Persons with Disabilities in the project locations. This was a 25% increase of equipment secured under existing budget.
Transportation of goods	1	1	100%		The project transported all the assistive equipment to the project locations where they were distributed.

TOTAL (Overall completion percentage)		100%	100%	100%	
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4. Detailed Review of achievements and implementation

This section outlines key achievements under Outputs 1 and 2 of the PWD project, emphasizing their impact on advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWD). Output 1 focuses on capacity building through training, technical support, assistive device distribution, and awareness campaigns, including the development of a sign language curriculum. Output 2 enhances access to legal and psychosocial services by strengthening partnerships with government and NGOs, establishing GBV One Stop Centres, and training justice actors. Together, these outputs promote sustainable, rights-based service delivery for PWDs.

Output 1: National policy frameworks and systems to serve and protect people living with disabilities, resulting in reduced stigma and discrimination at interpersonal, familial, intrapersonal, and structural levels, developed and operationalized.

a) Purchase of 15-seater Minivan

The project procured and handed over a 15-seater minivan, customized to accommodate the specific needs of PWDs. The minivan was handed over to NDA, who operates the minivan, addressing the critical transportation barriers facing PWDs in Somalia and promoting greater access to essential services, community participation, and civic engagement for PWDs. The minivan is fully operational and currently provides accessible transportation services to persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Mogadishu. It enables them to attend community meetings and public consultations, participate in vocational training and capacity-building sessions, and access essential services such as healthcare and education. Additionally, it supports their engagement in national and local events, reinforcing their active role in civic life. On average, the minivan offers daily mobility support to over 30 PWDs, significantly enhancing their inclusion, independence, and overall quality of life.

The official handover ceremony of the minivan, held in Mogadishu, was attended by key stakeholders, including Mr. Yazid Abdullah Hamoud, Director of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre Branch in Africa; H.E. Ahmed bin Mohammed, Saudi Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia; Mr. Lionel Laurens, UNDP Somalia Resident Representative; and representatives from the Government of Somalia, including the State Minister of the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development and the chairperson of the National Disability Agency. The presence of these high-level officials underscored the collective commitment of KSRelief, the Government of Saudi Arabia, the Government of Somalia, and UNDP to support the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities in Somalia.

The provision of the minivan has already begun to yield positive outcomes, contributing to broader project goals of social inclusion and empowerment of PWDs. The minivan has increased

participation and representation, allowing PWDs to have improved access to public events, policy dialogues, and training sessions. Early feedback from NDA and beneficiaries reflects a profound sense of renewed dignity and empowerment. No longer dependent on unsafe or inadequate transportation options, persons with disabilities are experiencing meaningful improvements in their daily lives. Many have expressed deep appreciation for the freedom and independence that accessible transportation brings—enabling them to participate fully in their communities without unnecessary hardship.

“We are sincerely grateful to UNDP and KSRelief for their generous support and partnership. The handover of this customized minivan to the National Disability Agency marks a significant milestone in removing transportation barriers for persons with disabilities in Somalia. This initiative not only enhances mobility but also reinforces our shared commitment to dignity, inclusion, and equal access to essential services for all.” — Mohamed Abdul Jama, Chairperson, National Disability Agency

“For the first time in a long while, I felt truly included. Traveling safely and comfortably in a vehicle designed to accommodate my needs is more than just transportation—it’s dignity, it’s freedom. This minivan doesn’t simply carry persons with disabilities; it carries hope, opportunity, and the promise of a more inclusive Somalia.” — Ismail Mohamed Sayid-Ali

Furthermore, the NDA’s ability to respond to the needs of PWDs has been strengthened through the provision of reliable, accessible transportation, reinforcing its role as a key institution advocating for disability rights.



Figure 2: The Minivan Customized for Persons with Disabilities



Figure 3: Person with Disability using Minivan

b) Round table Discussion

The project successfully organized and conducted four roundtable workshops, engaging a total of 339 participants (215 men and 124 women) including 207 PWDs (142 men and 65 women). The workshops were held in Mogadishu (two workshops), Kismayo, and Dhusamareeb districts, ensuring a broad geographic reach and inclusive participation. The sessions were facilitated by the technical advisor hired to support NDA and provided a dynamic platform for fostering meaningful discussions on disability rights, raising awareness, and promoting inclusive dialogue among diverse stakeholders.

Participants, including representatives from government institutions, civil society organizations, and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), actively contributed their insights, highlighting the barriers faced by Persons with disabilities and collectively exploring strategies to address these challenges.

The workshops not only deepened the participants' understanding of disability rights but also strengthened their commitment to advocating for more inclusive policies and practices. As a result, the discussions generated actionable recommendations, such as enhancing accessibility in public spaces, introducing Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools, advocating for disabilityinclusive laws, and promoting economic opportunities for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the workshops fostered stronger collaboration between government agencies and OPDs, paving the way for sustained dialogue and joint efforts to advance disability inclusion. The active engagement of all participants underscored a growing momentum towards fostering an inclusive society, reinforcing the project's overarching goal of empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring their full participation in social, economic, and political life.



Figure 4: During group work of the Roundtable workshop in Kismayo District participants attending the



Figure 5: Photo group of the

Roundtable workshop in Dhusamareeb District c)

Sign language training

The project developed one curriculum into two separate but aligned manuals for sign language trainings, one for Somalia and another for Somaliland, due to political sensitivities between the two regions. In addition, two training centres were renovated in Hargeisa and Mogadishu to support the effective delivery of the sign language training. The renovations included equipping

the facilities with essential training materials such as tables, chairs, a projector with a screen, a desktop computer with a monitor, and a whiteboard. These upgrades have created conducive and accessible learning environments, ensuring trainees have access to the necessary resources to build their sign language interpretation skills.

The two manuals were used to train 50 participants (22 men & 28 women) who were selected from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from national institutions, marginalized communities, and women with disabilities. The number of trainees has been expanded from the initially planned five TOT in Mogadishu to broaden the reach of sign language within communities and institutions and to increase the pool of trainers with Somali sign language knowledge. The project achieved this within the allocated budget.

The sign language training has yielded a tangible outcome, with many of the trained students now integrated into government institutions, including hospitals, where they provide critical sign language interpretation services to facilitate effective communication between healthcare providers and patients with hearing impairments. Furthermore, graduates of the program are also actively contributing to public events and national television broadcasts, ensuring that information is accessible to the Deaf community by doing sign language interpretation and promoting a more inclusive public sphere.



Figure 6: One of the Sign language trainees receiving
during the graduation ceremony



Figure 7: During Sign language classes in Mogadishu certificate

Output 2: Access to legal services for communities, families, and women/girls with disabilities and protection from SGBV enhanced.

a) Community influencers identified who advocate for disability rights

The project successfully identified and mobilized 50 (35 men and 15 women) community influencers including 16 PWDs (10 men & 6 women) who played a pivotal role in raising awareness of disability issues across Kismayo (Jubaland), Dhusamareeb (Galmudug), and Baidoa (Southwest State). The influencers employed various communication methods, including focus group

discussions (FGDs), house-to-house visits, poetry and drama performances, and social media campaigns to engage local communities effectively.

Through these targeted efforts, the project successfully reached 13,946 individuals (6,226 men and 7,720 women), including 1,392 persons with disabilities (596 men and 796 women) directly, and approximately 52,700 people through social media. The project initially planned to reach 500 families (3,000 individuals); however, it successfully reached 2,324 families (13,946) within the allocated budget. This was made possible by the effective mobilization efforts of the community influencers and the engaging and innovative methods used to attract more participants including House to house visits, Drama and Poetry and FGDS.

The community influencers collectively conducted 135 FGDs, engaging 1,083 individuals (520 men and 563 women), including 163 persons with disabilities (85 men and 78 women), along with community members, elders, religious leaders, and other stakeholders, to openly discuss disability rights, challenges, and inclusion.

Through house-to-house visits, the community influencers reached 12,640 individuals (5,595 men and 7,045 women), including 1,200 persons with disabilities (500 men and 700 women). Additionally, the community influencers reached 223 individuals (111 men and 112 women), including 29 persons with disabilities (9 men and 20 women), through poetry and drama performances during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD).

Social media significantly expanded the reach of the awareness campaign, with approximately 52,700 people viewing the awareness messages on Kalaman YouTube (34,000), the Kalaman Facebook page (17,000), and the Kulmiye Radio Facebook page (1,700).

The awareness-raising activities greatly enhanced community understanding of disability rights and encouraged positive changes in attitudes toward persons with disabilities, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive environment. Furthermore, these efforts led to the registration of many persons with disabilities for vital services, including access to assistive devices, hotline services for online counselling, and a dedicated minivan for mobility support. These provisions, provided by the PWD Project, were crucial in ensuring that PWD were given opportunity to join and participate in critical sessions and access services that promote their independence and wellbeing.



Figure 8: Awareness raising sessions in Kismayo
Dhusamareeb



Figure 9: Awareness raising sessions in

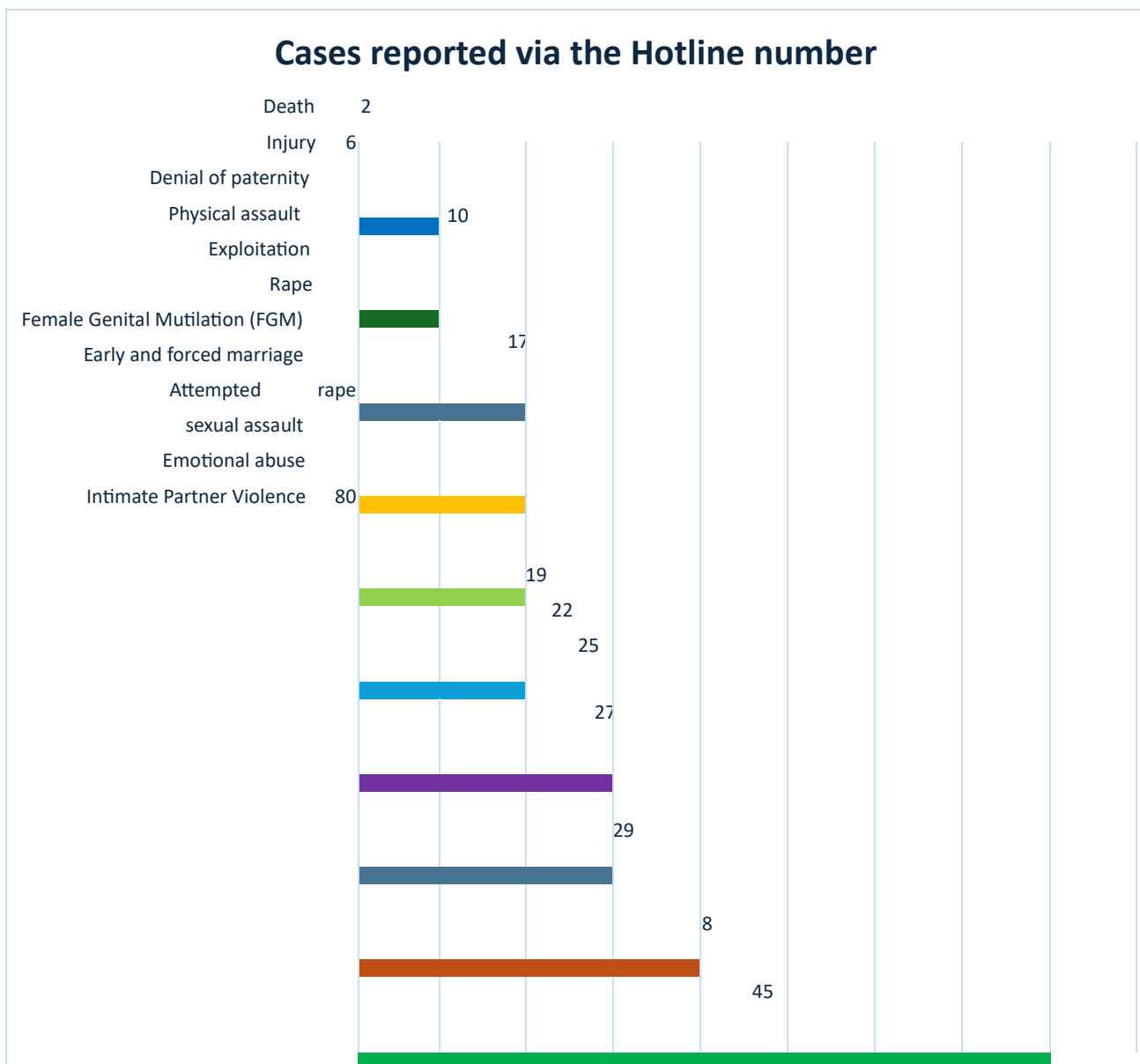
b) Hotline service established for Persons with Disabilities

The project has successfully e, established a hotline toll free number (9944) that provides counselling, psychosocial support, and referral services to Persons with Disabilities in three locations Kismayo, Dhusamareeb and Baidao.

The establishment process began with the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the hotline's operations. This was followed by the recruitment and training of three dedicated hotline staff members—all female—who provide counselling and referral services across the three locations.

Since its launch, the toll-free hotline has received a total of 320 calls, including 319 from women and 1 from a man — all of whom are persons with disabilities. The hotline services provided an appropriate combination of psychosocial support, counselling, hospital and protection service referrals, and legal advice for cases including:

- 17 cases of physical assault
- 25 cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- 45 cases of emotional abuse
- 19 cases of exploitation
- 80 cases of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), the most reported form of GenderBased Violence (GBV)
- 29 cases of attempted rape and 22 cases of rape.
- 38 cases of sexual assault.
- 10 cases related to the denial of paternity
- 27 cases of early and forced marriage
- The project also recorded 2 cases of death and 6 cases of injury to persons with disabilities, where survivors and their families received legal aid, counselling, and referrals to hospitals.



Through these interventions, the hotline has played a crucial role in providing immediate support and linking survivors to essential services, ensuring they receive the necessary care and support. The hotline services initiative is currently being widely appreciated by both persons with disabilities (PWDs) and key project stakeholders for its practical impact and accessibility. This activity is demonstrating a strong sustainability practice by establishing effective yet low-cost services. Efforts are ongoing to transition the hotline service to government ownership under the NDA, despite operating within a restrictive budget. This planned strategic handover is aiming to ensure continued support for PWDs beyond the lifespan of the project.

c) Renovation of Three Psychosocial Support Centres (one-stop centres)

The project renovated three psychosocial support centers (one-stop centers) in Kismayo, Baidoa, and Dhusamareeb, significantly enhancing their capacity to serve survivors of Gender-Based

Violence (GBV), particularly those with disabilities. Key accessibility improvements, such as ramps, handrails, and disability-friendly toilet facilities, were made to ensure persons with mobility challenges could access services with dignity and independence. These enhancements have led to a rise in the number of GBV and PWD survivors seeking support, creating a safer and more inclusive environment for essential services. The centers have also become vital community resources, fostering greater trust among vulnerable populations.

The project also recruited 6 (3 men and 3 women) paralegals to provide legal support, counseling, and raise public awareness on disability rights. The paralegals have directly assisted 378 persons (26 men and 352 women), including 55 PWDs (3 men and 52 women) who are GBV survivors, offering counseling and referral pathways. Additionally, the paralegals conducted awareness raising of SGBV prevention and the support services available, reaching 4,831 individuals (1,801 men and 3,030 women), including 242 PWDs (108 men and 134 women).



Figure 10: Renovation of Kismayo one stop center adding Front Ramps and rails for PWDs accessibility Figure 11: Renovation of Kismayo one stop center adding back Ramps and rails for PWDs accessibility

d) Training provided to formal Justice Providers on Disability rights

The project successfully conducted six (6) comprehensive training sessions on disability rights for formal justice providers in Dhusamareeb, Baidoa, and Kismayo districts. A total of 235 participants—126 men and 109 women, including 9 (5 men and 4 women) with disabilities—actively engaged in the sessions. The participants represented key justice and protection actors, including civil society organizations (CSOs), medical personnel, police officers, one-stop center staff, prosecutors, and judges.

These trainings enhanced participants' knowledge of disability rights, strengthened their capacity to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, and improved their ability to apply inclusive approaches within the justice system. As a result, justice providers are now better equipped to ensure equal access to legal services, promote non-discriminatory legal proceedings, and advocate for the rights of PWDs within their respective institutions. The engagement of diverse stakeholders further contributed to fostering a more coordinated and rights-based response to disability inclusion in the justice sector.



Figure 12: During Formal justice training in Kismayo



Figure 13: Group work during Formal justice training in Kismayo

e) Purchase and distribution of assistive equipment to Persons with Disabilities

The project successfully procured 1,240 wheelchairs, 750 white canes, and 750 crutches to support persons with disabilities in Somalia. This represented a notable increase from the original project plan, which had targeted 1,000 wheelchairs, 600 white canes, and 600 crutches— reflecting a 24% increase in wheelchairs and a 25% increase in both white canes and crutches. Impressively, this scale-up was achieved within the existing project budget. The assistive devices were officially handed over to the National Disability Agency (NDA) and the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family (MESAF) in Somaliland for distribution to PWDs. To ensure transparency and accountability, UNDP Somalia and KSRelief Africa branch in Mogadishu closely monitored and actively participated in the distribution process.

Prior to the distribution, UNDP, NDA, and MESAF collaboratively developed a comprehensive set of selection criteria to ensure a fair and transparent process for identifying eligible persons with disabilities (PWDs). These criteria were carefully developed to prioritize the most vulnerable individuals and were officially approved by KSrelief Mogadishu branch. The distribution took place across five major locations in Somalia—Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Baidoa, Kismayo, and Dhusamareeb—ensuring that a broad range of beneficiaries received essential support. In Baidoa, Kismayo, Dhusamareeb, and Mogadishu, 250 wheelchairs, 150 crutches, and 150 white canes were distributed in each city. Meanwhile, in Hargeisa, 240 wheelchairs, 150 crutches, and 150 white canes were provided to persons with disabilities.

The impact of this distribution has been far-reaching and transformative, fundamentally improving the quality of life for many persons with disabilities. By enhancing mobility, the project has enabled beneficiaries to actively engage in daily activities with greater confidence and autonomy. This has translated into better access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and employment opportunities—crucial for the social integration and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Additionally, caregivers have reported a significant reduction in physical strain, easing their responsibilities and improving their ability to provide ongoing care.

Despite the positive impact of the assistive equipment distribution, the need for such support remains quite high in Somalia. Many persons with disabilities across the country continue to face

mobility challenges and lack access to the devices and services necessary for full participation in society. Sustained and expanded efforts are essential to ensure that no one is left behind.



Figure 14: Wheelchairs distributed to PWDs



Figure 15: Canes distributed to PWDs



Figure 16: Crutches distributed to PWDs

5. Overall Assessment of Project Performance

The PWD Project has made significant positive progress in fostering the inclusion, protection, and empowerment of PWDs in Somalia. Through a multi-faceted approach, the project has effectively strengthened national policy frameworks, improved access to essential services, and promoted social and institutional change.

The distribution of assistive equipment, including wheelchairs, white canes, and crutches, and the provision of a customized minivan to the National Disability Agency (NDA), has significantly improved the independence, mobility and quality of life of PWDs while alleviating the burden on caregivers. Infrastructure improvements, such as the renovation of psychosocial support centres for improved disabled access, have enhanced access to critical services and created inclusive spaces.

The project's strategic advocacy efforts, including roundtable workshops with policymakers and civil society actors, have contributed to a more enabling policy that upholds disability rights. The project has also advanced communication accessibility through the development of Somali Sign Language manuals and the training of 50 sign language interpreters. These efforts have facilitated greater inclusion of individuals with hearing impairments in public institutions, fostering their participation in education, healthcare, and governance. The large-scale community awareness campaigns, reaching over 46,000 people through various platforms and methods, have contributed to shifting societal attitudes, reducing stigma, and encouraging greater recognition of PWDs' rights.

The project has also strengthened legal protection and access to justice for PWDs by establishing hotline centres, training justice providers, and deploying paralegals to offer direct legal support. These interventions have increased awareness, improved reporting mechanisms for rights

violations, and enhanced the responsiveness of the justice system to the needs of PWDs, particularly women facing violence and discrimination.

Overall, the project has successfully contributed to systemic and social change, ensuring that PWDs have increased access to services, stronger legal protections, and greater participation in civic life. The measurable impact of the interventions highlights the project's effectiveness in addressing critical barriers to inclusion and advancing the rights of PWDs in Somalia.

6. Enabling Performance Factors

a) Relevance, appropriateness, and efficiency

The project was designed to empower persons with disabilities by addressing both systemic and individual barriers through targeted, evidence-based interventions. The project adopted a multipronged approach that combined policy advocacy, capacity building, and direct service delivery, ensuring that PWDs were active participants in shaping solutions to their challenges by participating in round table discussions and coming up with actionable recommendations. At the Institutional level, the project strengthened the National Disability Agency (NDA) by providing essential furniture, ICT equipment, and a disability-customized vehicle, and hiring qualified technical advisors, enhancing the NDA's capacity to advocate for PWDs' rights, develop inclusive policies, and push for the Disability Rights Bill.

Further, the project directly empowered PWDs through skills development and training, establishing sign language training programs in Mogadishu and Hargeisa, and developing a standardized sign language curriculum certified by the NDA and MESAF. The Training of Trainers (ToT) model of 50 students created a pool of qualified sign language trainers, ensuring the sustainability of these efforts and fostering broader impact as these trainers further disseminate their gained knowledge. Recognizing the intersectional vulnerabilities faced by women and girls with disabilities (WGWDs), the project provided psychosocial, medical, and legal services for 378 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Dhusamareeb, Kismayo, and Baidoa, and engaged community influencers to raise awareness about disability rights and reduce stigma.

To enhance mobility and access to services, the project procured and distributed assistive equipment, including 1,240 wheelchairs, 750 white canes, and 750 crutches, ensuring that support reached those most in need. The project was implemented efficiently, leveraging UNDP's vast experiences and knowledge network to maximize impact and ensure effective delivery.

b) Participation

Persons with disabilities and key project stakeholders—including civil society organizations (CSOs), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), the National Disability Agency, the Somaliland National Disability Forum, and critical government institutions such as the state Ministries of Women and Human Rights Development, have been actively involved from the project's design phase through to its implementation. This early and continuous engagement ensured the project was aligned with national priorities for PWDs and responsive to local needs.

The project was developed through thorough community needs assessments, consultations, and direct feedback from persons with disabilities, including women, girls, boys, and men, which ensured the design reflected the local context and addressed specific needs. This participatory approach promoted national ownership and ensured the project's actions were both relevant and adapted to local priorities.

Local implementing partners, such as the National Disability Agency (NDA), the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family (MESAF), and the Ministries of Women and Human Rights Development in the three Federal Member States (Galmudug, Jubaland, and Southwest), played a pivotal role in executing project activities. The project placed a strong emphasis on identifying community influencers who lead advocacy efforts aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities. These influencers act as local champions, raising awareness and enhancing community capacity. Furthermore, persons with disabilities have been actively engaged in roles such as trainers and facilitators, particularly in initiatives like sign language training. These roles have empowered beneficiaries to assume leadership positions within their communities, fostering both personal growth and community development.

c) Coordination

UNDP has successfully ensured effective coordination of the project by establishing strong collaborative ties with various local and international partners, aligning the project with Somalia's National Development Plan (NDP-9) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This coordination process was achieved through active engagement with key government institutions, including the National Disability Agency (NDA) and the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family (MESAF), which played pivotal roles in ensuring that the project aligns with national priorities for disability inclusion.

To enhance coordination, the project team maintained a structured approach through regular meetings, information sharing, and joint planning within the Gender, Human Rights, and Inclusion clusters. These clusters provided a platform for stakeholders to align efforts and share updates, ensuring the project complements other disability inclusion initiatives underway. By participating in these collaborative forums, the program team was able to track progress, adjust strategies, and leverage resources across different actors to avoid duplication and ensure a cohesive approach.

The project team also worked to ensure that all activities and interventions were co-ordinated with broader national and international frameworks aimed at improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities (PWD), reinforcing the overall goal of fostering an inclusive society. Regular feedback mechanisms and joint assessments with partners helped maintain a clear focus on the project's alignment with national and global disability inclusion goals. This coordination not only strengthened the project's impact but also contributed to the sustainable integration of disability inclusion across Somalia's development agenda.

7. Cross-cutting issues

Issue	Description
Gender and equity	The project has demonstrated a strong and deliberate commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, ensuring that gender considerations are integrated across all components. By adopting a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach, the project has helped address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women, girls, men, and boys with disabilities. Women's participation and leadership were prioritized across all interventions. In the Somali Sign Language training programme, women represented over 60% of participants in Somaliland, demonstrating the project's success in reaching and empowering women with hearing impairments. Similarly, in legal service provision, two-thirds of hotline operators and paralegals were women, ensuring gender-sensitive counselling, legal support, and outreach. This has enabled more inclusive and safe access to justice, particularly for women and girls who are disproportionately affected by rights violations and often face barriers in seeking help. Through CRPD training sessions, at least 30% of participants were women, including women with disabilities, further strengthening their understanding of their rights and ability to advocate for themselves. Gender balance was also emphasized in the selection of community influencers to foster inclusive change at the grassroots level. To ensure accountability and meaningful participation, the project applied gender-disaggregated data, indicators, and targets across all activities. This allowed for continuous monitoring of equitable access and benefits for women, men, girls, and boys with disabilities, categorized by disability type. The principle of inclusive participation—with a minimum of 30% representation of women across all project components—has been a cornerstone of implementation. As a result, the project not only increased visibility and voice for women and girls with disabilities in public and institutional spaces but also contributed to a broader shift in attitudes, helping to normalize and support their active engagement in decision-making, service provision, and community life.
Climate change	The project recognizes that climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized groups, including PWD, due to entrenched inequalities and barriers such as mobility challenges and limited access to resources, education, and essential services. In this regard, the one-stop SGBV centres which serve

	IDP communities including people with disabilities were rehabilitated, including the construction of rails, ramps and accessible toilets, to improve the facilities' suitability for disabled access. The project also enabled the provision of assistive equipment to people with disabilities, enhancing resilience and mobility for those most at risk of climatic shocks.
Accountability	The PWD project maintains a strong commitment to accountability by consistently utilizing monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes. These efforts ensure that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), as the primary stakeholders, are actively consulted throughout the project's lifecycle. Regular feedback mechanisms are in place to incorporate their perspectives, ensuring the project remains responsive to their needs and priorities. This includes using disaggregated data to track participation and outcomes based on gender and disability type. The project's use of monitoring, evaluation and learning processes also ensured that all activities and interventions were tracked, verified, and assessed to confirm that the intended impact was achieved and to identify improvements that can be made. The roundtable discussions undertaken by the project further contributed to accountability by providing a platform to bring together key stakeholders, including community influencers, government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), and persons with disabilities (PWD), and ensure that the voices of beneficiaries are heard. This inclusive approach ensures transparency and builds trust by providing beneficiaries with a platform to express their needs, concerns, and feedback on project activities.

8. Main Challenges, Constraints and Gaps

During the project period several operational challenges and constraints have been encountered that impacted progress and efficiency. These challenges ranged from logistical issues, limited resources, and delays in procurement processes to unforeseen external factors such as security concerns and political instability in certain regions. Despite these obstacles, proactive measures were taken to mitigate their effects, including the adaptation of timelines, increased coordination with local partners, and resource reallocation to address priority activities.

The team also worked closely with stakeholders to resolve these issues, ensuring that project activities continued as smoothly as possible under the circumstances. The challenges, problems and remedial actions are highlighted in the below table.

Challenges and constraints		
Description	Action taken	Results
The project launch ceremony, originally planned for earlier in the project timeline, was postponed to December 3, 2024, due to the unavailability of key participants for proposed earlier dates.	The launch event was rescheduled to strategically coincide with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2024. This adjustment allowed for the timely distribution of 20 samples of the assistive equipment and showcased a 2-minute video of the minivan customized for PWDs during the ceremony, thereby increasing the visibility of the project and the donor's commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including representatives from KSRelief, the Saudi Embassy, UN agencies, persons with disabilities (PWDs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and other key stakeholders. During the ceremony, UNDP and KSRelief officially handed over samples of assistive equipment which were distributed in the site. This event marked a key milestone in bolstering support for PWDs and strengthening collaborative partnerships among stakeholders.	The rescheduled event, aligned with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, successfully highlighted the handover and distribution of some samples of assistive equipment and showcased the minivan. This strategic timing enhanced the event's impact, fostering stronger partnerships among KSRelief, the Saudi Embassy, UN agencies, and civil society organizations. It marked a significant milestone in providing practical support to PWDs while reinforcing the commitment to disability inclusion and empowerment.
The recruitment process for key project staff, including the Communication and Reporting Officer and the Project Manager, faced delays. The hiring of the Communication and Reporting Officer remained ongoing until July 2024, while the Project Manager position was only finalized in September 2024.	The UNDP Rule of Law Portfolio team successfully managed the project throughout the recruitment process for the Reporting and Communication Officer and the Project Manager, ensuring seamless project oversight and minimal disruption to implementation. The broader UNDP team provided comprehensive support to ensure that project implementation proceeded.	Despite delays in recruiting key staff, the UNDP Rule of Law Portfolio team ensured seamless project management, minimizing disruptions and maintaining progress. With strong support from the broader UNDP team, operations remained efficient, stakeholder engagement was sustained, and institutional knowledge was preserved. This proactive approach demonstrated UNDP's resilience and commitment to continuity, impact, and effective project delivery.

The procurement of a customized minivan and the assistive equipment faced significant delays due to supplier transportation challenges and the unavailability of critical	The project team coordinated closely with the supplier to explore possible solutions to expedite the delivery. Although the vehicle and the full quantity of equipment were not available for the originally planned handover on 03 December 2024 due to the delays, all were transferred and distributed by March 2025	Despite the delays, the vehicle was handed to the NDA in March 2025 while the assistive equipment was distributed between February to March 2025.
components for the vehicle's customization.		

9. Project Visibility

During this reporting period, the Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Project in Somalia successfully implemented its communication and visibility strategy, aimed at generating significant awareness about the project, promoting disability rights in Somalia, and highlighting the contribution made by KSrelief. The Project Media and communication report has been attached as separate Annex (Please see annex 7)

10. Exit Strategy and Sustainability

The Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Project came to an official close in March 2025, as planned in the project agreement. As part of wrapping up, the project team worked closely with key partners to create a clear exit strategy that aligned with the overall project goal. A key focus was ensuring that the project's achievements continued to support and benefit Persons with Disabilities in Somalia. To do this, many of the activities were handed over to government institutions and local communities. This helps ensure that Persons with disabilities continue to receive support in a way that is sustainable, locally owned, and part of everyday services.

The project handed over three operational hotline centres established in Kismayo, Dhusamareeb, and Baidoa to the National Disability Agency (NDA), enabling the agency to continue providing psychosocial support, counselling, and referral services, particularly for women and girls with disabilities facing violence and discrimination. Meanwhile, the renovated psychosocial support (One Stop) centres in the same three locations are currently being operated and managed by the respective Ministries of Women, Family, and Human Rights of the Federal Member States (FMS).

To institutionalize sustainability, the project significantly enhanced the National Disability Agency's (NDA) operational capacity by providing essential resources such as a customized 15seater minivan to overcome transportation barriers for persons with disabilities (PWDs), office and ICT equipment, and the recruitment of a technical advisor to support the agency's advocacy, policy development, and efforts toward the enactment of the Disability Rights Bill. Furthermore, Somali Sign Language interpreters trained under the project—many of whom are now integrated into schools, hospitals, and public institutions—continue to facilitate communication and promote

inclusive service delivery. The sustained presence of trained paralegals and justice actors within the legal system further reinforces access to justice for PWDs, ensuring the project's longterm impact and institutional resilience.

Community-based sustainability has also been promoted through the empowerment of 50 local influencers and sustained awareness campaigns that reached tens of thousands of individuals via direct outreach and media platforms. These influencers continue to serve as agents of change within their communities, promoting positive attitudes and encouraging PWDs to register for and access available services. Knowledge products such as the Somali Sign Language manuals and inclusive training curricula have been disseminated to relevant institutions and stakeholders to support continued learning and capacity development. Furthermore, investments in physical infrastructure, including the renovation of training centres and psychosocial support facilities equipped with accessibility features, have created safe, inclusive, and functional spaces that will remain in use by the community and government institutions.

Finally, through strategic engagement with duty bearers, policy dialogue, and the training of 235 justice sector professionals, the project has contributed to a more inclusive legal and policy environment. These actors are now better equipped and motivated to champion the rights of Persons with disabilities within their respective sectors and regions.

11. Good Practices, Key Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

The Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Project in Somalia has made significant progress in enhancing the lives of PWDs. This section highlights key good practices, lessons learned and recommendations from the project, demonstrating its contribution to transformative impact on the lives of PWDs in Somalia. UNDP has incorporated these learnings into a proposal for a second phase of the project to build upon the achievements and expand the impact.

1. The project addressed a critical gap in accessible transportation for PWDs in Somalia by procuring and handing over a fully customized 15-seat minivan to the National Disability Agency. Prior to this intervention, the only accessible vehicle available to PWDs was located at Aden Adde International Airport in Mogadishu, operated within a 2-kilometre radius, and charged \$16 per trip—rendering it unaffordable and geographically restrictive for most users. The new minivan now provides reliable daily mobility support to over 30 PWDs in Mogadishu, enabling them to participate in essential activities such as meetings, training, learning, workshops, and social events, thereby significantly enhancing their inclusion and independence. Feedback from the Ministry of Family and Human Rights, NDA, PWDs, and OPDs, as well as recommendations from the KSRelief Africa Branch Manager and the Saudi Ambassador to Somalia during the official handover ceremony, highlighted the success of the initiative and emphasized the urgent need to expand it. Despite its positive impact, the existing vehicle cannot meet the growing demand within Mogadishu and other regions. In response to these insights, a proposal for a second phase of programming has been developed which incorporates the procurement of three additional fully customized

minivans to scale up inclusive mobility support, strengthen infrastructure for PWDs, and ensure broader and sustained access to transportation services across Somalia.

2. The project procured and distributed 1,240 wheelchairs, 750 crutches, and 750 canes to Persons with disabilities in the target locations, significantly improving their mobility and enabling greater participation in daily prayers at the mosque, work, and other social activities. The intervention was highly appreciated by beneficiaries and widely welcomed by community stakeholders, including government officials, religious leaders, and residents. For example, in Baidoa, religious leaders in several mosques publicly expressed their gratitude by offering prayers for KSRelief and the people of Saudi Arabia, acknowledging their generous support. Encouraged by the positive feedback and visible impact, UNDP has prioritised further distribution of assistive devices to other underserved areas where the need is most critical and has incorporated this objective into the proposal for a second phase.
3. The project successfully established a toll-free hotline service offering counselling, psychosocial support, and referral services to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Since its inception, the hotline has supported 320 PWDs, providing them with essential information and guidance on how and where to access the services they need. This initiative has been widely appreciated by both PWDs and key project stakeholders for its practical impact and accessibility. This activity demonstrates a good sustainability practice in the establishment of effective but low-cost services, as it has been possible to transition the hotline service to government ownership under the NDA despite a restrictive budget. This strategic handover enables continued support for persons with disabilities (PWDs) beyond the lifespan of the project.
4. The project developed two Trainer of Trainers (ToT) curricula on Somali Sign Language, which were used to train 50 participants. The curricula were derived from the existing draft Somali Sign Language framework, which has not yet been officially approved by the government. Despite its draft status, the curricula were highly appreciated by both trainees and stakeholders for their clarity, cultural relevance, and practical application. This highlighted the value of a structured and context-specific approach to sign language training. As a result of the positive reception and demonstrated impact, UNDP plans to work with the government in the proposed next phase of the project to support the official adoption and integration of the Somali Sign Language curriculum into the national education system, marking a significant step towards institutionalizing inclusive communication in Somalia.
5. The project renovated three One-Stop Centres, making them disability-friendly through the construction of ramps, handrails, and accessible toilets. These enhancements have significantly improved access for persons with disabilities (PWDs), enabling them to receive essential services such as psychosocial support, counselling, and referrals to health care, nutrition, food, and water services. The renovations addressed a commonly experienced

physical challenge for PWDs in Somalia, yet many facilities are still difficult to access, creating a barrier for PWDs in accessing the support they need. Recognizing the critical importance of accessibility and the positive feedback from beneficiaries, UNDP is proposing to renovate of another 3 public service facilities to ensure they are fully accessible to PWDs in the potential next phase of the project.

6. The sign language training conducted by the project has led to tangible outcomes, with many of the trained individuals now integrated into government institutions, hospitals, schools, and the private sector, where they provide essential sign language interpretation services. Their contributions have significantly enhanced communication between service providers and persons with hearing impairments, particularly in healthcare and education settings. Although the initiative was piloted only in Mogadishu and Hargeisa, its positive impact has demonstrated strong potential for nationwide scale-up. In addition, the project team recognized that empowering PWDs with practical and marketable skills can foster their social inclusion and economic independence. Consequently, UNDP has included the expansion of the sign language program to additional locations in the proposed second phase of the project and is proposing to also introduce technical skills training in areas such as tailoring, information and communication technology (ICT), henna decoration, and cooking.
7. The project engaged 50 community influencers to conduct awareness campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities across the project target locations. As a result of their efforts, 13,946 individuals were reached, surpassing the original target of 3,000. This remarkable achievement was driven by the effective mobilization and innovative outreach methods used by the influencers, which helped reduce stigma and promote greater inclusion of persons with disabilities within communities. Recognizing the positive impact of these awareness efforts, UNDP plans to scale up the initiative in the proposed second phase of the project by expanding to new locations and leveraging technology to amplify reach and effectiveness.
8. During the distribution of assistive equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, and canes, the project team observed that some persons with disabilities (PWDs) were extremely vulnerable and unable to work or earn an income to meet their basic needs, including food. In several cases, families had multiple members with disabilities and lacked any form of social or financial support. This revealed a critical gap in addressing the immediate needs of the most at-risk individuals. In response, UNDP incorporated the provision of unconditional cash transfers into the design of the next potential second phase of the project, aiming to ensure that these households receive essential support alongside mobility assistance.
9. During the project implementation period, UNDP Project teams identified that individuals with disabilities (PWDs), particularly those from households with multiple disabled members, face significant challenges in meeting even their most basic needs. To address

this critical gap, it is recommended that the next phase of the project include unconditional cash transfers as an integral component of a comprehensive support package. This intervention will ensure that the most vulnerable individuals are not left behind, enabling them to live with dignity while benefiting from essential mobility, skills development, and psychosocial support interventions.

12. Financial Information

Construct a table reflecting the original budget item line and compare with actual utilization of funds. Link planned activities to actual disbursements. Explain any significant expenditure variance and links these to the implementation, or not, of activities. Comments on adequacy of original budget estimates.

Financial Statement

#	Activity	Total budget	Total expenditure (of 1 st and 2 nd trench) UNDP prefinance	% of expenditure	Comments
1	1.1 Capacity of relevant agencies and institutions to support PWD increased	\$ 191,700.00	\$ 194,200.00	101%	
2	2.1 Communities influencers identified who advocate for disability rights and online counselling services established	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 18,150.00	99.7%	
3	2.2 Online counselling established	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,600.00	108%	
4	2.3 Protection of women and girls from SGBV through psycho-social and legal services	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 129,500.00	108%	

5	Sub result 2.4 # of pieces of assistive equipment distributed to PWD	\$ 331,400.00	\$ 153,250.00	46%	
6	Project Management	\$ 223,620.00	\$ 221,724.67	99.15%	
	Total Costs	\$ 904,920.00	\$ 738,424.67		
	GMS 7%	\$ 63,344.40	\$ 51,689.73		
	Grand Total	\$968,264.40	\$ 790,114.40	81.60%	

13. Annexes

The following annexes have been attached both as files and as links for ease of access. A summary table listing all annexes, their links, and corresponding files is provided below:

1. Financial Report
2. Monitoring framework
3. Human interest stories
4. Progress calculator
5. Assistive Equipment Selection criteria
6. All knowledge products
7. Media and communication Report
8. Renovation Photos

No	Annex	Link	File
1	Financial Report	Link to the financial report	 PWD Project Final Financial Report.xlsx
2	Monitoring framework	Link to the Monitoring Framework	 PWD M&E plan 2025.xlsx
3	Human interest stories	Link to the Human interest stories	 Human Interest Stories.zip
4	Progress calculator	Link to the progress calculator	 Progress Calculator 2025.xlsx
5	Assistive Equipment Selection criteria	Link to the assistive equipment selection criteria	 Selection criteria for Assistive equipm

6	All knowledge products	Link to the knowledge products	 Somali Sign Language Curriculum
7	Media and Communication Report	Link to Media and Communication Report	 FINAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION R
8	Project Renovation Photos	Link to Project Renovation photos	 PROJECT RENOVATION PHOTO

14. Signature and Stamp

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE	SIGNATURE AND STAMP	DATE
UNDP Somalia	Dr. Christopher Laker, Deputy Resident Representative - Programmes	DocuSigned by:  53F7AA00844C461...	09-May-2025