

# Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus 2024

Somalia

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force 4

## CONTEXT



Somalia has experienced three decades of political instability and conflict with continued activity by insurgent groups. The country has also been strongly affected by multiple climate shocks in recent years, including a sustained drought caused by five successive low precipitation rainy seasons prior to 2023. This led to large scale food insecurity, fears of famine, and drought-induced displacement, only for Somalia to then be hit by large scale flooding also in 2023. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimate was 8.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 6.9 million under the tightened 2024 framework. Longer-term concerns highlighted in the Somalia Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-25 include limited infrastructure to support basic service provision and challenges with supporting the large number of IDPs, who are among those most affected by poverty.

### CONTENTS

- ▶ Context
- ▶ The Nexus Approach
- ▶ Operationalizing the Nexus
- ▶ Lessons Learnt
- ▶ Spotlights on peace and local actors

**IASC** Inter-Agency Standing Committee

## THE NEXUS APPROACH

While there is currently no dedicated HDP nexus strategy for Somalia, collective priorities are included in key strategic and planning documents at national level, including the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 and annual HRPs. The nexus approach has largely been operationalised since 2020 via nexus task forces that aim to support improved coordination and information sharing between humanitarian, development and peace actors on three thematic areas: Climate adaptation and Water Management; Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons; and Anti-Corruption. While set up by the UN, the Government of Somalia has taken increasing responsibility for these task forces, with climate adaptation integrated into the 5<sup>th</sup> pillar of the aid coordination system, Nexus Water

Management Task force becoming formally incorporated into the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources' National Coordination Facility in March 2023 and the Durable Solutions Task Force being superseded by a Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement set up jointly by the UN and the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development's Durable Solutions Unit.

Other efforts to operationalise a nexus approach include a Guidance Note on Stabilization and Humanitarian Efforts in Somalia developed in 2023 by OCHA's Civil-Military Coordination Unit and UNSOM's Community Recovery and Extension of State Authority and Accountability Unit. Plans have also recently been announced by the Government of Somalia to establish a high-

level Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Forum, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, to provide guidance, support, oversight and coordination of programmes across humanitarian, development and security actors.

While the nexus approach in Somalia has been supported by collective outcomes, task forces, plans and guidance, more support and clarity are required to implement the

approach at the technical level. There is a need to ensure individual examples of robust area-based approaches and programming can be made more systematic to effectively bridge the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and HRPs. These shifts are required to sustain a collaborative focus on longer-term resilience analysis and planning in the face of the competing priorities caused by acute humanitarian need.

## OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

### KEY STEPS

#### 1. Leadership and Capacity



The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) coordinates the nexus approaches in Somalia on behalf of the UN and the wider humanitarian community. Their leadership has enabled agreement among the UNCT and HCT on high-level nexus priorities and joined up strategic planning across the Cooperation Framework and HRPs.

The Government of Somalia is increasingly prioritising and leading on the HDP nexus. In addition to taking on more ownership of the thematic Task Forces, the proposed Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Forum provides the government with a more central role in steering strategic nexus priorities. Currently, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development's Durable Solutions Unit plays a leading role on coordinating stakeholders and the new Ministry of Energy and Water Resources' National Coordination Facility provides a promising platform for government-led water management coordination efforts.

Various coordination fora are also important for providing leadership to the nexus in Somalia, including the UN Community Recovery and Extension of State Authority and Accountability (CRESTA/A) Unit, UN Programme Management Team (PMT), and the humanitarian Inter-Cluster Coordination Group. Several fora for NGOs also bring together actors working on resilience. For example, the Somalia Resilience Platform (SomReP), the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) Consortium, and the Nexus "Stronger together" platform. The Jowhar Off Stream Program (JOSP), which is renovating a major infrastructure in Hirshabelle State, is a joint programme with a strong and has a very Nexus nexus approach. While these various fora provide opportunities for information sharing and analysis across organisations, participation of actors with strong humanitarian mandates can be lacking during times of acute humanitarian crisis.

Capacity to support the nexus in Somalia has improved in recent years, but further resources are required to capitalise on existing knowledge and skillsets. While many UN senior staff and cluster coordinators in Somalia have strong technical skills and awareness of HDP nexus approaches, there is no dedicated OCHA specialist to support inter-cluster coordination and staff lack time to focus on the HDP nexus and establish systematic approaches to collaboration. There is a plan, however, to increase capacity by recruiting an international Nexus specialist for the Integrated Office. Capacity also varies across different issue areas: while the position of Anti-Corruption Specialist in the Integrated Office remains unfunded, a specialist coordinator in the Integrated Office has been able to support collaboration among

HDP actors on the priority areas of water management / climate change and durable solutions.

## 2. Joint Analysis and Sharing of Analyses



Joint analysis in Somalia is mainly focused on informing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and response plans. Ongoing sharing of information, analysis and planning are discussed below under planning and programming. The UN Country Team conducted a Common Country Analysis (CCA) in 2020 to inform the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025. The CCA involved joint analysis across humanitarian, development and peace actors and outlined drivers of risk, vulnerability and need. All Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) participated across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the Human Rights and Protection Working Group / OHCHR from within the UN Mission and UN Women. A light-touch update to the CCA was finalized in 2022 focusing on key changes in the conflict context.

As part of the annual Humanitarian Programme Cycle process for 2024, two clinics were held in 2023: one on Climate Change and the Environment and one on Shelter and Settlements to inform the preparation of the HNO and HRP. These clinics included participation from humanitarian cluster partners as well as thematic specialists from the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC. The aim was to discuss the underlying issues related to humanitarian needs and ensure that response efforts did not have unintended consequences or cause maladaptation. Given the new approach to a highly prioritised HRP for 2024, the involvement of relevant development partners in needs analysis workshops and boundary-setting meetings was deemed important for coordination with resilience and development interventions that support vulnerable people falling outside the narrower HRP.

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## 3. 'Collective Outcomes' OR HDP Priority Areas



Collaborative work on collective outcomes began in 2018 between the UNCT and the HCT, which served as a basis to the 2020 CCA. The CCA fed into the Social Development pillar of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025. UN partners, including NGOs and donors, were also involved in the development of the collective outcomes, feeding in at different stages of the process. For example, donors participated in the UNCT retreat in December 2019 where the current three thematic nexus priorities for the UN in Somalia were established. The Cooperation Framework articulates the following four outcomes in its Social Development pillar for a 2025 deadline:

- ▶ More people in Somalia, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from equitable and affordable access to government-led and regulated quality basic social services at different state levels.
- ▶ The number of people impacted by climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation is reduced.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The capacities of local, national and customary institutions and communities are strengthened to achieve durable solutions and increase the resilience, self-reliance and social cohesion of urban communities

affected by displacement.

UN AFPs that are implementing activities under this pillar produce an annual Joint Workplan, with respective outputs and indicators designed to address and measure progress on collective outcomes. Progress reporting is then captured in the annual UN Country Results Report for Somalia.

While collective outcomes are embedded in the Cooperation Framework and were endorsed by the HCT - providing an anchor for both frameworks - there is limited ownership by key partners and particularly by NGOs. Practical bridging between HRPs and the Cooperation Framework is also limited. Together, these issues reduce operational level coordination, although there is hope that the proposed high-level Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Forum may provide future opportunities for greater coordination and collaboration across HDP actors operating in the country.

#### 4. Joined-up Planning and Programming



Two core planning frameworks used by the UN in Somalia - Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 and the HRPs - both incorporate a nexus approach through collective priorities and outcomes. The Cooperation Framework supports nexus interventions that contribute to government priorities as articulated in the 9th National Development Plan (NDP-9), including efforts to build state capacity and deliver services. The 2023 HRP is aligned with relevant resilience and durable solutions frameworks aiming to reduce humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities in the medium to longer-term. Synergies and complementarities with development, resilience and peace initiatives were being strengthened through: (i) existing durable solutions programmes with a focus on strong area-based and spatial approaches to local integration processes; (ii) complementarity of social safety nets and humanitarian assistance, particularly cash; and (iii) leveraging the water and flood management programme to scale up joined-up responses to flooding and future droughts.

While there is no forum that systematically brings humanitarian, development and peace actors together for shared analysis and joined-up programming, the various structures mentioned above support their regular interaction. The UN PMT promotes discussion and information sharing across all AFPs on nexus approaches focused on water management, climate change and durable solutions. Dedicated meetings on critical thematic issues, such as drought and flooding, are held throughout the year with a focus on HDP nexus engagement. The CRESTA/A within the Integrated Office exists to support humanitarian, development and UNSOM teams to work together on community recovery issues, including stabilization. The humanitarian Inter-Cluster Coordination Group provides other opportunities for joint work. For example: Durable Solutions actors share information and analysis on safeguarding IDPs; the Cash Working Group coordinates with the World Bank and other development actors to support complementarity of social safety nets and humanitarian cash assistance; and the WASH Cluster is involved in the Water Management Task Force with humanitarian and development actors.

Dedicated capacity and resources are a facilitator of joined-up programming within some sectors, such as on water management, climate change and durable solutions. However, meaningful localized programmatic coordination across HDP actors is hindered by limited nexus data and reporting, as discussed further below.

#### 5. Financing



Despite the recognition of the HDP nexus approach, donor funding structures remain largely divided between humanitarian and development windows. Some bilateral donors have contributed more to the nexus approach in Somalia. For example, Scandinavian countries and Switzerland have more flexible funding allocations that help to promote nexus approaches and Germany has committed to nexus capacity strengthening via the financing of a new a two-year Nexus Specialist position. The role will sit in in the Integrated Office to support nexus coordination, collaboration and advocacy across government, donor, UN, NGO and development bank stakeholders. Some other donors have funded specific nexus programmes. For example, the EU has funded a joint UNEP and IOM project in Galmudug State to reduce environmentally induced displacement and conflict, and support communities to sustain climate-conscious conflict mitigation strategies.

In addition to bilateral donors, the World Bank is a significant partner in advancing the HDP nexus in Somalia. The International Development Association re-engaged in Somalia in 2020 and has since built an active investment portfolio of US\$2.3 billion, covering significant investments in resilience, social protection, health and water. Since 2021, the World Bank has used its development portfolio, specifically social safety nets and resilience investments, to address shocks such as the desert locust infestation, COVID, droughts and floods. This has allowed complementary shock response and development investments alongside the traditional humanitarian response, enabling large scale government-led support through strengthened systems, providing more predictable service delivery and progressing discussions on the role and size of the state in the nexus. In 2022/3, the World Bank also provided over US\$405 million for drought response activities, which were closely coordinated with the HCT and filled geographic and thematic gaps in the wider humanitarian response.

The UN supports joint programmatic interventions that contribute to the nexus through the Peace Building Fund (PBF) and the Somalia Joint Fund (SJF), particularly through the SJF's two funding windows on Climate and Resilience and on Community Recovery and Local Governance. The SJF coordinates investments with other UN funds, including the PBF and Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF). The PBF's risk profile is particularly suited to test certain high-risk approaches that can be scaled up through SJF investments and promote closer partnership with civil society. Meanwhile, the SHF is positioned to co-invest in nexus programming within its humanitarian mandate. The SJF and PBF are observers of the SHF Advisory Board, providing them with an overview of humanitarian challenges that require longer-term development solutions, such as floods. However, while more than 95 per cent of the SHF funds go directly to NGOs, 100 per cent of the SJF and PBF funds go to the UN. Thus, these funds are not set up for natural collaboration in the absence of a deliberate broader strategic framework on HDP nexus.

Despite some useful investments and efforts by the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC to facilitate joint humanitarian and development donor discussions for more joined up funding approaches, effective financing for the HDP nexus in Somalia faces some challenges. First, while donors at the country level acknowledge the need to support longer-term programming to test innovative approaches that can break the cycle of Somalia's humanitarian crises, funding flows to the UN are predominantly for humanitarian short-term needs and donor decision-making is largely risk-averse and requires detailed predictions on the development front, which are difficult in a volatile environment. The dwindling funding outlook for 2024 and beyond may mean that humanitarian actors will need to increasingly prioritize a narrower response of life-saving interventions for the most severe needs, further reducing funding available for resilience-related activities under the humanitarian window.

# LESSONS LEARNT

## GOOD PRACTICES

The establishment of planning frameworks focused on sustainably addressing immediate and protracted crises have provided a strategic roadmap for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors. Examples include the 9th National Development Plan; the National Durable Solutions Strategy 2020-2024; National Water Resources Strategy 2021-2025; the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2020-2023; the UN Cooperation Framework; and HRP. These legal frameworks help to build institutional capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia on IDPs, climate hazards and conflict-affected victims and survivors. They also provide an opportunity for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors to influence policies addressing underlying causes of a sudden and protracted crises across the nexus continuum.

The Nexus Task Forces that were established in 2020 have supported the operationalisation of the nexus on Somalia's three priority themes. They deliver technical and coordination support for more coherent analyses and reporting, programming and risk management, funding streams, and overall strategic decision-making for humanitarian, development and peace actors.

Strong leadership commitment by the UN under the DSRSG/RC/HC, including the appointment of dedicated thematic leads, has been successful in bringing different teams together. Their ongoing capacity strengthening among government counterparts has also started to lead to an increased understanding of nexus thinking and approaches in the Government of Somalia.

Where dedicated resources have been provided to fund capacity and coordination positions, they have helped to facilitate more connected planning and programming across the nexus. For example, having a specialist coordinator in the Integrated Office focused on the priority areas of water management / climate change and durable solutions has enabled collaboration between the UN Durable Solution Specialist, Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, and the Housing Land and Property Area of Responsibility on eviction prevention efforts aligned to the National Durable Solutions Strategy and government priorities.

## CHALLENGES

Practically operationalising the nexus beyond planning frameworks has been a challenge due to a lack of common strategic and technical forums that bring humanitarian, development and peace actors together. As a result, interventions are mainly confined within respective mandates and traditional areas of expertise. This is exacerbated by financing mechanisms that remain divided along humanitarian and development windows. There are additional concerns that reduced humanitarian funding for 2024 will increase prioritization by humanitarian actors on narrower life-saving interventions and away from resilience-related activities.

Information management is a continuing challenge to stronger collaboration on the nexus. The mapping and disaggregation of humanitarian and development aid in Somalia through the Aid Information Management System, supported by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, the World Bank and the UN, is an essential tool for helping stakeholders better plan and prioritize resources based on needs and to ensure a proportional geographical distribution of funding. Its usefulness as a planning tool is hindered, however, due to limited donor funding, insufficient government investment, inadequate reporting by donors and partners, and a lack of granularity in the data collected. The absence of a clear mapping of development interventions in Somalia also hinders collaboration and requires more investment in the Integrated Office's information management capacity.

While UN senior staff tend to be skilled and understand nexus approaches, limited time and competing priorities, particularly during times of acute humanitarian crisis, reduce the ability of humanitarian actors to engage on longer-term resilience analysis and planning with development actors. As a result, HCT efforts focus on immediate famine prevention or preparedness for El Niño rains and floods, with limited time to

engage with wider resilience-building interventions for predictable shocks. These capacities are further stretched by the speed of climate change and cyclical drought and flood cycles in Somalia.

Greater local inclusion and ownership of the nexus approach beyond the UN is required, both through increased government capacity to provide overall leadership and through greater involvement of local NGOs who deliver the majority of humanitarian response in Somalia.

## SPOTLIGHT

### ON PEACE

In Somalia, conflict analysis has been conducted and used to inform programming and eligibility for the UN Peace Building Fund, including work by UNHCR, FAO and Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et Développement (CIAUD) to inform the 2023 PBF Gender Promotion Initiative call. Yet, joint conflict analyses between development, peace and humanitarian actors using a nexus lens are not systematically integrated to inform programming. The PBF Secretariat Project also provides expertise and support to PBF-funded projects to ensure conflict sensitivity during the review of concept notes and proposals, and monitoring and evaluation. The PBF Secretariat has also supported sharing between UN AFPs and the World Bank on conflict-sensitivity approaches and organized a conflict sensitivity roundtable in partnership with the UN Staff College. With the expansion of the PBF Secretariat in terms of dedicated staff being located in Mogadishu, the Secretariat can increasingly support the SJF and the UN system to provide conflict-sensitive support. Additionally, the process for review of PBF interventions in New York strongly focuses on conflict sensitivity of projects when approving funds.

In terms of operational support, OCHA conducts a regular access severity mapping exercise for humanitarian organizations to assess and categorize the level of access challenges in different operational environments. It covers the whole country and considers many factors, including security concerns, presence of armed actors, physical infrastructure, administrative barriers, and level of cooperation from local authorities. It draws on in-depth consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders, including UN AFPs, INGOs and NGOs in each state.

A standing agenda item in the Access Working Group (AWG) meetings also provides updates on recent military and armed conflict developments. This analysis is conducted biweekly and is exclusively shared with AWG members. AWG members are responsible for disseminating the findings to their respective teams.

Beyond conducting joint conflict analysis, there are other efforts to ensure programming is conflict sensitive. Several of these relate to protection and doing no harm. A Senior Protection Advisor provides technical support to the HC and HCT on the Centrality of Protection as one of the three strategic objectives guiding humanitarian response in Somalia. The objective requires concrete and measurable actions taken to ensure conflict-sensitive programming, do no harm approaches and the inclusion of vulnerable people in programming. Through protection mainstreaming, humanitarian partners aim to reduce risks and account for safety, dignity and meaningful access in their programming. Such efforts require strong community participation and empowerment for relevant and durable solutions. While Somalia has several complaints and feedback channels, the Community Engagement and Accountability Task Force is working on a joint analysis of feedback and setting up additional inter-agency mechanisms.

At the strategic and planning level, the UN Cooperation Framework includes a pillar on Inclusive Politics and Reconciliation. This recognizes that advancement of key political processes is critical for sustainable and peaceful development and that social cohesion requires addressing the underlying drivers of conflict, including interclan conflict, territorial disputes, human rights grievances and competition over natural resources. The pillar articulates three Outcomes and relevant theories of change for the formal federal system, democratic systems, and sustainable peace. The UN entities working on this pillar prepare a Joint Workplan each year to coordinate their interventions and report progress annually.

## Financing the peace pillar

The peace pillar is largely financed through the UN Secretary General's PBF and the SJF. The SJF Secretariat and the PBF country-level secretariat are both situated in the Integrated Office and work closely together. This enables them to play complementary roles, coordinate closely on investment strategy and support jointly funded programmes.

Since funding its first project in 2009, the PBF approved about US\$75 million for the UN's peacebuilding work in Somalia, implemented by more than a dozen different UN AFPs and civil society organizations, in close partnership with UNSOM, the Federal Government of Somalia, the Federal Member States and civil society. The PBF Secretariat Project is composed of eight projects over about US\$16.8 million. Not all projects contribute to the peace pillar within a specific 'triple nexus' approach, but more efforts are being made to promote the nexus as a cross-cutting issue within PBF-funded projects in recognition of interconnected peacebuilding challenges. A PBF Secretariat project started in 2023 is intended to support the development of partnerships spanning the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus and advocate for a triple nexus approach with government counterparts, the donor community and other stakeholders.

While some new project proposals have the potential to contribute to the peace pillar working across the triple nexus, the transformative potential of such work is reduced by the increased scarcity of PBF finances with reduced commitments to Somalia in 2023.

## Engaging local actors engaged in the peace pillar

Local actors have been involved in the peacebuilding pillar in Somalia both in terms of strategy influence and programming tied to the PBF. For example, consultation with national civil society actors informed the priorities of the 5-year PBF eligibility renewal in July 2020 and programmatic engagement occurs mainly through the PBF Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative through a focus on inclusive peacebuilding that empowers women, advances gender equality, and recognizes the role of young people.

Under this initiative, opportunities were created for joint UN-civil society project submissions and civil society-only submissions to promote Women, Peace and Security (WPS) as well as Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Opportunities to strengthen WPS across the PBF and SJF portfolios are also provided by the jointly supported Women, Peace and Protection Programme. A strengthened focus on YPS is also expected in future PBF-funded peacebuilding projects and is already reflected in the creation of a PBF Gender, Youth and Inclusion Officer position as part of the new PBF Secretariat project.

Further opportunities for local organisations are likely to emerge in the near future as a result of a PBF Secretariat project that started in 2023 to intensify engagement with civil society and strengthen their involvement in the implementation of PBF-funded projects. These new efforts will draw on the lessons documented by the [Life and Peace Institute](#) on receiving PBF funding for work with civil society in Somalia.

## The wider security context in Somalia

There are ongoing government operations against Al-Shabaab. The Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation updated its National Stabilization Strategy (2022-2026) to guide stabilization and recovery efforts in both fragile districts and areas newly recovered from Al-Shabaab following the military offensive that followed the election of the new government in 2022. The strategy's goal is to improve the efficacy of stabilization efforts, contributing to a strengthened social contract between the Somali people and the government for sustainable peace, stability and development. The strategy will focus on strengthening governance capacities and democratic institutions in these areas and prioritizing local reconciliation efforts, emphasising the linkages between governance, social cohesion and reconciliation, community recovery and security, and the rule of law.

There are risks of fuelling existing conflict by implementing reconciliation activities in newly recovered areas while military, political and ideological battles continue between the state and Al-Shabaab. Reducing those risks requires the peace pillar to focus on conflict-sensitive peacebuilding interventions, ensuring that reconciliation activities meaningfully engage with all clans / sub-clans and do not favour or exclude

particular groups because of political and ideological reasons. The selection of locations for reconciliation project investments should also be based on peacebuilding needs rather than political and military imperatives, ensuring that interventions support those most affected by or at risk of conflict. Coordination mechanism(s) on stabilization are currently emerging and will aim to provide a space to ensure complementarity of peacebuilding and stabilization approaches, ensuring that interventions supported by the UN are conflict sensitive.

Increasingly there is a convergence of information and impacts between climate change and insecurity. The pathways between climate and competition over resources, the emboldening and control of armed actors of the climate impacts and the increase in displacement due to climate shocks are all important parts of the climate peace and security debate.

The draft resolution for UNSOM's mandate renewal recognizes the military operations against Al-Shabaab and encourages UNSOM to provide the necessary and timely assistance to recovered areas. It also emphasizes the need to accelerate the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan, which outlines steps towards the gradual handover of security responsibilities from international forces to the government. The Council has encouraged UNSOM to ensure there are plans to: protect civilians and communities in areas of military operations; support Somali civilian leadership, ownership and oversight in the planning and coordination of stabilization efforts; and promote expansion of a governance and service delivery to areas and districts where fragility persists. The Council encouraged the Government of Somalia to deepen cooperation and collaboration at all levels to create a conducive political and security environment for more inclusive democratic processes across Somalia, and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making.

### Impacts of a peace focus on humanitarian principles

At the national level, no tensions between a principled humanitarian approach and nexus approaches have been identified. However, there are increased attempts to coordinate across the different pillars to ensure reduced competition over funds and respect to the stabilisation agenda. Efforts are being made by the UN system and the Integrated Office to promote collaboration and synergies across the triple nexus, including through the use of the UN Cooperation Framework and associated annual Joint Workplans. The Integrated Office is also completing a mapping exercise of specific UN programmes and projects on the nexus priority areas of climate adaptation and durable solutions for displaced persons. This aims to promote linkages across programmes, support engagement and identify gaps.

Coordinated interactions between humanitarian and stabilization actors are also being supported by the Guidance Note on Stabilization and Humanitarian Efforts in Somalia that was developed in 2023 by OCHA's Civil-Military Coordination Unit and UNSOM's Community Recovery and Extension of State Authority and Accountability Unit. This guidance aims to support better coordination between stabilization and humanitarian actors on common approaches, challenges, dual use assets and communication.

## ON IMPACT

Over the past 5 years, based on a scale between significant decline and significant progress, Somalia was rated as achieving some progress in strategically aligning short-term emergency response with longer-term risks, vulnerabilities and priorities and conflict mitigation. Qualitative information indicates this assessment is mainly measured in terms of processes completed and systems put in place, rather than in tangible outcomes of implementing a nexus approach. Key areas of progress are found in the development of collective outcomes and an overarching strategy, but systematic implementation, coordination and monitoring of initiatives bringing humanitarian, development and peace actors together is lacking.

Joint reporting on the nexus is limited. While there is strong information and data management capacity in the humanitarian system across clusters and within OCHA, district/sub-national level reporting is hindered by a lack of information management capacity and data collection/analysis systems for development actors, including within the Integrated Office. The Cooperation Framework's Joint Workplans also only go down to the sub-output level - not the activity level. This hinders meaningful, localized programmatic coordination across HDP actors and leads to gaps in lessons learned as well as assessing the longer-term impact of interventions.

Gaps are particularly evident in terms of tracking longer-term impact across the pillars. While humanitarian cluster data is useful for tracking the presence of humanitarian actors and supporting post-distribution monitoring, this does not extend to systematically evaluating the longer-term impact of humanitarian efforts. On the development side, the Cooperation Framework Results Group reports on their interventions on an annual basis through the UN Country Results Report. However, this tends to focus on the inputs and outputs of UN programming, rather than considering longer term outcomes. However, an independent evaluation of the UN Cooperation Framework is scheduled for 2024 that will explore impact over three years of implementation.

Overall peacebuilding results are aggregated by the PBF Secretariat and reported as part of the PBF Annual Strategic Country Report for PBF-funded interventions. The PBF requires relatively strong evaluation and reporting requirements, including theories of change and project results frameworks that are reviewed by the PBF Secretariat in Somalia and the PBF Appraisal Committee in New York. Semi-annual, annual and final project reporting on peacebuilding results is required by all fund recipients and independent evaluations are required for all projects with budgets greater than US\$1.5 million. While the aggregate reporting will capture some nexus approaches, it also captures peace-focused interventions that do not link across the nexus with humanitarian or development pillars.

There are efforts underway to improve future evaluation of the nexus in Somalia. For example, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) has been working with the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development and Integrated Office to develop a set of outcome level indicators across the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum. These are based on the IASC durable solutions framework and aim to establish a common basis for monitoring progress in solving the protracted displacement crisis. The public in Somalia will also be provided a voice in monitoring the nexus via a context monitoring tool developed by the ReDSS and the Ministry in partnership with Africa Voices (NGO), the World Bank's High Frequency Survey team and Altai Consulting. This will include public opinion surveys using radio shows and SMS surveys.

## ON LOCAL ACTORS

The three thematic nexus task forces have enabled area-based nexus coordination and implementation involving national and local actors. Much of this focus at the national level is on coordination between the UN and the Government of Somalia at different levels. For example:

- ▶ The UN supported the Somali National Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) to develop an Anticipatory Action Framework for floods that brings humanitarian, development and government actors together. The framework includes readiness measures, triggers and anticipatory actions and serves to reinforce SoDMA's role in overall coordination and management of disasters.
- ▶ The Government Engagement Strategy was supported by OCHA to enhance the role of authorities in humanitarian response, identifying points for closer coordination and collaboration with the federal and state government at the strategic, operational and technical levels.
- ▶ The Flood Reduction Programme was delivered by a number of UN AFPs and supported technically by the Integrated Office. Under this programme the government and the UN implemented a humanitarian-development nexus response to the FAO's identification of breakage points along the Shabelle River. This included immediate damage reduction, bank stabilization in the medium-term, and the development of long-term models on nature-based solutions and rewilding to reduce future flood risk. Coupled with the technical approach, coordination with communities is leading to local ownership and management of these flood mitigation approaches.

A global survey of local and national actors (LNA) conducted for the IASC Task Force 4 mapping project between August and November 2023 elicited responses from 12 different LNA in Somalia. Respondents included seven NGOs, one NGO network of women-led organizations, two civil society organizations, one academic institution, and one government actor. While not representative of all the experiences of local and national actors across Somalia, the responses from these 12 organizations provides a snapshot into

their engagement in national-level processes and their approaches to nexus programming in their own work.

Local actors agree that some progress has made nationally on the nexus in the past 5 years. 73% of the respondents reported ‘some progress,’ with only 27% reporting ‘no progress.’ Several organizations expressed appreciation that progress had started but claimed it was slower than desired.

Few LNAs are engaged in efforts to coordinate humanitarian-development-peace approaches nationally. Only 42% of respondents were aware of such efforts and only 33% said they had been consulted or engaged in those processes. A few of those who had heard of coordination mechanisms referenced a HDP Nexus Working Group hosted by the Somalia NGO Consortium, with some being members of the working group and others only having heard of it and being unfamiliar with its approach. Some respondents claimed that the national-level nexus agenda was led by INGOs and donors with limited consultation, participation, or representation of local actors.

Both international and local actors are important partners for nexus programming. Most respondents reported partnering with or receiving funding from international entities for nexus-related work, with much of this likely being pass through rather than direct funding from donors. Several local consortia were also viewed as important for working on the nexus, including BRICiS Consortium, Danwadaag, GAASHAAN Consortium, NEXUS Consortium and SomJR.

Local actors have experience of individual and joint analysis to support nexus programming. Among the sampled organizations, it was common for respondents to have engaged in analyses of risks, vulnerabilities and underlying drivers/ root causes of fragility and humanitarian needs, with 75% stating they had conducted their own analysis and 67% having participated in joint analysis.

Nexus programming is widespread among local actors and focused on community-level outcomes. Respondents unanimously reported using nexus approaches within their own programming, but most focused on the holistic and complex needs and priorities of communities as the starting point for that work rather than referencing national level approaches. Common programming examples included the implementation of integrated projects covering a variety of short-term provision and longer-term supply considerations around WASH, food security, or protection. Several others had a core focus on peace building, social cohesion, and resilience. For example, one organization implemented community-driven development approaches with a focus on peacebuilding and community policing, while another focused on durable solutions and resilience programming that combined community-based conflict resolution, livelihood support, and inclusive governance structures.

Based on their collective experiences, it was possible to identify several common enablers that organizations recommended for an effective nexus approach:

- ▶ **Coordination and collaboration:** Bringing multiple stakeholders together in planning and sharing knowledge was important for the nexus, including engagement of actors in different pillars, government entities, civil society organizations, local communities, and affected populations. Consortia and joint programming across local and international NGOs were also mentioned as a particularly successful way of working on nexus approaches. While strong coordination is viewed as a key enabler, more work is required to implement it in practice: 67% of respondents identified a lack of coordination as a key challenge to the nexus.
- ▶ **Strong analysis:** Engaging in assessments and ensuring programming is responsive to those inputs was key to a strong nexus approach because linking humanitarian, development and peace concerns requires a comprehensive analysis of context, vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected population.
- ▶ **Flexibility:** Flexible funding is viewed as supportive to nexus approaches, including crisis modifiers as a useful instrument.

There were also common challenges to working effectively on the nexus in Somalia:

- ▶ **Funding:** Lack of funding was raised as a challenge by 83% of respondents. Competition for those

funds and a lack of development assistance were also concerns for the majority. Respondents particularly highlighted a mismatch between longer-term nexus programming and the short-term nature of most of the available funding.

- ▶ **Limited localization:** Respondents saw limited funding and empowerment for local actors as first responders as another key challenge. Respondents requested more multi-year investment in flexibility and institutional capabilities for local NGOs to enable better design and delivery of HDP nexus programs. Some respondents also highlighted the need for communities and other local stakeholders to actively participate in decision-making processes to ensure their local needs and perspectives are considered in nexus programming.
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