



# Development of a National Water Resources Strategy for the Federal Government of Somalia

## PURPOSE OF NEWSLETTER (No 1 of 4, September 2020)

This briefing note aims to:

- Introduce the development of the Somalia National Water Resources Strategy (NWRS);
- Detail the approach and process that will be used for the development of the National Water Resources Strategy;
- Highlight the key processes to date; and
- Provide the anticipated next steps.

### Project technical information

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## INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR), with the support of key cooperating partners, and in collaboration with stakeholders, is currently spearheading the process of developing a National Water Resources Strategy (NWRS) for Somalia. The development of a National Water Resources Strategy is timely noting the importance of water to social and economic development, and the various water sector challenges that are being faced. The Strategy will enable closer alignment with Somalia's Constitutional imperatives of the right of all citizens to access clean potable water while ensuring environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.



Figure 1: Map of Somalia

The process was set in motion in July 2019 by H.E. Hassan Ali Khaire, Former Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, who requested for the development of a National Water Resources Strategy. H.E. Fowzia Mohamed Sheikh, the Minister of Energy and Water Resources, stressed the importance of having a sound consultation process in order to establish strategies and priority actions for the strategy.

This was followed by a consultative workshop held in March 2020 involving actors from the Federal Government, the Federal Member State Governments, the private sector, civil society and international development partners who engaged on requirements for the development of a National Water Resources Strategy. This culminated in commissioning of a team of experts to work closely with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and stakeholders to develop the Strategy, which is currently underway. Highlights of the approach, process, timelines, stakeholder engagement, emergent thinking, deliverables, and timelines of this undertaking are presented in following sections.

The Somali water vision is *Sustainable, equitable, and secure water for national unity, growth, and wellbeing, for all and in harmony with nature.*

This vision will be achieved through initiatives under four key themes namely:

1. *Enhance the role of water in unity, growth, and well-being.*
2. *Ensure equity, productivity, and sustainable services.*
3. *Build resilience by promoting sustainable development.*
4. *Enhance integrated water resources management.*



## PROCESS

A phased process has been adopted for development of the Strategy. This includes a preparatory inception phase to map out a feasible workflow and a stakeholder engagement plan. This is followed by a situational assessment aimed at developing an understanding the current context, issues, and challenges that provide the basis for the strategic approach that is required. The development of guiding principles, objectives, and a theory of change for the strategy is important in providing direction on strategic interventions which will provide the framework for drafting the Strategy. Finally, a 'roadmap' is to be developed that provides guidance on implementation of priority actions of the strategy and gives clarity as to roles, responsibilities, milestones and timelines.

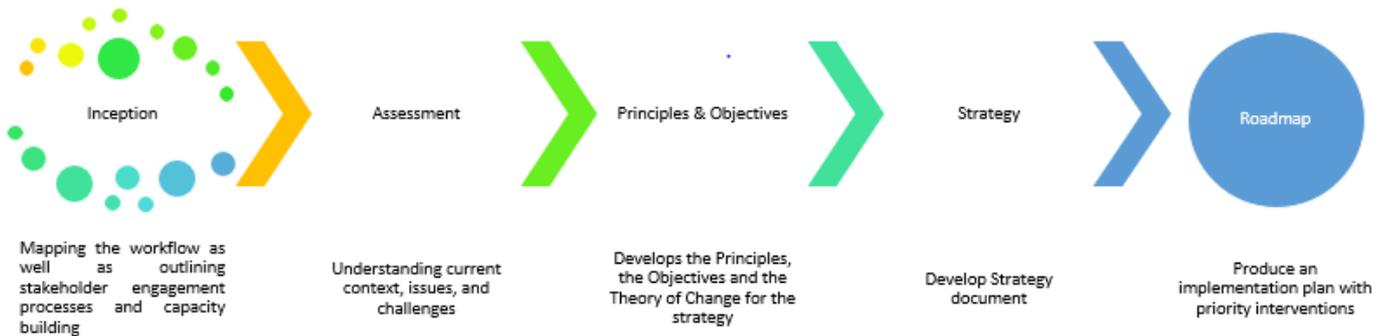


Figure 2: Key phases of the development of the National Water Resource Strategic Plan

A detailed workflow of this process has been developed and is guiding the project team through the various stages to develop the strategy. This workflow reflects the key workstreams towards the development of the strategy and roadmap, and also reflects the importance of the supporting stakeholder engagement that needs to inform the strategy development. Equally important is the underpinning of the entire process with a capacity building stream that strengthens the technical and strategic understanding that is required to develop a robust and rigorous strategy.

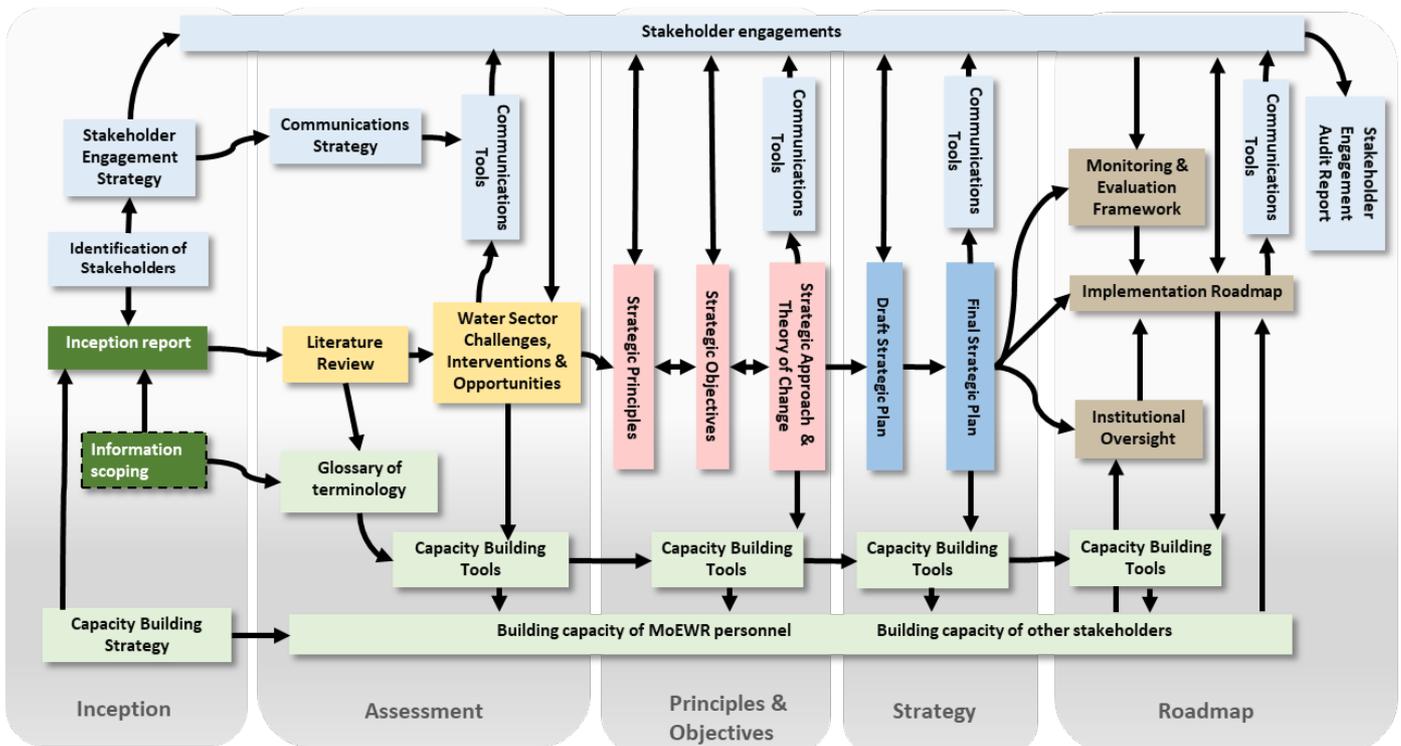


Figure 3: Project workflow for the development of the National Water Resource Strategic Plan



## National Dialogue and Stakeholder Engagement

MoEWR is leading a national dialogue across Somalia engaging many different types of stakeholders, from government staff to local water users, private sector and partners. This will be country wide exchange of ideas, information, and experiences, that in turn generates water awareness, a sense of inclusiveness, legitimacy to the process, and some “ground truth” to be fed into the strategy process. It will promote cooperation and bridging of diverse views, and potentially raise the importance of water and development into a centre stage position in Somalia’s political life.

The consultation workshops are organized to establish strategies and priority actions, helping to identify major challenges and means to overcome those bottlenecks in the water sector of Somalia. Specifically, the workshops are geared towards addressing a number of key technical areas. For each area a set of principles will be identified, that determine how the particular area will be developed and managed, a set of objectives that will shape implementation, and a plan for action. Furthermore, a Compact, a mutually agreed agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the donor community to support and address key water sector needs, and a Road Map of prioritized projects for implementation, will be developed. It is critical that the strategy is well understood by all involved, represents a bottom-up process, and is written in such a way that it provides a direct support to sector development.

These in turn will generate three results:

- An enhanced knowledge about different types of stakeholders and how they regard the water sector, how it functions today and how it can function better, priority concerns, and how a national water strategy could help them in everyday life.
- Enhanced capacity and awareness about water and development in Somalia. Opportunities and limitations, the need to adapt, future challenges.
- Bringing stakeholders on-board, providing legitimacy to the strategy formulation process.

The 1<sup>st</sup> technical workshop was organized in March 2020 in Mogadishu-Somalia to establish basis for the strategy, helping to identify major challenges and possible solutions for water resources management in Somalia. It is critical that the strategy is well understood by all involved, represents a bottom-up process, and is written in such a way that it provides a direct support to sector development.



**Consultations in the Federal Member States-** The purpose of the stakeholder consultations at Federal Member States on the national water resource strategy development was to gather priorities of Federal Member States. The consultations were structured to capture the voice of stakeholders on water and obtain a deeper qualitative understanding of individual federal member state priorities. The state level feedback adds values to the wider dialogues being undertaken by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and contributes to shaping strategic priorities.

**Water is a critical component in Somalia’s development process. It affects all aspects of national cooperation, growth, and wellbeing, and is fundamental in national planning and strategic arrangements. A mechanism is required to coordinate initiatives and projects and to work together with the donor community. Water can also play a role in promoting cooperation and change; that is, being a factor of such importance that it cannot be compromised with.**



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING SOMALIA'S NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY

The effects of climate change are fast becoming one of the top priorities in many countries with the increased occurrence of droughts and floods being felt across the African continent. In recent years, the World Economic Forum's Global Risks reports have placed water related disasters and climate risks as some of the most significant risks to growth and development. As such, effective and adaptive water resource management is becoming increasingly important in ensuring ongoing climate resilience. Noting that the availability of water can constrain growth, there is recognition of the importance of sustaining water supply to enable attainment of the growth and development targets, at country level in support of the National Development Plan 2020-2024, and to meet the targets Sustainable Development Goals.

The importance of a National Water Resources Strategy cannot be overstated. However, noting the developmental process that Somalia is undertaking, it essential to ensure that this strategy appropriately positions the water sector for the phased and progressive strengthening that is needed to support the national economy and ensure sustainable development. Therefore, this strategy must be pragmatic and implementable noting the constraints that the country experiences.

Some of the important considerations and principles that the MoEWR has incorporated in the strategy development process are as follows.

- **Engagement is paramount:** Even with the complexities that COVID-19 presents, ensuring effective engagement is critical. This more participative approach is essential in developing a robust strategy but also is essential in creating an understanding of the strategy and establishing ownership for its implementation.
- **Building capacity:** Often included in developmental processes as if this is a "quick-win" when in fact building effective capacity takes place over years. This process must begin with urgency and needs to be understood as a

longer-term investment. Developing institutional capacity requires a structured and phased approach in accordance with mandate priorities.

- **Longer-term strategy needs short-term tactics:** Whilst it is important to develop longer-term strategic objectives, this really needs to be broken down into shorter-term delivery intervals that are pragmatic and measurable.
- **Clarity of roles and responsibilities:** The institutional dimensions are extremely important and the ability to deliver on the strategy requires that institutions are clear on mandate and are held to account on progress.
- **Pragmatic planning:** Having the Strategy supported by a roadmap (implementation plan) that is implementable and achievable is critical.
- **Monitor and evaluate:** Treating the implementation of strategy in a programmatic and projectized manner requires that the tracking of progress and regular reporting enables adaptive management and guides the development of the next iteration of strategy and implementation.

## NEXT STEPS

The MoEWR project team has been gathering data and information as well as undertaking a range of engagements with various stakeholders. These discussions have provided rich insights regarding key issues to address within the strategy.

Noting the water vision and the pillars that support that vision, the team has started the development of the Theory of Change and the supporting strategic results framework. In the next period, further engagements with a range of stakeholders will be undertaken to ensure that these frameworks are not only pragmatic, but also align with the many strategic processes that are taking place in Somalia. This strategic framework will be provided in the next briefing note.

**Your support and engagement, in developing the National Water Resource Strategy is not only important, it is essential**



## Photos from the field consultations

