

Joint SDG Fund

Joint Programme Final Narrative Report

PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Template

Cover page

Date of Report: 31/05/2022

Programme title, Number and Country

Country: Somalia
Joint Programme (JP) title: Toward Somali-led transition to social protection systems
Short title: Toward Somali-led transition to social protection systems
MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹: 00118537

Programme Duration

Start date² (day/month/year): 01/01/2020
Original End date³ (day/month/year): 31/12/2021
Actual End date⁴ (day/month/year): 01/05/2022

Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system: Yes
Expected financial closure date⁵: 31.05.2023

Participating Organizations / Partners

RC (name and email): **Adam Abdelmoula** E-mail: abdelmoula@un.org
Government Focal Point (ministry/agency, focal point name and email): **Fardosa Abdullahi, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

RCO Focal Point (focal point name and email): **Olga Cherevko** E-mail: cherevko@un.org

Lead PUNO Focal Point (focal point name and email): **Chrystelle T. Temah, E-mail: ctsafack@unicef.org**

Other PUNO Focal Points (focal point names and emails):
Serene.philip@wfp.org, amomar@unicef.org, mohamud@ilo.org

¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

² The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

³ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁴ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

⁵ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Programme Budget (US\$)			
Total Budget (as per Programme Document, without co-funding):			
Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable):			
Joint SDG Fund Contribution⁶ and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:			
Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
PUNO1 (UNICEF)	825,400	232,926	\$1,058,326
PUNO2 (ILO)	575,300	218,000	\$579,100
PUNO3 (WFP)	644,600	144,000	\$788,600
Total	2,045,300	594,926	2,426,026

Executive summary

The goal of the SDG Fund was to support the transition to a Somali-led social protection system. The critical oversight role of coordination by the federal ministry of labour and social affairs (MoLSA) was strengthened owing to the fund availability. During the height of COVID 19, the ministry was at the forefront of coordinating the Government's social protection response and alignment with other sectoral responses. It enabled the ministry to undertake coordination meetings, monitor, and provide oversight through federal-level consultations, demonstrating leadership and direction to the social protection portfolio. The Social protection Directorate in MoLSA federal and state ministries became functional because of staffing equipment support and capacity injection provided through this project.

Furthermore, staff supported through this joint initiative have increased their understanding of Social Protection programming over the last two years through continued capacity strengthening, exposure to global training and events and hands-on experience working in collaboration with the national safety nets programme team. Seventeen civil servants (ten male and seven female) who completed the E-academy course on social security facilitated by ITCILO have improved the knowledge and competencies required to govern, design, reform and administer the ministry's social security interventions. MoLSA, as a result of the capacity enhancement, is leading the social protection working group and serving as a learning and convening organization on Social Protection. In terms of learning, the vulnerability assessment and the work on policy options undertaken within the framework of the Joint programme were able to inform the targeting methodology of future safety nets programmes in Somalia. It contributed to strengthening the technical know-how of the ministry, which strongly represented the federal and subnational priorities in rolling out the national safety net (Baxnaano) funded by the World Bank.

Soon after kick-starting the implementation of the Joint Programme, the COVID-19 crisis hit the whole world, including Somalia. A significant hurdle was movement restriction, translating into the cancellation of face-to-face gatherings. A significant output of the joint programme, capacity development through training, study tours and participation in international conferences on social protection, was restructured entirely to account for the new reality. Thus, the Joint Programme redesigned the activities related to this output to be implemented remotely with online training and data collection of the vulnerability assessment undertaken by phone. The vulnerability assessment initially aimed at informing the targeting methodology of future safety net programmes. It aimed at redesigning to provide evidence on the groups most affected by the epidemic to inform a swift government response to the crisis.

⁶ Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

They were adhering to COVID-19 travel restrictions, and the project aligned to working remotely and conducting most interstate communication through the virtual platform. In addition, the programme supported MoLSA in coordinating government social protection response to the pandemic by funding the position of a COVID-19 coordinator, who had oversight on various initiatives supported by different partners in Somalia. Thus, the government made a strategic shift during the COVID-19 crisis, providing guidance and still in the driver's seat to implement such a response.

- Provide completion rate for each of the main JP results (as used in 2021 Annual Progress Report and quarterly monitoring – as per this document – [link](#))

Result 1: Functional, equitable, and inclusive social protection Directorate at MoLSA and social protection units in FMS

Estimated rate of completion as of JP end date: **100%**

Result 2: FGS/MoLSA capacitated to serve as a Learning/Convening Organization on Social Protection in Somalia (learning both from the implementation of past humanitarian assistance in the country and other countries' experience in designing and implementing social protection schemes)

Estimated rate of completion as of JP end date: **95%**

Result 3: International Standards for an integrated social protection approach, including inclusion and gender equity mainstreamed into Social Protection Implementation Strategy.

Estimated rate of completion as of JP end date: **100%**

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

- From 2020 to 2021, droughts, flooding and locust swarm increased in intensity and frequency. Nearly 3.5 million people were expected to face acute food insecurity and need emergency food aid in the last quarter of 2021.
- The project had to immediately re-strategize and adapt COVID 19 prevention protocols. Face-to-Face meetings were replaced by frequent online discussions and meetings.

Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework

- Under the Social Development pillar of the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2021-2025, the Joint Programme contributes towards UNCF Outcome 4.3: By 2025, the proportion of vulnerable Somalis with scaled-up and sustained resilience against environmental and conflict-related shocks is increased, based on better management of life cycle risk, food security and better nutrition outcomes. A specific output of the UNCF towards which the JP SDG fund contributes is the 'Proportion of poor people covered by predictable government safety nets. Primarily, monitoring visits by staff supported under the Joint Programme allowed improving implementation of the safety nets programme by better targeting. It translated into more poor people receiving predictable cash transfers from the government. Staff supported under the Joint Programme were also involved in providing technical oversight of the Urban cash transfer programme implemented in Banadir under the "Joint Programme: Combating Poverty and Vulnerability through Social Protection in Somalia".

COVID-19 impact

- In Quarter 3, the Year 2020 saw a vulnerability assessment undertaken and aimed precisely at informing a government response to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis by providing evidence on the most affected groups and the extent of the deprivations that they experienced as a result of the crisis. The assessment, which revealed a profound increase in poverty in urban areas, also provides recommendations to various stakeholders, including the Federal Government, the Federal Member States, donors and technical partners.
- The vulnerability assessment results were presented to major social protection stakeholders in Somalia during a learning event that raised the JP's profile and increased its visibility.
- The Government of Somalia was very proactive in responding to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 by implementing multisectoral support plans. To ensure coordination and harmonization among its various activities and partners, MoLSA recruited a senior social protection specialist for six months to coordinate the government's COVID-19 response, with financial support from the JP. Since the total cost of this additional capacity was less than 1 per cent of the total budget of the JP, it did not constitute a formal re-purposing of the budget.
- Staff supported under the Joint programme also contributed to implementing the urban cash transfer programme, which got expanded vertically by adding a top-up to existing beneficiaries to counter the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

1.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

- For the first time, three UN agencies cooperated, bringing together their comparative advantages to support the ministry in rolling out a considerable safety net reaching 200,000 households.
- The three agencies supported MoLSA in its endeavor to strengthen the federal and state relationship by supporting the convening power of the government in bringing sub-national actors together with the single purpose of establishing social protection policy and programmes across the country.
- The Joint programme intended to set up a Social protection thematic working group under the new UNCF architecture. The terms of reference of the thematic group got drafted and shared by UN agencies for review. During one of the meetings of the UNCT programme management team (PMT), the creation of the thematic working group was a discussion point. However, there was a decision to avoid duplication of thematic working groups and discuss social protection issues within the framework of the social development pillar working group.
- Nonetheless, all UN agencies in Somalia are familiar with the Joint Programme and get regularly updated on the progress in its implementation. They also collaborate on specific activities implemented under the programme and seek collaboration from the Joint Programme in their social protection interventions. These interventions get implemented in close partnership with the federal government through MoLSA.

Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

- Moving away from the usual practice of assistance in Somalia to recruit international consultants to provide technical assistance to the government, the JP offered mixed support to government staff and select advisory positions. While beneficial during the lifetime of project/programme implementation, a singular approach of supporting consultants does not ensure the sustainability of results. The reason is that there is no long-term capacity development once the project/programme comes to an end. The JP departed from this approach by ensuring that the staff supported under the programme are the long-term

government staff, who will remain within the ministries' workforce long after the project and are already part of the government staff structure. It guarantees the sustainability of results achieved and effective knowledge transfer of social protection. It is catalytic because long-term knowledge transmission across the whole country improves the implementation of all social protection interventions implemented by the federal and state governments, which go well beyond the framework of the joint programme. More importantly, the implementing PUNOs pushed for the inclusion of female civil servants to achieve gender parity in the workforce.

- The vulnerability assessment results were shared with all UN agencies and fed into a socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) led by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in collaboration with UNDP. They were the primary source of information to draw specific recommendations for social protection sector response. It ensured coherence in UN initiatives to assess the impact of COVID-19 on many aspects of the well-being of the Somali population.

SDG acceleration

- The JP contributed to the acceleration of SDG 1 by fast-tracking the setup of institutional capacity to implement safety nets and other social protection programmes in Somalia. It contributed to SDG 1 Ending poverty and its target 1.3: implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. The Programme Implementation Unit of the safety nets project funded by the World Bank got established at the federal level and is seated in Mogadishu. At the same time, the programme provides cash transfers to identified eligible beneficiaries in rural areas. Staff supported under the joint programme, especially in the Federal Member States (FMS), have been critical in ensuring the implementation of the safety nets project through monitoring visits. Their involvement has directly contributed to strengthening the delivery capacity of the FGS to be able to provide social protection schemes to its citizens based on the identification of people in need and coordination with primary stakeholders.
- The JP also contributed to the acceleration of SDG target 2.1: end hunger and ensure access by all people, especially the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food. It targeted poor beneficiary households living in regular food-insecure areas under the safety nets project (Baxnaano). Although there has not been a formal impact evaluation of the project, beneficiaries interviewed during monitoring visits reported using the money received to buy more food for their families. In addition, beneficiary households' referrals to nutrition services provided by UNICEF and WFP happened, plus they also received the cash transfers.
- Since the Joint programme is, by essence, an institutional capacity development programme, it also contributed to the acceleration of SDG 16 (develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels). Because the Joint Programme focused on the member states-level ministries, it allowed accelerating institutional capacity strengthening across Somalia and Somaliland. In Somalia, where federalism is ineffective, cascading decisions and intervention from the federal level to the member states' levels take time.

Policy integration and systems change

- Two years after the beginning of the programme, all State Ministries now have at least one staff member trained in Social Protection. They are exposed to the experience of another country, can monitor social protection interventions implemented by the Government and collaborate with partners to ensure coherence among various initiatives and their alignment with the national social protection policy (NSPP).
- Staff supported under the Joint Programme in the FMS significantly contributed to elaborating the implementation framework of the national social protection policy. The implementation

framework is instrumental in safeguarding the alignment of various social protection interventions with the NSPP in the short, medium, and long term. Furthermore, the mapping of SDG indicators includes undertaking the implementation framework as a primary activity of the Joint Programme.

- The vulnerability assessment provides background information to design the social protection component of the Integrated Local Economic Development (ILED) Project funded by the EU. This programme also capitalizes on a solid staffing structure in the ministries in charge of social protection in FMS to accelerate implementation and break silos among different programmes.

Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

- The Joint Programme contributed to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups by active participation of supported staff in the implementation of the national safety nets project. This project provides monthly and predictable cash transfers (\$20) to vulnerable households in food insecure districts.
- At the end of Quarter 2 2022, 99% of 200,000 households enrolled in the national safety net, Baxnaano, had received 5 quarter transfers in 2022. Staff supported under the Joint programme contributed to the identification of these households.
- 69% of beneficiary households recorded acceptable food consumption score in the second quarter of 2021, improved levels compared to results observed in late 2020.

Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts:

Total number of beneficiary households of Baxnaano⁷: 1,121,334 individuals⁸

Percentage of women and girls: 99%

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

- Recruitment of staff supported under the project sought to achieve gender parity, although this did not eventually materialize. Out of eight project staff supported through the project, two are female.
- The Joint programme also engaged with a CSO, IIDA Somalia Women's Development Organization, to prepare a gender-sensitive and inclusive social protection training in Somalia. About 27 participants (9 females) received training on gender-sensitive social protection delivered through a partnership with ITC-ILO. Preparations for the training were ongoing and well advanced when the IIDA Head of the programme left the organization, leading to a cancellation of the training session with IIDA.
- Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and women empowerment by the end of 2021: N/A

Human rights

- Staff supported under the programme participated in several pieces of training to familiarize themselves with designing and implementing inclusive social protection programmes. The training on inclusive Social Protection explicitly emphasizes the rationale for a human-rights-based approach to Social Protection. It should be aligned with human rights mechanisms such as the CEDAW and the CRC, correcting existing gender imbalances and avoiding creating new gender discriminations. The training also stresses the importance of child-sensitive social protection as a powerful instrument to fulfil children's rights, as outlined in the CRC, which Somalia ratified on 21 September 2020.

⁷ This is the number of beneficiary households of the national safety nets project, so this is a number of individuals indirectly reached through Joint Programme efforts.

⁸ Equivalent to 188,766 households since the average size of a household in Somalia is six.

Partnerships

- The three PUNOs contribute to the Government Development partners (GDPWG) and Social Protection working group convened by MoLSA. MoLSA focal person's support is through the SDG fund; it ensures coordination in programming undertaking at the federal and state levels.
- In addition, UNICEF, WFP and ILO are the key UN agencies contributing to the Social Development pillar under the UN Cooperation Framework. The strategic partnership between these agencies has enabled the UN and government to work towards identifying and prioritizing critical gaps in the delivery capability of the government.
- The Joint Programme implementation gets done in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; they manage the coordination role through an SDG Funded coordinator. The SDG Fund coordinator works daily with social protection staff in the member states' ministries in charge of social protection, identifies with the PUNOs capacity development opportunities for civil servants and follow-through the implementation of the Joint programme activities. She also ensured collaboration with other ministries, such as the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, in the design of the vulnerability assessment and the preparation of the training on shock-responsive social protection.
- The Joint Programme also partnered with the NGO IIDA Somalia Women's Development Organization to prepare two pieces of training: gender-sensitive social protection and inclusive social protection. Although IIDA Somalia Women's Development Organization did not eventually deliver the training, the perspective provided by this NGO working on the ground and with excellent knowledge of the reality of Somali women was very helpful in preparing the training package and the agenda of the training.
- Federation of Somali Trade Unions and Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Regular updates get done to the donors like the European Union and the Italian Cooperation on the Joint Programme. These include the Italian Cooperation, which assessed the availability of social protection staff supported by the Joint programme to propose support to develop the social protection policy in Somaliland. They considered it while designing their programmes to ensure collaboration and complementarity and avoid duplication.
- Other significant stakeholders like the Somali Cash Consortium collaborated closely with the Joint Programme to organize the learning event on the vulnerability assessment. The safety net projects funded by the World Bank also greatly benefited from monitoring performed by staff supported under the Joint Programme

Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

- Somalia reached the decision point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative on 25 March 2020, immediately receiving about USD 1,5 million in temporary assistance for one year (March 2020 to March 2021). The assistance granted is in debt reduction and not actual funds, but the country will now have more funds to allocate to social protection since funds utilization will not be for debt repayment. When the country reaches the HIPC completion point, this will mean even more resources provided by IMF and other creditors to finance development, especially in social sectors (education, health, and social protection).
- The fiscal space analysis has been finalized with the Social Security Inquiry under the Joint Programme, which identifies resource gaps for the social policy and options to mobilize additional funding for social protection. These include mobilization of domestic revenues, reprioritization and efficiency of expenditure, grant aid and deficit financing with new borrowing. The fiscal analysis advocates using debt relief to increase social protection spending and cover more vulnerable people in Somalia.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The learning event on vulnerability assessment was combined with the JP development partners event. It was organized on 24 November 2021. Given movement restrictions in Somalia due to the security situation, the European Union represented the Joint SDG Fund Donors at the event.
Final JP event (closing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The objective of the learning event was to promote the utilization of the vulnerability assessment findings in social protection programming and inform policy response from the government (from different sectors) and partners, as well as funding allocations from donors to support the vulnerable members of the communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Other strategic events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Innovation, learning and sharing

- Since portions of outputs 1 and 3 and the entirety of output 2 were devoted to learning and sharing, particularly on south-south collaboration, the Joint Programme featured a crucial learning component.
- The Joint Programme supported MoLSA staff to undertake training identified through training needs assessment and summarized into a capacity development plan. Learning initiatives included formal training, peer-to-peer learning, study tours, learning by doing and learning events.
- Sharing is done explicitly through: (i) monthly meetings of the Joint programme committee facilitated by the Programme Coordinator and (ii) regular meetings between the programme coordinator and the MoLSA SP advisor to ensure the same level of information among the two groups of stakeholders; (iii) regular meetings between the programme coordinator and the TAF to ensure the same level of information between UN agencies and the donors; (iv) ad hoc meetings when new developments occurred in the social protection landscape in Somalia.
- In terms of innovation, the Joint Programme adapted to the new method of working digitally. Numerous learning activities were conducted online as the learning event on vulnerability assessment was created using a hybrid strategy that blended virtual and physical participation.
- The use of social media (MoLSA webpage, Twitter) was widely used to relay learning information on the Joint Programme.

II. Final Results

Overall progress

- All expected results achieved
 - Majority of expected results achieved
 - Only some expected results achieved
- Please, explain briefly:

Implementation of the Joint Programme was generally satisfactory, with the Joint programme achieving all of its expected annual results. Notable achievements include:

- A functional social protection Directorate is now in place at MoLSA, and ministries in charge of social protection in FMS.
- The improvement of coordination across state and federal governments is noticeable.
- Government staff working on social protection have increased their knowledge of social protection through targeted training, study tours and on-the-job learning (especially their involvement in the implementation of Baxnaano).
- The learning event on vulnerability assessment was completed with findings available and disseminated to inform the Government and partners' response to the COVID-19 crisis and other shocks affecting Somalia.
- Completed the Social Security Inquiry (SSI⁹) report
- Commissioned the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) to analyze the social protection system as a basis for building a social protection floor (SPF) in Somalia.

Contribution to Fund's global results

- ⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1 (as per annual targets set by the JP)**
 - Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale
- ⇒ Outcome 1: Integrated multisectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.
The Joint programme contributed to integrating the national social protection policy in Somalia. It provided staff with the capacity to implement it quantitatively and qualitatively. Without this additional capacity, the national safety nets project that delivers cash transfers to targeted vulnerable households in Somalia will be lagging in its implementation. Progress towards SDG 1.3 would be slower, and the programme would not have delivered its benefits to so many people. So, the joint programme contributed to implementing an integrated multisectoral policy to accelerate SDG 1.3 with greater scope and scale.
- ⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Output 2 (as per annual targets set by the JP)**
 - Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement
- ⇒ Outcome 2: This outcome is not complete since the fiscal space analysis that will serve as an advocacy tool to leverage debt relief additional resources is still ongoing.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

- **Achievement of expected JP outputs**
- **Achievement of expected JP outputs**
 - 1: Functional, equitable and inclusive social protection Directorate at MoLSA and social protection units in FMS**

Key staff are present in the social protection directorate at MoLSA and in all FMS making this output full achieved. Critical interventions under this output include:

- Continued financial support to the Senior Advisor within MoLSA who coordinates across various safety net initiatives, partners, and ministries; and ensures policy/programme coherence in approach and implementation of SDG initiatives between the FGS and FMS. The advisor continues to serve as key personnel at MoLSA, representing the Ministry on various social protection platforms, including serving as the lead for the social protection sub-working group and providing regular updates to the Office of the Prime Minister on matters related to the social protection portfolio.

⁹ The Social Security Inquiry (SSI) is the main tool utilized by the ILO and the countries to collect information on social protection programs and produce comparable statistics around the world.

- Continued financial support (top-up salaries) of eight (8) senior specialists (one for each FMS, one for Somaliland and two for MoLSA Federal). The specialists at FMS continue to support the implementation of the social protection agenda at the state level. These focal persons also serve as the key contact persons for social protection in their respective states. They have proven crucial in the government's agenda of strengthening and promoting the engagement of state governments. The majority of the focal points hold senior positions in their respective states enabling devolved decision making and state cooperation. Additionally, with their representation, FMS needs and priorities are effectively conveyed and brought forward to the FGS through these staff. The active participation of SDG focal persons was evident in the selection of districts to implement Baxnaano and the ongoing field-level monitoring.
- With the growing portfolio and the additional financing projects through the World Bank, MoLSA continues to support the state ministries in implementing and coordinating social protection-related activities. The JP provided office supplies and equipment to assist the ministries in meeting their daily operational needs. The government staff monitored the villages' ongoing safety net projects, namely the Baxnaano and Locust projects.
- Across the states and federal governments, improved coordination was notable. It was made easy by the presence of dedicated staff across state and federal ministries which facilitated dialogue and information sharing. State ministries have been visible in donor and inter-ministerial meetings on social protection, where they can join discussions and make contributions. They have been particularly present in coordination platforms such as the social development pillar working group and the Government development partner working group, a social protection coordination platform led by MoLSA Federal.

Result 2: FGS/MoLSA capacitated to serve as a Learning/Convening Organization on Social Protection in Somalia (learning both from the implementation of past humanitarian assistance in the country and other countries' experience in designing and implementing social protection schemes)

- This output recorded satisfactory progress, with all planned training and study tours completed. Critical interventions under this output include: MoLSA staff went through a two-day workshop on Social Protection systems. It was to equip government officials with the relevant knowledge and skills to ensure effective and efficient implementation of Somalia's social protection programmes. About 17 government officials from MoLSA federal and federal member states attended the training. .
- MoLSA staff, both in State and federal governments, participated in a five-day training programme on introduction to social protection in Kigali, Rwanda. The Programme, jointly funded by Baxnaano and the SDG programme, aimed to strengthen government officials' capacity to deliver social protection and facilitate interaction and knowledge exchange on designing an effective social protection system for Somalia. Twenty-two (22) government officials participated intensively in this training (18 male and 3 female) which was designed and delivered by TRANSFORM, an African Union-UN initiative for an innovative approach to strengthening national capacities for the implementation of national *Social Protection Floors* (SPFs) in Africa. The E-academy course on social security was attended by seventeen (18) government officials (10 male and 8 female). The course, organized from 13 September to 22 October 2021, aimed to enhance participants' knowledge and competencies to improve social security institutions' governance, design, reforms, and administration.
- The learning event on vulnerability assessment was completed in 2020 and organized in collaboration with the Somali Cash Consortium. The learning event was combined with a donor event and attended by major stakeholders working on social protection, including various ministries, academia, civil society, multilateral and bilateral partners and UN agencies. In addition to disseminating the assessment findings, the event also presented

ways in which those findings should be used in the policy response to address not only the COVID-19 crisis but also other shocks affecting Somalia.

- In collaboration with the Baxnaano programme, organized a study tour to Rwanda on Social Protection governance structures and the shock responsiveness of their social protection systems from 29 February to 5 March 2022. The overall objective of this study tour was to allow Somalia's SP actors to learn from Rwanda's experience, which has already implemented specific and appropriate governance arrangements for the social protection sector and its flagship cash transfer programmes. The learning focused on the structures that allow the Social Protection system to coordinate with other sectors to respond to the shocks effectively. This exchange of experience was a formidable source of learning, especially within south-south cooperation, such as Somalia learning from Rwanda. About 28 Representatives from Government, both Federal and Federal members state, participated in this study tour.
- The Programme supported MoLSA in organizing a virtual **Study Tour on the life cycle approach to social protection and the social contract in Lesotho from 22-24 February 2022**. The purpose of the study tour was to strengthen the understanding of the Somali team on the life cycle approach to social protection and social contract. And to provide an opportunity to virtually interact with persons who directly work on Policies and programmes that simultaneously tackle the different dimensions of the challenges of people hoping to work their way towards a better future. The tour also provided an opportunity to learn how the ongoing programmes and policies contribute to stability and lasting peace by promoting and developing a social contract between the State and citizens. Overall, 20 representatives from Somali Government participated in the study tour.
- *Inclusive social protection training* - seventeen government staff (5 female) from Federal Government and the Federal Member States, including Banadir Regional Administration and Somaliland, are currently undertaking a ten-week online training hosted by Development Pathways, an international consultancy company specialized in social protection. The training has equipped participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute to the design of social protection systems and make a case for increased investment in social protection. Furthermore, the training builds on a wealth of experience in engaging with policymakers so that they commit to investing in inclusive, lifecycle social protection schemes.
- In collaboration with MoLSA, commissioned **analytical work to support national discussion on social protection policy options. The inception meeting with the service provider is ongoing**. The main objective of this assignment is to provide the Government of Somalia and other critical stakeholders in the social protection sector with adequate information and analysis on the policy options for addressing poverty and vulnerability to shocks in Somalia using cash transfers. This insight helps the government make significant decisions on designing its first national cash transfer programme. The study offers a window of opportunity to provide further evidence on social protection policy options which can further inform the Government policy directions. This study complements existing studies that the UNICEF Somalia) has previously undertaken. Furthermore, the assignment has consolidated recommendations from the different studies on poverty and vulnerability situations in Somalia.
- Undertook Gender-Sensitive Social Protection from 21 to 24 March 2022 for 27 representatives (9 were female) from MoLSA federal and federal member state levels. Recognizing the social and economic necessities of gender-sensitive social protection and the importance of capacity building, the training exposed participants to basic principles and key policy issues in gender-sensitive social protection and supported the national governments in conceptualizing, formulating, and implementing their strategy. The course contributed to the knowledge sharing initiative on gender-sensitive social protection.

International Standards for an integrated social protection approach, including inclusion and gender equity mainstreamed into Social Protection Implementation Strategy.

This output record significant progress. Highlights of key achievements include:

- Completed the Social Security Inquiry (SSI¹⁰) report - The general objective of the Social Security Inquiry is to collect quantitative data on social security to calculate a set of indicators, which are, as far as possible, comparable across countries and over time and available on a regular basis. This assignment contributes to the process of coverage gaps estimation that will later lead to financing gaps and fiscal space assessment. Based on information collected from several institutions, the project prepared the Social Security Inquiry for Somalia, an inventory of all social protection programmes that provide critical inputs for constructing a baseline of analysis. The report assesses both broad tendencies that prevail in Somalia as well as characteristics of different programs.
- Commissioned the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) to analyze the social protection system as a basis for building a social protection floor (SPF) in Somalia. The goal of this study was to provide the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), ILO and other constituents with an analysis of the social protection system to ensure: Access to essential health care, including maternity care; Basic income security for all children, providing access to nutrition, education, and care; Basic income security to people of active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity, disability, and employment injury; and Basic income security for older persons by means of pensions or in-kind transfers.
- Feasibility study on maternity & sickness benefit –conducted a feasibility study on the introduction of a new non-contributory maternity and sickness benefits schemes for civil servants. Sickness benefits have a public health objective to ensure income security for caregivers during sickness, quarantine, or sickness of a dependent relative. Sickness benefits allow recipients to stay at home until they are fully recovered, thereby protecting their own health and, in the case of communicable diseases, the health of others. They are critical for realizing human rights to health and to social security and are more important than ever when individuals and societies are facing more frequent and intensive adverse health shocks. The report also provides quantitative and qualitative assessments of non-contributory maternity and sickness benefit scheme based on the Government’s proposed options and ILO’s recommended options, which consider ILO social security standards as well as international good practices.
- Assessment of Financial option - An analysis on financing options for the modelled maternity and sickness benefits has been developed and its findings suggest the possibility of being financed through the general government budget. Somalia’s GDP growth has been on a path to recovery with rising revenues and better containment of national expenditures but a triple shock in 2020 - flooding, desert locusts, and the global coronavirus pandemic, dampened the growth causing the economy to contract by 0.3 percent, per the Ministry of Finance. Per the African Development Bank, Somalia’s real GDP, which grew 2.9% in 2019, shrank by 1.5% in 2020 due to COVID-19 containment measures, reduced foreign direct investment, global recession and bans on livestock by Gulf countries.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

▪ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

- The Joint Programme's progress is satisfactory to achieve its outcome: MoLSA capacitated to design and implement a long-term social protection system with a shift from assistance to more emphasis on building human capital. The Joint Programme's technical and financial

¹⁰ The Social Security Inquiry (SSI) is the main tool utilized by the ILO and the countries to collect information on social protection programs and produce comparable statistics around the world.

support enabled the ministry to ensure active engagement at the federal and state level to implement the national social protection policy. It materialized by staff involved in implementing the national safety nets project Baxnaano (including its extension with the Shock-responsive safety nets for Locust Response Project). Before the inception of the Joint Programme, due to the lack of financial capacity, the federal and state government did not have full-time staff representation in the monitoring of Baxnaano. This gap was covered by the SDG fund, enabling federal and state-level staff to actively participate in the design, initial planning and engagement with the UN in the rollout of the safety net programme. Staff supported under the Joint programme were also actively involved in the consultations for the implementation framework of the national social protection policy, and a consultant supported under the Joint programme developed a mapping of indicators which is part of the implementation framework. With the institutional and technical capacity provided, staff supported under the Joint Programme have a better knowledge of social protection. They discuss Somalia's social protection issues as case studies in the professional pieces of training they undertake and participate in policy discussion in wider social protection fora. This outcome achieved all three outputs.

▪ **Monitoring and data collection**

- Since the inception of the Joint Programme, reporting has been results-oriented and evidence-based. WFP, ILO and MoLSA provided the UNICEF with inputs for the quarterly progress and annual reports prepared following instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. Additionally, a regular update on progress got shared by the PUNOs during bi-monthly meetings of the Programme Committee. UNICEF compiled the narrative reports and submitted a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat through the Resident Coordinator. The Resident Coordinator Office monitored the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, to which it submitted data and information when requested. The Programme regularly shared the data for all results framework indicators with the Fund Secretariat. It allowed them to aggregate global results and integrated the findings into reporting on the progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

III. JP finalization and evaluation

Final JP evaluation and lessons learned

The date when the evaluation was launched (month/year): Jan 2022

The date when the evaluation report was approved (month/year): N/A

The evaluation report is drafted but not yet approved. The report is expected to be finalized by end of June.

Lessons learned and sustainability of results

- A significant lesson learned during the implementation of the Joint Programme is the importance of flexibility and adaptability to new circumstances. Less than three months after the inception of the Joint programme, COVID-19 hit the whole world, including Somalia. It constitutes a significant blow for implementing a programme when most activities get based on travel and gatherings. It is necessary to adapt to new ways of working and repurpose some funds for new relevant activities to move forward with those activities. Another lesson learned is the necessity of building institutional memory to ensure the sustainability of results. For at least six months, output 3 was at a standstill due to the departure of an ILO staff member who had been critical in designing the programme. The staff member who replaced him had to start afresh with the programme, which delayed the recruitment of the programme specialist in charge of the Joint Programme in ILO. Without this setback, progress on output 3 would have been much faster and would have been on track to achieving its outcome.

After the JP: follow-up and possibilities for sustainability of the impact and further scaling .

To ensure the sustainability of results achieved through the Joint Programme, MoLSA plans to develop a comprehensive human resource management system for all its civil servants. It will ensure that civil servants holding strategic positions get supported through regular government resources, deemed to increase with debt relief. Due to resources constraint, all civil servants on the payroll are supported either under development partners projects such as the Recurrent Costs and Reform Financing Project (RCRF). In addition, the PUNOs and MoLSA designed a capacity development plan for a timeframe that went well beyond that of the Joint Programme; it should be a living document to be updated as learning opportunities arise. This capacity development plan is already being used and shared with other donors such as the World Bank and the Italian Cooperation fundraising.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global Fund’s programmatic results

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

SDG:1.3

SDG: 16.1

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ¹¹	0	1		1
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National social protection Policy 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ¹²	2	1	Another national policy was developed in Somalia, the national youth policy. The Joint programme was not involved in policy development.	1
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National social protection policy 				

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)				

¹¹Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added, or mechanisms/systems replicated.

¹²Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	2	2	The two policy solutions that were implemented with the national partners in lead are: (i) mainstreaming of capacity development within government normal activities and (ii) mainstreaming of international standards for social security.	2
--	---	---	---	---

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021?

- Yes
 No

Yes, the Joint programme core objective was precisely to strengthen national institutional and technical capacities to implement social protection programme. The national safety nets projects which greatly benefits for this capacity strengthening is a cross-sectoral SDG accelerator, since it contributes directly toward achievement of SDG 1 and 2, and indirectly to other SDGs, including SDG 3,4,5,10 and 16.

2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
Outcome: MoLSA is capacitated to design and implement long-term social protection system with a shift from assistance to more emphasis on building human capital					
Outcome indicator SP Directorate is functional (with staff and equipment)	SP Directorate is not equipped and has no dedicated staff	SP Directorate staff has received adequate SP training	SP Directorate and SP units at FMS have 8 staff that have received adequate training.	N/A	SP Directorate and SP units at FMS have 8 staff that have received adequate training.

Output 1: Institutional Capacity of FGS/MoLSA Strengthened by a Functional social protection Directorate at MoLSA and social protection units in FMS					
Output 1.1 indicator: SP Directorate is created	SP Directorate at MoLSA & FMS limited	SP officers are in place in all FMS, disaggregated by gender	8 SP staff are in place in MoLSA and FMS, including 2 females	N/A	8 SP staff are in place in MoLSA and FMS, including 2 females.
Output 1.2 indicator: Government SP core staff receive adequate training on SP, disaggregated by gender	SP directorate and SP units' staff do not have adequate training in SP	2 SP directorate staffs and SP staff in all of the FMS participate in one learning event	2 SP directorate staffs and SP staff in the other half of the FMS participate in one learning event	N/A	2 SP directorate staffs and 6 SP staff in all of the FMS participated in one learning event
Output 1.3 indicator: Gender and inclusion are mainstreamed throughout most learning event sessions	No specific session on gender and social inclusion on learning events	A session on gender and inclusion in Social Protection systems is included in all learning events	A session on gender and inclusion in Social Protection systems is included in all formal trainings.	Not all learning events were designed so as to include a session on gender and inclusion. When this was not possible, gender and social inclusion were mainstreamed throughout the learning events.	Gender and inclusion in Social Protection systems is mainstreamed in all formal trainings
Output 2: FGS/MoLSA capacitated to serve as a Learning/Convening Organization on Social Protection in Somalia					

Output 2.1 indicator: No systematic learning opportunity mechanism from other country experience	No systematic learning opportunity mechanism from other country experience	Study tour on SP delivery systems	Virtual Study tour to Lesotho on SP life cycle approach was conducted.	N/A	Virtual Study tour on SP life cycle approach was organized in Lesotho
Output 2.2 indicator: learning event organized between federal level and FMS hosted by MoLSA	No experience sharing platform between different government levels	Exchange visit on learning and sharing and good practice in SP	Exchange on learning and sharing and good practice in SP organized through the learning event on vulnerability assessment.	N/A	Exchange on learning and sharing and good practice in SP organized through the learning event on vulnerability assessment.
Output 3: International Standards for Social Protection , including inclusion and gender equity mainstreamed into Social Protection Implementation Strategy					
Output 3.1 indicator	No diagnostic on SP	Mapping and data collection on social protection coverage in Somalia	Social security inquiry completed for the social protection coverage in Somalia		Mapping and data collection on social protection coverage in Somalia completed
Output 2.2 indicator	No ABND initiated	Dialogue process on social protection to set up national priorities	Consultant recruited to undertake the ABND	Delays in the procurement process led to late onboarding of the consultant.	ABND completed

Annex 2: Strategic documents

2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies, and legal frameworks

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Social Protection Policy Implementation framework	09/20	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	researchgate.net/publication/348804596_Somalia_Social_Protection_Policy_Implementation_Framework
Analytical work on social protection policy options	6/21	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Social protection Policy for Somaliland	In draft	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Primary and secondary socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on livelihood groups in urban Somalia	09/20	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	https://www.unicef.org/somalia/media/2381/file/Somalia-vulnerability-assessment-MoLSA-September-2020.pdf	No

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Somalia	04/21	No	No	No	No	Yes: Poor and informal sector	No	No

Annex 3: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

- Update the table from your JP document with the most recent analysis of risks and corresponding mitigation measures. This should support the narrative update provided in part C above.

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks (e.g., social, environmental, security and safety risks)					
Environmental	High	5	4	Adopt all COVID 19 prevention protocol and adapt activities to adhere to COVID-19 protocols	PUNOs
Programmatic/Operational risks					
Government ownership	Low	1	5	Government Joint SDG Fund Coordinator was recruited to ensure government ownership of the programme	MoLSA
Monitoring and supervision	Low	2	4	Close monitoring and supervision of the programme done jointly by PUNOS and MoLSA during bimonthly meetings. The lead agency was responsible of following up bilaterally with each PUNO to ensure progress was adequate and to request the PUNO to share plans for improvement when progress was slow.	MoLSA and PUNOs
Institutional risks (e.g., political, regulatory risks)					
Government staff turnover	Medium	3	5	Continue fund raising to extend project support till safety net is transitioned to government in 2023 as	MoLSA and PUNOs

				the provision of salary and operational support to staff will be gap that the government will not be able to fill once the SDG project comes to an end.	
Fiduciary risks (financial risks, fraud & corruption risks)					
UN established partnership framework	Low	1	3	Each UN agency established a partnership agreement (MoU or Work plan) to hold all parties responsible for delivery as per UN standards	PUNOs
Monitoring and supervision	Medium	1	4	Financial monitoring was undertaken to ensure funds are accounted, following UN harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) procedures.	PUNOs

Annex 4: Results questionnaire

- Complete portfolio questionnaire online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZakyx9H>

Annex 4: Final report on JP evaluation

- Provide separately.