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United Nations Development Programme

Country/Region/Global: (Somalia)
Project Initiation Plan (PIP)

Project Title	:	Juba Climate-smart Agro-Market Project
Expected UNSDCF/CPD Outcome(s)	:	Cooperation framework outcome involving UNDP #2: By 2030, Somalia's economy is transformed through increased productivity and climate resilience in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries; enhanced SDG-aligned investments in MSMEs and infrastructure; and equitable access to employment, entrepreneurship, and future-ready skills for women, youth, and marginalized groups contributing to inclusive and sustainable growth, food security, and livelihoods.
Expected NTP Outcome(s)	:	Agricultural productivity in Lower Juba are significantly strengthened through climate-smart practices and small-scale irrigation, contributing to national food security, reduced import dependency, and inclusive economic growth for youth and women under Somalia's NTP 2025–2029 vision.
Expected CPD Output(s)	:	Proposed CPD Output 2.3: Sustainable climate-resilience, and resource-efficiency enhancement measures are integrated across key sectors and capacities for sustainable ecosystem and risk management enhanced
Expected NTP Output(s)	:	Market-driven, climate-smart agriculture is operationalized in Lower Juba through small-scale irrigation systems, targeted farmer training, and structured linkages to Kismayo's urban and export markets. This enables at least a 30% increase in crop productivity and creates inclusive income opportunities for youth and women, positioning agriculture as a driver of food security and economic growth in line with MoAI priorities and NTP 2025–2029.
Initiation Plan Start/End Dates	:	1st Dec 2025 - 31st May 2026
Implementing Partner	:	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI)

Programme Period:_____ Quantum Project Number: 01005233 Quantum Output Number: 1527467	Total resources required: 2,004,641 USD Total allocated resources: • Regular • Other: ○ Government Netherlands: 2,004,641 USD

Agreed by UNDP:
Lionel Laurens, Resident Representative
UNDP Somalia

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Lionel LAURENS
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06-Dec-2025

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Brief Description

Based on the discussions between the government of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia and UNDP, it was agreed to develop a four-year project - the Juba Climate-smart Agro-Market Project, a flagship initiative under the National Transformation Plan (NTP) and Beero Barwaaqee Somalia (Farm and Prosper Somalia).

Each year will comprise a phase that builds on the previous one and is confirmed by the donor upon satisfactory review of the project, including lessons learnt, results, and funding availability. The allocation for phase 1 amounts to **USD 2,004,641**[1] and comprises a Project Initiation Plan (PIP) phase of 3 months and a phase 1 implementation of 9 months.

Within three months, the PIP will deliver a fully costed project document and generate critical data to guide evidence-based decision-making. It will validate delivery mechanisms, strengthen institutional and community capacities, and establish a solid evidence base for climate-smart agriculture and green livelihoods in Jubaland. Upon approval of the project document by all parties, the remaining funds will be carried over to Phase 1 for completion by December 2026. An amount of **USD 217,726** will be earmarked for the PIP, while approximately **USD 1,786,915** will be carried over to the implementation period (9 months) of phase 1. The future project document will reflect the Government of Somalia's ambition to create pathways for inclusive economic growth and sustainable rural development, positioning the country to build resilience and prosperity in the face of climate challenges.

The Juba Climate-smart Agro-Market Project is designed to advance sustainable agricultural development while addressing the root causes of displacement, migration, food insecurity, and violent extremism. Its core objective is to create an enabling environment that fosters social cohesion, strengthens community resilience, and reduces recurring humanitarian needs. By promoting inclusive growth through climate-smart agriculture and market systems, the initiative aims to build lasting peace among participating communities. The programme stands on its own merits and is not intended to be linked to returnee support or migration management.

Project Implementation Plan (PIP) Purpose and Expected Output

The Project Implementation Plan (PIP) aims to design a 4-year fully costed project document - Juba Climate-Smart Agro-Market Project - a flagship initiative in partnership with the Netherlands and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, aligned with Somalia's Agro-Market Model and the National Transformation Plan (NTP). The first 3 months (01 December 2025- 28 February 2026), which is the inception phase, will articulate a fully fledged project that will focus on key components, including defining the theory of change, relevant impactful activities, the implementation modality, the governance structure, and capacity assessments.

Upon approval from all parties, this will allow the kick-off of the Juba Climate-Smart Agro-Market Project, Phase 1, from 01 March until 31 December 2026. During the PIP phase, activities such as baseline assessments, mapping, and other analyses to inform the identification of effective climate-smart agricultural practices that can be piloted under Phase 1. The Phase 1 (March- December 2026) is expected to generate critical data, validate approaches, and strengthen institutional and community capacity. The fully fledged project document will guide and ensure the coordinated implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the federal and state levels. This is essential for building agricultural production and climate resilience, as it leverages their distinct mandates to address community-specific needs through integrated, measurable, and time-bound actions.

Vision of the project

The project's vision is to build on the Agro-Market Model (Annexe I), which represents the Government of Somalia's bold vision to position agriculture as a driver of food security, economic empowerment, and

[1] The above conversion of **EUR 1,730,000** as per the donor agreement, is based on the UN rate of 4 December 2025 (1 USD = 0.863 EUR). Final amounts may vary depending on the rate applied when funds are received in UNDP accounts.

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climate resilience. Anchored in the NTP and the "Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya" initiative, the model promotes a public–private–community partnership that connects small-holder farmers to reliable inputs, modern farming techniques, and structured markets. By integrating climate-smart practices and value chain development—particularly in fertile regions like Lower Juba—the model aims to reduce import dependency, create livelihoods for youth and women, and unlock export potential through hubs such as Kismayo Port. This approach fosters a rural development model that is inclusive, climate-resilient, and scalable to the national level.

Synergies and alignment with Government-led strategies and ongoing initiatives:

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation: The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is spearheading the Somali Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP), which aims to enhance resilient agricultural productivity and promote sustainable management of natural resources. The program focuses on creating a robust agricultural landscape, improving market access, and strengthening food system resilience, while advancing rural livelihood resilience (RLRP). In addition, the Ministry co-implemented the Somali Riverine Agriculture Program (SARP), which prioritizes riverine infrastructure development to boost productivity, institutional capacity building for farmers, seed system strengthening and certification, and the provision of agricultural mechanization. To guide these initiatives, the Ministry has developed a National Agricultural Strategy and a National Agricultural Transformation Strategy, setting a clear roadmap for sustainable agricultural growth in Somalia.

UNDP Somalia: UNDP supports Somalia in implementing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), ensuring climate-smart livelihoods and inclusive development remain central to national priorities. This program will focus on resilience and Sustainable Economic Transformation, which is expected to contribute to addressing the root causes of Somalia's outward migration and other significant development challenges, including food insecurity, competition over natural resources, violent extremism, and internal displacement.

The Government of the Netherlands: The Government of the Netherlands has demonstrated a strong commitment to Somalia's agricultural transformation agenda. Under this initiative, it is proposed to the Government of the Netherlands to co-create and finance the first phase of the Juba Climate Smart Agro-Market Project. This comprises: (1) a PIP phase of 3 months (December 2025- February 2026), dedicated to developing a four-year full-fledged project document; (2) the launch of a four-year project starting with 9 months implementation (March-December 2026) in Phase 1, aiming to generate key lessons that will lay the foundation for full-scale implementation in year 2. The results and performance of the project will be jointly reviewed annually, and the Netherlands will decide about potential additional allocations for the subsequent years.

At the outset of the PIP, a joint Netherlands–UNDP-MoAI workshop will be convened to align on the approach for developing the full proposal. This session will ensure clarity on activities, roles, expectations, and processes, enabling both parties to move forward in full agreement before commencing the proposal development.

Project Initiation Plan (PIP) output and activities:

Output 1: Full project proposal designed, building on proven concepts and validated results.
The design of the full project document during the PIP stage will involve a systematic mapping of existing studies, assessments, and data, to be carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. If further data is required to inform the design of the full proposal, which is the objective of the PIP, the following assessment will be conducted:

- Conduct a comprehensive multipurpose agro-market assessment using multi-sector market methodology (capacity of farmers, access to farmlands, ownership, level of vulnerability/risks, beneficiaries' status, similar ongoing interventions, seeds, farming tools, fertilisers, eligibility of small-scale farmers, etc.) and identify existing extension workers in the project location and youth interns.
- Social-Environmental impact assessment of the project location.

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- Conduct baseline surveys and validate recent assessments from the MoAI to identify input needs (seeds, fertilisers, farming tools, etc.) and select eligible small-scale farmers.
- Conduct Market livelihood opportunities assessment (sustainable agriculture practices such as handicrafts using natural materials, renewable energies, eco-friendly income-generating activities, etc.) of the beneficiary communities to inform the selection of communities.
- Conduct community consultation to determine the needs and value chains to be supported/ promoted; select eligible small-scale farmers and explore opportunities for engaging with the private sector
- Explore and identify opportunities for the private sector engagement and partnership.
- Undertake joint scoping mission/s to the project sites.
- Undertake micro-assessment of the implementing partners to determine the capacity for financial management in accordance with the UNDP HACT framework (MoAI FGS, MoAI-Jubaland, National University of Somalia in collaboration with National Leadership Academy NLA.
- Define implementation modality and governance structure of the project.
- Knowledge exchange experiences on NIM/DIM modalities by MOAI.

The following activities are indicative and need to be confirmed in the full project document and annual work plan for phase 1.

- *Based on the assessment of output One, Provide essential farming equipment to cooperatives, construct and rehabilitate irrigation systems and canals to improve water access, and cultivate identified hectares using certified seeds and improved farming practices for small-scale farmers and cooperatives*
- *Develop a training module for the cooperatives and extension workers and train them.*
- *Support livelihood opportunities of youth and women based on the results in Output 1.*
- *Pilot integrated farming system in the project location.*

THEORY OF CHANGE

The Project Implementation Plan (PIP) aims to design a 4-year fully costed project document - Juba Climate-Smart Agro-Market Project - a flagship initiative in partnership with the Netherlands and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

If:

- Comprehensive assessments are conducted and triangulated with a desk review.
- Relevant and effective delivery mechanisms, management arrangements, implementation modality, and coordination frameworks are defined.
- A fully costed project is completed and ready for implementation.

Then:

- The full Jubaland Agro-Climate Resilience Project provides a scalable model for national implementation of the Agro-Market Model.
- Agriculture becomes a driver of food security, climate resilience, and inclusive economic growth, reducing vulnerability of communities to climate shocks

Cross-cutting enablers during the PIP

- Joint review of documents and assessments
- A shared understanding of implementation modalities
- Gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive approaches to ensure inclusivity and sustainability.
- Policy alignment with the National Transformation Plan (NTP) and Somalia's climate adaptation priorities and UNDP Corporate strategy and policy.

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Management Arrangements

The project initiation plan (PIP) will be implemented by UNDP under the DIM Modality in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), in alignment with the National Transformation Plan (2025-2029).

UNDP: UNDP will provide technical support and act as the fund management agency, ensuring fiduciary assurance in line with its financial procedures. It will maintain full compliance with financial, procurement, and operational standards while overseeing quality assurance, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and delivering timely reports to stakeholders and donors.

MoAI: Under this PIP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will coordinate to ensure activities are carried out diligently in accordance with the work plan and will not be responsible for financial reporting.

From Phase 1 onwards, the management arrangements will be defined in the full project document, informed by HACT assessments, with the ministry to be the implementing partner, coordinate, and provide government inputs to ensure program activities are carried out in compliance with the fund management agency and the public financial management procedures, and in line with the ministry's financial manuals.

Government of the Netherlands: The Government will be invited to co-create the fully fledged project proposal to provide technical input and policy support. They will also participate in joint reviews and discussions for the full-scale project roll-out.

Joint Technical Committee

To support the development of a full project document and ensure alignment across stakeholders, a Joint Technical Committee will be formed comprising the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the federal and State levels, UNDP, and the Donor. Further responsible parties that will be part of the committee will be identified during the full project formulation phase. This committee will serve as an integrated mechanism to enhance coherence among stakeholders, prepare full project proposal, coordinate and oversee the preparation of project documents, conduct technical assessments, design monitoring and evaluation frameworks, guide the formulation of project activities, provide strategic direction of the implementation modalities, review progress, and accelerate the integration of outputs from the Project Initiation Plan (PIP). Meetings will be held bi-weekly with preparations led by the joint technical committee. These sessions will serve as a platform for reviewing progress, aligning efforts, and ensuring that the project remains responsive to evolving needs and priorities. An ad-hoc meeting can be convened as and when deemed necessary.

Project Support Structure

As part of the full project document, UNDP and MoAI will establish a dedicated management and support team. This will ensure effective governance, accountability, and delivery, the project will adopt a three-tier support structure in line with UNDP corporate requirements:

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Composition: Co-chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and the UNDP Resident **Representative**. Members will include one representative from the donor, the Project Manager, UNDP Quality Assurance Representative, and the Portfolio Manager.

Functions: Provide strategic guidance, approve annual work plans and budgets, review progress reports, and ensure alignment with national priorities and UNDP standards.

Project Management Unit (PMU)

Hosting: Located within the Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Government of Somalia.

Composition: Project Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Agronomist, Irrigation Specialist, Finance Officer, State Programme Focal Person, and Programme Support Officer.

Functions: Responsible for day-to-day implementation, technical coordination, financial management, and reporting to the PSC and UNDP.

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UNDP Project Support Team

Composition: Relevant UNDP staff providing technical backstopping, quality assurance, procurement, and operational support in compliance with UNDP rules and procedures.
Functions: Ensure adherence to UNDP corporate policies, provide oversight on risk management, and support capacity development of national counterparts.

Monitoring

The project's monitoring arrangements are designed to ensure sufficient information on the realisation of the PIP. The PIP will adopt an adaptive and context-responsive monitoring approach, particularly suited to the dynamic operating environment in Somalia.

Joint Monitoring with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Monitoring will be conducted jointly by UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, ensuring national ownership, alignment with government priorities, and capacity strengthening. A Joint Monitoring Team will be established, comprising representatives from both institutions, to oversee implementation progress, validate field-level results, and provide strategic guidance.

Key monitoring activities will include:

- Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs): will be submitted to the technical committee for review and endorsement. These reports will summarise progress against planned activities, highlight challenges, and propose mitigation measures.
- Initiation Phase Report: A comprehensive report at the end of the PIP period, summarising achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations for the full project design.
- Monitoring Plan: A results framework with indicators, baselines, and annual targets will guide performance tracking. Where applicable, data will be disaggregated by gender, age, and location.

Output	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Output 1: Full project proposal designed, building on proven concepts and validated results.	1.1 Conduct a comprehensive multipurpose agro-market assessment using multi-sector market methodology (capacity of farmers, access to farmlands, ownership, level of vulnerability/risks, beneficiaries' status, similar ongoing interventions, Seeds, farming tools, fertilisers, eligibility of small-scale farmers, etc.) and identify existing extension workers in the project location and youth interns.	0	1 Comprehensive assessment completed, and report validated by stakeholders. Jan 2026.
	1.2 Conduct baseline surveys to identify input needs (seeds, fertilisers, farming tools, etc.) and select eligible small-scale farmers.	0	Baseline survey completed covering at least 3 target locations and 7 cooperatives and 25 farmers identified. January 2026.
	1.3 Conduct Market livelihood opportunities assessment (sustainable agriculture practices such as handicrafts using natural materials, renewable energies, eco-friendly income-generating activities, etc.) of the beneficiary communities to inform the selection of communities.	0	1 Assessment completed and at least 5 sustainable livelihood options identified and documented. January 2026.

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	1.4 Number of existing extension workers identified, and training needs assessed.	0	10 existing extension agents identified, and a capacity gap assessment finalised. January 2026
	1.5. Social-Environmental Impact Assessment	0	1 environmental impact assessment report on the target location submitted
	1.6. Undertake micro-assessment of the implementing partners to determine the capacity for financial management in accordance with the UNDP HACT framework (MoAI FGS, MoAI Jubaland, National University of Somalia.	2	3 HACT assessments
	1.7. # Community consultation to determine the needs and value chains to be supported/ promoted.	0	1 Community consultations in the project target area
	• 1.8. # of internal consultation meetings on implementation modality and governance structure of the project.	2	3 consultation meetings
	• 1.9. Explore opportunities for engaging with the private sector.	0	1 engagement at the target
	1.10. Joint scoping mission/s to the project sites.	0	Initial engagement with the Jubaland state MoAI
	1.11. Full project proposal prepared and validated through a consultative process.	0	1 Full proposal developed. March 2026

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WORK PLAN

PIP Phase: 1st Dec 2025 – 28 February 2026

EXPECTED OUTPUTS *And baseline, indicators including annual targets*	**PLANNED ACTIVITIES** *List activity results and associated actions*	**TIMEFRAME**						**RESPONSIBLE PARTY**	**PLANNED BUDGET**		
		2025	**2026**						Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount/ USD
		Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May				
Output 1: Full project proposal designed, building on proven concepts and validated results. ***Baseline**: NA* ***Indicators**: number of assessments & Proposal Documents completed and submitted* ***Targets**: 4 assessments & 1 Full project proposal completed and submitted*	1.1 Conduct a comprehensive multipurpose agro-market assessment using multi-sector market methodology (capacity of farmers, access to farmlands, ownership, level of vulnerability/risks, beneficiaries' status, similar ongoing interventions, seeds, farming tools, fertilisers, Eligibility of small-scale farmers, etc.) and identify existing extension workers in the project location and youth interns.	x	x					001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Data collection, Refreshments, transportation, per diam and travel cost)	23,000
	1.2 Conduct baseline surveys to identify input needs (seeds, fertilisers, farming tools, etc.) and select eligible small-scale farmers.	x	x					001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Data collection, Refreshments, transportation, per diam and travel cost)	18,000

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	1.3 Conduct Market livelihood opportunities assessment (sustainable agriculture practices such as handicrafts using natural materials, renewable energies, eco-friendly income-generating activities, etc.) of the beneficiary communities to inform the selection of communities.	x	x	x				001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer (Data collection, Refreshments, transportation, per diam and travel cost)	15,000
	1.4 Social-Environmental impact assessment of the project location	x	x					001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Data collection, Refreshments, transportation, per diam and travel cost)	15,000
	1.5 Conduct community consultation to determine the needs and value chains to be supported/ promoted; select eligible small-scale farmers, and explore opportunities for engaging with the private sector.		x	x				001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Data collection, Refreshments, transportation, per diam and travel cost)	5,000

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	1.6 Explore opportunities for engaging with the private sector		x	x				001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Data collection, Refreshments, transportation, per diam and travel cost)	10,000
	1.7 Joint scoping mission/s to the project sites		x	x				001981	Dutch - 00182	71600 - Travel (per diam and travel cost)	5,000
	1.8 Undertake micro-assessment of the implementing partners to determine the capacity for financial management in accordance with the UNDP HACT framework (MoAI FGS, MoAI Jubaland, National University of Somalia)	x	x					001981	Dutch - 00182	74100- Professional Services (Audit & M&E)	15,000
	1.9 Define the implementation modality and governance structure of the project		x	x				001981	Dutch - 00182	71600 - Travel (perdiam and travel cost)	5,000
	1.10. Full project proposal prepared and validated through a consultative process.		x					001981	Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Work shops for completion of full proposal documents, consultants and other support needs cost.)	2,000
	1.11 Knowledge exchange experiences on NIM/DIM modalities by MOAI		x					001981	Dutch - 00182	71600 - Travel	30,000

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Project Management	Project Management Team	x	x	x				UNDP	Dutch - 00182	67400 Labour Cost – IP Staff 71400 Contractual Services – Individ Project Staff Costs	40,000
	GMS (8%)	x	x	x	x	x	x	001981	Dutch - 00182	75100 Facilities & Administration	14,640
	Levy (1%)	x	x	x	x	x	x	001981	Dutch - 00182		20,086
Sub-total											**217,726**
NOTE: The above activities will serve as the basis for developing the full project document, including the estimated budget. Any remaining funds will be reallocated to the proposed outputs outlined in the comprehensive project document, including the review and quality assurance of the below activities:											
Indicative activities for Phase 1 (March-Dec 2026). .	I. Based on the assessment of output One; Provide essential farming equipment to cooperatives, construct and rehabilitate irrigation systems and canals to improve water access, and cultivate identified hectares using certified seeds and improved farming practices for small-scale farmers and cooperatives II. Provide technical support to youth and women, develop training modules for cooperatives and extension workers, and deliver targeted capacity-building sessions. III. Pilot integrated farming system in the project location				x	x			Dutch - 00182	75700 - Workshops, trainings, Conferences and meetings (Workshops for completion of full proposal documents, consultants and other support needs cost.)	1,786,915
Sub-total											**1,786,915**
GRAND TOTAL											**2,004,641**