
THIRD PARTY MONITORING REPORT OF

Aid Coordination Unit

Economic Recovery and Institutional Development (ERID)

**Implemented by;
Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MOPIED)**

**Funded by;
UNDP**

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ACRONYMS

ACU	Aid Coordination Unit
AIMS	Aid Information Management System
MOPIED	Ministry of planning, investment and economic development
INGOs	International National Governmental Organizations
FMS	Federal Member States
SFG	Somalia Federal Government
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations for Development Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TPM confirms the AIMS platform was launched on April 15, 2020. The TPM visited the AIMS page through a link provided MOPIED team (<https://aims.mop.gov.so/home>). The system is fully developed and functional. The system showcases the various aid investments implemented across the country in line with the priorities of the National Development Plan.

AIMS acts as a tracker for monitoring development assistance both from bilateral and multilateral donors. It is an easy to use system in which the host (MOPIED) gives access to the beneficiaries (international partners (UN agencies and INGOs and bilateral donors) to register themselves in the system and share their investments they are implementing in Somalia.

The system was designed and developed with the support of the international consultants that were contracted under the project. The consultant trained the MOPIED team how to manage the system while the ACU were trained on how to extract data from the system for statistical analysis.

According to the MOPIED and ACU teams, the AIMS is working well because it has enabled the team the team to have access and generate data based on the sectors for quick decision making. The system has enhanced coordination between the SFG and FMS to ensure the development assistance is aligned with the local priorities and ensure effective monitoring of the project to enable the government's involvement and participation in the delivery of the assistance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the Project

Building upon previous support and considering above-mentioned challenges, the ‘Support to Aid Management and Coordination in Somalia Project’ assists the Federal Government of Somalia in developing their core capacities to coordinate and manage development assistance to Somalia during the period November 2018 – December 2020. The project document proposes a costed framework for further developing the existing aid coordination and aid effectiveness capabilities, and is specifically supporting the Aid Coordination Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister in the overall logistical management of the coordination architecture as well as the monitoring of the New Partnership for Somalia, and the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development to support the new Aid Information Management System.

The project is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- 1) a more inclusive, effective and efficient aid architecture;
- 2) strengthened national ownership and capacity for aid coordination processes;
- 3) Better coherence in the international community’s support for aid coordination and effectiveness.

These outcomes aim to contribute towards a better managed, more capable, and more accountable Somali aid coordination and management function that supports state-building priorities, consolidates linkages between the FGS and FMS, and contributes to stability and responds to citizen needs (Impact Statement).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

The third party monitoring was guided by the use of the checklist approved by UNDP. The monitoring targeted the focal persons of the program. The TPM used key informant interviews during the monitoring process. The TPM team requested face to face interview but the ACU MOPIED team requested virtual interview.

2.2 Tools

Researchcare used checklist that was used to monitor the program's activities around the following areas;

1. AIMS is operational by the end of 2019 – the TPM was expected to review if the Aid Information Management System is set up and is being used by the MOPIED and ACU to capture and analyse aid data in Somalia.

2.3 Training and data collection

Researchcare trained and deployed a field researcher about the questionnaire. The researcher administered the questionnaire during the data collection. A summary notes was prepared from the interviews.

3.0 Findings

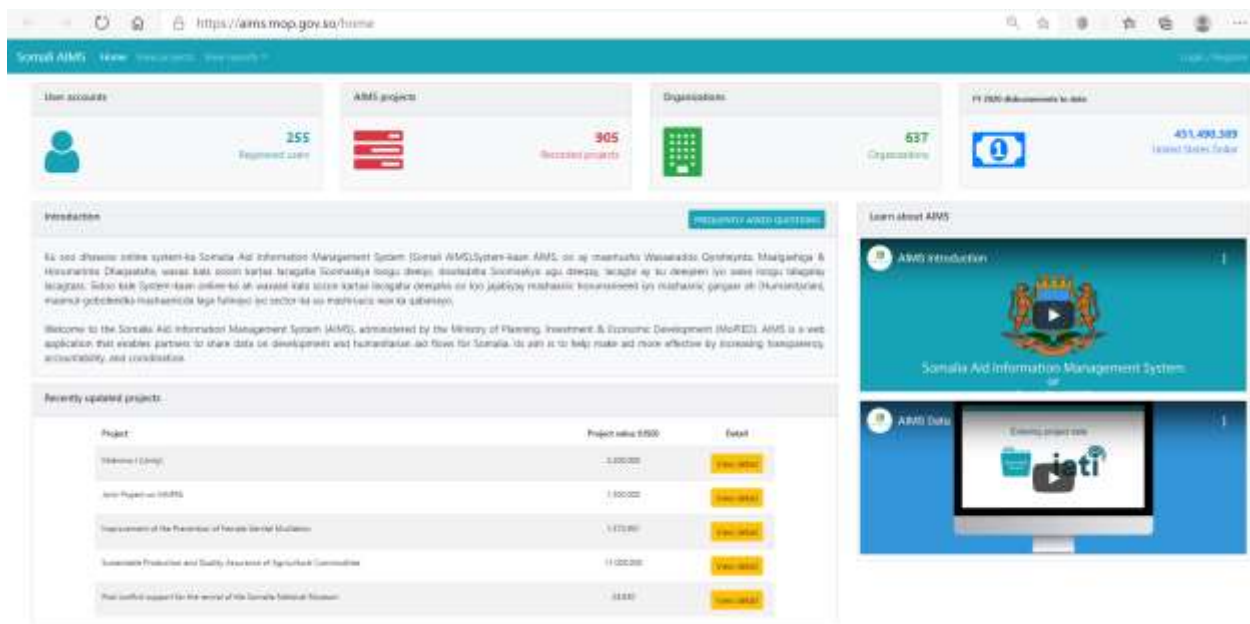
3.1 AIMS is operational by the end of 2019

The TPM held interviews with Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) teams from the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of planning, investment and economic development (MOPIED) to enquire if the AIMS was developed and operational. The ACU manager reported the Aid Information Management System (AIMS) was launched on April 15, 2020. The team shared the link that shows the AIMS is functional <https://aims.mop.gov.so/home>. However, the respondent noted the AIMS was envisaged to be launched in October 2019 but was delayed for several reasons; firstly, the respondent the AIMS underwent review process from the beneficiaries on the design and content of the system. The trail process was comprehensive and it took time for the team to incorporate the reviews into the design.

Secondly, the respondent also noted the December holiday's in 2019 also slowed the pace of the progress thus delayed the invested timeline for launching.

Interviews with the MOPIED and ACU hailed the AIMS as a tracker for monitoring development assistance both from bilateral and multilateral donors. The respondents noted the AIMS is a digital platform hosted by the ministry of planning that supplanted the offline system which was initially contained in an excel system. The team explained the AIMS is easy to use system in which the host (MOPIED) gives access to the beneficiaries (international partners (UN agencies and INGOs and bilateral donors) to register themselves in the system and share their investments they are implementing in Somalia.

Figure 1 Screenshot of the AIMS website



3.2 AIMS work/function

The respondents noted the AIMS is a useful platform that streamlines aid sector in Somalia. The system is designed to perform several functions. First, the purpose of the AIMS was designed to make international assistance to Somalia effective and create accountability between the government and International organizations.

Secondly, the team noted the AIMS promote aid efficiency, transparency and accountability as well as value for money and effective coordination and equitable distribution of resources among federal member states.

Thirdly, the AIMS is a platform that provides a room for donors to showcase the areas of investment and how these programs are aligned with the respective pillars of the National Development Plan. Thus creates a transparency on the nature of investments, scope, budgets and expect timelines from inception to completion. This system allows coordination among the federal government and federal member state institutions as well as the implementing partners.

Finally, the team observed the AIMS is a platform that consolidated aid architecture in the country and enables the Aid Coordination Unit in the office of the Prime Minister to generate statistical data annually at any given financial year to inform policy development.

3.3 Does it work well for the ACU and MOPIED? And how?

According to the MOPIED and ACU teams, the AIMS is working well because it has enabled the team the team to have access and generate data based on the sectors for quick decision making. For instance, the ACU team indicated the government can easily understand how much resources are channeled towards primary health and the fight against Covid-19.

The system has enhanced coordination between the FGS and FMS to ensure the development assistance is aligned with the local priorities and ensure effective monitoring of the project to enable the government's involvement and participation in the delivery of the assistance.

The AIMS is an important platform that is adding value to the mandate and operations of the ministry. As a host of the system, it enables the ministry to generate statistical data used by decision makers to lobby the international donors for additional resources or investment in priority sectors for development.

3.4 How is AIMS managed and run?

The AIMS is hosted and managed by the ministry of planning, investment and economic development (MOPIED). The system was designed and developed with the support of the international consultants that were contracted under the project. The consultant trained the MOPIED team how to manage the system while the ACU were trained on how to extract data from the system for statistical analysis.

3.5 How do you capture aid data in Somalia using the AIMS?

The AIMS is fully functional and is managed by four staffs comprised of a manager responsible for fixing technical issues and report to partners and provides back up for the system. The manager has a secretary that performs delegated roles. There is network officer that handles hardware issues.

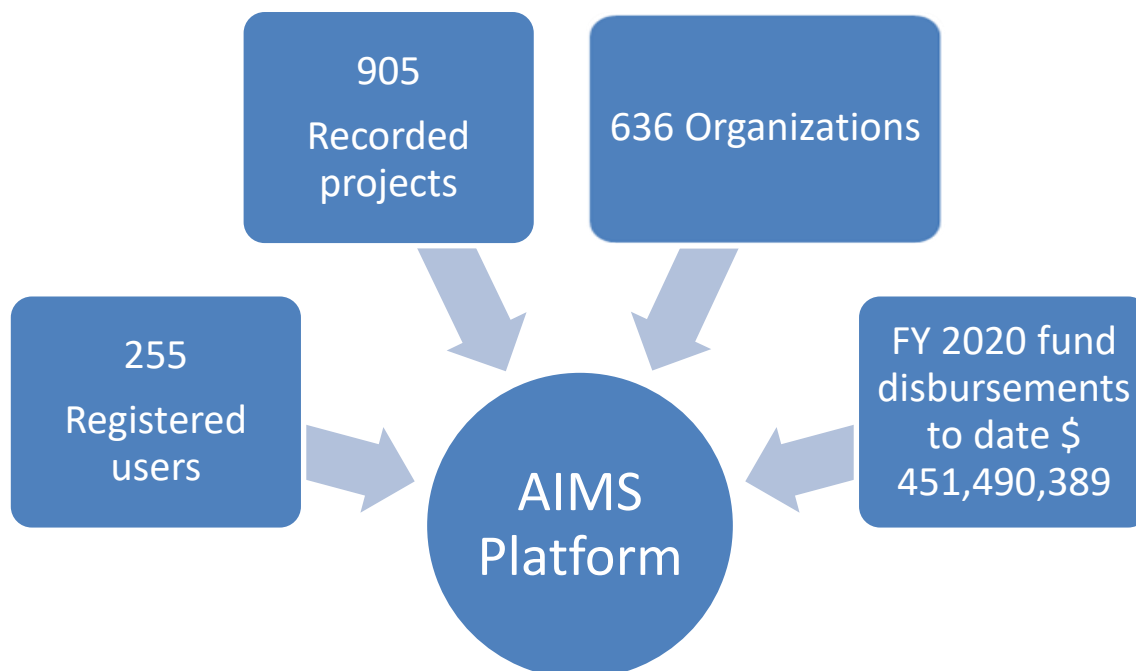
The team is supported by international consultants that provide continuous on job training and are called upon to assist when need arises such as adding new feature into the system or addressing clients' needs about AIMS. This indicates that the team will need further capacity training on how to manage AIMS without being dependent on external support.

The MOPIED in collaboration with UNDP conducted trainings for uses including donors such as the UN agencies and INGOs on how to enter data, avoid duplication,

According to the project teams the AIMS is designed into two layers; there is donor envelop and project implementers (project level players). The donor envelop is designed for bilateral donors particularly governments- the focal persons in each embassy to showcase how much resources they have disbursed towards development and humanitarian assistance. The project implementers layer is used by partners that involved in project implementation either directly or through subcontractors. The AIMS showcases investments implemented by different partners, budget allocation, implementation plan and alignment to the development plans.

A review of the AIMS shows captures critical information about the registered users, recorded projects, and registered organization and for the year 2020 disbursements funds to date.

Figure 2: Data of AIMS beneficiaries



3.6 How do you analyse aid data in Somalia using the AIMS?

The AIMS has reporting sections divided according to the respective sectors and across federal members. ACU team indicated they can generate data and analyse information based on particular area of interest. They indicated the information can be presented using graphs, charts and sometimes accompanied with narrative to inform programing.

Both the ACU and AIMS teams have acknowledged they are have not generated any data for analyse since the system was designed but indicated they have the skills to generate data.

3.7 Challenges

1. Whilst the respondents hailed the establishment of AIMS as a key milestone to streamline development assistance in the country, however, there are notable challenges namely; human resources, technical skills and awareness level. First, respondent observed the current staff has limited capacity to effectively assist partners on how to use the AIMS, provide responses to questions and coordination and depend on external consultants.
2. Second, the technical capacity among the team is limited. For instance, in case there is need to expand or expand the existing feature in the platforms and add new features, it becomes a challenge and forced to seek assistance from the consultants. The technical gap is a major challenge that needs to be addressed to build the teams confidence to sustain and manage the system without relying on external support.
3. Thirdly, despite the platform being open to public viewing with some content written in Somali, people do not know about existence of the AIMS. This indicates there has been little public or no media discussions about the system to enhance transparency at the grass-root level.
4. Respondents also explained the notable challenge has been the use of the AIMS platform by users that complained about the software restrictions. For instance, they indicated the system often denied users (beneficiaries) access to the platform if they login details are inconsistent with the originally registered details.
5. Due to limited personnel rolling out the AIMS training to Federal Member Stats has been a challenge citing that none of the FMS have been trained on AIMS.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is need for enhanced knowledge transfer to build the capacity of the national staffs to manage the AIMS platform without relying on external support.
2. There is need for public or civil society engagement to raise awareness the various donor investments as a strategy to enhance accountability and transparency not only to the government but also to the public as well as Federal member states.
3. The Covid-19 has hindered the localization of the AIMS to the federal member states, there is need to fast-track the FMS engagement on how to use the platform and scrutinize aid assistance in their respective locations.

5.0 ANNEXES

5.1 Respondent details

Name	Position	Institution	Telephone
Gele Mohamed,	AIMS Manager	Federal Ministry of Planning, Investment & Economic Development	ict@mop.gov.so
Hodhan Noor Abdi	Partnership and Project Coordination Advisor	Office of the Prime Minister	0619539117 hannan.n@opm.gov.so

5.2 Data collection tool

Indicator 4: AIMS is operational by the end of 2019	Review of documents
<p>2. Aid Information Management System is set up and is being used by the MOPIED and ACU to capture and analyse aid data in Somalia.</p> <p>Review of the functionality of the AIMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Aid Information Management System (AIMS) been set up and currently functioning? How does IAMS work/ function? What support did the your receive from UNDP to support AIMS in the last 6 months? How is AIMS managed and run? How do you capture aid data in Somalia using the AIMS? How do you analyse aid data in Somalia using the AIMS? What has been the achievement of AIMS in the last 6 months? What challenges did you face or are you facing in using, AIMS? What challenges did you face or are you facing in setting up and managing AIMS (ask representative of MoPIED)? 	<p>Get a copy or a photo of any document developed by the ministry. This include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agreements /contracts – Minutes of any meeting – Agenda and workshop materials for any workshop and seminar – Participants list – Policies and laws developed.