

**The Somaliland Social
Protection Policy
2022-2030**

Foreword

Foreword

To be finalised

Executive Summary

Somaliland's aspirations for Vision 2030 include achieving *'economic prosperity and social well-being for the people of Somaliland building on the country's success in establishing peace, stability, and democratic institutions.'* Social Protection is recognised as a priority sector under Pillar 4: Social Development, to achieve *'A Caring Society meeting the basic needs of its members'*. In addition, Social Protection should play an important role in achieving Somaliland's Vision for Pillar 1: Economic Development, to achieve *'A Nation Whose Citizens Enjoy Sustained Economic Growth and Reduced Poverty Levels.'* In order for Somaliland to realise its Vision 2030 goal, it is of paramount importance to have an adequate social protection system in place. Poverty and insecurity are widespread in Somaliland. According to national estimates in 2013, Somaliland's monetary poverty rate was 30 per cent in urban areas and 37 per cent in rural areas. However, an alternative poverty estimate based on the international poverty line of US\$1.90 PPP per day in 2017, finds that 78 per cent of the population can be regarded as living in extreme poverty. The vast majority of people in Somaliland face severe income securities which are exacerbated due to the risk of displacement and shocks including the effects of climate change such as droughts and cyclones. The only mechanism to achieve sustainable impacts on poverty and guarantee that the population is supported in the face of such shocks is to introduce a government-led system of Social Protection provision.

Somaliland has a longstanding history of promoting social solidarity and reciprocity of care and support. This includes the traditional and informal institutions *zakat* – one of the five pillars of Islam – and *sadaqah*, which are integral to the social fabric of our society. While we encourage traditional support structures, the Government of Somaliland aims to complement these institutions by establishing sustainable national Social Protection programmes by 2030 to guarantee that a minimum set of living standards can be met by our population. Social Protection is vital to a strong social contract. Trust is at the core of any social contract, which is built when a country's citizens can access good quality universal public services and feel that they are cared for by their state. At the heart of the social contract within democratic societies is an agreement by citizens to pay taxes while, in exchange, the government agrees to redistribute these taxes in a fair manner through public services, the provision of law and order and investments in infrastructure. When these policies and systems go together, they can help promote an inclusive society and sustainable economic growth which, in turn, will create the fiscal space for Social Protection and reinforce its positive human development impact.

Social Protection in the National Development Plan

The purpose of the Somaliland Social Protection Policy is to outline Somaliland's long-term vision for Social Protection, and how we will incrementally build a National Social Protection System up to 2030. This document will form an integral part of the Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2022-2026 and meet national objectives set out in Somaliland Vision 2030. A new Social Protection Policy with strategic goals and objectives will be required after 2030 to align with Somaliland's future national objectives beyond this timeframe. In the NDP II, Social Protection is a cross-cutting theme in line with the Vision that *'Somaliland aspires to build a nation with an effective social protection system that cares for the weak and the vulnerable. It is the duty of every nation to care for those who cannot look after themselves. The values of solidarity, interdependence and sharing which feature strongly in our culture form the basis of a vibrant traditional social welfare support system.'* However, Social Protection lacks a clear direction and scope and, therefore, no clear priorities are set to govern this sector or to ensure that adequate investments are allocated to the development of its schemes. By defining social protection as a cross-cutting theme, its effective coordination has been undermined, as it currently encompasses a broad interpretation of public services which overlap with other Sectors (e.g., health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, livelihood promotion, and

protective services) under the NDP II Pillars. In countries with developed Social Protection systems, Social Protection is regarded as a core public service.

The Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2022 – 2030 unlocks a window of opportunity to formulate clear objectives and targets for the Social Protection sector up to 2030. Based on its main objective to provide a package of minimum income guarantees, Social Protection should be a separate Pillar in the NDP III and regarded as a core public service. Building on the nation's traditional institutions for social welfare, investments in Social Protection should be prioritised to help people cope with natural disasters and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. With the ongoing risks of climate change, it is crucial that the NDP III facilitates national policies that build a more adaptable and resilient population and society.

Operational definition for Social Protection

For the purpose of setting out the Somaliland Social Protection Policy, 'Social Protection' refers to:

A government-led system that provides a package of minimum income guarantees and basic social care services to the population across the lifecycle that aim to improve and maintain adequate standards of living by ensuring that basic goods and services are accessible, and which are facilitated by strong national institutions that underpin their effective delivery.

In line with its operational definition, a mature Social Protection sector in Somaliland is understood to comprise the following three components:

1. **National social transfers:** The system of entitlements to basic minimum income guarantees that enables all citizens to constantly maintain an adequate standard of living, enabling them to be better prepared in the face of shocks. These schemes are designed to provide support during key stages of the lifecycle during which people face a higher likelihood of facing income insecurity: childhood, old age, and disability (cutting across the lifecycle).
2. **Social insurance:** Schemes that enable the working age population to smooth their consumption, by contributing part of their income during employment which they can draw on when they experience certain contingencies. These schemes are designed to provide support to persons in active age and retirement based on a more comprehensive set of risks: maternity, unemployment, disability, ill health (sickness), work accidents, death of a breadwinner (survivors), old age (pensions).
3. **Social care services:** Social care and support services to 1) vulnerable children who are identified by a professional social work system to lack adequate care and protection by a parent or caregiver, and 2) vulnerable adults who are identified by a professional social work system to be unable to fully care for and protect themselves.

Legislative and policy framework

The Government of Somaliland is committed to ensuring the protection of citizens when they experience certain vulnerabilities across their lifecycle. Article 19 of the Constitution articulates that *'The state shall be responsible for the health, care, development and education of the mother, the child, the disabled who have no one to care for them, and the mentally handicapped persons who are not able and have no one to care for them'*. Therefore, the Constitution sets out the role of the state as duty bearer in ensuring that members of Somaliland's population can access adequate public services, with explicit reference to key vulnerable stages of the lifecycle: childhood, motherhood, and disability. Additionally, Article 20 of the Somaliland Constitution articulates rights to social security for workers in the public sector: *'State employees and members of the armed forces shall be*

entitled remuneration, pension and to payments for sickness, injury, or disability in accordance with the law.'

In line with the Constitution, the Government of Somaliland has established various national legislative and policy instruments to ensure the protection of citizens' rights to access adequate care and support across the lifecycle. The Government of Somaliland recognises the critical role of the family for the care and protection of children but expresses that the State carries the primary responsibilities to protect children in the National Child Protection Policy. The National Disability Policy and Disability Act aims to mainstream disability issues across public sectors, including social protection. The Act underlines the social rights of citizens with disabilities and recognises the environmental barriers, such as inaccessible transport, negative attitudes and lack of adaptive services, that exclude people with disabilities from society, thereby inadvertently denying their access to fundamental basic services and participation in society and the economy. Moreover, the Act also sets out the objective that *'elderly persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights, access to appropriate services and care, and enjoy protection from rights abuse'*.

The Government of Somaliland has adopted international human rights conventions in accordance with these frameworks to ensure the basic rights of our citizens. It is enshrined in Article 10(2) of the Constitution that *'The Republic of Somaliland recognises and shall act in conformity with the United Nations Charter and with international law and shall respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.'* This includes several instruments that articulate the right to essential Social Protection services, including the right of all people to social security. Relevant economic and social rights, including the right to access social protection instruments, are also set out in regional legislative frameworks. For example, the African Charter enshrines economic, social and cultural rights which imply the right to shelter, the right to basic nutrition and the right to social security.

Vision for Social Protection by 2030

By 2030, The Government of Somaliland's Vision for Social Development is to achieve *'A Caring Society meeting the basic social needs of its members.'* The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family articulates a Vision to achieve *'A society guided and steered by a competitive and innovative human resources performances with inclusively integrated equity and social welfare.'*

More specifically, the Vision 2030 for Social Protection is to achieve:

'A resilient and socially cohesive society in which all members can access the minimum protection that enables them to maintain and improve their living standards throughout their life course.'

Policy Objectives for Social Protection

The Social Protection Policy sets out objectives aimed at strengthening the legislative and policy framework, institutions and systems to build the foundation of a strong government-led Social Protection system in Somaliland.

Promote complementarity between short-term humanitarian support and the national Social Protection system.

The national Social Protection system can form the basis of a strengthened humanitarian system if these systems are well integrated and complement one another. By providing a broad-based Social Protection system with significant coverage of households and individuals, these systems can be scaled up to provide humanitarian assistance during times of emergencies. This will require significant inter-coordination between government stakeholders, as well as intra-coordination between government and non-government stakeholders (international development partners and

NGOs). However, the need for humanitarian assistance will reduce as the population's resilience and preparedness for shocks will be strengthened by the Social Protection system.

Build a multi-tiered Social Security system on the foundation of National Social Transfers, with increased access to Social Insurance.

Looking to the future beyond 2030, national social transfers and social insurance will become part of a multi-tiered system, offering Social Protection schemes financed both from general government revenues and payroll taxes. In a multi-tiered system, national social transfer schemes with high coverage aim to provide citizens with a minimum level of income protection, while contributory schemes offer higher levels of protection for those who can afford to pay contributions. This will not only cover benefits in old age – in line with the Public Service Pension - but also unemployment benefits as well as potentially other benefits, including survivor, sickness, disability, maternity and family benefits.

Over time, Somaliland aims to establish a Social Insurance system that provides comprehensive employment-based schemes. However, due to the high level of informality of Somaliland's workforce, social insurance schemes will take time to implement. Therefore, up to 2030, the Government of Somaliland prioritises the systems and institutions for National Social Transfers, with the objective of providing minimum income guarantees to citizens during stages of their lives when they face a higher likelihood of facing income insecurity.

Strengthen the institutional framework within the Government of Somaliland for coordination and implementation of Social Protection schemes.

In order for Somaliland's Social Protection schemes to grow and offer greater protection to citizens, the administrative capacity of our institutions should be prioritised from 2023, to achieve strong and effective institutional coordination to deliver end-to-end systems. A government-led and owned Social Protection system is crucial to maintain the sustainability of the sector and to build public trust in its services.

Up to 2030, the Government of Somaliland will continue working with external partners to strengthen institutional capacity. Nonetheless, the collaboration with external partners will be based on the provision of technical support, with the aim of strengthening government agencies in the implementation of Social Protection schemes. MESAF will be responsible for the development of an inter-ministerial platform for the government-wide coordination of the Social Protection system. Furthermore, Government leadership within the Social Protection Working Group will be strengthened to leverage key partners support in building a strong and viable social protection system that aligns with national objectives for Somaliland. The Government of Somaliland will collaborate with international partners to source technical expertise for the development of relevant technical guidelines to formulate the documentation required for the implementation of the Social Protection Policy.

It is also essential that administrative capacity to coordinate the systems and administrative processes underpinning Social Protection schemes is strengthened. MESAF shall designate a single agency to be the national coordinating authority for Social Protection and strengthen its human resource capacity. Appropriate institutional and human resource requirements will be established at national, regional and district levels to ensure the end-to-end delivery of schemes, and existing local government structures will be strengthened.

Strengthen operational systems and administrative processes for the end-to-end delivery of Social Protection schemes.

The Government of Somaliland will establish the appropriate institutional and human resource arrangements necessary to ensure the effective operations of Social Protection transfers as well as accountability for programme performance and resources. Every Social Protection scheme should be underpinned by a clear operation manual that sets out all the above-mentioned processes to be undertaken by coordinators and implementers at national, regional and district-level. The Government of Somaliland will implement a national communications strategy that raises awareness on the purpose of the Social Protection system, the eligibility criteria and administrative procedures of the schemes, as well as the rights and responsibilities of recipients and other community members. Moreover, social Protection schemes should be underpinned by a financing mechanism that adequately supports each administrative process required for the delivery of Social Protection schemes. Over time, Social Protection schemes in Somaliland will be strengthened as stakeholders will access information that provides feedback on the on-going improvement of administrative processes. Within MESAF, the leading agency responsible for Social Protection, a research facility will be established to coordinate evidence generation on Social Protection schemes.

For disability-specific schemes, the Government of Somaliland will implement a simple disability assessment mechanism based on the disability approach, which is most in line with the UNCRPD and disability policy and legislation in Somaliland. People with disabilities will be provided with identification cards which should be linked to eligibility for Social Protection transfers, as well as a range of other public services.

From 2023, the Government of Somaliland will prioritise setting in place digital systems for the management of Social Protection schemes. Robust Management Information Systems will be established to manage data related to the administrative processes underpinning each Social Protection scheme. When individual programme MISs are established, the Government of Somaliland will design a Single Registry to facilitate the cross-coordination of Social Protection schemes within a coherent sector.

Building the capacity of our operational systems will also improve the speed and capacity in which we implement support to shock-affected population. The national Social Protection system will build a strong foundation for a system that can disburse emergency payments to individuals, households and communities affected by a shock. National social transfers will be made scalable, which will improve the integration between the Social Protection system and humanitarian support system.

Enhance social care services underpinned by a professional social work system, offering child social services and adult social services.

To build a government-led system for social care provision, this will require significant investments in training a workforce of social workers that can take on the responsibility of providing critical care to people with care needs. Therefore, up to 2030, the Government of Somaliland will prioritise collaboration with partner agencies to facilitate the knowledge transfer required to build capacity of a publicly employed social workforce.

A strategy to build the Social Protection system up to 2030

By 2030, Somaliland aims to achieve significant steps to move towards building a modern and effective Social Protection system. This will start with establishing a basic package of minimum income guarantees across the lifecycle. This will ensure that Social Protection systems and schemes are built in incremental stages. The strategic objectives are designed to be ambitious – prioritising

the needs of citizens – but with the aim of ensuring fiscal sustainability. These will focus on the most vulnerable categories of the population initially and expand in coverage, year-on-year.

Due to the high rate of informality of the workforce, and the widespread poverty and insecurity experienced by our population, national social transfer schemes will be prioritised. These will incorporate simple eligibility criteria, to maximise accountability and transparency, and promote equity in access. Globally, children, people with disabilities and older people are the most common target groups for Social Protection schemes as these are recognised and socially accepted stages of the life course when people face the greatest difficulties in accessing basic needs and care and support.

By 2025, the Child-Sensitive Social Protection pilot cash transfer modality will be leveraged to implement a national Child Benefit scheme. It will reach all children aged 0-1 years in 2025 and grow incrementally since no child will be taken off the scheme until they reach 18 years of age. In addition, the child benefit will be implemented through a geographic roll-out strategy. For illustrative purpose, this strategy assumes a prioritisation of regions in Somaliland according to average stunting rates. The Child Benefit will provide each child with SI. Sh.42,000 (US\$5.00) per month. An important objective of the universal Child Benefit will be to facilitate wide-ranging registration of households so that they are identified for humanitarian assistance in the event of a shock. By 2030, the Child Benefit aims to reach all children aged 0 to 6 years nationally.

By 2025, the Government of Somaliland will also prioritise the implementation of a child disability benefit, providing essential support to some of the most vulnerable children in Somaliland at risk of social and economic exclusion later in life. Whereas children with disabilities require protection through a comprehensive legal framework and access to a range of public services, they also need income support to cover the additional costs related to their disability. This includes, for example, transportation, medical treatment, therapy, or specialised schooling. The Child Disability Benefit will, initially, cover all children with disabilities aged 0 to 15 years. Children will not be taken off the scheme and will gradually transition to an Adult Disability Benefit once they reach the age of 18 years. It will provide each child with SI. Sh. 127,500 (US\$15.00) per month.

By 2028, an Adult Disability Benefit will be implemented to offer persons with disabilities a minimum level of income support. This will be provided to persons with disabilities whether or not they are able to work – due to a severe impairment or discrimination faced in the labour market – offering income security to meet a minimum standard of living. The Adult Disability Benefit will be provided to all persons with disabilities aged 18 to 69 years, after which they will transition to an Old Age Pension for all citizens aged 70 years and above. The age of eligibility for the Adult Disability Benefit will be changed to 18 to 64 years in 2030, in line with a reduction in the eligibility age for the Old Age Pension to 65 years and above. It will provide each recipient with SI. Sh. 127,500 (US\$15.00) per month.

For the youth and working age population, the Government of Somaliland aims to harness income generating opportunities and look to the future to expand social insurance schemes. Youth and people of working age represent the main carers and people of productive age in our society and require access to an adequate income at all times. In the short-term, by 2025, the Government of Somaliland will undertake a scoping study on social insurance. This will assess the feasibility of implementing unemployment, maternity, survivors, sickness, and potentially other social insurance mechanisms that allow the working age population to draw benefits from when they experience certain contingencies. However, in the short-term, the feasibility of complementary interventions such as weather-based and livestock insurance products will be assessed to enhance income protection for those relying on livestock and agricultural livelihoods. Through public employment programmes, social protection can also stimulate employment while achieving wider national objectives on, for example, building human resource capacity in infrastructure or social work. Public

employment provision will emphasise decent work and wages, which will differ from labour-intensive public works schemes.

A Universal Old Age Pension will be implemented by 2025, providing older people aged 70 years and above with a monthly transfer of Sl. Sh. 127,500 (US\$15.00) per month. By 2030, the eligibility age will decrease to 65 years. By guaranteeing that older people can access a minimum income to live their final years in dignity, the Government of Somaliland will compensate all citizens for the contributions that they have made to building the nation throughout their working lives. The Government of Somaliland will build on the universal social pension, and the Public Service Pension, and conduct a scoping study to identify frameworks for a multi-tiered pension system in Somaliland.

Financing Social Protection

The Government of Somaliland aims to build on the support from international partners and embed Social Protection within a strong public sector. The most sustainable source of financing for Social Protection will be through government revenue, either through the diversification of revenue sources or the additional revenues generated by economic growth. In the short-term, the fiscal space for Social Protection remains a challenge to Somaliland's public sector. Nonetheless, there are options for the sector to grow in incremental stages, which can be financed through enhanced coordination and the reprioritisation of both domestic and external funding sources to underpin a more sustainable and well-coordinated government system.

In the medium- to long-term, investments in the Social Protection system require a fundamental shift in the Somaliland's economic and social model which will happen by building greater trust in government which will encourage citizens to accept higher levels of taxation. At the heart of a well-governed economy and a strong public sector is the social contract between citizens and the government. When citizens pay taxes, in exchange, the government has a role in redistributing these taxes in an equitable and transparent manner through good quality, universal public services, the provision of law and order and investments in good infrastructure. In contrast, in societies with a limited social contract, citizens are less willing to pay taxes, undermining the ability of governments to collect revenue and reinvest in public services. However, good quality services such as health, education and transport infrastructure can only be established over longer periods of time. In contrast, inclusive Social Protection schemes can be achieved in the short term, by 2023, and play a significant role in promoting a stronger social contract. For example, when all young children, and the children born afterwards, are registered at birth and start receiving entitlements through Social Protection, this sends a clear message to citizens that the government recognises all people of Somaliland and cares for them. Because Somaliland takes an incremental approach to growing national Social Protection schemes, these investments will grow slowly over time and in line with increases in economic growth. Based on experiences with other countries globally, Social Protection becomes part of a virtuous circle of universal services which will help generate greater government revenues. This will not only provide more fiscal space for investing in social protection, but also for other public services. Thus, the financing of the proposals in this policy will become much more achievable by 2030.

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Acronyms

COVID-19	Coronavirus
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSSP	Child-Sensitive Social Protection
DAN	Diversity Action Network
DPO	Data Protection Officer
DRM	Data Relationship Management
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoSL	Government of Somaliland
HAVOYOCO	Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee
ID	Identification
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ILED	Inclusive Local Economic Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
iNGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
MESAF	Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family of the Republic of Somaliland
MIS	Management Information System
MOAD	Ministry of Agricultural Development
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MONPD	Ministry of Planning and National Development
MOPD	Ministry of Planning and Development
NADFOR	Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority
NDP	National Development Plan
NDRA	National Displacement and Refugee Agency
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SDF	Somaliland Development Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLS	Somaliland Shilling
SNDF	Somaliland National Disability Federation
SRSN	Shock Responsive Safety Nets
SRSP	Shock Responsive Social Protection
TIN	Taxpayer Identification Numbers
UCB	Universal child benefits
UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Acronyms

UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	The World Food Programme

Glossary

Accountability: Answerability of the duty bearer to implement schemes and policies according to expectations. In government-led Social Protection systems, the state is the main duty bearer to its citizens.

Additional costs of disability: The additional costs that persons with disabilities incur due to their disabilities.

Defined benefit scheme: A pension scheme in which the amount of the payment is based on years of service or contributions and the salary earned before retirement.

Disability prevalence: The proportion of the population estimated to be living with a disability in Somaliland.

Disaster Risk Management: The system of policies and strategies that achieve prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in the face of shocks.

End-to-end system: The administrative processes underpinning Social Protection schemes that take into account all aspects related to design and on the ground delivery.

Household consumption: The amount that a household consumes including food, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, tobacco, clothing, energy, durable goods, housing and services, among other things.

Household income: Total income includes the amount that a household receives through wages and salaries, self-employed income (agriculture, non-agriculture, owner occupied house), transfers (including remittances), property income and income from other sources.

Household transfer: A Social Protection transfer provided on the basis of eligibility of the entire household, commonly paid to the household head.

Household welfare: A household's standard of living as captured by either income or consumption.

Human capital: A concept used to designate personal attributes considered useful in the production process. It encompasses knowledge, skills, know-how, good health, and education, among others.

Humanitarian Assistance: Relief based programming intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations occur.

Individual entitlement: A Social Protection transfer to which people have rightful claims, based on their eligibility at the individual level.

Internal displacement: Being forced or obliged to leave a home or places of habitual residence, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, clan-based or other forms of generalised violence, violations of human rights, of natural or human-made disasters, without having crossed an internationally recognised state border.

Intrahousehold inequality: Inequalities in the distribution of resources among household members.

Management Information System: A digital platform to manage programme databases and automate core operations of Social Protection schemes.

Migration: The movement of people with the intention of settling, either permanently or temporarily in a different location.

Multi-tiered social protection system: A system that combines tax-financed, social insurance and private social protection schemes. Effective systems are designed to provide universal access to social protection.

Poverty line: A threshold below which households in Somaliland are considered to be living in poverty. The national poverty line is based on a measure of consumption of a minimum basket of food and non-food items.

Poverty rate: The share of households in Somaliland with a level of consumption that is less than the pre-defined poverty line at a specific moment in time.

Poverty targeting: A mechanism used in social protection programmes with the aim of identifying the poorest members of society. Usually, an income or wealth eligibility line is set and all those with incomes or wealth below the line are deemed to be eligible. Assessments can be undertaken of individuals, families or households, depending on the type of scheme.

Refugee(s): A person or people who have crossed national boundaries due to displacement.

Sadaqah: Voluntary charitable giving.

Single Registry: A warehouse of information from existing Social Protection schemes which can be used as a monitoring tool. It provides a nexus of information, by providing interlinkages between individual programmes and other external databases that can be used during targeting and registration.

Social cohesion: The strength of solidarity among a group of people based on social relations and perceptions of unity.

Social contract: The relationship between citizens of a country and its government: a strong social contract exists when citizens agree to pay taxes in return for good quality public services.

Social security: A nation's system of regular and predictable cash transfers, which can be financed from both general taxation and via social insurance.

Stunting: Impaired growth experienced by children due to poor nutrition, repeated infection and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. Children are assessed to be stunted when their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene which are essential for ensuring health and survival.

Wasting: Recent and severe weight loss resulting from malnutrition, including deficiencies in nutritional intake or impaired nutrient utilisation. Children are assessed as being wasted when their weight-for-height is two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

Welfare distribution: Individual (or household) welfare level after individuals (or households) have been ranked from poorest to richest.

Zakat: Religious obligation, and one of the five pillars of Islam, which implies that every able adult Muslim whose wealth exceeds a certain threshold (equivalent to 85g of gold) for a specific period of the year pays a mandatory contribution to eight categories, including the poor, those in need of assistance, those who are indebted and unable to pay their debt, and wayfarers who do not have anyone to support them.

1 Introduction and Background

The Somaliland Vision 2030¹ aspires to achieve *‘economic prosperity and social well-being for the people of Somaliland building on the country’s success in establishing peace, stability, and democratic institutions.’* For economic progress to be sustainable and stability to be maintained, the Government of Somaliland aims to create an inclusive society where all citizens can maximise their potential and *‘play a role in the nation building process.’* Social Protection is recognised as a priority sector under Pillar 4: Social Development, to achieve *‘A Caring Society meeting the basic needs of its members’.* In addition, Social Protection plays an important role in achieving Somaliland’s Vision for Pillar 1: Economic Development, which is to achieve *‘A Nation Whose Citizens Enjoy Sustained Economic Growth and Reduced Poverty Levels.’*

Somaliland has a longstanding history of promoting social solidarity and reciprocity of care and support. This includes the traditional and informal institutions *zakat* – one of the five pillars of Islam – and *sadaqah*, which are integral to the social fabric of our society. While we encourage traditional support structures, the Government of Somaliland aims to complement these institutions by establishing sustainable national Social Protection programmes by 2030 to guarantee that a minimum set of living standards can be met by our population. Social Protection is vital to a strong social contract. We believe that trust is at the core of our social contract, which is built when our citizens can access good public services and feel that they are cared for by their state. At the heart of the social contract within democratic societies is an agreement by citizens to pay taxes while, in exchange, the government agrees to redistribute these taxes in a fair manner through good quality universal public services, the provision of law and order and investments in infrastructure. By promoting a stronger social contract, the Social Protection system will complement our growing systems for Identity (ID) and birth registration, and an inclusive online system for the registration and payment of taxes. Furthermore, the Government of Somaliland is committed to achieving a competitive economy that will provide adequate and sustainable employment opportunities, and more highly skilled workforce. When these policies and systems go hand-in-hand, they can help promote an inclusive society and economic growth trajectory for Somaliland, in turn, creating the fiscal space for Social Protection and reinforcing its positive human development impact.

The process of developing a Social Protection system in Somaliland draws on significant achievements that we have realised with the support of international partners. In 2014, we assessed Social Protection Frameworks for Somaliland.² This concluded that long-term predictable income transfers are the recognised foundation of Social Protection systems worldwide and the most feasible and appropriate approach to implement for Somaliland. It emphasised a focus on *‘simplicity, with a clear definition of what constitutes Social Protection, prioritising social transfers.’* In 2019, we developed a Scoping and Sector Review of Social Protection in Somaliland.³ This concluded that *‘Social Protection has...an essential role in strengthening Somaliland’s economy and society, by fostering social cohesion and growth, which contributes to peacebuilding, reconstruction and resilience. However, significant steps need to be undertaken to build an effective system, that guarantees that children born today can access the minimum protection that enables them to maintain and improve their living standards throughout their life course.’*

Since 2017, we launched the Child-Sensitive Social Protection Pilot, a Shock-Responsive Social Protection Pilot scheme, the Safety Net for Human Capital Project and the Social Transfers Scheme,

¹ Republic of Somaliland (2011)

² Smith (2014)

³ Tran (2020)

1 Introduction and Background

all of which have contributed to building a nascent system that provides long-term predictable support to the most vulnerable members of communities affected by the ongoing risks of climate change – including droughts and cyclones – and displacement. However, the vast majority of the population continue to face severe income securities and cannot access any form of predictable support. The only mechanism to achieve sustainable impacts on poverty and guarantee that our population is supported in the face of shocks is to introduce a national and well-coordinated system of Social Protection provision.

Globally, Social Protection is recognised as a core service that underpins sustainable economic growth and promotes a society that is more equitable and human-centred. Limited provisions of support targeted to the poorest and most vulnerable have been implemented historically across societies with low revenue and weak democratic systems. However, as societies evolve and democracies strengthen, countries tend to move towards providing a system of social security benefits – a foundation of Social Protection – that address the risks that all members of society, regardless of socio-economic status, may face across the lifecycle, from childhood through to old age. The Constitution of Somaliland recognises the United Nations Charter and respects the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR sets out that *‘everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security.’*⁴ Indeed, in the global policy discourse, Social Protection and Social Security are frequently used interchangeably, referring to minimum income guarantee schemes provided across the lifecycle.

The Somaliland Social Protection Policy is the result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders in Somaliland at national and regional levels. At the national level, this included consultations with key line ministries, government agencies, international partners, civil society, and local organisations in Hargeisa. At the regional levels, consultations were conducted with stakeholders in Berbera, Borama, Laascaanood, Burao and Erigavo, including line ministry representatives and government coordinators, civil society, grassroots organisations and community leaders.

The Somaliland Social Protection Policy is structured as follows:

- The role of Social Protection in the National Development Plan is addressed in Section 2;
- The operational definition for Social Protection is set out in Section 3;
- The Legislative and Policy Framework for Social Protection is provided in Section 4;
- A contextual analysis of vulnerabilities, and the rationale for Social Protection is explained in Section 5;
- An overview of access to existing Social Protection schemes is provided in Section 6;
- The Vision and guiding principles for Social Protection up to 2030 are set out in Section 7;
- An overview of the Policy objectives for Social Protection are listed in Section 8;
- A strategy to build lifecycle Social Protection schemes up to 2030 is set out in Section 9;
- Financing options for Social Protection are discussed in Section 10; and,
- A logframe to guide the monitoring and evaluation of Social Protection objectives is provided in Section 11.

⁴ UDHR (1948)

2 Social protection in the Somaliland National Development Plan

The purpose of the Somaliland Social Protection Policy is to outline how Somaliland will incrementally build a National Social Protection System by 2030. This document will form an integral part of the Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2022-2026 and meet national objectives set out in Somaliland Vision 2030.

The Second National Development Plan (NDP II) 2017-2021 iterates the goals to *'Reduce poverty through increased economic opportunities'*, *'Increase resilience against the effects of climate change'*, and *'Maintain the human rights of every citizen through good governance, equal access to social services and economic inclusion'*. To meet these goals, it is imperative for Somaliland to ensure that investments in priority sectors for economic development, including production and infrastructure, are met with equivalent efforts to invest in the wellbeing of citizens. By 2030, Somaliland should have a more resilient, healthy, and skilled population that supports the needs of Somaliland's growing economy and is able to cope with the recurring shocks resulting from climate change. Indeed, the NDP II emphasises that it is crucial to increase investments in human capital and adaptations to climate change to ensure more sustainable economic growth.

Social Protection is an urgent investment priority for Somaliland if we wish to achieve our Vision 2030 and meet national development priorities. By providing a higher level of income security across the lifecycle, Social Protection enables individuals and families to smoothen their consumption. This enables citizens to be more resilient in the face of climate shocks, as it helps people cover their basic needs during a crisis and avoid negative coping mechanisms, such as the sale of assets or reduced food consumption. Further, it removes financial barriers to accessing essential public services, such as healthcare. When the citizens of Somaliland access social protection, they are better able to contribute to their economy and society. By reaping the gains from growth through social benefits and public services, in turn, citizens increase their participation in local markets and the labour force.

In the NDP II, Social Protection is a cross-cutting theme in line with the Vision that *'Somaliland aspires to build a nation with an effective social protection system that cares for the weak and the vulnerable. It is the duty of every nation to care for those who cannot look after themselves. The values of solidarity, interdependence and sharing which feature strongly in our culture form the basis of a vibrant traditional social welfare support system.'* However, the sector lacks a clear direction and scope and, therefore, no clear priorities are set to govern the sector or to ensure that adequate investments are allocated to the development of its schemes. By defining Social Protection as a cross-cutting theme, this has undermined its effective coordination, as it currently encompasses a broad interpretation of public services which overlap with other Sectors under the NDP II Pillars (e.g., health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, livelihood promotion, and protective services).⁵

The Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2022–2026 unlocks a window of opportunity to formulate clear objectives and targets for the Social Protection sector. Based on its distinct objective to provide a package of minimum income guarantees alongside basic social care services, Social Protection should be a separate Pillar in the NDP III. Building on the nation's traditional institutions for social welfare, investments in Social Protection should be prioritised to support the population in coping with natural disasters. With the ongoing risks of climate change, it is crucial that the NDP III facilitates national initiatives that build a more adaptable and resilient population and society.

⁵ Feedback based on evaluation of the Second National Development Plan (NDP II).

3 Operational definition for Social Protection in Somaliland

For the purpose of setting out the Somaliland Social Protection Policy, 'Social Protection' refers to:

A government-led system that provides a package of minimum income guarantees and basic social care services to the population across the lifecycle that aim to improve and maintain adequate standards of living by ensuring that basic goods and services are accessible, and which are facilitated by strong national institutions that underpin their effective delivery.

This builds on the range of Social Protection services identified as focus areas set out in the NDP II (see Box 1). As indicated earlier, in the NDP II, social protection was conceptualised as a cross-cutting theme underpinning all public sectors for national development in Somaliland. Somaliland aspires to growing a mature and inclusive Social Protection system, starting with incremental steps to ensure basic levels of protection by 2030. In the NDP III, Social Protection should be understood as a key public sector with clearly identified components that set out the services and schemes delivered as part of its sector. In line with its operational definition, a mature Social Protection sector in Somaliland is understood to comprise the following three components (see also Figure 1):

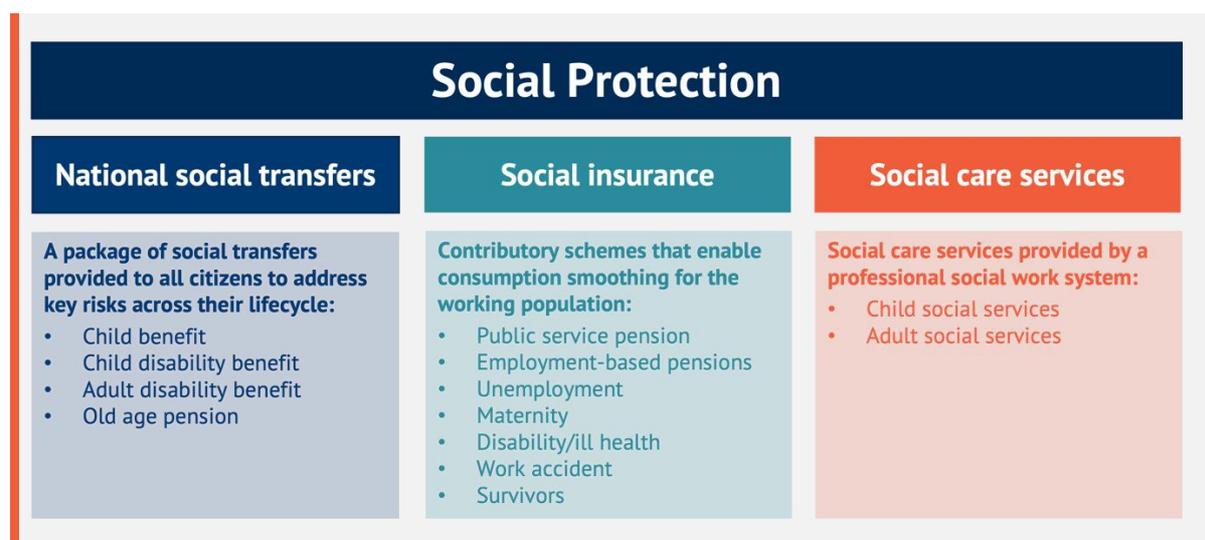
Box 1: Social Protection in the NDP II

During the development cycle of the NDP II, the Social Protection Sector focused on:

- Strengthening existing institutions such as orphanages, and community-based support services;
- Institutionalising child protection services;
- Establishing family centres and promote equity within societies;
- Setting up a national social security fund; and,
- Introducing a pension scheme for public and private workers.

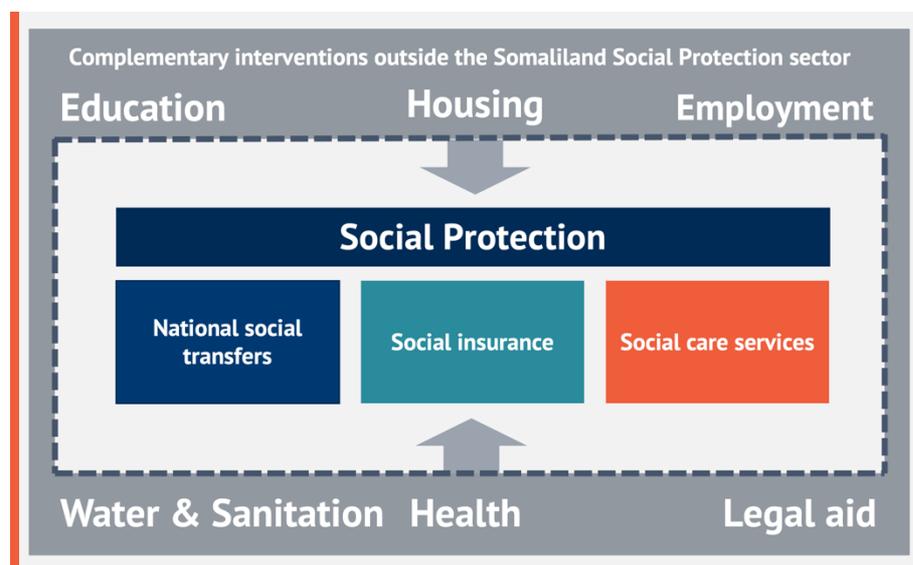
4. **National social transfers:** The system of entitlements to basic minimum income guarantees that enables all citizens to constantly maintain an adequate standard of living, enabling them to be better prepared in the face of shocks. These schemes are designed to provide support during key stages of the lifecycle during which people face a higher likelihood of facing income insecurity: childhood, old age, and disability (cutting across the lifecycle).
5. **Social insurance:** Schemes that enable the working age population to smooth their consumption, by contributing part of their income during employment which they can draw on when they experience certain contingencies. These schemes are designed to provide support to persons in active age and retirement based on a more comprehensive set of risks: maternity, unemployment, disability, ill health (sickness), work accidents, death of a breadwinner (survivors), old age (pensions).
6. **Social care services:** Social care and support services to 1) vulnerable children who are identified by a professional social work system to lack adequate care and protection by a parent or caregiver, and 2) vulnerable adults who are identified by a professional social work system to be unable to fully care for and protect themselves.

Figure 1: Three components of the Social Protection Sector



The purpose of setting out an operational definition for Social Protection in Somaliland is to clearly establish the scope for the implementation of relevant services and schemes. Nonetheless, the Social Protection Policy acknowledges that the sector does not operate in a siloed approach alongside other public services. A range of socially protective services are critical to the population to uphold an adequate standard of living and access key public services. These include interventions articulated in relevant policies for education, housing, employment, water and sanitation (WASH), health and legal aid. While these are not an inherent part of the Social Protection Sector, they have a role in strengthening the overall effectiveness of public services (as visualised in Figure 2).

Figure 2: Conceptualisation of a mature Social Protection sector and complementary interventions outside of its scope



Further, the Social Protection sector is a key public sector that complements and strengthens the range of interventions delivered by government and non-government actors, including international partners, donors, and INGOs delivering humanitarian assistance and disaster risk management strategies to help the population of Somaliland cope with disasters and provide essential support to those affected. Social Protection can form a basic foundation for support to the population during crises. A well-designed Social Protection system that provides a large proportion of families in

3 Operational definition for Social Protection in Somaliland

Somaliland with continuous support across their lifecycle is inherently responsive to shocks. Humanitarian support provided to crisis-affected populations can align more effectively with Social Protection when it is broad-based and integrated with the Disaster Risk Management system. However, it should be emphasised that the Social Protection system has a different function to humanitarian support schemes. Table 1 below sets out the distinction between these three systems aim to support the population in addressing risks and shocks.

Table 1: Systems that support the population of Somaliland in addressing risks and shocks

System	Objective
Social protection	Builds resilience of individuals and families by enabling them to cover their basic needs, even during a crisis, and avoid negative coping mechanisms.
Disaster Risk Management	<p>Incorporates policies and strategies that achieve prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in the face of shocks, including the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer national disaster prevention and preparedness fund, • Creation and management of national food reserve; • Set up a system of early warning and establish communications systems that cover regions, districts and villages; • Manage contingency plans; and, • Declare disasters and the areas affected by disasters to be aware of its magnitude.
Humanitarian Assistance	Relief based programming intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity <i>during</i> and <i>after</i> man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations occur. Humanitarian assistance should be governed by the key humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Source: Based on NADFOR (2019) and Global Humanitarian Assistance (2021).

4 Legislative and Policy Framework

4.1 Social protection in the Constitution of Somaliland

The Government of Somaliland is committed to ensuring the protection of citizens when they experience certain vulnerabilities across their lifecycle. Article 19 of the Constitution articulates that *'The state shall be responsible for the health, care, development and education of the mother, the child, the disabled who have no one to care for them, and the mentally handicapped persons who are not able and have no one to care for them'*. Therefore, the Constitution sets out the role of the state as duty bearer in ensuring that members of Somaliland's population can access adequate public services, with explicit reference to key stages of the lifecycle when people are most at risk. This includes legislative and policy provisions addressing vulnerabilities experienced during childhood and motherhood, as well as disability which is a risk that can affect anyone across their lifecycle. The provision of key public services in the areas of health and education are essential, but Social Protection is also a core public service that provides care and support and guarantees the affordability of public services and basic needs. Indeed, in many high-income countries, Social Protection is the highest area of government expenditure.

Further, the Government of Somaliland recognises that all members of society, regardless of income, wealth, or socio-economic status, need protection to maintain their living standards. Article 20 of the Constitution articulates rights to social security for workers in the public sector: *'State employees and members of the armed forces shall be entitled remuneration, pension and to payments for sickness, injury, or disability in accordance with the law.'*

4.2 Relevant legislative and policy instruments

In line with the Constitution, the Government of Somaliland has established various national legislative and policy instruments to ensure the protection of citizens' rights to access adequate care and support. Moreover, the Government of Somaliland has adopted international human rights conventions and acts in accordance with these frameworks to ensure the basic rights of our citizens. It is enshrined in Article 10(2) of the Constitution that *'The Republic of Somaliland recognises and shall act in conformity with the United Nations Charter and with international law and shall respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.'* This includes several instruments that articulate the right to essential Social Protection services, including the right to social security (see Box 2). Relevant economic and social rights, including the right to access social protection instruments, are also set out in regional legislative frameworks. For example, the African Charter enshrines economic, social

Box 3: The right to Social Protection and social security in international frameworks

The role of Social Protection is globally recognised as an important instrument to guarantee basic social and economic rights and promote sustainable development. The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set out Goal 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 Social Protection Floors Recommendation, No. 202 (2012) calls for all nations to establish as quickly as possible basic social security guarantees, including basic income security for children, people of active age (in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability) and older persons.

Social Security is recognised as a universal human right by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which stipulates, in Article 22, that *'Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization,'* and in Article 25 that, *'1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living...2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.'*

Sources: ILO (2012); UDHR (1948); SDG (2015)

4 Legal and Policy Framework

and cultural rights which imply the right to shelter, the right to basic nutrition and the right to social security.⁶

The overarching legal and policy framework in Somaliland aims to protect the rights of citizens throughout their lifecycle. The Government of Somaliland recognises that all members of society are vulnerable to the challenges of poverty, but certain demographic groups are at greater risk: women, children, older people and persons with disabilities.⁷ The following sections describe the national and international legislative and policy instruments setting out relevant rights of citizens to social protection across the different stages of the lifecycle.

Children

The Government of Somaliland recognises the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which sets out provisions for the protection of children, including access to social security. The UNCRC states, in Article 26, *'parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security'* and in Article 27, *'the right of every child to an adequate standard of living.'*

In the National Child Protection Policy⁸, the Government of Somaliland recognises the critical role of the family in the care and protection of children but expresses that the State carries the primary responsibility to protect children. Therefore, *'families should be provided with necessary support and assistance to fulfil its child rearing responsibilities.'* The National Child Protection Policy called for a legislative reform process including the creation of statutory Social Protection and other child protection services to be provided to children and families in need.

The National Child Protection Policy and the Alternative Care Policy⁹ set out provisions for care services when children lack appropriate care from a parent or caregiver, such as orphans, abandoned children, and children living and/or working in the street. These policies set out provisions for social care arrangements, including foster care, adoption and group homes for children. However, institutional care for children is to be used as a last resort. Care services need to be *'consistent with minimum living standard listed under human rights and humanitarian standards for children in the caring institutions.'*

The working age population

The Somaliland Social Protection Policy complements existing policy frameworks that aim to guarantee the working age population with equal access to decent work, most notably the National Employment Policy.¹⁰ The overall vision of the National Employment Policy is to achieve *'a society engaged in decent gainful employment capable of generating adequate income to sustain it.'* Whereas the National Employment sets out provisions for employment creation and skills training, Social Protection has a complementary role in promoting more decent work, by facilitating recipients to engage in the labour market when they access minimum income guarantees.

Somaliland has adopted several instruments that aim to address gender inequality and discrimination, including promoting women's equal access to decent employment and income security. The National Gender Policy¹¹ provides a platform for *'collective participation and contribution of all men and women in Somaliland at all levels in order to achieve socio-economic*

⁶ Pretoria Declaration on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa (2004)

⁷ Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (2009)

⁸ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2015)

⁹ Republic of Somaliland (DRAFT)

¹⁰ Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (2020)

¹¹ Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (2009)

4 Legal and Policy Framework

development and ultimately social security.' Further, Article 13 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa states that State Parties shall adopt and enforce measures to guarantee women with equal economic opportunities, and *'establish a system of protection and social insurance for women working in the informal sector and sensitise them to adhere to it.'*

Persons with disabilities

The established National Disability Policy¹² and the development of the Disability Act draw from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) which has been adopted in Somaliland. This UNCRPD stipulates, in Article 28, that *'State Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families'* and *'the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability.'*

In line with the provisions set out in the UNCRPD, the National Disability Policy and Disability Act aim to mainstream disability issues across public sectors, including Social Protection. This underlines the social rights of citizens with disabilities and recognises the environmental barriers – such as inaccessible transport, negative attitudes and lack of adaptive services – that exclude persons with disabilities from society and inadvertently deny their access to fundamental basic services and participation in society and the economy. Furthermore, the National Disability Policy emphasises a strong relationship between disability and poverty which emphasises the importance of Social Protection: *'Poverty makes people more vulnerable to acquiring an impairment and facing related disabling barriers, and living with disabilities increases the likelihood and impact of poverty on persons with disabilities and their families.'*

Older people

The National Disability Policy states the objective that *'elderly persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights, access to appropriate services and care, and enjoy protection from rights abuse.'* The Government of Somaliland recognises that disability prevalence increases drastically among the old age population, yet current provisions for older people to access adequate health and social services are very poor. Somaliland currently lacks legislative and policy frameworks setting out the comprehensive rights of old age citizens. Nonetheless, the Government of Somaliland has outlined objectives to develop a Social Security Fund and has developed a Public Service Pension Bill, setting out social security entitlements in old age.

Persons affected by disasters and forcibly displaced

The Somaliland Social Protection Policy complements the policy frameworks set out to guide emergency programming and mitigate the negative impacts of shocks. This includes the forthcoming National Preparedness Policy, and Disaster Risk Management Policy, as well as the Policy Framework on Internal Displacement.

The Policy Framework on International Displacement¹³ defines *'Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, clan-based or other forms of generalized violence, violations of human rights, of natural or human-made*

¹² MOLSA (2012)

¹³ Mbugua (2013)

4 Legal and Policy Framework

disasters, sudden – onset disasters such as floods and drought, development – induced displacement and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. However, the operational definition for ‘internal displacement’ is broadened in Somaliland to also incorporate pastoralists and returning refugees as well as migrants who find themselves in a protracted situation of displacement due to the inability to return to their habitual residence. Recognising that IDPs are citizens of Somaliland who face vulnerabilities resulting from forced displacement or migration, the Government of Somaliland aims to ensure that people are protected and receive adequate support during displacement, and to increase the resilience of IDPs. The Social Protection Policy complements the Policy Framework on Internal Displacement by setting out policy objectives and programmes that aim to build the general population’s resilience to risks and shocks across the lifecycle. For example, it aims to support the population in dealing with income shocks resulting from natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, including drought. Social Protection provides mainstream income support to those who have internally migrated irrespective of the motives for their migration. Therefore, its aims are to reduce both the impacts of shocks that can result in displacement and the need for reactive support to internally displaced populations after they have resettled.

5 Rationale for Social Protection in Somaliland

The population of Somaliland is in urgent need of Social Protection. Most families in Somaliland live on very low incomes and are vulnerable to a range of shocks across the lifecycle, which can impact on their living standards at any given point in time. Entire communities in Somaliland are frequently affected by natural disasters, cyclones droughts or epidemics, the frequency and severity of which are increasing due to climate change. The COVID-19 crisis has caused a severe setback to Somaliland's economy and livelihoods. Moreover, individuals and families in Somaliland are continuously vulnerable to common risks faced across the lifecycle, from birth to old age, which frequently cause insecurities to household income, consumption, as well as the accumulation of productive assets. All of these challenges underline the importance for Somaliland to establish a sustainable system that protects citizens throughout the lifecycle and enables them to maintain and improve their living standards.

5.1 The economy and labour market

Somaliland faces significant economic challenges. Constraints to the diversification of our economic sectors and our reliance on primary production – which is highly susceptible to climate shocks – restricts opportunities for growth and government revenues. Whereas the economy experienced growth of an average of 2.6 per cent per year between 2012 and 2019¹⁴, the economy has contracted during 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. While we do not have estimates for Somaliland, global GDP – the total value of goods and services in the world – was estimated to have contracted by 5.2 per cent and international trade by 15 per cent in 2020.¹⁵ Somaliland's economy, due to its close ties to international trade and remittances, is estimated to have contracted similarly, if not more severely.¹⁶ The reduction in global remittances has been particularly detrimental to Somaliland, which receives around US\$500-900 million in remittances each year.¹⁷ Moreover, the urgent need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through investments in our health sector has restricted opportunities to invest in other public sectors.

The livestock sector makes up around 30 per cent of the economy and is particularly susceptible to global economic shocks and natural disasters. The export of livestock animals, as well the local trading of animals, milk, meat and hides, are significant sources of income generation and economic activity in Somaliland. Whereas the reliance on the livestock sector is particularly true for Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer, other regions with larger urban centres also rely strongly on export markets. For example, livestock is the main form of export in Saaxil and Awdal, which is internationally traded at Berbera port and on the border with Ethiopia.¹⁸ A substantial decrease in livestock exports resulting from severe drought in 2017 led to a one per cent decline in GDP. Similarly, COVID-19 has presented new economic challenges. In 2020, the cancellation of the Hajj, which brings together global exchanges of millions of livestock, has brought about a significant downturn in livestock exports for Somaliland.

¹⁴ Calculated based on rises in constant GDP reported by the Central Statistics Department (MoPND) in CSD (2020).

¹⁵ Projections by the World Bank – using market exchange rate weights – for the UN, as cited in Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland (2021).

¹⁶ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland (2021)

¹⁷ World Bank estimates, as cited in Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland (2021).

¹⁸ Focus group discussions with stakeholders conducted for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

Opportunities for economic growth in Somaliland are limited by high unemployment rates and the informality of the workforce. Limited access to health, education and Social Protection poses constraints for human development, which contribute to lower productivity and a less skilled workforce. According to the most recent statistics reported by the 2012 Labour Force Survey across Borama, Hargeisa and Burao, unemployment was measured at 52.5 per cent. Unemployment is particularly high among young people (15-24 years), as this was measured at 69 per cent and 62 per cent across urban and rural areas, respectively.¹⁹ Women and men face unequal access to labour market opportunities. Women (61 per cent) are significantly more likely to be in vulnerable employment than men (43 per cent), defined as informal own account workers who do not access income generating opportunities on a continuous basis.²⁰ However, the labour force survey is limited to three districts and has minimal representation of IDP and nomadic communities which may show different patterns in labour market activity.²¹

Labour markets are drastically changing, as traditional forms of livelihood and income generation – including pastoralism and agriculture – become less viable in the context of climate change and globalisation. As a result, young women and men are increasingly moving to peri-urban and urban areas in search of economic opportunities.²² Whereas the economic driving forces for internal migration pose significant challenges to labour markets, it also presents opportunities. Indeed, across urban areas of Somaliland, there is an emergence of small and medium enterprises. In urban areas, increased economic activity contributes to the formalisation of labour markets. However, the benefits of greater income stability from employment do not benefit society as a whole. For example, in Berbera, the construction of the port has generated a significant source of formal employment, but this has left behind informal and unskilled workers who have lost their opportunities to be economically active.²³

Despite the continuing challenges, Somaliland has a strong fiscal outlook in the medium and short term. In 2021, stronger investments in productive sectors and infrastructure will enable livestock production to resume and facilitate a more dynamic market. By leveraging Somaliland's peace and stability, there is potential to generate stronger economic growth underpinned by human capital development. However, this requires investments in citizens, through education, health and Social Protection.

5.2 Climate change

Somaliland is prone to natural disasters, including droughts, floods, cyclones and epidemics, which are increasing in frequency and severity due to climate change. Climate change results in rises in temperature across all of Somaliland which affects the wellbeing of populations across Somaliland. Seasonal heat in coastal areas creates challenges for families to access services, such as health and education, due to limiting people's mobility and increasing the risk of illness. Rainy seasons have become more severe but unpredictable during the past decade, causing a higher prevalence of malaria.²⁴

Climate change and the frequent occurrence of natural disasters significantly affects Somaliland's economy and livelihoods. It is estimated that over 70 per cent of the population in Somaliland is

¹⁹ MoPD & MoLSD (2012)

²⁰ MoPD (2018)

²¹ MoPD & MoLSD (2012)

²² Focus group discussions undertaken with stakeholders in Sanaag and Sool for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

²³ Focus group discussion undertaken with stakeholders in Saaxil for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

²⁴ Focus group discussion conducted in Saaxil and Awdal for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

susceptible to drought, due to a heavy reliance on rainfed agriculture and livestock, affecting livelihoods and food production.²⁵ Households affected by drought are likely to experience negative consequences in agricultural production, food security, education, water and sanitation, housing and health conditions. A high proportion of the population – over half – relies on either agro-pastoral or pastoral livelihoods where incomes are significantly impacted by the scarcity in livestock resulting from drought and unpredictable rainfall patterns.²⁶ Due to extreme weather conditions and the related socio-economic challenges experienced in rural areas, livestock is becoming scarce. In January 2019, for example, it was reported that the price of goats in the market had increased by 25 per cent during the previous six months as a result of a decrease in the supply of local livestock.²⁷ Droughts frequently affect all regions of Somaliland but have particularly impacted rural areas of Sool and Sanaag which rely almost entirely on livestock.

In addition to these challenges, since 2020, the desert locust infestations have started devouring pasture and crops,²⁸ severely affecting both agriculture and livestock pastures. The locusts further threaten the sustainability of livelihoods across Somaliland and exacerbate famine and starvation.²⁹ For example, one estimate suggests that a swarm of a square kilometre contains 40 to 80 million locusts which consume the same amount of food as 35,000 people in one day.

5.3 Forced displacement and migration

The context of high economic insecurity, vulnerability and recurring climate risks contributes to a high rate of internal migration, with many families being forced to leave their places of residence. Migration – in particular, forced migration – represents a significant shock to people's income and livelihoods which can bring about severe insecurities as people are obliged to resettle and become isolated from their informal networks. Migration also places some demographic groups in society at significant risk, as male, adult working age members are most likely to migrate and leave children, women carers, persons with disabilities and older people behind. Around 40 per cent of households in Somaliland do not have a household member of an economically active age (15 to 54 years).³⁰ Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have often experienced traumas, such as armed conflict, sudden onset disasters, including droughts or flooding, or other human-made or natural disasters.³¹ Internally displaced persons often end up living in overcrowded informal settlements, facing limited income generating opportunities, with lack of access to basic services, health facilities or schools. There are significant challenges in water accessibility across IDP settlements in Somaliland, leading to poor sanitary and health conditions.³² The number of people known to be forcibly displaced in Somaliland is ever increasing, while the context of displacement rapidly changes. The largest number of IDPs are found in Hargeisa, Laascaanood and Borama.³³ Drought and loss of livestock, as well as conflict – which is often linked to the former – are common reasons for displacement reported by resettled households.³⁴ In a survey in 2017, 85 per cent of displaced households reported that they had left their homes due to drought, while 72 per cent had arrived at the displacement site that same year. Similarly, figures from UNHCR in 2016 reported that 84 per cent of households had been

²⁵ Key informant interview with Ministry of Agriculture; focus group discussion undertaken with stakeholders in Awdal; NERAD (2014).

²⁶ Smith (2014)

²⁷ NADFOR (2019)

²⁸ Omer et al. (2021)

²⁹ ReliefWeb (2020)

³⁰ Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (2020)

³¹ Mbugua (2013)

³² NADFOR (2019)

³³ The UN Migration Agency (2017)

³⁴ Focus group discussions undertaken with stakeholders across regions of Somaliland for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

displaced due to drought, while respondents repeatedly proclaimed the loss of livestock and crops as reasons for displacement.³⁵

To a large extent, migration is a common feature of the evolving society of Somaliland, and a result of reliance on economic trade and globalisation, changes in the labour market and the breakdown of traditional livelihoods and informal mechanisms for support. Reductions in the viability of land, the occurrence of natural disasters and conflicts over land and resources are increasing in prevalence due to the realities of climate change. Rural-to-urban migration increases as traditional livelihoods become less sustainable and young people, in particular, increasingly seek economic opportunities in urban areas.³⁶ Returnee migrants – Somali refugees and international migrants who have returned to Somaliland – often face similar challenges when resettling and integrating in society and the economy.

5.4 Poverty and vulnerability

Poverty and insecurity are widespread in Somaliland. According to national estimates in 2013, Somaliland's monetary poverty rate was 30 per cent in urban areas and 37 per cent in rural areas.³⁷ However, an alternative poverty estimate based on the international poverty line of US\$1.90 PPP per day in 2017, finds that 78 per cent of the population can be regarded as living in extreme poverty.³⁸ In reality, incomes and consumption levels change continuously as individuals and households are exposed to different risks. Therefore, estimates of poverty vary depending on their measurement, the time at which income or consumption was captured, and which threshold – i.e., the poverty line – is used. The national poverty line is based on a minimum basket of food and non-food needs. However, many people live above this threshold but still have very insecure incomes. Considering a threshold that is twice the national poverty line, 46 per cent of the population in urban Somaliland, and 41 per cent of the population in rural Somaliland could be considered as living in poverty. When a higher threshold, of SI. Sh.13,600 (US\$1.60) and SI. Sh.11,900 (US\$1.40) per person per day in urban and rural areas is used, which still represent very low incomes.³⁹ Importantly, household surveys do not capture the reality of shocks and migration and displacement in Somaliland. Internally displaced persons and pastoralist communities, both extremely vulnerable to income poverty, are not captured by the national household survey.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and brought about significant income shocks. Measures to control the spread of COVID-19, such as national lockdowns, have thrown many families into crisis, pushing thousands of people into unemployment.⁴⁰ Among urban households in Somaliland, an estimated 42 per cent have lost income as a result of COVID-19. This ranged from 22 per cent in Hargeisa and 48 per cent in Borama, to 78 per cent in Berbera and 83 per cent in Burao.⁴¹ Closure of businesses has led to significant loss in jobs, which was estimated at 59 per cent in urban areas.⁴² Remittances from abroad, a lifeline for about 40 per cent of the population, have declined. One estimate suggests that remittances sent home by migrant workers is

³⁵ Fanning (2018)

³⁶ NADFOR (2019)

³⁷ The national poverty estimates in Somaliland are based on an upper bound poverty line equivalent to SI. Sh.207,300 per adult per month in urban Somaliland and SI. Sh.180,900 in rural Somaliland. Poverty estimates are based on the Somaliland Household Survey 2013.

³⁸ Somali High Frequency Survey 2017/18.

³⁹ Analysis of the SHS 2013 as cited in Tran (2020)

⁴⁰ Mohamed (2021)

⁴¹ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland (2021)

⁴² Ibid

projected to have declined by 14 per cent by 2021 compared to pre-COVID-19 levels in 2019.⁴³ Older people, a category of the population that has been particularly at risk of illness and death, have experienced challenges in accessing comprehensive care, support and health care.

5.5 Challenges faced by the population across the lifecycle

Across the population of Somaliland, poverty is widespread, and entire groups and communities are frequently impacted by recurring climate shocks and other disasters, including floods, droughts, conflict, and epidemics. Inherently, the population of Somaliland is already vulnerable to common risks faced from birth to old age, which have an impact on household income, consumption, or the accumulation of assets.

Childhood

Children in Somaliland face significant challenges in the early stages of life as most families struggle to access adequate incomes and living standards. Essential public services, including schools, hospitals and sanitation facilities are unequally accessed by communities in Somaliland, and limited in availability overall. Between 2015 and 2020, an overwhelming 67 per cent of births in Somaliland were delivered at home and only 33 per cent of births in a health facility.⁴⁴ Women living in rural and nomadic areas, and with low educational attainment, are less likely to receive assistance from a skilled health attendant. Sixty-one per cent of women report a lack of money being an obstacle to health care, and 58 per cent report the distance to health facilities as a significant challenge.⁴⁵ There is low health clinic attendance across all wealth groups, but children from low-income families are less likely to be vaccinated or receive corrective advice or treatment for fever. Two per cent of children in the lowest wealth quintile have received treatment for fever, compared to 29 per cent among the highest wealth quintile.⁴⁶

Many children in Somaliland experience poor nutrition, resulting in stunting and wasting. This risk is universal, affecting children of all wealth groups. Figure 3 shows the percentage of children below the age of five years who are stunted, and those who experience wasting, by wealth quintiles. Regardless of wealth quintile, many children are affected, with the middle quintile having the highest percentage of child stunting, and the highest quintile being equal to the lowest regarding the percentage of child wasting. Undernutrition during the early years of life can result in significant setbacks later in life with the first 1,000 days – roughly the first three years of life – being critical to children’s cognitive development and growth.⁴⁷ Globally, the risk of stunting has been associated with an average 26 per cent reduction in lifetime earnings due to the loss in education and work opportunities resulting from limited child development. In certain contexts, this has been linked to a loss in gross domestic product that is twice as large as public expenditure on healthcare.⁴⁸

⁴³ World Bank estimates, as cited in Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland, (2021)

⁴⁴ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland, (2021)

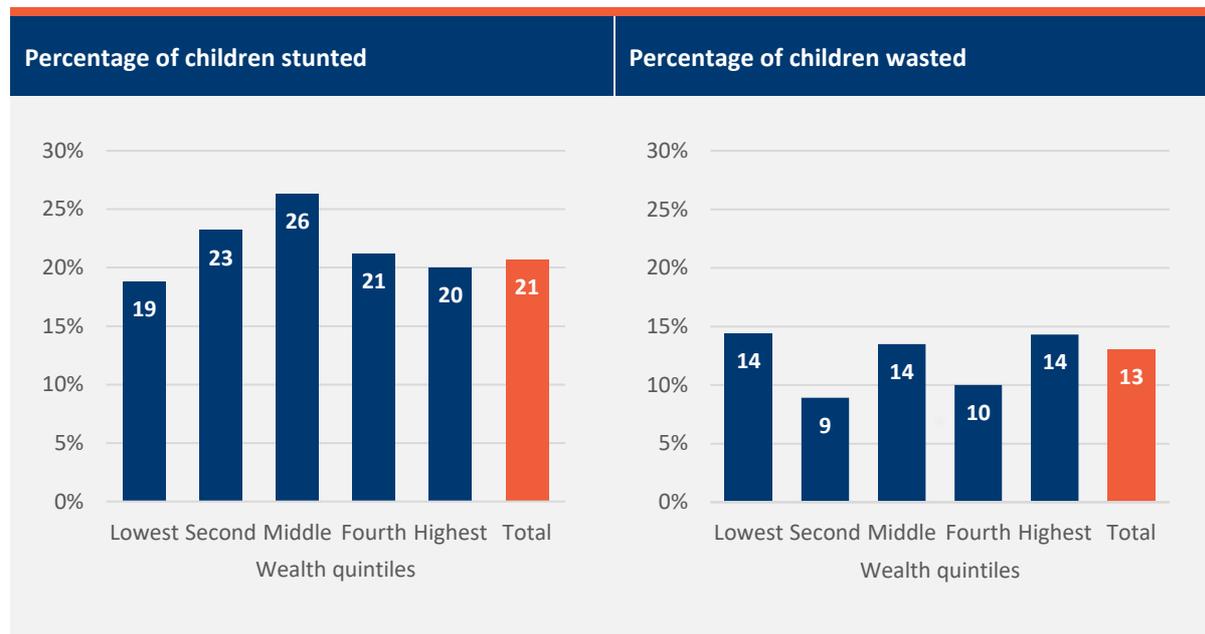
⁴⁵ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland, (2021)

⁴⁶ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Republic of Somaliland, (2021)

⁴⁷ Cusick & Georgieff (2013)

⁴⁸ Richter et al. (2017)

Figure 3: Percentage of children below the age of five years who are stunted (left) and wasted (right) by wealth quintile



Source: Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development (2020).

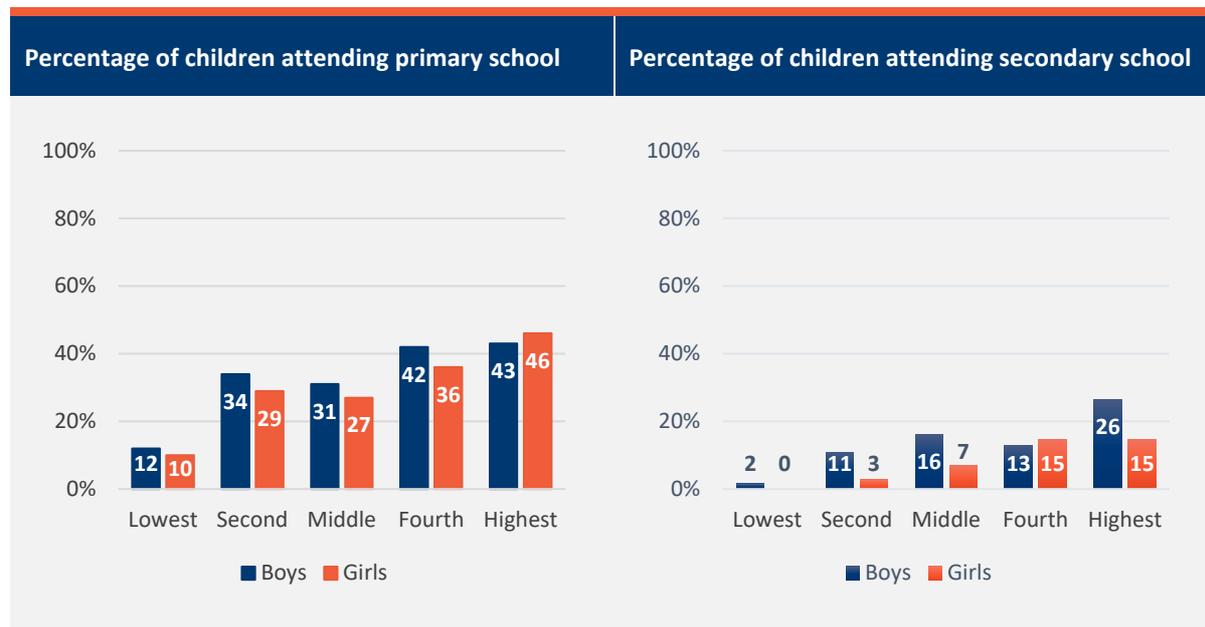
A large proportion of children in Somaliland are out of school. Overall, the net attendance ratio among children of primary school age is only 29.6 per cent, and 10.7 per cent among children of secondary school age.⁴⁹ Despite public primary education being free, families continue to face financial barriers as certain fees are still charged. Fees include, for example, costs for purchasing materials and uniforms, transportation costs as well as contributions towards teacher’s salaries. As demonstrated in Figure 4, children from low-income families in Somaliland are less likely to attend school. Virtually no children of low-income backgrounds are represented in secondary school, which severely restricts their opportunities in the labour market. Public education is considered to be of poor quality by the public, while there is a complete lack of schooling infrastructure in many remote areas, where families face the most significant costs of transportation in order to provide their children with schooling.⁵⁰ Girls face inequality in accessing educational opportunities as their net attendance ratios are significantly lower than those of boys. Due to poverty and living on insecure incomes, children may be required to supplement their families’ income through work rather than attending school, which is detrimental to their health and development. Girls in Somaliland face severe protection risks which further limit their education to schooling. Twenty-three per cent of young women between the ages of 20 to 24 have been married by the age of 18 years and twelve per cent of adult women (aged 20 to 49) were married by the age of 15 years. Among all women of reproductive age, 98 per cent have undergone some form of female genital cutting, usually during childhood.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, (2020)

⁵⁰ Focus group discussions with regional stakeholders for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

⁵¹ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development, (2020)

Figure 4: Net school attendance ratios among children of primary school age (left) and children of secondary school age (right), by wealth quintile



Source: Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development (2020).

Children with disabilities face significant social and environmental barriers, which severely limit their opportunities later in life. Due to severe stigma, children with disabilities are more likely to experience violence and abuse, including sexual abuse, and are often hidden from society.⁵² Without adequate income support, families caring for a child with a disability face significant extra costs that are likely to place a significant strain on household income. These costs can range from increased transportation costs to significant expenses on healthcare or assistive devices, while family members and caregivers may be forced to give up work to care for their child.

Children in Somaliland are at risk of losing parental care. Many street children are found in urban centres of Somaliland who resort to begging and looking for casual work as a means for survival. The main causes of orphanhood include the death of a breadwinner, extreme poverty, and drought.⁵³

Youth and Working age

Working age adults face significant challenges in accessing jobs, as Somaliland faces high unemployment rates. The opportunities of young people in the labour market are undermined by the limitations in quality of education, while there is a mismatch in terms of educational attainment and the extent to which it corresponds to the demands of the labour market. Public education in Somaliland is associated with lower quality education. Therefore, young people who have had limited income and opportunities to acquire any private or advanced form of education are often seen as unskilled and unfit for the formal labour market.

Women, especially, have a disadvantaged position in the workforce and are more likely to rely on income from precarious work, including domestic work and casual labour, outside of formal

⁵² Mills (2015); MOLSA, (2012). Focus group discussions with stakeholders across regions of Somaliland for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy; CESVI & Handicap International (2013); Somaliland National Disability Federation (2021).

⁵³ Save the Children, (2013)

5 Rationale for Social Protection in Somaliland

employment.⁵⁴ The birth of a child often leads to mothers reducing income generating activities to care for the child. Women in Somaliland are often the main income earner of their household as well the primary caregiver of children.⁵⁵ Gender disparities in access to education and work means that women face unequal opportunities in generating income. In rural areas, women have unequal access to natural resources and assets, which are the main income sources across pastoral and agricultural communities.⁵⁶

Persons with disabilities continue to face challenges during working age, as they have unequal access to employment opportunities compared to non-disabled peers. Due to being raised with limited opportunities and constant barriers faced in society, most people with disabilities depend on informal support from communities and their family for survival, often being perceived as a burden, while others are forced to beg.⁵⁷ Disabled persons' organisations emphasise the wrongful prejudice in Somaliland about persons with disabilities being 'unable' to work and participate in social and economic life, which deprives them from accessing training and employment opportunities. Consequently, persons with disabilities commonly face discrimination when looking for job opportunities, despite being just as able to undertake certain forms of work as non-disabled members of the workforce.

Adults with disabilities experience additional costs related to healthcare, assistive devices, accessing training and education and transportation. Therefore, when two households have the same consumption levels, the household with persons with disabilities has a lower standard of living because a proportion of their consumption covers their disability-related additional costs. While estimates are not available in Somaliland, in South Africa, one study estimates that households with at least one member with a disability require an extra 40 per cent of income to reach the same standard of living as a similar household with the same income but without a member with a disability.⁵⁸

In the absence of reliable nation-wide estimates of the prevalence of disability in Somaliland, the 2020 Health and Demographic Survey aims to capture the proportion of the population who report limitations in certain domains of functioning. Among disabilities that are reported, the most common functional limitation in Somaliland is seeing, followed by hearing, cognitive functioning and mobility (see Figure 5). In total, five per cent of the population is estimated to live with a disability, which is likely too low due to underreporting. Globally, around 15 per cent of the population live with a disability, while 2.2 to 2.9 per cent experience severe functional limitations.⁵⁹ Based on international estimates of prevalence, at least 535,000 persons in Somaliland are estimated to experience a severe functional limitation. A different survey in Somaliland estimates that 42 per cent of households in the survey contained at least one member with a disability.⁶⁰ The limited support that is offered to persons with disabilities is provided by Disabled Persons Organisations and community-based organisations, but it relies on an unstructured process, in which people may be identified as having a disability in local hospitals, through outreach by DPOs, or community-based rehabilitation workers.

⁵⁴ MoPD (2018).

⁵⁵ Focus group discussion with stakeholders in Awdal, Sool and Sanaag for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

⁵⁶ Focus group discussion with stakeholders in Sool and Sanaag for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

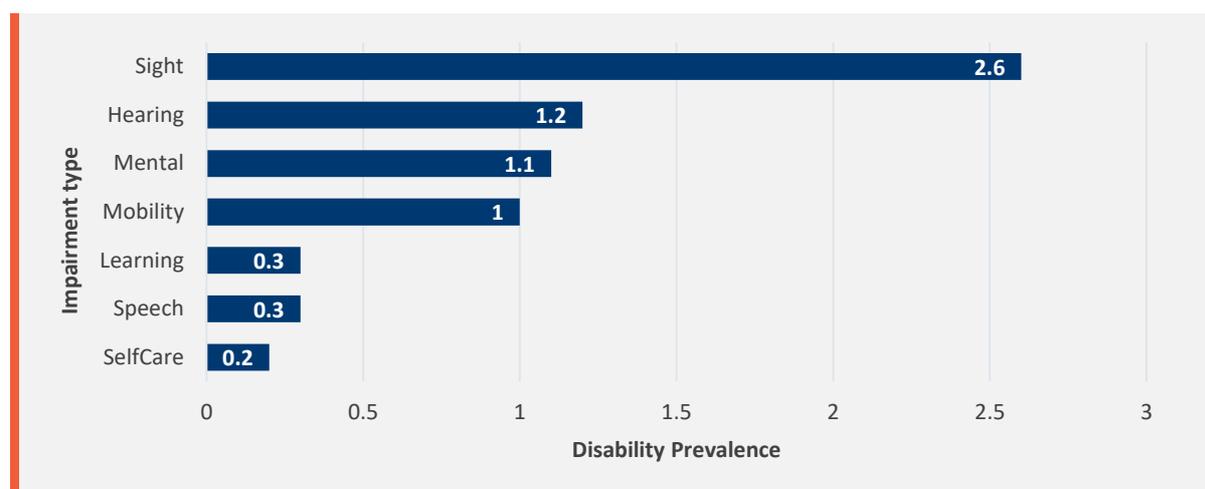
⁵⁷ Focus group discussion with Disabled Persons Organisations.

⁵⁸ Kidd et al. (2019)

⁵⁹ Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development (2020)

⁶⁰ CESVI & Handicap International (2013)

Figure 5: Impairment type prevalence in Somaliland

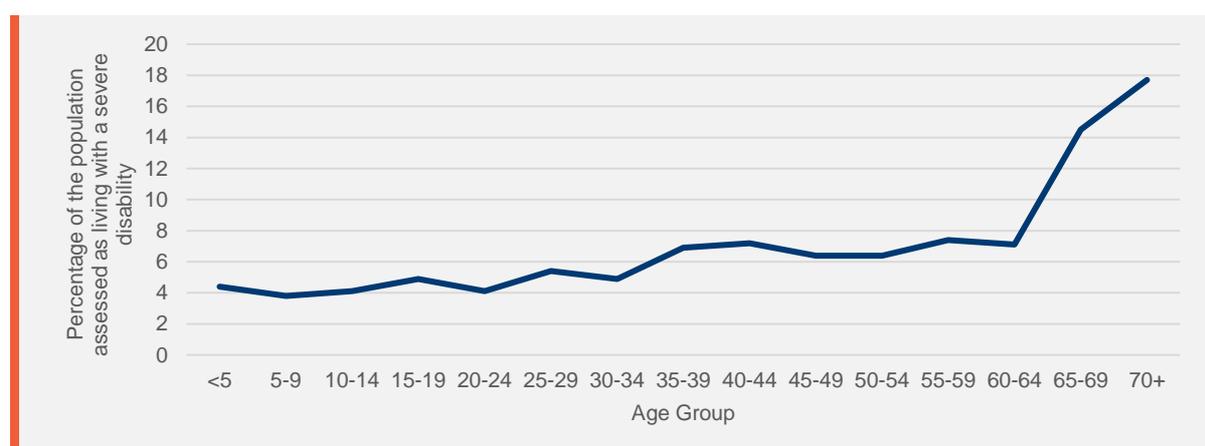


Source: Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development (2020).

Old age

Older persons face a declining capacity to work and earn income, harming their level of autonomy and increasing dependency on others. As older persons become less able to contribute to their family and community, they may face growing isolation and a loss of support from family members who struggle to provide for children themselves. Many older people in Somaliland continue to look for work to generate income for survival, which becomes increasingly challenging with growing physical frailty and the likelihood of living with a disability. Women in Somaliland still face significant care responsibilities in old age, as they often care for grandchildren.⁶¹ Because many older people have no income at all, some have no shelter and resort to begging for survival. As shown in Figure 6, the likelihood of living with a severe disability increases significantly with age (although these figures are likely to be underestimates).

Figure 6: Percentage of people assessed as living with a severe disability by age group in Somaliland



Source: Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning and National Development (2020).

⁶¹ Focus group discussions with stakeholders across regions of Somaliland for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

6 Access to Social Protection in Somaliland

The Government of Somaliland continues to work with international partners to build its institutional capacity and identify entry points for national Social Protection schemes. These interventions place a focus on reducing the reliance of Somaliland and its population on humanitarian interventions and strengthening institutional capacity to deliver sustainable and predictable support which, ultimately, builds more resilient communities across Somaliland. Furthermore, the Government of Somaliland has launched a Public Service Pension, which provides an entry point for government-led contributory Social Protection schemes. Despite the limited formalised mechanisms for Social Protection, Somaliland has a longstanding cultural heritage that promotes social solidarity among citizens. Traditional and informal institutions play a strong role in promoting charitable giving and have provided mechanisms for redistribution across society.

6.1 Traditional and informal support mechanisms

Somaliland's society embeds Islamic values of almsgiving. This is an integral part of our national social contract, which promotes social solidarity and voluntary giving. In many Islamic countries, redistributive instruments have been historically institutionalised before public systems were established. Whereas only a few Islamic states have formally institutionalised almsgiving in the form of obligatory zakat, other countries have an independent body which administers the zakat as voluntary giving.⁶² Religious foundations may also administer zakat along with the provision of health care, basic education, care for orphans, older people and persons with disabilities, and food handouts for the poor.⁶³

In Somaliland, the main existing instruments are zakat and sadaqah, alongside instruments such as Qaandhaan and others, which are administered as voluntary giving. Due to the nature of these institutions being voluntary, there is no reliable estimate of their coverage, while the type and level of support differs throughout the year and they are often community-led. For example, in Awdal, zakat funds mobilise voluntary contributions from citizens and private companies, as well as international remittances to Somaliland to finance various initiatives. While this includes income support to vulnerable members of society, zakat has also financed public services including education and road infrastructure in Borama. In urban areas of Somaliland, where economic activity is more dynamic, private sector businesses are significant contributors to both zakat and sadaqah. Higher levels of voluntary giving are mobilised during Ramadan, Eid and during periods of collective crisis, such as natural disasters.

6.2 Social transfer pilot schemes and project-based interventions

Through the support of our international partners, several Social Protection pilot schemes provide long-term predictable support to certain communities across Somaliland. The objectives of these schemes are to strengthen institutional capacity with the technical and financial support of donors and reduce the reliance on humanitarian assistance by building community resilience. An overview of these schemes and their design is presented in Table 2 and more detailed descriptions can be found in Annex 1.

⁶² Machado et al. (2018)

⁶³ Loewe & Jawad (2018)

Table 2: Social Protection pilot initiatives in Somaliland with integrated learning components

Scheme name	Funding source	Responsible agency	Duration of programme	Target group	Number of registered recipients	Transfer value per month
Child Sensitive Social Protection + Shock-Responsive Social Protection Pilot	Government of Finland Somali Cash Consortium (EU – ECHO)	Government agencies: MESAF, NADFOR, NDRA Partners: Save the Children, HAVOYOCO	Continuous support to CSSP households Shock-affected households receive support for three months.	Households with two or more children below the age of five years living in poor households. Identification through community-based targeting. Universal registration of Mohamed Mooge A camp to facilitate horizontal expansion when a shock is triggered.	450 households receiving CSSP. Horizontal expansion through registration of people affected by shocks.	US\$20 US\$70 for shock-affected households (top up of US\$ 50)
Social Transfer Project (ILED): Enhance human capital through the first 1,000 days and improved access to health and nutrition with behavioural nudges	Somali Cash Consortium (EU - ECHO)	Government agencies: MESAF, MOH, NDRA Partners: Concern Worldwide, Save the Children	24 months (2 years)	Pregnant women in their third trimester. Identification and registration through MCH centres.	4,924 households.	US\$20
Social Transfer Project (ILED): income support for youth and older people	Somali Cash Consortium (EU - ECHO)	Government agencies: MESAF, MOH, NDRA Partners: Concern Worldwide, Save the Children	12 months (1 year)	Older people (aged 55+) living in poor households. Identification through community-based targeting.	6,008 households, including approximately 3,000 older people and 3,000 youth identified.	US\$20
Safety Net for Human Capital Project	World Bank	Government agencies: MESAF Partners: WFP, UNICEF, World Vision	24 months (2 years) ⁶⁴ Shock-affected households receive support for three months.	Households with children below the age of five years and members with a chronic illness. Identification through community-based targeting.	11,000 households. Horizontal expansion of 589 households.	US\$20 US\$60 for shock-affected households (top up of US\$ 40)

Sources: Consultations with Concern Worldwide, Somali Cash Consortium, WFP, World Vision International; (Humanitarian Outcomes, 2021; Save the Children, n.d.; WFP, 2019).

⁶⁴ Based on lifetime of the project.

6.3 Social insurance

In line with the Constitution, the Government of Somaliland is committed to building contributory schemes for state employees and members of the armed forces, including pensions, and benefits provided in the event of sickness, injury, or disability. While a pension scheme for the armed forces is already in existence, the Government of Somaliland has launched a Public Service Pension in line with the Public Service Pension Bill and forthcoming Act.

The Public Service Pension scheme is a defined benefit scheme. All members of the public service who have been employed for at least ten years are eligible. The scheme is co-financed by contributions from public servants and contributions from the Government of Somaliland. The contribution rate for public servants is five per cent of their monthly salary, while the Government of Somaliland contributes seven per cent of the respective salary. Upon reaching the retirement age of 65 years, all eligible public servants will be entitled to a monthly retirement benefit, with the amount received calculated based on the number of years of service and the salary earned during the last month of employment, up to a maximum of 50 per cent of salary. In the event that public servants retire early due to a disability or illness, they can access a gratuity payment in the form of a lump sum. In the event of death of the entitled recipient, benefits will be received by the surviving spouse, child, or parent for the remainder of their lifetime or a fixed period.

6.4 Social care services

The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family provides social services for children and adults through the following functions: protection of children without parental care and unaccompanied provision of social rehabilitation centres; care of minority groups; protection of persons with disabilities; and, ensuring that vulnerable groups in society are included in legislation and policy that enables them to access basic services. However, due to limited human resource and financial capacity, social care service provision is limited in Somaliland and relies strongly on the support of local and international NGOs. The Government of Somaliland aims to strengthen its capacity to deliver social care services. In partnership with SOS Children's Village Somaliland, the Family Strengthening programme aims to prevent family separation and provide support to children at risk of losing parental care through case management support. The programme is active in three regions of Somaliland, assisting 912 families and 6011 children.

6.5 Effectiveness of current systems of support

It is a priority for the Government of Somaliland to build a nationally governed and implemented Social Protection sector that is embedded in a strong policy and legislative framework. To date, the system of support to vulnerable members of the population relies heavily on international humanitarian assistance which is externally coordinated and funded by international agencies whose mandate is to provide reactionary support to shock-affected populations.

6.5.1 Coverage

The population of Somaliland has limited access to Social Protection. In the absence of a government-led sector, there is no reliable estimate of coverage of the population by existing schemes. Roughly three per cent of all households in Somaliland are estimated to access some form

6 Access to Social Protection in Somaliland

of predictable income transfer through the Social Protection pilot schemes.⁶⁵ This indicates that the vast majority of the population, with the exception being a small minority of recipients, are included in existing Social Protection mechanisms. Whereas a larger proportion of the population accesses humanitarian cash support, this type of assistance is ad-hoc and unreliable and, therefore, provide limited opportunities for individuals to enhance their resilience in the face of shocks and maintain adequate living standards.

Indeed, the pilot schemes target only small caseloads of households living in extreme poverty. These are largely funded and implemented through external partners. There is a risk that further expansion of Social Protection with the same design as the pilot schemes generates significant gaps in coverage of the system, resulting from limited investments in small programmes and exclusion of vulnerable families as a result of their design and targeting mechanisms. Therefore, the pilot schemes still ensure their accountability to programme objectives agreed by international donor agencies. In contrast, the national Social Protection sector should promote the accountability of the state to its citizens and be reflective of Somaliland's social challenges and respond to risks and vulnerabilities that are experienced by all members of society, regardless of their socio-economic status.

6.5.2 Adequacy of the transfers

The transfers provided by the Social Protection pilot schemes are equivalent to Sl. Sh. 168,000 (US\$20) per month. These are considered to be household benefits, as eligibility is determined based on the household vulnerability and each household currently has access to only one transfer. By accessing a regular and predictable transfer, families receiving the CSSP have increased their food consumption and, by removing some of the financial barriers to schooling, access to education for children has increased.⁶⁶ In reality, the per capita value of the transfer is lower. For example, the monthly transfer provided by the CSSP will have a comparatively higher impact on families with fewer children. The larger the number of children in the household, the smaller the benefit received per child. Intra-household inequality is a key risk associated with household level transfers. In particular, persons with disabilities or older persons may not receive their appropriate share as they often have limited decision-making power over household finances, in particular if they face discrimination. Similarly, children may be less prioritised over other household members, or some children may be less prioritised than others within the household. Therefore, individual entitlements are a more effective income guarantee, ensuring that all household members in need of support can access it. For example, each person with a disability within the household should access their own income.

Whereas humanitarian cash assistance schemes provide transfers at a much higher level – around Sl. Sh. 510,000 (US\$60) to Sl. Sh. 765,000 (US\$90) per month – this form of assistance is provided for a shorter duration of maximum three months. The level of the transfer is determined based on a package of essential food and non-food expenditures, measured by quarterly assessments undertaken by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit. The aim of humanitarian cash transfers is to maintain consumption of an entire household during a crisis. In contrast, Social Protection transfers aim to provide long-term income support to help people address risks and shocks during their lifecycle, however the level of the benefit may differ depending on the type of benefit. Child-focused schemes tend to provide comparatively lower benefits, since they are paid to the working age parent, whereas disability benefits and old age benefits aim to address additional costs (e.g. health care or assistive devices) or income replacement, which implies a higher benefit value is

⁶⁵ Calculated as the sum of recipients of Social Protection pilot transfer schemes (see Table 2), and presented as a proportion of the total estimated number of households in Somaliland. The latter is estimated based on an average household size of six members per household and a total population of 4.2 million (CSD, 2020).

⁶⁶ Monitoring and evaluation data from CSSP, as cited in (Tran, 2020).

6 Access to Social Protection in Somaliland

needed to maintain living standards. When Social Protection is designed as individual entitlements, a household may access multiple benefits. For example, a household may comprise children, a person with a disability as well as an older person who each receive a benefit based on their level lifecycle risk.⁶⁷

Among the pilot schemes, eligibility is determined based on the entire household. Therefore, the real size of the transfer differs according to the size of the household. For example, recipients of the CSSP receive one transfer for the entire household if eligibility criteria are met, irrespective of the number of children in the household. Intra-household inequality is a key risk associated with household level transfers. In particular, persons with disabilities or older persons may not receive their appropriate share as they often have limited decision-making power over household finances, in particular if they face discrimination. Similarly, children may be less prioritised over other household members, or unequally prioritised within the household. Therefore, individual entitlements are a more effective income guarantee, ensuring that all household members in need of support can access it. For example, each person with a disability within the household should access their own income.

6.5.3 Complementarity between short-term humanitarian cash support and long-term Social Protection schemes

The pilot schemes have placed an emphasis on building community resilience and reducing the reliance on *ad hoc* humanitarian interventions through a more coordinated and government-led approach. This has provided lessons learnt for ‘Shock-Responsive Social Protection’ (SRSP), which is a system of predictable income transfers that incorporates disaster risk considerations in its design so that it can respond flexibly in times of crisis. SRSP requires strong coordination across the various systems and agencies active in financing and implementing response efforts. In particular, the small-scale SRSP pilot that has leveraged the existing CSSP has demonstrated effective intra-government coordination between NADFOR, MESAF and NDRA, with wider coordination of external partner support. This has integrated long-term predictable income support provision with early warnings systems to trigger rapid pre-agreed emergency responses.

The SRSP pilot has also highlighted challenges with existing targeting mechanisms. Most notably, the adaptability of the system to enable horizontal expansion required universal registration of all households in the IDP settlement. Further, the objective of the scheme was not communicated well with preregistered households, who did not understand why they underwent registration, but did not receive income support through the CSSP.⁶⁸ Therefore, the scheme has emphasised that high coverage of a Social Protection system is a prerequisite for any system that can be scaled up during a time of shock.

6.6 Lessons learnt for an effective Social Protection system in Somaliland

To promote an inclusive social contract, it is imperative that we implement schemes that acknowledge the contributions of all members of society. In the absence of broad-based national Social Protection schemes for the general population, and prioritising only schemes for the public sector, Somaliland risks establishing an unequal contract that prioritises certain citizens with existing connections to the state over others. By gradually establishing inclusive lifecycle schemes as individual entitlements provided on the basis that all citizens have a right to social security,

⁶⁷ See Tran (2020).

⁶⁸ Humanitarian Outcomes (2021).

6 Access to Social Protection in Somaliland

Somaliland can build a rights-based Social Protection system, with a higher potential for building social cohesion and fostering a social contract. In contrast to a rights-based model, the current poor relief schemes, which aim to target limited resources to the poor, are politically less sustainable due to their likely unpopularity with the majority of the population who are excluded. While poverty-targeted schemes can be found across many low- and middle-income countries, they typically require complex design specifications to identify recipients, leading to many inaccuracies and high rates of exclusion. In Somaliland, where most families can be considered as living in poverty and as highly susceptible to large scale shocks that impact further on living standards, poverty-targeted schemes will likely exclude the majority of families in need of support as it will be impossible to identify those most in need of support.

Inclusive schemes are progressively realised over time. However, it is imperative that early design considerations lay the foundation for schemes to expand, by ensuring adequate coverage and inclusive citizenship. International discussions highlight the potential for inclusive schemes to benefit societies socially and economically, by establishing a more secure and resilient population. Further, simple eligibility criteria based on universality have the potential to create trust in policymakers when recipients clearly understand the programmes' objectives and they are delivered in a way that is perceived as fair and just. In contrast, complex targeting procedures can cause social tensions and divisions within communities.

Traditional and informal mechanisms of support should continue to be strengthened in Somaliland. While concerns may arise that a formalised Social Protection system can crowd out voluntary giving, historical evidence points to the contrary. In advanced welfare states, public spending on Social Protection has increased private investments in support mechanisms.⁶⁹ Social Protection aims to strengthen citizens' income security and, as such, it can enable them to better contribute to informal support mechanisms. In Puntland, a Social Safety Net Programme pilot implemented in 2012 was found to enable recipient households to make contributions to zakat and sadaqah.⁷⁰ Social Protection should co-exist with zakat and sadaqah and complement these traditional institutions by promoting a greater sense of social solidarity among citizens and a strengthened social contract with the Government.

⁶⁹ Lindert (2014)

⁷⁰ Smith (2014)

7 Vision and guiding principles for Social Protection by 2030

7.1 Vision for Social Protection

By 2030, The Government of Somaliland's Vision for Social Development is to achieve 'A *Caring Society meeting the basic social needs of its members.*' The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family articulates a Vision to achieve 'A *society guided and steered by a competitive and innovative human resources performances with inclusively integrated equity and social welfare.*'

More specifically, the Vision 2030 for Social Protection is to achieve:

'A resilient and socially cohesive society in which all members can access the minimum protection that enables them to maintain and improve their living standards throughout their life course.'

In line with the national objectives set out in Vision 2030, the Social Protection Policy sets out the following overarching goals to contribute to this Vision:

1. **Strengthen state-citizen relations** in a society where all citizens are cared for by the state by accessing good quality public services that enable them to meet basic needs.
2. **Strengthen social cohesion among citizens** through an inclusive Social Protection system that promotes social solidarity and mutual care among citizens, enhances participation and minimises social exclusion.
3. **Promote an inclusive economy where citizens contribute to the nation building process** and reap the benefits of national economic growth.
4. **Build a resilient and adaptive society** in which citizens are provided with constant protection by the State to maintain their consumption in the face of shocks occurring across the life cycle, including individual and households risks as well as large-scale economic and climate shocks affecting entire populations.
5. **Strengthen the demand-side development of human capital** and build a healthier and more resilient workforce and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and vulnerability.
6. **Promote an equitable society** through effective redistribution based on principles of solidarity.

7.2 Guiding principles

The governance, coordination and implementation of Social Protection in Somaliland will be guided by a set of principles.⁷¹

1. **Accountability:** The national Social Protection sector shall promote the accountability of the state as the responsible duty bearer to its citizens. Accountability processes will be established to ensure all stakeholders can influence programme design.

⁷¹ These principles draw on, and build on, the principles set out in the Constitution (Republic of Somaliland, 2000) and Somaliland Vision 2030 (Republic of Somaliland, 2011).

7 Vision and guiding principles for Social Protection by 2030

2. **Climate responsive:** The resilience of citizens will be strengthened through Social Protection. By offering predictable protection, it will promote people's ability to cope with and adapt to recurring natural disasters and weather-related shocks which are growing in frequency and scale due to climate change. Schemes will be designed to enable them to be leveraged during a crisis, by creating interlinkages with disaster risk management and humanitarian action.
3. **Disability-sensitive:** The Social Protection system will aim to address the additional costs faced by persons with disabilities in Somaliland who face significant barriers to public services and participation in Somaliland. This will include the provision of disability-specific income support schemes in addition to adaptive measures that ensure that persons with disabilities are not disadvantaged in access.
4. **Equity and non-discrimination:** Social Protection will recognise all citizens equally and promote equal access. This will aim to avoid discrimination by minimising barriers to support for those who face social or economic exclusion in society. It will avoid discrimination on the basis of gender, disability status, ethnicity or clan affiliation. Refugees and displaced populations will benefit from greater integration and expansion of the Social Protection system over time, which will generate greater economic opportunities.
5. **Formalisation:** The design of Social Protection schemes shall encourage labour market formalisation. It will be coordinated to maximise birth registration, citizen ID registration, and Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN).
6. **Gender responsive:** Social Protection schemes will be designed to empower women in Somaliland by avoiding gender-based stereotypes and barriers to their social and economic participation in society and the labour market.
7. **Inclusive lifecycle approach:** The Social Protection system shall prioritise universal and inclusive programmes which address the needs of citizens at each stage of the lifecycle, from the cradle to the grave. This will encourage social solidarity and strengthen the social contract between citizens and government.
8. **Participation:** The equal participation of all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic status, age, gender, or disability status, will be promoted through Social Protection. This will aim to ensure an inclusive economy where citizens contribute to the nation building process and reap the benefits of national economic growth.
9. **Preservation:** Shared family and religious values shall be upheld by the Social Protection system to preserve our cultural heritage and peace and stability within society.
10. **Rights-based approach and dignity:** Social Protection will be designed through a rights-based perspective and uphold the dignity of citizens throughout its implementation.
11. **Sustainability:** Investments in Social Protection shall stay within the means of government. It will promote the growth of schemes in a manner that is ambitious, but fiscally sustainable. Schemes shall be designed to maximise efficiency and minimise error, fraud, and corruption.
12. **Transparency and access to information:** Social Protection schemes will incorporate a clear communications strategy, and grievance and redress mechanisms. Information on programmes, including who is eligible, will be made simple and accessible to all citizens. Such measures will be adapted for people with seeing, hearing, communication, or literacy.

8 Policy Objectives for Social Protection

The Social Protection Policy sets out objectives aimed at strengthening the legislative and policy framework, institutions and systems to build the foundation of a strong government-led Social Protection system in Somaliland. By 2030, objectives will focus on building a basic set of national social transfers across the lifecycle and strengthening the institutions and systems underpinning their coordination and delivery. However, the Government of Somaliland looks to the future to establish comprehensive services for each of the three components of the national Social Protection system: national social transfers, social insurance and social care services.

Looking to the future beyond 2030, national social transfers and social insurance will become part of a multi-tiered system, offering Social Protection schemes financed both from general government revenues and payroll taxes. A multi-tiered system will provide universal coverage for all citizens through a combination of social insurance and national tax-financed social transfers. In a multi-tiered system, national social transfer schemes with high coverage aim to provide citizens with a minimum level of income protection, while contributory schemes offer higher levels of protection for those who can afford to pay contributions.

The overall objectives of the Social Protection Policy are to:

1. Promote complementarity between short-term humanitarian support and the national Social Protection system
2. Build a multi-tiered Social Security system on the foundation of National Social Transfers, with increased access to Social Insurance
3. Strengthen the institutional framework within the Government of Somaliland for coordination and implementation of Social Protection schemes.
4. Enhance social care services underpinned by a professional social work system, offering child social services and adult social services.
5. Strengthen operational systems and administrative processes for the end-to-end delivery of Social Protection schemes.

8.1 Promote complementarity between short-term humanitarian support and the national Social Protection system

In locations where humanitarian schemes are most prevalent, a fragmented and uncoordinated system often results in overlapping support to the same households who meet the eligibility criteria of poverty-targeted mechanisms. Rural-to-rural migration between informal settlements has increased during recent years, due to humanitarian operations often being tied to specific locations in Somaliland.⁷² The majority of the population in Somaliland, who still experience extreme vulnerabilities, are systematically excluded from humanitarian support. A national government coordinated Social Protection sector should achieve key objectives that distinctly differ from humanitarian action. Whereas the aim to *'save lives and alleviate suffering'*⁷³ underpins the rationale for humanitarian assistance, Social Protection should aim to provide reliable income guarantees to citizens to support them in addressing the range of risks that they face across their lifecycle.

Nonetheless, the national Social Protection system can form the basis of a strengthened humanitarian system if these systems are well integrated and complement one another. By

⁷² Focus group discussions undertaken with stakeholders across regions of Somaliland for the purpose of the Social Protection Policy.

⁷³ See definition of humanitarian assistance from Global Humanitarian Assistance at Table 1.

providing a broad-based Social Protection system with significant coverage of households and individuals, these systems can be scaled up to provide humanitarian assistance during times of emergencies. This will require significant inter-coordination between government stakeholders, as well as intra-coordination between government and non-government stakeholders (international development partners and NGOs). However, the need for humanitarian assistance will reduce as the population's resilience and preparedness for shocks will be strengthened by the Social Protection system.

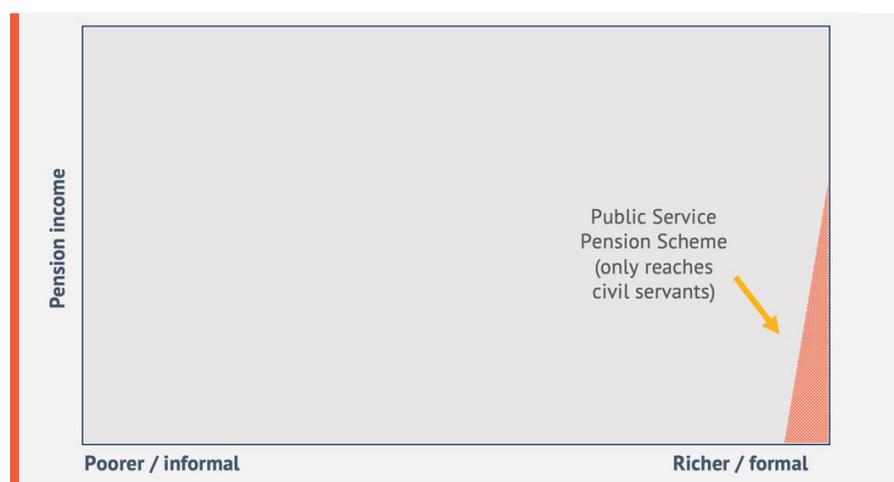
In the short term, humanitarian support – in particular to refugees and displaced populations – will continue to require support from the international community. Nonetheless, the Government of Somaliland aims to achieve greater complementarity of the national system of Social Protection with short-term humanitarian assistance. In the long-term, beyond 2030, both displaced populations and refugees will benefit from enhanced integration with the national Social Protection system, either through clearly defined eligibility for national schemes or complementary interventions. The Government of Somaliland will engage in dialogue with international partners on how to facilitate this increased integration. This will aim to increase their economic opportunities and enhance their contributions to the nation-building process on an equal basis with national citizens. Displaced populations among whom many are Somaliland citizens, will benefit from enhanced support through Social Protection in the short term. This will greatly enhance their resilience in the face of shocks.

8.2 Build a multi-tiered Social Security system on the foundation of National Social Transfers

Social insurance schemes are an integral component of any mature Social Protection system. In a fully operational and inclusive system, social insurance schemes promoting higher rates of taxation among working age people with higher incomes, and higher net benefits for citizens who accumulate lower incomes and savings. Over time, Somaliland aims to establish a Social Insurance system that provides comprehensive employment-based schemes. However, due to the high level of informality of Somaliland's workforce, social insurance schemes will take time to implement. Therefore, up to 2030, the Government of Somaliland prioritises the systems and institutions for National Social Transfers, with the objective of providing minimum income guarantees to citizens during stages of their lives when they face a higher likelihood of facing income insecurity. Childhood and old age, as well as disability – a risk cutting across the lifecycle – will be prioritised. Moreover, the provision of national social transfers also aims to address the insecurities faced by working age adults, including youth, who are the predominant age cohort that carries the responsibilities of earning income and caring for dependents. Nonetheless, beyond 2030, we will look to the future to build a multi-tiered social security system. Social Insurance will gradually cover an increasing proportion of the population, which will build on the existing coverage of the system of National Social Transfers.

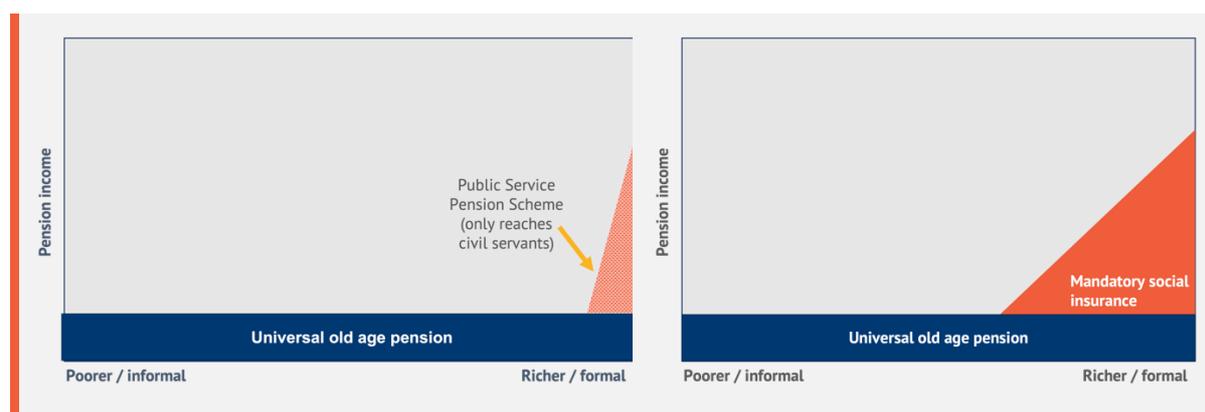
The Government of Somaliland is taking significant steps towards implementing contributory Social Protection schemes. Through the enactment of Public Service Pension, the state demonstrates that it values the contributions of working age members of the population and remunerates them for their service to the country. However, due to the high level of informality of Somaliland's workforce – over half of the labour force is unemployed – contributory schemes are not effective mechanisms to sustainably reduce poverty and vulnerability in old age. Indeed, Figure 7 illustrates the theoretical design of Somaliland's pension system based on the Public Service Pension, which prioritises income support for older people among the wealthier segment of Somaliland's population, leaving the vast majority of the old age population living on low and insecure incomes unprotected.

Figure 7: Somaliland’s pension system



In Somaliland, a universal social pension that does not rely on past contributions is the most effective mechanism to guarantee a minimum income in old age and sustainably support the most vulnerable citizens in old age. Eventually, Somaliland should aim to build social insurance schemes that are part of a multi-tiered system, built on the foundation of high coverage national social transfer schemes. Figure 8 provide simple illustrations of the evolution of Somaliland’s pension over time. Up to 2030, Somaliland will build the foundation of a universal old age pension system. All citizens in Somaliland – regardless of income or work status - will receive a minimum income once they reach retirement age, while public servants in Somaliland will access a Public Service Pension in addition the minimum income guarantee. Over time, the social insurance system will grow on the basis of the universal old age pension. Social insurance schemes will not just be provided to public servants, but also cover workers in the private sector.

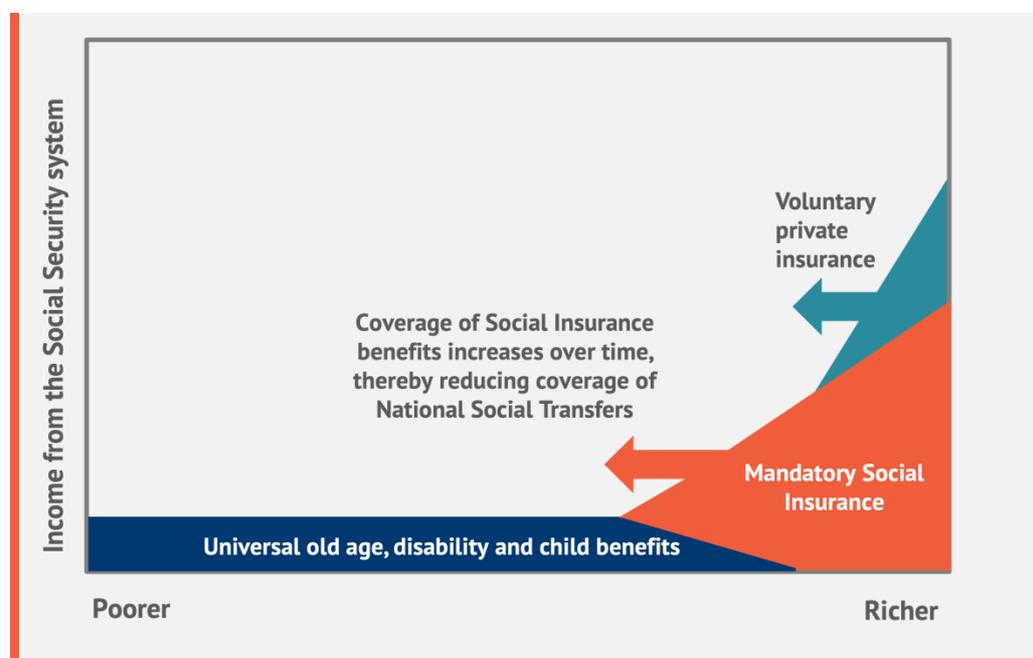
Figure 8: Somaliland’s pension system with a universal old age pension achieved by 2030 and mandatory social insurance subsequently implemented



As depicted in Figure 9, the social insurance system will expand over time. Beyond 2030, the Social Insurance system will not only cover benefits for citizens in old age, but also unemployment benefits as well as potentially other benefits, including survivor, sickness, disability, maternity and family benefits. By integrating them with the system of National Social Transfers and making the benefits tapered – the benefit value received through Social Transfers gradually reduces in line with the value received through social insurance – this can create incentives for recipients to enter contributory schemes. Therefore, the proportion of government revenues required to finance the multi-tiered social security system would reduce over time as a higher proportion of the social security system is financed through payroll taxes. Up to 2030, the Government of Somaliland will implement several

scoping studies for the expansion of Social Insurance, prioritising old age benefits and unemployment insurance, in addition to other insurance schemes that may benefit workers in the informal labour market, including those relying on agriculture and livestock (see strategic targets under Sections 9.2.1 and 9.3.1).

Figure 9: Theoretical growth of a multitiered social security system over time



8.3 Strengthen the institutional framework

In order for Somaliland’s Social Protection schemes to grow and offer greater protection to citizens, the administrative capacity of our institutions should be prioritised from 2023, to achieve strong and effective institutional coordination to deliver end-to-end systems. A government-led and owned Social Protection system is crucial to maintain the sustainability of the sector and to build public trust in its services. Up to 2030, the Government of Somaliland will continue working with external partners to strengthen institutional capacity. Nonetheless, the collaboration with external partners will be based on the provision of technical support, with the aim of strengthening government agencies in the implementation of Social Protection schemes.

8.3.1 Government leadership and coordination of Social Protection schemes

The Government of Somaliland will develop an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the horizontal coordination of social protection schemes, to promote their fiscal sustainability and national ownership of the sector. The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family will be the leading government agency responsible for the coordination of policy development and implementation of Social Protection schemes across the lifecycle. MESAF will be responsible for the development of an inter-ministerial platform for the government-wide coordination of the Social Protection system. This includes income support schemes addressing risks during childhood, youth and working age, and old age, with disability cutting across the lifecycle. Nonetheless, all efforts should be made by relevant government agencies and stakeholders to mainstream Social Protection within their policies, and planning. This depends on effective horizontal coordination across government agencies to align Social Protection objectives for Somaliland. Table 3 provides an

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overview of government agencies that carry relevant roles and responsibilities in relation to the Social Protection sector.

Table 3: Government agencies and their relevance to the Social Protection sector

Government agency	Role related to the Social Protection sector
Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family	Leading government institution for coordination of Social Protection policy development, and implementation of national social transfers and social care services.
Civil Service Commission	Coordination and implementation of the Civil Service Pension and social insurance schemes for public servants.
Ministry of Finance Development	Prioritisation of investments in Social Protection in line with the National Development Plan.
Ministry of National Planning Development	Prioritisation of the Social Protection Pillar in the Third National Development Plan 2022-2026.
Ministry of Religious Affairs	Administration and oversight of Zakat funds.
Ministry of Agriculture Development	Coordination of Disaster Risk Reduction strategies in Somaliland to inform Shock-Responsive Social Protection.
National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority	Design of early warnings systems and contingency planning to facilitate triggering mechanisms for pre-agreed emergency responses, based on scaling up the Social Protection system.
National Displacement and Refugee Agency	Coordination of support to internally displaced populations (IDPs), to facilitate complementarity between Social Protection and humanitarian assistance.
Ministry of Health	Provision of key public health services complementary to the Social Protection sector and facilitation of birth registration in health clinics and hospitals.
Ministry of Education	Provision of education services complementary to the Social Protection sector.
Ministry of Interior	Integration of National ID registration and civil registration of births and deaths with the operations of Social Protection, facilitated by programme MISs and the Single Registry.

8.3.2 The Social Protection Working Group

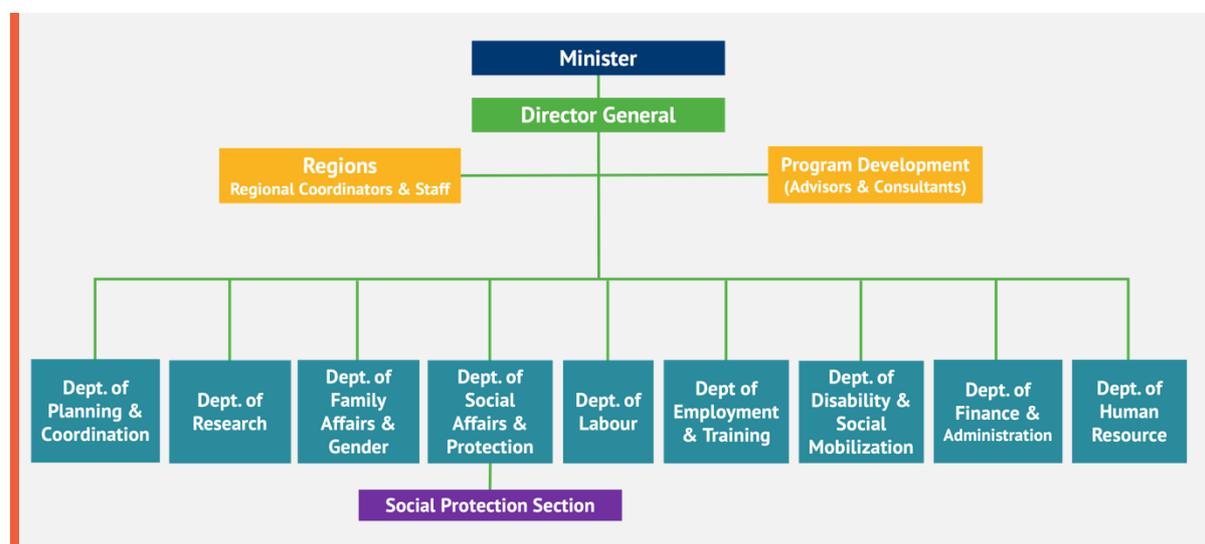
The Social Protection Working Group is led by the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family. It includes quarterly meetings to discuss technical support to the Social Protection sector. This platform is a vital instrument to leverage to coordinate activities concerning the Social Protection among government and non-government stakeholders. Government leadership within this platform will be strengthened to leverage key partners support in building a strong and viable social protection system that aligns with national objectives for Somaliland. Participation in the Social Protection Working Group will be strengthened through the inclusion of key government agencies, including other line ministries that have a relevant role in the implementation of Social Protection schemes.

8.3.3 Build capacity of a single agency that coordinates the provision of national social transfers in Somaliland

The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family coordinates policy development within the Social Protection sector, yet its capacity for delivering systems and schemes is currently limited. A

small unit within MESAF - the Social Protection Section – currently has limited administrative capacity. This is visualised in the organogram in Figure 10, which indicates that the Social Protection comprises a unit within the Department of Social Affairs and Protection.

Figure 10: Organogram of Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family with position of the Social Protection Section highlighted

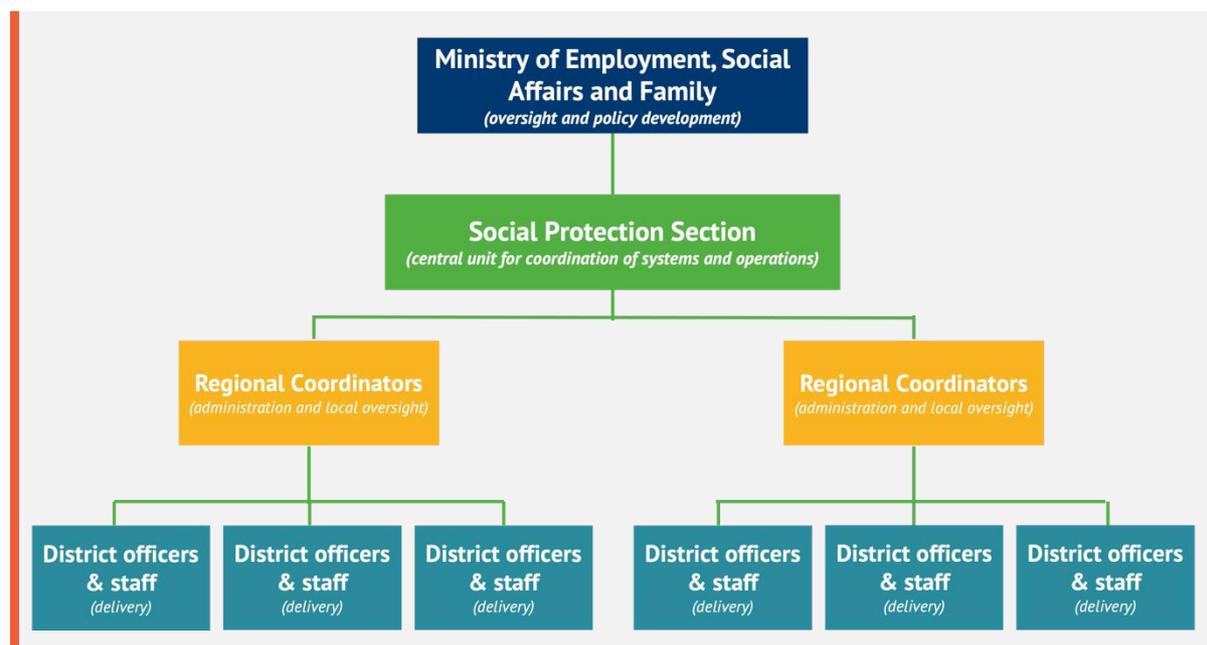


It is essential that administrative capacity to coordinate the systems and administrative processes underpinning Social Protection schemes is strengthened. MESAF shall designate a single agency to be the national coordinating authority for Social Protection and strengthen its human resource capacity. This will build on the role of the existing Social Protection Section. However, MESAF will review its organisational structure and capacity to strengthen the agency moving forward. Whereas the broader coordination of Social Protection cuts across the mandates of different government agencies, a central unit should provide oversight and manage the administration and delivery of national social transfers and ensure its compatibility with social care services and contributory schemes. Policy development for the Social Protection sector shall remain at higher level within MESAF, overseen by the Director General.

8.3.4 Strengthening administrative capacity of local government

In line with the designation of a single agency as the national coordinating authority for Social Protection, it is essential that capacity is built for the effective implementation of schemes under this unit. Appropriate institutional and human resource requirements will be established at national, regional and district levels to ensure the end-to-end delivery of schemes as well as accountability for programme performance and resources. Existing local government structures will be strengthened to build their administrative capacity to oversee Social Protection service delivery. A local workforce will be built, who will undergo appropriate training. Figure 11 depicts an illustrative organogram of the different roles and responsibilities to be established at sub-national levels. This includes regional coordinators, as well as district officers and staff.

Figure 11: Illustrative structure to decentralise Government capacity and strengthen its role in overseeing systems and operations for Social Protection schemes



8.3.5 Technical guidelines for the Social Protection Policy and Strategy

A significant volume of documentation will accompany this Social Protection Policy and Strategy (see Section 9) to achieve incremental steps towards the implementation of end-to-end delivery systems. At a minimum, the effective implementation of the Social Protection Policy will require a costing and financing strategy, policy and legislative documentation, and operational documentation. The Government of Somaliland will collaborate with international partners to source technical expertise for the development of relevant technical guidelines to formulate the documentation required for the implementation of the Social Protection Policy.

8.4 Strengthen operational systems and administrative processes

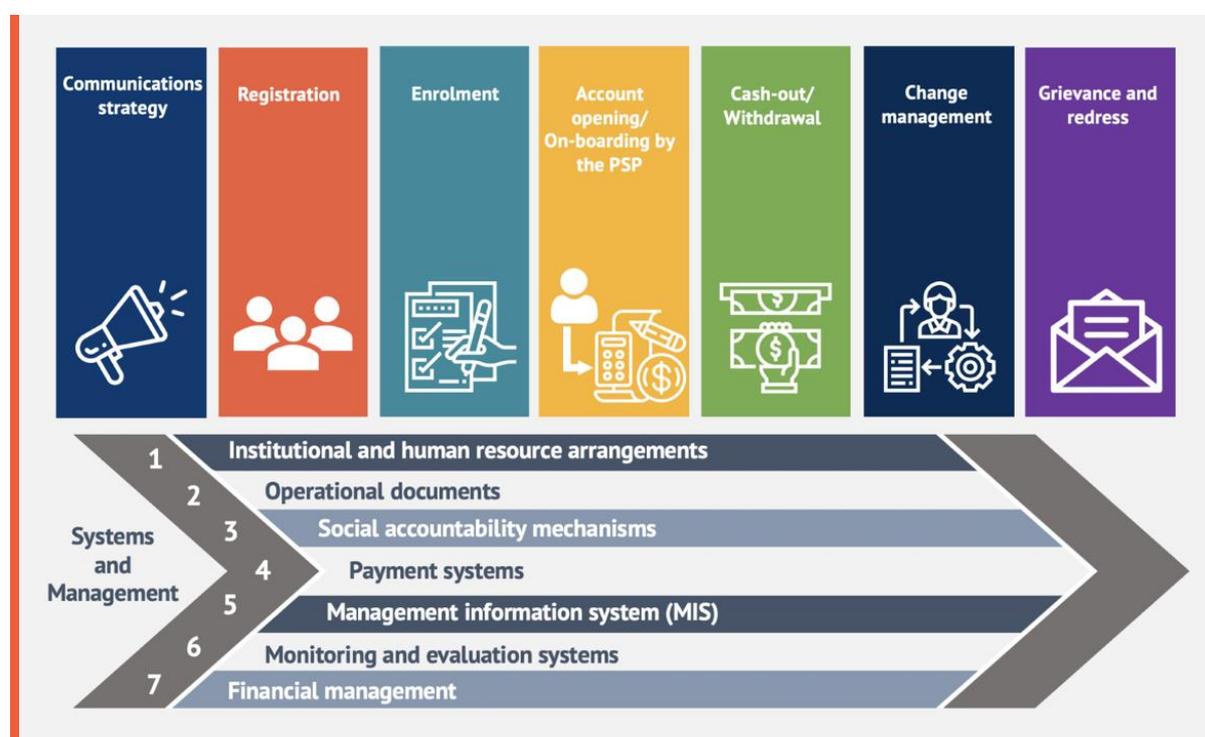
The Government of Somaliland will establish the appropriate institutional and human resource arrangements necessary to ensure the effective operations of Social Protection transfers as well as accountability for programme performance and resources. The systems and operations of Social Protection schemes represent the interface of citizens with services provided by the State. Therefore, not only are policy and legislative institutions essential, but the process in which programmes and services are designed at a higher-policy level and ultimately implemented at regional and district levels is key for their effective delivery. As visualised below in Figure 12, Social Protection schemes typically comprise the following core operational and administrative processes:

1. **A communications strategy:** A strategy to sensitise and create awareness is essential to ensure that citizens have access to information on the programme’s objectives and its eligibility criteria.
2. **A registration mechanism:** The Registration process requires local officers to collect relevant personal data relating to applicants, verifying its accuracy and assessing compliance with the eligibility criteria set for each specific programme.

3. **An enrolment process:** Provides a registered recipient with a programme ID to identify themselves during the payments process. Depending on whether a programme has manual or electronic payment mechanisms, the token might be a simple identification card or include biometric data and digital data on smart cards. During enrolment, beneficiaries are expected to provide accurate identification documents while receiving information on the programme.
4. **On-boarding and account opening:** by the payment service provider (PSP): The delivery of cash to beneficiaries on a regular, reliable and accessible basis is fundamental to the achievement of a cash transfer programme’s policy objectives.
5. **The cash-out or withdrawal process:** The mechanism through by which recipients are able to retrieve benefits.
6. **A change management process:** The system should dynamically respond to changes in eligibility status without requiring a re-registration of recipients.
7. **A grievance and redress mechanism:** A functioning complaints and grievance mechanism is critical for accountability and proper programme performance. The system should ensure that there are multiple channels for a range of different categories of complaints and that all complainants receive responses. Social accountability mechanisms enable citizens and civil society more broadly to hold government to account if programmes are not well-delivered.

Underpinning these core administrative processes are a number of critical systems and management processes, which ensure the smooth functioning of Social Protection schemes. It is essential that these systems are in place to build the capacity to be scaled up and adapted in times of crises.

Figure 12: Systems and operations underpinning Social Protection



8.4.1 Operational documents

The Government of Somaliland will prioritise the development of clear and easily understandable operational documents that will be updated regularly, including an operation manual for each Social Protection scheme. Every Social Protection scheme should be underpinned by a clear operation manual that sets out all the above-mentioned processes to be undertaken by coordinators and implementers at national, regional and district-level. Operations manuals should include all necessary details of scheme implementation but should be written in simple language that can be understood by all relevant stakeholders, especially front-line officers. The operation manual should also take into account considerations for Social Protection provision to vulnerable and socially excluded members of society, such as some women and persons with disabilities, who are less likely to claim their entitlements.

8.4.2 Management Information Systems

The Government of Somaliland will develop a robust Management Information System to manage data related to the administrative processes underpinning Social Protection schemes. All operational processes, including registration, enrolment, payment processes and grievance and redress mechanisms require Management Information Systems (MIS). This is a digital platform to manage programme databases and automate core operations of Social Protection schemes. For example, a functional MIS generates an automatic payroll for programme recipients and supports the automation of eligibility assessment, entitlement calculation, payroll production and complaints tracking based on reliable information captured about recipients. Eventually, the digitalisation of these features of Social Protection schemes allows for analytical programme performance reports to be produced to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of schemes. Currently, Social Protection pilot schemes and cash transfer operations in Somaliland are externally managed by partner agencies. For national Social Protection schemes, it is essential that data is managed within the Government of Somaliland.

8.4.3 Disability assessment mechanism

The success of disability-specific Social Protection scheme, as well as other public services, depends on a robust and effective disability assessment mechanism. Globally, there exist different types of models used for disability assessment. These include: 1) a medical model, based on assessing the severity of impairment; 2) functional limitations approach – a medical model which adds an additional assessment of the extent to which people’s functioning is restricted; and 3) a disability approach, which incorporates an assessment of the extent to which social and environmental factors affect an individual’s ability to carry out their daily lives, irrespective of their impairment. The Government of Somaliland will implement a simple disability assessment mechanism based on the disability approach, which is most in line with the UNCRPD and disability policy and legislation in Somaliland. People with disabilities will be provided with identification cards which should be linked to eligibility for Social Protection transfers, as well as a range of other public services. A disability MIS will be established, which will be linked to individual Social Protection programme MIS. With limited availability of disability specialists, a simple model will be established which requires training of local officers at district levels in Somaliland based on a questionnaire that is clear and simple to use. For the model to be relatively effective, at a low cost, the system will be on-demand and underpinned by an effective communications and awareness raising campaign.

8.4.4 Public communications strategy

It is critical to raise wide-ranging public awareness of Social Protection schemes to ensure their accountability. The Government of Somaliland will implement a national communications strategy

8 Policy Objectives for Social Protection

that raises awareness on the purpose of the Social Protection system, the eligibility criteria and administrative procedures of the schemes, as well as the rights and responsibilities of recipients and other community members. The importance of a public communications strategy is particularly relevant in Somaliland. The distinct role of the Social Protection sector, outside of humanitarian interventions and external support provision, should be communicated to the population, reinforcing the role of the State as the main provider for its citizens. Therefore, public communications strategies are also critical to build broad public and political support for schemes. Existing mechanisms that have been used for the pilot Social Protection schemes, including SMS services, will be included in the communications strategy. However, lessons learnt from the Shock-Responsive Social Protection Pilot indicate that the level of understanding of the scheme was low among community members and it was viewed as an extension of humanitarian support rather than a long-term support programme. This was due to limited investments in a communications strategy while non-recipients of the CSSP who were registered had a poor understanding of their entitlements. Thus, the effective communications strategy will also rely on effective decentralisation, in which district- and community-level actors provide information to potential applicants and recipients and explain the purpose of Social Protection schemes.

8.4.5 Financial management system

Social Protection schemes should be underpinned by a financing mechanism that adequately supports each administrative process required for the delivery of Social Protection schemes. In particular, it should ensure timely and accurate payment to recipients based on payrolls prepared by the programme MIS, training and registration exercises, and salaries of scheme implementing staff. The financial management system should be supported by a sophisticated approach to fiduciary risk management to ensure the accountability of fund disbursement.

8.4.6 A Single Registry information warehouse for Social Protection schemes

When individual programme MISs are established, the Government of Somaliland will design a Single Registry to facilitate the cross-coordination of Social Protection schemes within a coherent sector. A Single Registry is a warehouse of information from existing Social Protection schemes which can be used as a monitoring tool. It provides a nexus of information, by providing interlinkages between individual programme MISs and other external databases that can be used during targeting and registration. These will include linkages between Social Protection programme MIS with other databases, including both databases implemented by the Government of Somaliland as well as external programme and project databases maintained by international partner organisations, such as for humanitarian operations. Among government operations, Social Protection will be linked to national identification registration, birth registration disability databases, early warnings systems and disaster risk management systems. As Somaliland will progress towards a multi-tiered Social Protection system, including Social Insurance schemes, this will include linkages with the Civil Service Pension databases and income tax registration (TIN). However, the integration of multiple data sources and exchange of information across multiple platforms can expose the population to the risks of data misuse and unauthorised data handling. Therefore, we will ensure that the amount of personal information collected will only be the minimum necessary to meet clearly defined purposes of the Social Protection schemes to ensure data privacy.

8.4.7 Implement crisis modifiers that enable existing Social Protection transfers to be scaled up during a large-scale shock

Strengthening operational systems and administrative processes is particularly relevant for Somaliland to facilitate the integration of disaster risk considerations and humanitarian responses. Due to the frequency and severity of natural disasters and climate shocks affecting the population, it

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is essential that ongoing Social Protection schemes can deliver timely support, even during a crisis, to avoid an even further reduction in citizens' welfare. To enhance support to the population during emergencies and increase the complementarity between Social Protection transfers and humanitarian operations, national social transfers will be made scalable. The national Social Protection system will build a strong foundation for a system that can disburse emergency payments to individuals, households and communities affected by a shock. The system will adopt crisis modifiers, based on established Early Warnings Systems in Somaliland, to enable pre-agreed response packages to be delivered based on an automatic triggering mechanism. This will provide the opportunity for humanitarian responses to be effectively aligned with the national Social Protection system and enhance horizontal coordination between Social Protection actors and humanitarian response actors. During a large-scale shock, systems must rapidly and flexibly adapt and respond to new needs, as well as address urgent pressures on registration, enrolment, and payment systems. By scaling up the existing Social Protection system, shock-affected populations will be reached with timely emergency support in a more cost-effective manner

8.4.8 Research, monitoring and evaluation

Well-resourced operational monitoring and learning systems are critical for informing the operational management of cash transfer programmes. Over time, Social Protection schemes in Somaliland will be strengthened as stakeholders will access information that provides feedback on the on-going improvement of administrative processes. The MIS and Single Registry systems will function as digital information systems with an integrated dashboard that facilitates the continuous monitoring of Social Protection scheme delivery, ranging from registration to payment disbursements. These systems will notify programme managers and relevant officers of any changes to Social Protection schemes and relevant processes. Post distribution monitoring surveys will be implemented to generate monitoring data and feedback systems based the delivery of the schemes. Whereas large quantitative surveys are often commissioned to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of Social Protection, these are often expensive to implement and rely on external funding from donors and partner agencies. Information on Social Protection schemes should be included in mainstream national household surveys in Somaliland. Qualitative research may also be more practical, offer more in-depth insights into potential barriers to schemes, and are less costly to implement under the leadership of a government agency.

Within MESAF, the leading agency responsible for Social Protection, a research facility will be established to coordinate evidence generation on Social Protection schemes. Ongoing research will be important to generate evidence on the challenges faced by members of society and the need for Social Protection. For example, in Somaliland, there is currently a lack of evidence regarding the challenges facing vulnerable groups across the lifecycle including persons with disabilities. While international partners will play a role in supporting evidence generation, it is essential that study objectives are led by a national agenda.

8.5 Enhance social care services

Social care services include public support provision to adults who are unable to care for themselves or children who are without an appropriate carer. This includes support provision through institutional settings but prioritises support to enable children and adults to be cared for by their families. Social care encompasses an essential public service that addresses the needs of particularly vulnerable individuals in society. These include services that differ in nature from Social Transfers and Social Insurance, which should be addressed through a separate process and underpinned by a separate social workforce. To build a government-led system for social care provision, this will require significant investments in training a workforce of social workers that can take on the responsibility of providing critical care to people with care needs. Therefore, up to 2030, the

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Government of Somaliland will prioritise collaboration with partner agencies to facilitate the knowledge transfer required to build capacity of a publicly employed social workforce. The Government of Somaliland will leverage our established partnerships between MESAF and Save the Children, including child-sensitive awareness trainings focused on 'Strengthening Parenting', with the aim of enhancing health and nutrition outcomes among children, and promoting good practices for family budgeting. It will also leverage knowledge transfers from the Family Strengthening Programme, implemented by SOS Children's Villages in collaboration with MESAF, which focus on case management support to children with care needs with the aim of reducing the likelihood of family separation. SOS Children's Villages also provides internship programmes and skills training in academic institutions. Furthermore, a scoping exercise will be conducted to define the human resource capacity required to strengthen case management services. It will build on lessons learnt from the Family Strengthening Programme which provide social services to 912 families across three regions of Somaliland at a caseload of approximately 35 families per social worker.

9 A strategy to build a lifecycle Social Protection system up to 2030

By 2030, Somaliland aims to achieve significant steps to move towards building a modern and effective Social Protection system which offers protection to citizens throughout each stage of their lifecycle. To maintain our fiscal space and institutional capacity to provide Social Protection for the population, the Social Protection Policy sets out a strategy for the incremental expansion of schemes. These will focus on the most vulnerable categories of the population initially and expand in coverage, year-on-year. Due to the high rate of informality of the workforce, and the widespread poverty and insecurity experienced by our population, National Social Transfer schemes will be prioritised. These will incorporate simple eligibility criteria, to maximise accountability and transparency, and promote equity in access. The system will prioritise income support during childhood and old age, two commonly recognised stages of the life course when people face the most difficulties in accessing basic needs and care and support. During working age, complementary employment policies focused on decent public employment strategies, in combination with skills-building and training, will support income generating opportunities. Furthermore, parents and caregivers of children – who are mainly of working age – will receive a basic level of income support to help cover the costs of raising children through child-focused income support schemes. In addition, people with disabilities will be supported across their lifecycle, including in childhood and working age, in recognition of the additional costs that they experience, and the barriers faced in accessing income opportunities and basic services.

Table 4 sets out the incremental growth of basic social transfers across the lifecycle aimed at all children (as well as their carers/parents), persons with disabilities and older people.

Table 4: Building a lifecycle Social Protection scheme in Somaliland through national social transfers

Scheme	Age of eligibility	Monthly Transfer (Sl. Sh.)	Monthly Transfer (US\$)	Monthly transfer (% GDP per capita)	Level of investment (Sl. Sh., Billions)	Level of investment (US\$, millions)	Level of investment (% GDP)
Short term objectives by 2025							
Child benefit	0-1 (pilot in 1 region)	42,000	5.00	8.1%	22.2	2.6	0.10
Child disability benefit	0-15	127,500	15.00	24.7%	41.2	4.8	0.18
Old Age Pension	70+	127,500	15.00	24.7%	240.6	28.3	1.04
Total					303.9	35.8	1.32
Medium term objectives by 2028							
Child benefit	0-4 (rolled out in 4 regions)	42,000	5.00	8.0%	317.7	37.4	1.27
Child disability benefit	0-17	127,500	15.00	24.7%	49.0	5.8	0.20
Adult disability benefit	18-69	127,500	15.00	24.7%	92.8	10.9	0.37

9 A strategy to build the Social Protection system up to 2030

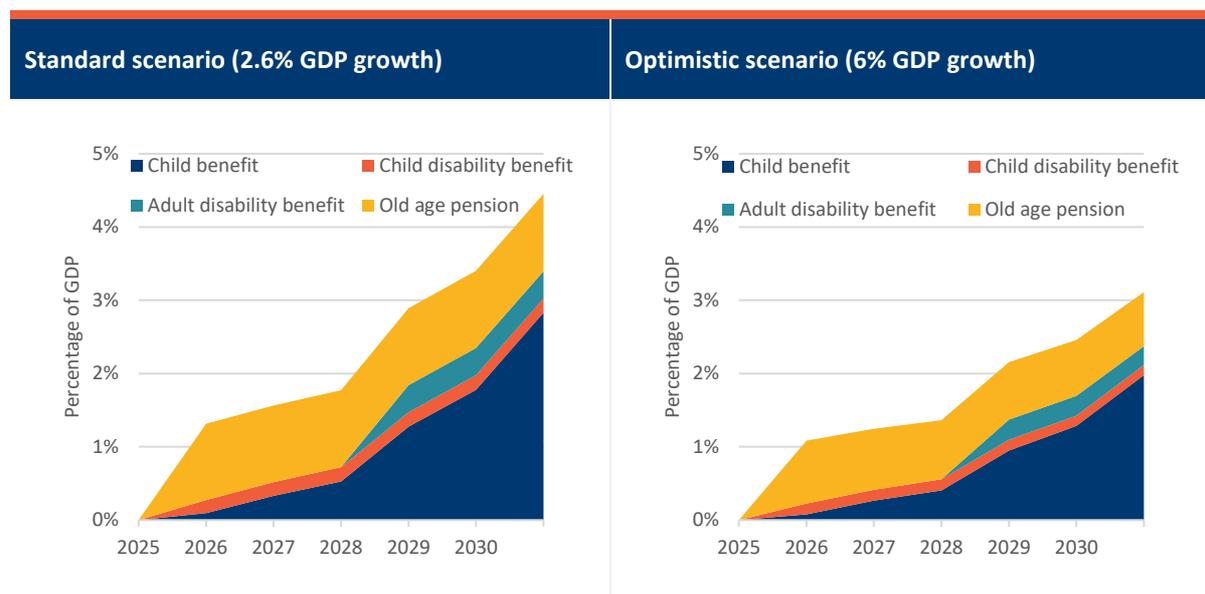
Old Age Pension	70+	127,500	15.00	24.7%	262.0	30.8	1.05
Total					721.4	84.9	2.89
Long-term objectives by 2030							
Child benefit	0-6 (rolled out in 6 regions)	42,000	5.00	7.1%	743.3	87.4	2.83
Child disability benefit	0-17	127,500	15.00	24.7%	51.9	6.1	0.20
Adult disability benefit	18-64	127,500	15.00	24.7%	96.2	11.3	0.37
Old Age Pension	65+	127,500	15.00	24.7%	277.4	32.6	1.06
Total					1,168	137.5	4.45

As indicated in Figure 13, the package starts at an overall cost of US\$35.8 million. Assuming that Somaliland's GDP will grow in line with pre-COVID-19 estimates the costs are equivalent to 1.32 per cent of GDP in 2025 and will gradually grow to 2.89 per cent of GDP by 2028, and 4.45 per cent of GDP by 2030. However, Somaliland's economy may achieve higher growth in the future. Real GDP growth reached 6.5 per cent in 2019.⁷⁴ Therefore, Figure 13 illustrates two scenarios, including a more optimistic growth scenario. The projections are based on the available economic and household level data in Somaliland and include a number of assumptions:

- A strategy for a geographical roll-out of the child benefit is assumed, which prioritises regions according to the reported average stunting rates in the 2020 SHDS.
- In addition to the geographic roll-out, the eligibility age for the child benefit increases year-on-year. Children will not be taken off the scheme, while newborn children will be enrolled every year.
- One per cent of children and 2.5 per cent of working age adults would access a disability benefit after undergoing a disability assessment.
- The population is projected to grow at 2.9 per cent annually up to 2025, and subsequently at 2.85 per cent annually up to 2030.
- Transfers increase in line with projected inflation.
- An annual GDP growth rate of 2.6 per cent (see Table 4) and 6.0 per cent (see Figure 13), respectively, are assumed. In the absence of forward-looking projections on economic growth for Somaliland, these projections are based on the average growth of Somaliland's economy projected between 2012-2019 by the Somaliland Central Statistics Department (CSD, 2020), and a more optimistic scenario for comparison.
- Administrative costs – at five per cent of the programme costs – are estimated for each scheme. The actual costs will differ based on the reality of Somaliland's population demographics and changes to the economy.

⁷⁴ Central Statistics Department (2020).

Figure 13: Level of investment required for the incremental growth of national Social Protection schemes, by year and type of scheme



Source: Secondary analysis of SHS 2013 and SHDS 2020. Economic projections are based on data from Somaliland Central Statistics Department. Population projections are based on SHDS 2020 and CSD.

The following sections set out specific objectives for each scheme by 2030.

9.1 Early childhood and school age

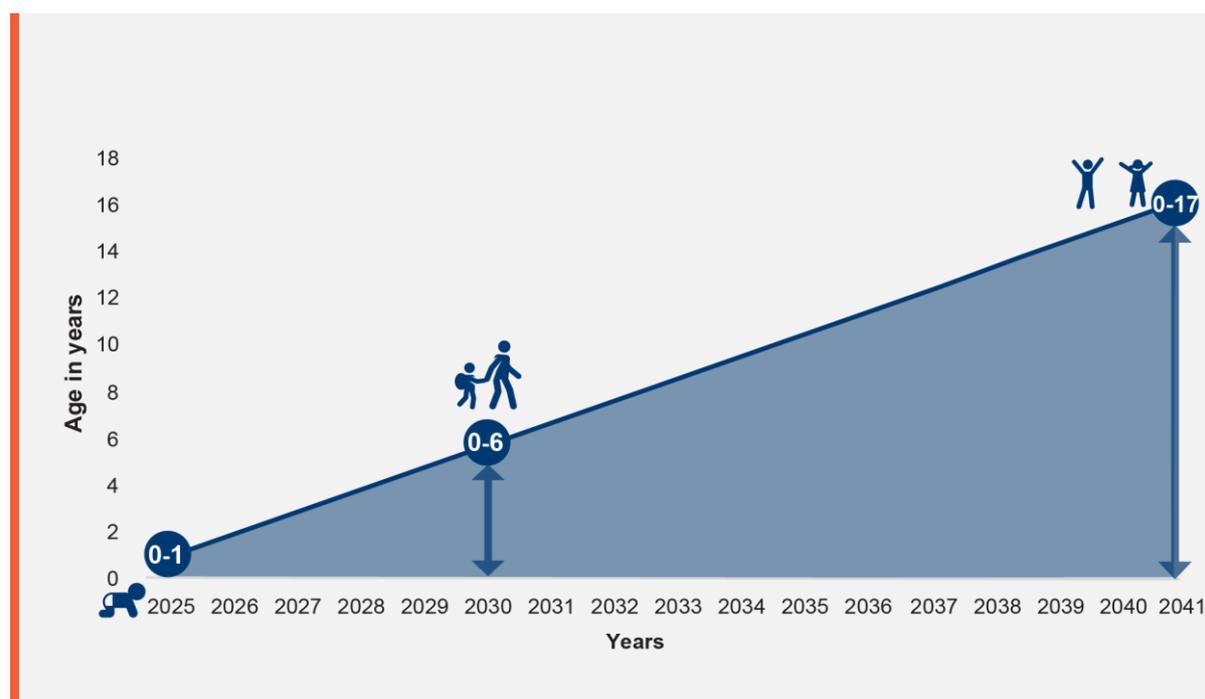
9.1.1 Child benefit

In the short-term, by 2025, the Government of Somaliland will:

Build on the Child-Sensitive Social Protection pilot to implement a nationally coordinated Child Benefit scheme, starting with the registration of all children in Somaliland at birth.

The Child-Sensitive Social Protection pilot cash transfer modality will be leveraged to implement a national Child Benefit scheme. This will ensure that all children born today can access a minimum level of protection to maintain and improve their living standards throughout their life course. Due to Somaliland’s young population, the implementation of a fully universal child benefit for all children aged 0 to 17 years would be too costly. To manage costs, the Child Benefit will be implemented in small, incremental stages. It will start by prioritising the registration of children within the first 1,000 days of life. Therefore, the Child Benefit will prioritise children aged 0-1 years (below 2 years) in 2025. Figure 14 illustrates this modality: no child will be removed from the scheme until 18 years of age, with the only new recipients of the scheme being children registered at birth. By 2030, this will reach children up to the age of 6 years. Eventually the scheme would reach universal coverage of all children below the age of 18 years by 2041.

Figure 14: Illustration of the incremental growth of a child benefit



In addition, the child benefit will be implemented through a geographic roll-out strategy. For illustrative purpose, this strategy assumes a prioritisation of regions in Somaliland according to average stunting rates. Table 5 depicts the design elements of the child benefit, and how it is estimated to grow year-on-year.

Table 5: Design of the incremental growth of the child benefit based on a geographic roll-out and growth of the upper age limit

Year	Geographic roll-out	Stunting rate in region selected for geographic roll-out	Age eligibility
2025	Sool	25.2 (Sool)	0-1
2026	Sool, Sanaag	23.7 (Sanaag)	0-2
2027	Sool, Sanaag, Saaxil	21.5 (Saaxil)	0-3
2028	Sool, Sanaag, Saaxil, Maroodi-Jeeh	20.2 (Maroodji-Jeeh)	0-4
2029	Sool, Sanaag, Saaxil, Maroodi-Jeeh, Awdal	15.6 (Awdal)	0-5
2030	Sool, Sanaag, Saaxil, Maroodi-Jeeh, Awdal, Toghdeer	13.7 (Toghdeer)	0-6

The Child Benefit comes with a number of significant benefits to Somaliland’s society. Through the national rollout of the Child Benefit, the positive impacts proven by the CSSP on increases in schooling and nutrition will be experienced by all families with children. International evidence indicates that this can reduce the adverse impacts on undernutrition, including child stunting, which has detrimental impacts to the economy. Therefore, the Child Benefit can unlock the potential for children to grow up healthier, and access better education and work opportunities in life. Through the universal registration of all children at birth, the Government of Somaliland sends a clear signal

9 A strategy to build the Social Protection system up to 2030

that each new citizen is recognised by the State and cared for. This will complement our health services, as it can facilitate the monitoring of child development. Further, a national Child Benefit provides a strong foundation for a Shock-Responsive Social Protection system by achieving high coverage of households in Somaliland, enabling more rapid and effectively coordinated emergency responses.

The Child Benefit will provide each child with SI. Sh. 42,000 (US\$5.00) per month. This is equivalent to 8.8 per cent of GDP per capita, which is above the average value of universal child benefit globally. The benefit will be indexed to inflation, meaning that it would maintain its purchasing power over time. The value of the Child Benefit is lower than the transfer provided by the Social Protection pilot schemes, which is SI. Sh. 168,000 (US\$20). However, the latter should in reality be considered as a household benefit with a relatively lower per capita value. The benefit level for the proposed Child Benefit is set at a lower value in order to manage costs and facilitate growth of universal coverage, to guarantee its impacts at a national level. In reality, vulnerable families are likely to receive a higher level of income support because they are more likely to be eligible for multiple benefits, as each scheme is an individual entitlement. In addition, an important objective of the universal Child Benefit is to facilitate wide-ranging registration of families so that they are identified for humanitarian assistance in the event of a shock. International humanitarian partners currently provide emergency support at a level of US\$60 (SI. Sh. 510,000) to US\$90 (SI. Sh. 765,000) per month, based on the quarterly assessment of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit.

In the medium-term, by 2028, the Government of Somaliland will:

Provide a Child Benefit to children aged 0-4 years rolled out in 4 regions across Somaliland with the highest stunting rates.

In line with the modality illustrated in Figure 14, the Child Benefit will gradually grow in coverage, reaching all children aged 0 to 4 years in four regions by 2028. This will be achieved through the registration of children at birth in the new regions, without removing any children who have been benefiting from the scheme since its first year of implementation. By 2028, the scheme will reach all children below the age of five years, which will allow for the Child-Sensitive Social Protection pilot to be phased out. At this point, the capacity of government agencies in Somaliland is strengthened to deliver the Child Benefit scheme.

In the long-term, by 2030, the Government of Somaliland will:

Provide a Child Benefit to children aged 0-6 years across all regions in Somaliland.

By 2030, the Child Benefit will reach all children aged 0-6 years by continuing to register children at birth in new regions across Somaliland. Since children will not be removed from the scheme until they reach 18 years of age, it will eventually reach universal coverage of all children aged 0 to 17 years by 2041.

9.1.2 Child disability benefit

In the short-term, by 2025, the Government of Somaliland will:

Implement a universal Child Disability Benefit to offer a minimum level of protection to the most vulnerable children in Somaliland, in addition to the Child Benefit.

The Government of Somaliland prioritises the implementation of a child disability benefit, who are some of the most vulnerable children in Somaliland and are at risk of social and economic exclusion later in life. Whereas children with disabilities require protection through a comprehensive legal

framework and access to range of public services, they also need income support to cover the additional costs related to their disability. This includes, for example, transportation, medical treatment, therapy, or specialised schooling. The Child Disability Benefit will also compensate families who experience a loss in income, due to having to give up work to care for their children with higher needs. The Child Disability Benefit will, initially, cover all children with disabilities aged 0 to 15 years. Children will not be taken off the scheme and will gradually transition to an Adult Disability Benefit once they reach the age of 18 years. This will come into effect from 2028 when the first cohort of children with disabilities reach the age of 18 years. The child disability benefit will be continuously provided for all children below the age of 18 years up to 2030.

9.2 Youth and working age

The Government of Somaliland aims to harness income generating opportunities for the youth and working age population and integrate them into the Social Protection system. Social Protection complements the Government of Somaliland's Employment Policy, which has a vision to achieve *'a society engaged in decent gainful employment capable of generating adequate income to sustain it.'* Youth and people of working age represent the main carers and people of productive age in our society and require access to an adequate income at all times. Many carry the responsibility of parenthood and caring for dependents, whether these are children, people with disabilities or older persons. Therefore, the Social Protection system will aim to support the population in this life stage. This includes expanding social insurance mechanisms, as well as guaranteed income support to enhance the economic opportunities of people of working age with disabilities, who commonly face discrimination in the labour market and face additional costs.

9.2.1 Social insurance mechanisms for the working age population

In the medium-term, by 2028, the Government of Somaliland will:

Undertake a scoping study on social insurance.

This will identify opportunities to build a package of social insurance benefits. The Government of Somaliland will explore the feasibility of implementing unemployment, maternity, survivors, sickness and potentially other social insurance mechanisms that allow the working age population to draw benefits from when they experience certain contingencies. A comprehensive package of benefits will take time to realise and predominantly reach workers in the formalised economy. However, in the short-term, we will assess the feasibility to implement complementary interventions such as weather-based and livestock insurance products that enhance income protection for those relying on livestock and agricultural livelihoods. Furthermore, social insurance will be embedded within a multi-tiered system, which will aim to guarantee a minimum level of income support regardless of work of employment status.

9.2.2 Adult disability benefit

In the medium-term, by 2028, the Government of Somaliland will:

Implement an Adult Disability Benefit to support persons with disabilities of working age in meeting the additional costs related to disability.

By 2028, an Adult Disability Benefit will be implemented to offer persons with disabilities a minimum level of income support. This will be provided to persons with disabilities whether or not they are able to work – due to a severe impairment or discrimination faced in the labour market – offering income security to meet a minimum standard of living. The majority of people with disabilities who

will receive the disability benefit are able to work but face additional disability-related costs and discrimination in accessing work. The Adult Disability Benefit will provide them with support to access opportunities at an equal basis with non-disabled people. The scheme will be implemented in 2028, at which point children with disabilities who have reached the age of 18 years will transition to this scheme. The Adult Disability Benefit will be provided to all persons with disabilities aged 18 to 69 years, after which they will transition to an Old Age Pension for all citizens aged 70 years and above. The age of eligibility for the Adult Disability Benefit will be changed to 18 to 64 years in 2030, in line with a reduction in the eligibility age for the Old Age Pension to 65 years and above.

9.2.3 Public employment

In the long-term, by 2030, the Government of Somaliland will:

Undertake a scoping study for the implementation of public employment schemes.

Social Protection can stimulate employment for young people through public employment programmes. When public employment is combined with professional skills training, this has the potential to be delivered on a national scale and can help to meet wider objectives on, for example, building human resource capacity in infrastructure or social work. Labour-intensive public works schemes, or so-called productive safety net programmes, are implemented across the East and Sub-Saharan African region. However, these schemes aim to provide financial support to poverty-targeted households on the condition that a member of the household participates in labour-intensive work. Public works schemes have been associated with significant opportunity costs, as participation in the programmes often results in reduced participation in income-generating work whereas financial remuneration for work activities is below labour market standards. Public employment provision will be provided only by guaranteeing decent work and wages.

9.3 Old age

The Government of Somaliland will prioritise the implementation of a basic universal social pension from 2025. A universal social pension will be the most effective policy to enhance coverage of the old age population by Social Protection up until 2030. Beyond 2030, the Government of Somaliland aims to gradually implement a multi-tiered pension system. This will be built on the foundation of the universal social pension, but gradually enhance coverage of the social insurance system through the Civil Service Pension and a mandatory pension scheme for workers in the private sector, with options to reach workers in the informal sector.

9.3.1 Universal social pension

In the short-term, by 2025, the Government of Somaliland will:

Implement a universal social pension for all older people aged 70 years and above, to remunerate all citizens for their contributions to the nation throughout their working lives.

The Government of Somaliland will guarantee all older people with income security in old age through a universal social pension. It will form a key component of Somaliland's social contract: by guaranteeing that older people can access a minimum income to live their final years in dignity, the Government of Somaliland will compensate all citizens for the contributions that they have made to building the nation throughout their working lives.

Over time, Somaliland will move towards the establishment of a multi-tiered pension system with a pension-tested Old Age Pension. In other words, eligibility for the Old Age Pension will be determined based on existing receipt of a contributory pension scheme. The main objective of the

9 A strategy to build the Social Protection system up to 2030

universal scheme will be to ensure that all citizens access a minimum pension entitlement, regardless of whether these are financed through payroll taxes or general government revenues. This starts with the implementation of a Civil Service Pension which will be effective in 2023. Over time, contributory schemes will gradually increase for workers in the private sector. As a growing number of citizens access social insurance, the cost of the Old Age Pension will reduce. However, in reality, the universal Old Age Pension will be the main pension system in Somaliland up to 2030.

In the medium-term, by 2028, the Government of Somaliland will:

Conduct a scoping study to identify frameworks to build a multi-tiered pension system in Somaliland.

This will build on the universal social pension and Civil Service Pension, and further identify opportunities to build pension schemes for workers in the private sector and how best to reach workers in the informal sector.

In the long-term, by 2030, the Government of Somaliland will:

Provide a universal Old Age Pension for all older people aged 65 years and above

By 2030, the universal Old Age Pension will be expanded by reducing the age of eligibility to 65 years, in line with the retirement age for the Civil Service Pension.

10 Financing options for Social Protection

Low levels of domestic revenue collection and the largely informal economy and labour market in Somaliland have historically provided constraints to the public sector in Somaliland. COVID-19 and climate shocks are further impacting on Somaliland's economy and revenue sources. Nonetheless, the Government of Somaliland prioritises a strong public financial management system to improve revenue growth, tax collection and higher public expenditure in the years to come. In 2021, higher projected trade volumes and diversification of revenue sources have already led to a growth in the annual budget of Somaliland by 2.9 per cent compared to 2020.⁷⁵ Public sector investments in Somaliland focus on promoting the development and wellbeing of citizens. However, budget allocations for social services – including education, health, and water – remain low, at 16 per cent of total annual public expenditure in Somaliland.

Health investments were prioritised in 2021 and remain a key priority to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and wider health needs, as well as supporting mental health across Somaliland.⁷⁶ Strengthening the capacity of the state to protect citizens in the face of shocks is another significant priority for public investment. A Contingency Fund was established in 2020 to enable Somaliland to be better prepared for unexpected shocks, including droughts and cyclones. One per cent of the total annual budget is annually paid into a Contingency Fund, to help prepare for and manage shocks.⁷⁷ To date, Social Protection has not been prioritised in the public budget, yet it represents an important public service underpinning the wellbeing of citizens, including health, human capital development and resilience building in the face of recurring climate shocks.

The Government of Somaliland aims to build on the support by international partners and embed Social Protection within a strong public sector. The most sustainable source of financing Social Protection will be through government revenue, either through the diversification of revenue sources or the additional revenues generated by economic growth. In the short-term, investments in Social Protection will be small, prioritising capacity and systems strengthening, with the support of external partners. Somaliland aims to strengthen government coordination of wider systems for poor relief and disaster support, including through traditional institutions that levy Zakat, and humanitarian agencies that disburse emergency assistance to our shock-affected populations. A sustainable national Social Protection system will, over time, contribute to building human capital, and a more resilient population that can mitigate the impacts of shocks and limit negative coping strategies.

In the medium to long-term, investments in the Social Protection system will require a fundamental shift in Somaliland's economic and social model through strengthening the social contract and encouraging citizens to accept higher levels of taxation. At the heart of a well-governed economy and a strong public sector is the social contract between citizens and the government. When citizens pay taxes, in exchange, the government has a role in redistributing these taxes in an equitable and transparent manner through public services, the provision of law and order and investments in good infrastructure. In contrast, in societies with a weak social contract, citizens are less willing to pay taxes, undermining the ability of governments to collect revenue and reinvest in public services. However, good quality public services, including hospitals, schools and road infrastructure projects are established over longer periods of time. In contrast, good quality Social Protection schemes can be achieved in the short term: for instance, this policy will enable all young children and older persons to receive a regular cash benefit by 2023. This will send a clear message to citizens that the

⁷⁵ Musatafe (2020)

⁷⁶ Ministry of Finance Development (2021)

⁷⁷ Ministry of Finance Development (2020)

10 Financing options for Social Protection

government is seeking to care for everyone across Somaliland and will be clear evidence that the Government is fulfilling its side of the social contract. Because Somaliland takes an incremental approach to growing national Social Protection schemes, these investments will grow slowly over time and in line with increases in economic growth. Taking the example of other countries globally, Social Protection becomes part of a virtuous circle of universal services building trust in government and, as a result, higher government revenues. This will not only provide more fiscal space for investing in social protection itself, but also for other public services. Thus, the challenge of financing Social Protection will become much more achievable by 2030.

Therefore, while, in the short-term, fiscal space for Social Protection remains a challenge to Somaliland's public sector, there are options for the sector to grow in incremental stages. This can be financed through enhanced coordination and reprioritisation of both domestic and external funding sources to underpin a more sustainable and well-coordinated government system. The following sections describe a range of options for financing Social Protection systems.

10.1.1 Allocation of new tax revenues

The most sustainable source of financing for Social Protection is through the allocation of new government revenues to Social Protection over time. As long as economic growth is at a reasonable level, investments in Social Protection can grow incrementally without reducing investments in other key sectors such as security, infrastructure development, health, education, and recurring governance costs. The economy of Somaliland is estimated to grow year-on-year, as existing economic sectors such as livestock will be restored to pre-COVID-19 activities, and a higher degree of public financial management is estimated to generate further growth and revenue generation. Investment in universal Social Protection schemes will benefit greater economic growth and revenue generation. By receiving a reliable monthly benefit through Social Protection, recipients are better able to participate in the local economy, promoting a more dynamic market. Every year, the Government of Somaliland will be able to allocate a proportion of additional, new tax revenues to different public services, including Social Protection. By allocating a small proportion of additional tax income to Social Protection each year, certain features of the system can be financed incrementally up to 2030. In the long term, with the expansion of Social Insurance schemes, the Social Protection system could begin to finance itself by promoting greater formalisation and greater willingness to pay taxes.

10.1.2 Leverage external support to build capacity for Social Protection operations

A large portfolio of humanitarian operations currently fund emergency income transfers across Somaliland. The size of humanitarian assistance in Somaliland is currently not known, but it is estimated to be around US\$80 million to US\$100 million annually.⁷⁸ In contrast, investments in the incremental stages of lifecycle Social Protection schemes are estimated to require an initial investment of around US\$35.8 million (see Table 4), providing a universal child benefit to children during the first 1,000 days of life, essential support to children with disabilities and a universal old age pension. While the international community provides essential humanitarian assistance to our population that is in dire need of support to ensure their survival, a re-investment of external support in Social Protection can create significant savings in emergency assistance by building the population's capacity to manage and absorb shocks before a disaster occurs. One estimate across operations in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia reports that a combined approach of early humanitarian response – for example, through investments in early warnings systems and disaster risk reduction – in combination with Social Protection could save around US\$287 million per year in ad hoc

⁷⁸ Tran (2020)

humanitarian operations across all three countries.⁷⁹ This option requires strong horizontal coordination among government and non-government actors, under the leadership of the Government of Somaliland to prioritise national objectives.

10.1.3 Somaliland Development Fund

Investments in social infrastructure and services, including health and education, are promoted by the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) which funds key sectors of the National Development Plan. The SDF includes one of Somaliland's main budget components, alongside national government revenues, local government revenues, independent government agencies, and loan agreements.

The Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) provides a consolidated mechanism through which external support is channelled to investments that further the achievement of Somaliland's development goals in the National Development Plan. The SDF is designed to support the Government of Somaliland's capacity as a provider of basic services and build state accountability and transparency.⁸⁰ This will likely be a primary source of investment – at least in part – to fund the Social Protection system as it will be key Sector in the Third National Development Plan. The Somaliland Development Fund could potentially fund the capacity building of systems to underpin the effective operations of Social Protection schemes.

10.1.4 Formalisation of income tax

The Government of Somaliland aims to build the foundations of a comprehensive multi-tiered Social Protection system. Alongside national social transfer schemes across the lifecycle, the Public Service Pension Fund has been established which comprises a fund of US\$4 million with guaranteed sustainability of the fund for the coming three years. As a higher proportion of the working age population receives Social Protection entitlements, this can encourage the formalisation of the labour market and incentivise more people to declare their income. The Government of Somaliland facilitates a system of income declaration through taxpayer registration, which supports tax paying citizens to receive a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and declare their taxes online.⁸¹

Up to 2030, the implementation of universal national social transfers across the lifecycle can facilitate a system of income declaration and tax registration. For example, the Child Benefit could be linked to the TIN system. Parents and caregivers who apply for the child benefit would receive a TIN, which could have a transformative impact on governance and public financial management. In part, the cost of Social Protection to those in the formal economy could be clawed back via the tax system if the cash benefits are made taxable, thereby reducing their real cost. In addition, if some of the cash received is spent on goods that have value added taxes, some of the funds will be returned to the national treasury.

10.1.5 Private investments, including voluntary mechanisms to leverage support for Zakat and Sadaqah

The Third National Development Plan will include a focus on aligning investments of the private sector with national development objectives. To date, private corporations and private sector individuals play a strong role in national development, whether this is in the sectors of infrastructure, energy or social welfare, yet these are not coordinated in line with the objectives set by the Government of Somaliland. Similarly, as Section 5.6.1. indicated, significant private

⁷⁹ Cabot Venton (2018)

⁸⁰ Somaliland Development Fund (n.d.)

⁸¹ Ministry of Finance Development (2021)

10 Financing options for Social Protection

investments are made in social welfare, including poor relief and charity giving, but these are coordinated informally outside of the scope of the public sector without knowledge or oversight of the extent to which people with vulnerabilities are supported by these initiatives. Further, a large source of private investment into Somaliland's social and economic exchanges comes from remittance inflows. Social Protection should not be financed by levying higher taxes on remittances, which are regressive tax, disincentivise remittances and subsequently, harm the social benefits of these informal support mechanisms.⁸² Nonetheless, faith-based organisations which are financed, in part, through international remittances, contribute to a significant proportion of relief programmes across Islamic nations.

While, the collection of Zakat is, in part, coordinated through the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Somaliland, the objective is not to implement a mandatory state-run Zakat system. The Social Protection sector can complement Zakat and other instruments, including Sadaqah, and similarly, promote voluntary investments into a more formalised redistributive system. In order to preserve historical institutions for support, Sadaqah may be a more suitable mechanism to leverage support to finance Social Protection through private investments.

10.1.6 Excise taxes

The Government of Somaliland is committed to supporting vulnerable citizens who suffer mental health challenges and commonly resort to the consumption of goods that have harmful effects on individuals and the society. To support this, the Government of Somaliland collects a small tax levy of Sl. Sh.200 (US\$ 0.02) on every kilogram of khat imported into Somaliland, of which money will be put aside into a health development fund with the sole objective of promoting mental health.⁸³ Similarly the use of excise taxes – indirect taxes on the use of specific products – may be levied to channel dedicated funding for Social Protection.

⁸² Ortiz et al. (2015)

⁸³ Ministry of Finance Development (2021)

11 Monitoring and Evaluation

To guide the implementation of the Social Protection Policy and Strategy and monitor its performance, the table below sets out a logframe which summarises the main objectives and targets. It summarises the policy objectives to be prioritised from between 2023-2030. The logframe should primarily service as a guidance overview. For specific directives concerning the implementation of the objectives and targets, this will require a more detailed strategy by each relevant responsible agency.

Output	Responsible agencies	Measurable indicators	Expected impact
Policy objectives to be prioritised from 2023 onwards			
Institutional Framework for Coordination and Implementation of the Social Protection sector			
1. Develop an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for horizontal coordination of social protection schemes			
Cross-governmental coordination body to meet national Social Protection objectives	MESAF CSC MOH MOI MOF MONPD Ministry of Religious Affairs MOAD NADFOR NDRA MOE	Quarterly meetings held Participation of government agency representatives	Enhanced cooperation between government agencies to achieve national Social Protection objectives
2. Strengthen coordination among government and non-government stakeholders through the Social Protection Working Group			
Effective coordination between governmental coordination body on and development partners on Social Protection to align interventions with national objectives	MESAF MOH NDRA NADFOR MOF MONPD	Quarterly meetings held Participation of government agency and development partner representatives	2.2.2. Effective coordination between governmental coordination body on and development partners on Social Protection to align interventions with national objectives

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	Development Partners Civil Society Organisations		
3. Build capacity of a single agency that coordinates the provision of national social transfers in Somaliland			
One agency within the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family coordinates all policy development and administrative processes for the end-to-end delivery of national social transfers	MESAF	Single coordinating agency for Social Protection in place	National ownership of end-to-end delivery of national social transfers
4. Decentralise government agencies to address the human resource capacity needs of a functional end-to-end delivery system for Social Protection			
Responsibilities for the end-to-end delivery of Social Protection are managed at central, regional and district level	MESAF	Government focal points for Social Protection at central, regional and district levels	The administrative processes for Social Protection end-to-end delivery are effectively coordinated at different levels of government
5. Develop technical guidelines for the Social Protection Policy and Strategy			
Technical expertise is sources for the development of relevant technical guidelines to formulate the documentation required for the implementation of the Social Protection Policy, including but not limited to: costing and financing strategy, policy and legislative documentation, and operational documentation	MESAF Development Partners	Number of technical documents	A nationally owned and led Social Protection sector is properly guided by the appropriate documentation for the implementation of the Social Protection system and its appropriate legislative and policy framework
Systems and operations			
1. Develop clear and easily understandable operational documents, including an Operations Manual that it is updated regularly			
All Social Protection scheme operations are guided via clear operational manuals	MESAF Development Partners	Number of operational documents	All relevant stakeholders and operations staff, including frontline workers, implement Social Protection schemes in compliance with operational guidelines

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2. Develop robust Management Information Systems (MIS) to manage data related to the administrative processes underpinning the operations of Social Protection schemes			
All Social Protection schemes have a fully functional robust programme MIS system	MESAF Development Partners	MIS systems established for all Social Protection schemes	Enhance digital management of Social Protection schemes and information sharing among stakeholders
3. Design a Single Registry information warehouse for Social Protection schemes			
A Single Registry digital platform acts as an information warehouse that links Social Protection programme MISs to other relevant databases.	MESAF Development Partners	Single Registry established as a digital information warehouse linking Social Protection databases	Enhanced linkages between Social Protection Programme MISs and
4. Implement crisis modifiers that enables existing Social Protection transfers to be scaled up during a large-scale shock			
Social Protection programme MISs are effectively linked to existing early warnings systems and disaster risk management to enable pre-agreed automatic triggering of emergency responses by scaling up Social Protection transfers	MESAF NDRA NADFOR Development Partners	Number of households reached by emergency support mechanisms through scalable Social Protection schemes	A Shock-Responsive Social Protection system that enables humanitarian support and disaster risk management to be aligned with national social transfers
5. Implement a simple disability assessment mechanism to identify eligible people with disabilities for support			
A simple disability assessment mechanism identifies all people with severe disabilities for disability-specific Social Protection schemes and other services	MESAF MOH MOI MOF MOPD Development partners Somaliland National Disability Federation (SNDF) Diversity Action Network (DAN)	Number of persons with disabilities identified and receiving Social Protection transfers as well as other public services	People with severe disabilities are recognised by the State and are guaranteed access to public services based on their disability status

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6. Develop a clear and inclusive public communications strategy to ensure that communities understand the social protection schemes at their disposal			
All Social Protection schemes have a wide-ranging communications strategy that clearly conveys purpose, objectives, and scheme eligibility criteria	MESAF MOPD Development partners	Proportion of households that demonstrate awareness of Social Protection schemes during monitoring exercises	Enhanced trust in public services among citizens Universal awareness of rights and entitlements, which fosters a greater social contract
7. Develop a responsive, robust and accountable financial management system that can disburse funds operations and beneficiary payments both reliably and on time			
An accountable financial management system is developed that ensures the timely and accurate payment of Social Protection transfers to recipients	MESAF MOF MOPD Development partners	Monthly transfers are timely and accurately disbursed to recipients	All eligible Social Protection recipients receive predictable income support
8. Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that programmes can provide key performance data to stakeholders			
All Social Protection schemes undergo routine monitoring and evaluation	MESAF Development partners	Periodical monitoring reports are published (post-distribution monitoring) Programme MISs provide updated monthly performance data	Operations of Social Protection schemes are continuously enhanced through effective feedback mechanisms
9. Integrate complaints and grievances mechanisms			
All citizens are able to appeal their exclusion from a Social Protection scheme and all recipients of schemes can access a reliable feedback mechanism to hold duty bearers to account	MESAF Development partners	Monitoring and feedback data on complaints and grievances logged.	Complaints and grievances are timely resolved.
10. Institutionalise research and evidence building capacity within the leading agency responsible for Social Protection coordination and delivery			
A research facility will be institutionalised to lead the commissioning of relevant	MESAF Development partners	Number of research outputs	Inclusive research and advocacy on Social Protection and related issues which translates into policy change

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research and advocacy for Social Protection by 2025			
Social care services			
1. Conduct a capacity assessment for a national social workforce to provide social services for children and adults through case management and parenting interventions			
A comprehensive capacity assessment sets out human resource and training requirements to build a social workforce that underpins social services to children and adults through case management	MESAF Development Partners	Capacity assessment has been undertaken and disseminated among relevant stakeholders	Human resource requirements for the incremental growth of a social workforce in Somaliland are identified
A strategy to build a lifecycle Social Protection system up to 2030			
Strategic targets by 2025			
1. Implement a nationally coordinated Child Benefit scheme through a phased approach, combining geographic roll-out with an incremental growth of the age group			
Universal child benefit that guarantees all children in the first 1,000 days of life across prioritised regions or districts a minimum living standard at birth, which is gradually expanded to cover all children nationally	MESAF MOH MOI MOF MOPD Development partners	Number of children registered and receiving benefits	Reduction in income insecurity of families raising children Increase in uptake of health services for mothers and newborn children Improved food and nutrition outcomes
2. Implement a universal Child Disability Benefit to offer them a minimum level of protection, in addition to the Child Benefit			
All children with disabilities are compensated for disability-related costs to empower their participation in society	MESAF MOH MOI MOF MOPD Development partners Somaliland National Disability Federation (SNDF) Diversity Action Network (DAN)	Number of children with disabilities assessed, registered and receiving benefits	Increase in participation of children with disability in schools Increase in uptake of public services for children with disabilities Improved food and nutrition outcomes

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3. Implement a national universal old age pension to remunerate all citizens for their contributions to the nation throughout their working lives			
All citizens of Somaliland are guaranteed a minimum income in old age, whether through the Old Age Pension or Civil Service Pension	All citizens of Somaliland are guaranteed a minimum income when they reach 70 years of age, whether through the Old Age Pension or Civil Service Pension	All citizens of Somaliland are guaranteed a minimum income when they reach 70 years of age, whether through the Old Age Pension or Civil Service Pension	All citizens of Somaliland are guaranteed a minimum income when they reach 70 years of age, whether through the Old Age Pension or Civil Service Pension
Strategic targets by 2028			
1. Implement an Adult Disability Benefit to support them in meeting the additional costs related to disability			
All people with disabilities aged 18 to 69 years are compensated for disability-related costs to empower their participation in society by 2025	MESAF MOH MOI MOF MOPD Development partners Somaliland National Disability Federation (SNDP) Diversity Action Network (DAN)	Number of people with disabilities assessed, registered and receiving benefits	Increase income security to enable people with disabilities to meet additional costs Increase in participation of people with disabilities in education, training and employment Increase in uptake of public services for people with disabilities Improved food and nutrition outcomes
2. Undertake a scoping study on Social Insurance			
A scoping study assesses the feasibility of implementing a package of social insurance schemes in Somaliland, as part of a multi-tiered system	MESAF Development Partners	Scoping study has been undertaken and disseminated among stakeholders, including training on social insurance and multi-tiered systems	Entry points for building social insurance schemes are identified
3. Conduct a scoping study to identify frameworks to build a multi-tiered pension system			
A scoping study identifies opportunities to build pension schemes for workers in the private sector and how best to reach workers in the informal sector, as part of a multi-tiered system	MESAF Development Partners	Scoping study has been undertaken and disseminated among stakeholders, including training on multi-tiered systems	Entry points for building a multi-tiered pension system are identified, building on the Civil Service Pension

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Strategic targets by 2030			
1. Undertake a scoping study for the implementation of public employment schemes			
Youth and people of working age have access to decent public employment which contributes to wider objectives such as developing infrastructure and the social workforce	MESAF MOPD Development Partners	Scoping study has been undertaken and disseminated among stakeholders, including training on public employment	Entry points for the provision of public employment programmes is identified, in line with the human resource needs of the workforce in public sectors

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Annex 1 Description of Social Protection Pilot schemes in Somaliland

Annex 1.1 Child Sensitive Social Protection and Shock-Responsive Social Protection Pilot

Implemented by Save the Children and HAVOYOCO, through partnerships with MESAF and NDRA, the Child-Sensitive Social Protection pilot scheme provides a monthly transfer of US\$20 (Sl. Sh. 170,000) to 450 vulnerable households with at least two children below the age of five years in Mohamed Mooge IDP settlement. The scheme targets households living in poverty through community-based targeting. In addition to receiving a predictable income transfer, recipient families receive child-sensitive awareness trainings as well as life skills training. Through social and behaviour change communication, the scheme also promotes access to social services and education.

With the support of the EU-funded technical assistance facility, the Shock-Responsive Social Protection pilot scheme has been launched in 'Mohamed Mooge A' settlement to promote learning on coordination mechanisms between government agencies and international partners, as well as actors providing operational systems such as financial services providers, and early warning systems. The aim of the scheme is to rapidly provide households that have been pre-registered into a Social Protection database with emergency support when they are affected by unprecedented shocks. These shocks are identified based on Somaliland's Early Warnings System administered by NADFOR, which automatically triggers an emergency response. Triggers are activated in the event of a drought or flash flood. When a trigger is activated, within three days, shock-affected households receive a transfer of US\$70 (Sl. Sh. 595,000) per month, for a duration of three months. This includes a vertical expansion of US\$50 (Sl. Sh. 425,000) per month for households already receiving the CSSP, and a horizontal expansion of the CSSP to non-recipient households who have been affected by the shock. To enable horizontal expansion of the CSSP, a universal registration of all households in Mohamed Mooge has been conducted prior to the roll-out of the pilot.

Annex 1.2 Social Transfer Project

Implemented by Save the Children and Concern Worldwide in collaboration with MESAF, the Social Transfer Project provides a monthly transfer of US\$20 (Sl. Sh. 170,000) to 10,932 households living in poverty – identified through a community-based mechanism – across Hargeisa, Berbera and Borama. The scheme provides predictable income transfers across various categories of vulnerability throughout the lifecycle. The programme is part of the EU ECHO funded Inclusive Local Economic Development (ILED) programme. The first component of the project reaches 4,924 pregnant and lactating women who have been registered during their third trimester through local maternal and child health centres. In addition to receiving the transfer, recipients receive messages on infant and young child feeding practices at health facilities and SMS reminders about their due dates for recommended antenatal care and postnatal care visits. Other components of the scheme include: a transfer provided to vulnerable young people who receive access to technical and vocational education and training, and a transfer provided to vulnerable older people aged 55 years or above. Whereas the project duration for pregnant and lactating women is 24 months, it is 12 months for young people and older persons.

Annex 1.3 Safety Net for Human Capital programme

Annex 1 Description of Social Protection Pilot schemes in Somaliland

Funded by the World Bank and implemented by WFP in collaboration with World Vision, UNICEF and MESAFA, the Safety Net for Human Capital programme provides a monthly income transfer of US\$20 to approximately 11,000 vulnerable households with children under five years in Zeylac, Lughaye and Gebiley districts in Somaliland. The aim of the scheme is to provide the most vulnerable households in rural areas that are frequently affected by climate shocks with predictable support to build their long-term resilience. Households are identified through community-based targeting. Priority is given to households when they meet any of the following criteria: malnourishment, child-headed households, no breadwinner, limited livelihoods or assets, or having a member with a disability.

Based on a 'distress index' informed by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, WFP implements a triggering mechanism that provides shock-affected households with a transfer of US\$60 (Sl. Sh. 510,000) per month, for a duration of three months. This includes a vertical expansion of US\$40 (Sl. Sh. 340,000) for households already receiving the transfer, and a temporary horizontal expansion of the scheme to 589 non-recipient households who have been affected by the shock.