

UNITED NATIONS SOMALIA JOINT FUND

Newsletter on the Fund's portfolio and support to Somalia

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The **SOMALIA JOINT FUND**'s mission is to provide an impactful and collectively owned contribution to Somalia's recovery and development by resourcing clear UN strategies and leveraging distinct UN comparative advantages in the country.

It currently manages and implements 16 programmes thanks to the generous contribution of the following donors:

- ◆ Denmark
- ◆ European Union
- ◆ Finland
- ◆ Germany
- ◆ Italy
- ◆ Netherlands
- ◆ Norway
- ◆ Peacebuilding Fund
- ◆ Somalia
- ◆ Sweden
- ◆ Switzerland
- ◆ United Kingdom
- ◆ USAID



Launch of the Saameynta joint programme, Mogadishu 20 March 2022. Photo by IOM.

Durable Solutions for Displacement in Somalia

The new four-year multi-million project named Saameynta - impact in Somali - was launched on 20 March 2022 to achieve durable solutions for more than 75,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities in Somalia.

Through Saameynta, the UN and its partners will work together with Somali authorities to implement the National Durable Solutions Strategy. The programme also seeks to decrease dependency on humanitarian aid, reduce poverty for thousands of impoverished individuals and promote IDP's integration in cities.

Saameynta's unique approach leverages the value generated by planned urbanization and investment to provide affordable housing, employment opportunities and community assets such as infrastructure, irrigation facilities, markets and other locally identified priorities for communities affected by displacement.


Saameynta will also increase the self-reliance and access to sustainable basic services, including water, shelter, and health services for IDPs residing in the cities of Baidoa, Bossaso and Beledweyne.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is leading the implementation of the programme in partnership with the Government and will work together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN-Habitat supported by the Integrated Office of the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia.

SAAMEYNTA

Community-identified durable solutions priorities were presented to government stakeholders, UN entities, NGOs, donors, and private sector actors at the launch of the Baidoa Community Action Plan on 19 May 2022. Among the priorities presented were WASH, irrigation, diversification of livelihoods, and improve city planning to accommodate the rapid urban growth.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

ID	00129672
Coverage	Hirshabelle, Puntland, South West State
Duration	4 years
Budget	US\$ 18,831,011
Funding level	US\$ 3,559,546
Delivery rate	Inception phase
UN entities	IOM, UNDP, UN-Habitat
Partners	FGS, FMS
Beneficiaries	IDPs and host communities
NDP pillar	Social Development
UNCF priority	Social Development
SDG	
Gender marker	2
Related projects	Midnimo I & II, Danawaadag, RE-INTEG
Focal person	Ewa Nagvi, IOM enagvi@iom.int



Launch of the Community Action Plan in Baidoa, 19 May 2022. Photo by IOM.

ROLE OF THE ECONOMY

Understanding the local economy is fundamental to *Saameynta*. Jobs and livelihoods will come from growth, so identifying which sectors could grow helps define actions that can be supported *Saameynta* and other projects.

Baidoa's economy is strongly influenced by conflict. Consumers ultimately pay the cost. Not surprisingly, recent investments (in hotels, brickmaking, and stone crushing) have been in sectors where neither inputs nor outputs cross Baidoa's borders.

Baidoa's links with agriculture are strong. Wealth, livelihoods, and jobs in Baidoa reflect the health of agriculture and agriculture will likely drive Baidoa's economy for the foreseeable future. Displacement to Baidoa is also changing agriculture, with fruit and vegetable production around the town increasing as a growing population drives demand.

Construction is booming. The hospitality sector is expanding, reflecting demand for hotel rooms from business travellers. Bank loans finance some of this development, particularly where urban property can act as security for loans. Associated informal services provides livelihoods for many, including IDPs.

If Baidoa were reopened to uninhibited trade, particularly along the road to Mogadishu, the prospects for the local economy would be better. If this is not possible, the economy will probably continue to centre on agricultural trading.

Supporting fruit and vegetable production and milk marketing would offer benefits. Irrigated fruit and vegetable growing allows year-round production, which makes farmers richer and increases employment. Irrigation can be provided from shallow wells or boreholes using diesel or manual pumps or, if available and financially feasible, solar pumps. Actions on milk marketing will probably involve the cold chain for milk, testing, advisory services, and containers.

Outside agriculture, the best focus is likely to be on existing small enterprises which can grow since small enterprises (defined as 10-50 employees) are the job creators. Working with existing enterprises is a good bet since they have found a way to survive, know available technology and processes, and have found financing and markets. Bank lending to such firms has also been shown to lead to employment. This lending is from banks' own funds or lines of credit from the development partners (including that supported by UNIDO and UNDP in Baidoa) which are on-lent through commercial banks.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

◆ The **Integrated Baidoa District Community Action Plan** was reviewed and updated on 29-30 March 2022.

◆ *Saameynta* supported the implementation of the **Urban Land Management Law in South West State**. The law stipulates the responsibilities for local, district and state authorities for urban land management, defines various types of urban development plans and public participation and engagement as well as tools for land conflict resolution and durable solutions to respond to displacement crises.

◆ UNDP commissioned an **in-depth assessment** of the state of the local economies in the three target cities of *Saameynta*.

◆ Consultation on the design and preparation for commissioning the **Baseline Study for Saameynta Programme** to establish an indicator guide, provide baseline values and to provide a benchmark necessary for facilitating the subsequent midline assessment and the final evaluation of the programme.

1. Why is the Saameynta programme important for Somalia at this juncture?

Somalia is experiencing an enormous crisis with close to three million IDPs. Approximately every fifth citizen has fled to urban and peri-urban areas driving rapid unplanned urbanization. Therefore, there is a need to create well planned city extensions to de-populate the urban core. If this is not done, the IDPs risk falling under the radar, in which case their needs would not be met as they would be counted as urban poor.

The timing is opportune for Saameynta to scale up durable solutions by leveraging existing government buy-in and the successes of past generations programmes such as Midnimo, EU RE-INTEG, and Danwadaag to address displacement in a more impactful way.

2. What makes the UN well-placed to support durable solutions for IDPs in Somalia?

Addressing displacement requires a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, and nexus approach. The UN lays emphasis on partnerships across its agencies, supported by the Integrated Office of the UN DSRSG/RC/HC, as well as partnerships with the Government of Somalia, private sector, and civil society organizations, through which the UN can support in creating conditions for displaced persons to fully contribute to sustainable development.

3. What are your expectations on the programme in its first year of implementation?

Switzerland is guided by the annual work plans established by the UN implementing partners. Switzerland actively steers programme implementation to assist partners unlock bottlenecks. After significant delays in the programme's approval, as a minimum, the following should now be in place:

- Documentation on the Baidoa land (Barwaaqo 2 and Hanaano) guaranteeing that the UN can already begin to invest in the land to settle IDPs. This should also include guarantee that IDPs would not be evicted.
- City extension plans should be in place and investments should have kicked in (in collaboration with the World Bank and other partners).
- Beneficiary selection for services.
- Identification of private sector actors and agreements on collaboration should be in place.
- Progress on municipal financing in Baidoa.

Ms. Lydia Wetugi
Senior Programme Manager, Governance & Migration
Embassy of Switzerland

“These IDPs are unlikely to return to their place of origin in the near future since their lands are now arid and unsuitable for farming or pastoralism. Finding durable solutions to protracted displacement in Somalia is desperately needed to enhance the livelihood situation of IDPs and their host communities.”

Mr. Adam Abdelmoula
UN DSRSG/RC/HC for Somalia

“IDPs suffer from a lack of opportunities to grow and develop in their new communities, which make it difficult for these groups to get out the poverty cycle.”

Ms. Ewa Naqvi
Deputy Chief of Mission
IOM Somalia

QUOTE FROM SOMALI AUTHORITIES

“Saameynta will improve the living conditions of displaced persons, finally allowing them to sustainably integrate in their host communities. The Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development is proud to have spearheaded this project towards its implementation.”

Ms. Zahra Abdi
Director for Monitoring and Evaluation and Durable Solutions
at the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic
Development



FUND OVERVIEW



DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Millions of US\$

	Sweden	123.4
	EU	79.1
	Norway	47.6
	Switzerland	37.2
	UK	36
	Denmark	34.9
	Germany	32.8
	Italy	30.5
	Netherlands	20
	Finland	18.3
	UN PBF	8.6
	USAID	5.5
	Somalia	3.3

PROGRAMME UPDATES

◆ In February 2022, the [Social Protection joint programme](#) supported the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) to deliver an Urban Safety Net programme reaching 6,000 individuals, composed of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and the urban poor. Government staff were trained in all the steps necessary in operationalization of the safety nets, ensuring accountability to affected populations and gender sensitive programming was undertaken.

◆ The [Productive Sectors Development Programme](#) concluded a review on the credit line rolled out by UNIDO for SMEs in Beledweyne. The review reflected the enthusiasm and appreciation from borrowers. The presence of a grace period was new to the beneficiaries and allowed the firms to build up the business in the initial growing period without repayments so that it can reliably repay when the revenue has stabilized. It was also reported that terms and conditions of the UNIDO credit facility were more favourable than the other existing loan products in Somalia.

The credit line in Beledweyne is part of support to the private sector nationwide and aims to reduce the serious shortage of funds available to companies in Somalia. Funding in Beledweyne is partly from UNDP which also supports the Beledweyne Enterprise Development Unit promoted by UNIDO as part of its EDU network in collaboration with Somalia Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which provides business advice and training. UNIDO's focus on the local economy and livelihoods shapes the programme. The Beledweyne Enterprise Development Unit helps the firms to make the loan applications.

FUND UPDATES

◆ In February 2022, the fund secretariat was joined by Mr. Ahmed Hashi as Operations Specialist. Mr. Hashi will support all financial and operational aspects of the Fund and is based in Nairobi.

◆ On 24 May 2022, the Executive Coordinator of the MPTF Office chaired a meeting with fund donors. Focus of the discussion was ongoing reforms of the Fund and the role of pooled funding in the UN Development System.

◆ On 27 May 2022, the Fund's consolidated annual financial report for 2021 was shared with donors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

31 August 2022
Semi-annual SJF report

14 September 2022 (TBC)
SJF Partner Forum Meeting

23 November 2022 (TBC)
SJF Partner Forum Meeting

This publication has been produced with the assistance of Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Somalia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USAID, and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office for Somalia and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Somalia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USAID, and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

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