



## Monthly Update

August 2017

### This Month in Review

August was an important month for Puntland Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation. The objective of this short document is to briefly update all vital stakeholders regarding the Ministry's achievements. Throughout the ages, proper communication between both public and private institutions and the public was essential to the success of said institution. This short document upholds this principle. Below one shall find brief descriptions and/or highlights of the achievements of the Ministry in the month of August 2017, segmented based on offices and/or departments.

### 1. STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Overall Mandate: All aspects of statistics policies and standards. Data collection and entries, and safeguarding all the statistical resources and studies.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS August 2017

##### 1.1 REVIEW OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ITEMS

One of the main activities in our Statistics department's annual plan is to improve the quality of the CPI data as well as reviewing the CPI items to standardize and use CPI COICOP to fulfill the international standards in the coming years. CPI is probably the most important indicator of inflation, it represents the change in the consumer price level for a basket of consumer goods, and this fact makes it very imperative to develop our microeconomic data particularly the CPI. A group of statistician and economists led by the head of the economic statistics had reviewed the CPI items and developed recommendations which will be adopted.

##### 1.2 SWEDEN STATISTICS CAPACITY BUILDING (SCB)

To strengthen the statistical capacity with the purpose of facilitating decision makers' awareness, understanding and trust in statistical data, Statistics Sweden has supported the statistics department through conducting on the job trainings in different area in;

### ***1.2.1 : On the job trainings on Consumer Price Index (CPI) at Statistics South Africa***

The aim of this training was to train four staffs from Somalia statistics authorities particularly from Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Puntland on CPI to improve the quality of CPI data on par with international practices and standards.

The participants understood the requirements of CPI methodology in line with international standards and practices. The participants from Somalia Statistical Authorities and Stats SA together identified the CPI problems and challenges in Somalia which needs to be addressed particularly in the area of data collection, audit and quality management, compilation and reporting challenges and problems.

Upon the return from the South Africa, the participants conducted a transfer of their newly acquired knowledge and skills-set gained from the mission to the CPI offices through training, consultations and practical guidance.

### ***1.2.2: WEBSITE ADMINISTRATION***

With the aim of making timely dissemination of produced statistics available on the websites and also with the aim of facilitating the access by users of the statistical information produced by Puntland Department of Statistics, Statistics Sweden has organized one week training mission on website administration with the aim to improve the existing department's website.

Webmasters from MoPIC trained on further website administration techniques, suggestions on the improvement of the IT environment of the websites were discussed and agreed upon.

### **1.3 SHDS TECHNICAL PLANNING WORKSHOP IN HARGEISA**

Somali statistics authorities together with UNFPA held a consultation workshop on Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) to deliberate and agree on the overall planning, coordination and technical assistance mechanisms to conduct the (SDHS), manuals and tools were drafted (organizational structure, sampling, enumeration, supervisors and training manuals) specifying roles and responsibilities of all key survey actors/personnel in the preparation and execution of the SDHS. At the end of the workshop participants have agreed upon action points and a work plan for the survey was drafted and endorsed by the team.

### **1.4 THE NOMADIC DATA GATHERING & MMR PILOT SURVEY**

The estimated population of nomads obtained through PESS has been argued to be underestimated. Over the years it's thought that the nomadic population dynamics and movements might have changed due to the changes of lifestyle, climate change, draughts, etc. Therefore, these changes of nomadic lifestyle patterns makes it very imperative to research the most accurate method for estimating the nomadic population among the Somalis. Consequently, MoPIC with support from UNFPA has conducted a nomadic and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) survey, using smartphones. The survey took place in five districts namely Garowe, Qardho, Dhahar, Buhodle and Galkio.

## 1.5 UPDATE URBAN SAMPLING FRAME

As part of the preparation of the SHDS, the staff from the GIS unit in the department of Statistics has updated the urban frame geo-databases by digitizing the structures in the enumeration area. This involved linkages and verification of enumeration areas. The team has successfully mapped 17 urban towns which will constitute the Puntland urban frame.

## 2. AID COORDINATION DEPARTMENT

Overall Mandate: All aspects of aid coordination, agencies and NGOs registration, and SWGs. Oversight the implementation of the project in the regional. Facilitating visas for international staff of INGOs and agencies.

### DEPARTMENT OF AID COORDINATION MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS August 2017

#### 2.1 Puntland Development Forum (PDF)

The Puntland Development Forum (PDF) is the Puntland State of Somalia's Aid Coordination system; a State analogue of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility-the Federal State Aid Coordination system. The PDF aims to tackle the challenges of overlap and duplicity, ineffectiveness and inefficiencies, lack of communication, coordination and overall direction. The PDF groups the activities of the government and its development partners into six thematic groupings: Governance, Justice, Security, Infrastructure, Social and Livelihood. These sectors are all-inclusive and fully represent the Stakeholders of those sectors.

As of the 31<sup>th</sup> of August 2017, every sector held its inaugural meeting at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, where the terms of reference and a six month calendar of meetings were endorsed by the chair, co-chair and members of each sector; as well as, a second and in some instances a third meeting. During the latter meetings, some sectors, such as the Justice Sector decided to map the challenges explicit and implicit in their sector, with the objective of producing solutions written in the form of concept notes. While other sectors, such as the Infrastructure Sector, produced a draft full project proposal. The Infrastructure Sector discussed the details of a project proposal titled: "Puntland Fishery Industry Catalyst Project (PFICP)." This project shall be endorsed during the August meeting of the Infrastructure Sector.

One of the main objectives of the PDF is to develop highly-technical project proposals on behalf of the Puntland Government. The process under which this objective is achieved is as follows:

- A. The relevant government institution develops an idea and presents the idea written in a concept note format at its relevant PDF sector.
- B. The Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation develops the concept note in a full project proposal.
- C. MoPIC presents this project proposal at the relevant PDF sector meeting.
- D. MoPIC submits the project proposal to the relevant line Ministry for feedback.
- E. The relevant line Ministry then presents a second draft of the project at the Sector meeting

- F. The relevant line Ministry then submits the project proposal to an NGO or UN Agencies whose mandates align with the activities proposed by the project for final edits
- G. The final version of the project is presented by both the relevant line Ministry and the UN Agency or NGO that finalized the project at the next PDF sector meeting

## **2.2 Puntland Development Forum (PDF) Core Team Meeting**

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Puntland Development Forum (PDF) Core Team Meeting was held at the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation-Puntland (MoPIC) in Garowe.

The meeting was officially chaired by Honorable Deputy Minister of Planning & International Cooperation, His Excellency Said Farah Mohamoud. The meeting was held in honor of the chairs and co-chairs of the various Puntland Development Forum (PDF) Sector Working Groups (SWGs) to discuss the achievements, challenges, and ways forward for the initial 3-months of implementation of the PDF.

The meeting was also a splendid opportunity to discuss the launching of a new UN Sector Working Group, Early Recovery & Resilience. The discussion was spearheaded by Sayed Sahibzada, Head of the UNDP office in Garowe. This new sector working group is unique among the sector working groups in the sense that it is a cross-cutting group that deals with issues pertinent to other UN clusters, and it will and must coordinate with all of them to be truly successful.

Mohamed Hassan Barre, Puntland New Deal Focal Point Person, gave a historical summary of the Somalia New Deal Compact and spoke brilliantly about the agreements (The New Partnership Agreement for Somalia), mechanism (Somalia Development & Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) Funding Windows), and the document (the Somalia National Development Plan (2017-2019)) that would lead the course of the aid flowing into Somalia for the coming three years. He spoke briefly about the SDRF Funding Window Operational Manual and its significance.

The meeting, after exploring viable options and possible durable solutions to the issues and challenges under discussion this morning, agreed on the following:

- The Director Generals, chairing the various PDF SWGs, pledged to secure the participation of the Puntland Government Institutions who are members of their sectors and to ensure the achievement of the overall and specific objectives of the PDF.
- The Co-chairs, uniformly being International development partner agencies, pledged to work in unison with the Puntland Government, specifically the chairs of the various PDF SWGs, in order to strengthen the implementation of the mandate of the PDF.
- It was agreed, with respect to the Early Recovery & Resilience Sector Working Group, that MoPIC would develop a terms of reference for the sector working group to be shared with and edited by sector members.
- Mohamed Hassan Bare, Puntland New Deal Focal Point Person, will share with all PDF Core Team Members the very significant Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility Funding Windows' Operational Manual.

## **2.3 Federal Non-Governmental Organizations Bill**

Somalia is undergoing monumental positive changes that as a summation can be termed as the ‘Era of State Re-building,’ despite the obvious obstacles it faces. As in tune with this Era, The Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development (MoPIED) undertook the initiative to draft a Federal Non-Governmental Organizations Bill, through an internal consultation with the Federal Member States of Somalia. This bill aims at constructing a system and mechanisms through which the Somalia Federal and State Governments can productively engage and provide ethical oversight of the registration and operations of Non-Governmental Organizations actively conducting operations within the borders of Somalia. In the month of August, Puntland Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation actively participated in the discussions by offering constructive critiques of the Federal MoPIED proposed model, and putting forth a vision of an alternative model that all-concerned stakeholders can endorse. The Bill is still at the draft stages, and numerous issues are still being discussed between the various relevant government institutions.

## **2.4 Tax Facilitation Offices (UN Non-Staff Taxation)**

During the month of August, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) Tax Facilitation Office was extremely successful in continuing and normalizing the collection of taxes from United Nations Non-Staff employees. The Ministry works closely with the Ministry of Finance and the United Nations Agencies to be able to fulfill this achievement.

MoPIC Tax Facilitation Office does not collect taxes per se, but rather facilitates this vital activity on behalf of the Ministry of Finance. For instance, MoPIC determines which individuals employed by the United Nations is obligated to pay a certain tax rate, compiling this list, deciphering the salary grade of those individuals, and providing them with a guideline document that explains the necessity of the public tax being sought, and the mechanism through which an individual needs to pay said tax. These facilitation activities ensure the Ministry of Finance fulfills its very significant mandate of public tax collection.

MoPIC Tax Facilitation Office continues to facilitate the collection of taxes from International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) staff, premises, and vehicles.

## **3. OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**Overall Mandate:** Administrative management of the ministry and provision of internal services; administrative control of regional and district offices

## **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS July 2017**

### **3.1 Howard Bell Farewell Dinner**

The Puntland Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation facilitated and organized a dinner in collaboration with the Puntland Office of the President to formally recognize and thank Howard Bell, the UN Resident Coordinator, for his tremendous efforts and long-lasting contributions to the Puntland State.

The President of the Puntland State of Somalia, His Excellency, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali “Gaas,” bestowed upon Mr. Howard Bell a certificate of appreciation, and gifted Mr. Howard Bell with Somali traditional clothing. **3.2 MoPIC Interns Training Course**

MoPIC Operations Department developed a training course and facilitated training sessions for all the Ministry’s interns on the protocols and procedures of the Ministry to enable the interns to fully participate in the activities of the Ministry.

#### **4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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| Overall Mandate: | All aspects of State planning, governmental planning coordination. Handling the media and communication to the public. |
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#### **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS August 2017**

##### **4.1 Terms of Reference (TOR) Developed for Consultancy to Develop Strategic Plans for Puntland World Bank Capacity Injection Project (CIP) Beneficiary Institutions**

The Puntland Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation developed the terms of reference for the above mentioned consultancy. The purpose and objective of this assignment is to provide technical assistance to support the development of 3- 4 year strategic plans (2017–2020) for each of the CIP Beneficiary Institutions in Puntland through a consultative and participatory process.

A strategic plan focuses attention on the vision and mission of the organization and how the organization functions. It helps focus attention on future priorities and the strategic interventions required to implement them. Considered as a set of purposeful actions that influence an organization in order to effect change, strategic planning is also regarded as a methodology aimed at future change of a present situation. Therefore, a key to successful strategic planning is context. In the context of the Government of Puntland, the strategic plans for all the beneficiary institutions will consider the interest of the particular institution in its larger context, including its place within the government, Somalia at large, and even the global environment. It is in this regard that a strategic plan will help the institutions anticipate and create their future, maximize their strengths, capitalize on their opportunities to play a leading role in the emerging issues shaping the civil service, as well as build support for activities they deem important to their future. The strategic plan will as a matter of necessity be anchored on critical priorities and interventions of the Somalia National Development Plan (2017-2019) and further provide guidance for achieving results within a specified timeframe.

It is in this regard that the Government of Puntland with support from the World Bank and other development partners is seeking the services of an experienced consultant to provide technical assistance in developing strategic plans for nine (9) beneficiary institutions (BIs) of the CIP to facilitate the achievements of the goal and objectives of the Somalia National Development Plan (2017-2019).

## **4.2 Puntland Joint Government and Interagency Assessment on Early Recovery and Strategic Resilience Planning**

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in consultation with relevant Puntland Government institutions and local and international partners, realized the obligation to conduct this joint inter – agency drought recovery and resilience needs assessment.

The purpose of this initiative is to assess and evaluate the impact of the recurrent droughts and other natural, environmental and man – made disasters in Puntland to identify major disaster recovery and resilience needs. It aims to investigate and understand major underlying causes and the medium effects and needs of recurrent droughts and other disasters beyond the immediate and emergency impact of drought. With a special focus on the recent prolonged drought in Puntland, it is envisaged that we need to better understand and estimate how effective we can respond to the effects of disasters while putting more emphasis on both short and medium terms needs of affected communities and develop strategic framework for mitigating these impacts. The focus is to understand the vulnerability factors and why the impact of drought is always so severe and more frequent in Puntland. The results and the findings of this assessment will form a more holistic and better planning basis for both our humanitarian and recovery and resilience partners enabling them to effectively address key contributing factors and efficient use of resources rather than dealing with the same symptoms every other year. Lessons learned derived from this task especially the review of the drought response interventions will feed into the preparation of medium and long-term drought mitigation strategies for Puntland. The assessment will also look into best practices, capacities and opportunities for better dealing with the consequences of these shocks. In addition, the assessment will discover a scale that requires proper planning, reprogramming and timely resource mobilization for more of drought recovery, resilience building of affected local communities in post-lifesaving emergency phase.

Notwithstanding, this undertaking is not intended to duplicate and or replace current organizational or sectoral humanitarian relief mechanism that are already in place nor will it create a parallel planning and coordination process by sectors/clusters. This proposed task will rather ensure more of a coherent approach that will bring together all stakeholders towards a more holistic and strategic direction of forward planning for early disaster recovery and medium term resilience strengthening strategy for all actors in Puntland. Furthermore, this effort under the leadership of the Puntland Government, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) has undertaken this initiative to coordinate this strategic joint interagency study in partnership and close collaboration with all the stakeholders to come up with immediate relief and recovery action plan and medium and long term durable solution to preparedness and resilience challenges.

## **4.3 Terms of Reference Developed for the United Nations Early Recovery Working Group**

MOPIC drafted a Terms of Reference for the United Nations Early Recovery Working Group. In Puntland, there are 9 sub-sector working groups operational, namely, WASH, education, environmental protection, nutrition, health, harmonized cash transfer, protection and shelter. The Early Recovery Working Group will integrate the existing working groups with activities aimed at increasing service delivery, restoring basic services in drought severe affected areas with focus on resilience and institutional capacity building as key aspects to assure sustainability of the proposed interventions. Innovative approaches to solve recurrent issues will also be integrated in early recovery plans and interventions.

#### **4.4 World Bank Capacity Injection Project (CIP) Planning Meeting Held in Nairobi, Kenya**

Puntland Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation works closely with the World Bank PCU, and Team Task Leader, Mr. Alex Appiah-Koranteng to guide the smooth implementation of the World Bank Somalia Capacity Injection Project (CIP) at the Puntland State-level.

A two-day meeting was hosted by the World Bank CIP in Nairobi, Kenya with special attendance from representatives of the UNDP Strengthening Institutional Performance (SIP), due to the fact that these two projects (CIP & SIP) quite complement each other and therefore, close communication is very necessary to avoid duplication between the two projects.

Work-plans for MoPIC Statistics, M&E and Aid Coordination departments for the remainder of 2017 were developed, as well as, drafting of activities whose ultimate aim is to support capacity building and staffing needs at the Ministry.

### **5. M&E DEPARTMENT**

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| Overall  | All aspects of monitoring and evaluation standards and knowledge base. |
| Mandate: | Conducting M&E for projects and providing support to the projects.     |

#### **DEPARTMENT OF M&E MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS August 2017**

##### **5.1 M&E Database Completed**

Puntland MoPIC Monitoring and Evaluation database was updated and completed after it was discovered that the previous database was not compatible with the Revised Puntland Development Plan (2017-2019). This database will allow all Government institutions to visualize their recorded M&E data emerged from the field.

##### **5.2 M&E Sector Working Group training and their TOR were approved**

The Monitoring and Evaluation Department organized a five days training for M&E head of section from government institutions. The training was designed to improve skills relevant to their working station in their respective institutions.

##### **5.3 Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for INGOs Developed**

Monitoring and evaluation plan for INGOs has been developed by M&E staff to thoroughly monitor and evaluate interventions implemented by INGOs in Puntland. MoPIC undertakes Joint Monitoring Missions with INGOs and Government line ministries twice a year under the leadership of MoPIC.



## 6. SELECTED PICTURES



Photo 1: MoPIC Minister and DG meeting with UNDP Deputy CD, UNDP Head Puntland Head of office and SIP Project Manager



Photo 2: World Bank Capacity Injection Project: Workshop on Transforming Planning, Statistics & M&E Departments.



Photo 3: Training on Website Administration in Djibouti, organized by SCB Project, Sweden Statistics



Photo 4: UNDP Head of Office, UNICEF Head of Office, MoPIC DG & HADMA Chairman at PDF Core Team Meeting



Photo 5: MoPIC Nomadic and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) survey, conducting utilizing smartphones, is supported by UNFPA



Photo 6: Training participants on Website Administration in Djibouti, organized by SCB Project, Sweden Statistics



Photo 2: MoPIC Minister HE Shire Haji Farah discusses the Federal Non-Governmental Organizations Bill with his technical team



Photo 2: A farewell dinner for Howard Bell, UN Resident Coordinator/Head of UNSOM in Puntland organized by MoPIC H.E Abdiweli awards appreciation certificate

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