Somaliland SDG16+ Progress Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the government of Somaliland not taking part in the negotiation process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it has proactively engaged on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Authorities have endorsed the SDGs and included them in the national development framework, the Somaliland National Development Plan II (NDPII). Nonetheless, the government of Somaliland remains unable to share this progress with official UN mechanisms because of its political status. To ensure that Somaliland's efforts to implement the SDGs are shared with the rest of the world, civil society has decided to fill the gap – and report on the process and progress on SDG16+ implementation in Somaliland.

This is an independent progress report that is produced and owned by the Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition – a group of civil society organisations working to implement SDG16+ in all regions of Somaliland. The report itself is a result of an inclusive and comprehensive consultation process involving civil society and relevant government organs and departments. The purpose is to outline the progress that has been made, existing gaps and to provide recommendations to sustain progress and fill gaps.

The report is split into three main sections. The first analyses the process to integrate SDG16+ into national development activities. The second reviews progress on four chosen SDG16+ targets and the third and final section offers conclusions and recommendations for the involved actors in Somaliland.

In Somaliland, we have seen encouraging signs that authorities are beginning to take the SDGs and SDG16+ seriously. A national development plan (NDPII) has been developed using "the SDGs as the 'technical foundation.' The NDPII includes many targets relevant to SDG16+, but unfortunately this has not filtered down to other government strategies. The NDPII is commendable in its ambition, but it is too far-reaching – with huge budget gaps and indicators that current capacity cannot measure.

This report reviews progress in Somaliland towards delivering on SDG 16.3: *Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all;* SDG 5.5: *Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life;* SDG 5.3: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and;* SDG 16.10: *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.* In each case available data has been reviewed using the UN-IAEG indicators, complementary global indicators, and nationally specific indicators that have been developed in collaboration with civil society partners in Somaliland. At times data was difficult to source due to a lack of willingness from some partners to share this with coalition members.

In each of the four SDG16+ targets reviewed, there are examples of positive action with substantial scope to make further progress in the coming years. The realization of this progress will require consistent and more strategic funding from the government and other sources including donors and the private sector. Existing limited funding sources are not well coordinated and are rarely allocated on the basis of SDGs targets. There is a need to support the capacity of government agencies and civil society organizations to cope with the demands of implementing and monitoring an ambitious agenda like SDG16+.

Ultimately, despite the positive work of some government agencies and civil society organisations in Somaliland, technical and financial challenges pose a big barrier to effective implementation of SDG16+. This is compounded by the inability to collect reliable, up-to-date disaggregated data on the impact of many implementation efforts, which is hindering overall efforts.

INTRODUCTION

Despite the government of Somaliland not taking part in the negotiation process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it has proactively engaged on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has endorsed the SDGs and included them in its national development framework, the National Development Plan II (NDPII), as an expression of the commitment to the agenda.

Since Somaliland is not a member of the UN[1], the current follow-up and review mechanism – the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) does not offer an opportunity for the government to report on its progress in implementing the SDGs. Given the centrality of the 'leave no-one behind' agenda, Somaliland, regardless of political status, should not be excluded when it comes to the SDGs. To ensure that Somaliland's efforts to implement the SDGs is shared with the rest of the world, civil society has decided to fill the gap – and report on the process and progress on SDG16+ implementation in Somaliland.

This is an independent progress report that is produced and owned by the Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition – a group of civil society organisations working to implement SDG16+ in all regions of Somaliland.[2] The report itself is a result of an inclusive and comprehensive consultation process involving civil society and relevant government organs and departments. The purpose is to outline the progress that has been made, existing gaps and to provide recommendations to sustain progress and fill gaps.

The focus for the progress report comes from SDG16+ consultation workshops which were held in 2017 and 2018 across Somaliland. A total of 55 civil society organizations were consulted during this progress – representing a range of different groups including women's groups, youth groups, minority rights, and disability rights groups. In these consultations; the following three targets were selected for the short term and long term SDG16+ priorities:

SDG16+priorities for action 2018 -2020:

- **SDG 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

- **SDG 5.3:** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

- **SDG 16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

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1. Somaliland declared separation from Somalia in 1991 after the central government of Somalia led by General Mohamed Siad Barre collapsed.
2. The Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition was established to enhance collaboration among civil society groups, recognising the importance of partnerships if the 2030 Agenda is to be successfully implemented. The Coalition is composed of the Horn of Africa – Center for Policy Analysis (CPA), the Somaliland Human Rights Center (HRC), the Network against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS), Saferworld, the Somaliland Non-State Actors Forum (SONSAF), and the Somaliland National Youth Umbrella (SONYO).

SDG16+ priorities for action 2020−2030:

- SDG 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

- SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

- SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

In February 2019, civil society organizations decided which of these SDG16+ targets and indicators to be used in the progress report – and decided the report to cover SDG 16.3, SDG 16.10, SDG 5.5, and SDG 5.3. Hereafter, a data gathering process was carried out in which civil society organizations, UN agencies, international NGOs and various government departments were involved. Both primary data and secondary data were collected in the process. The relevant government agencies were targeted in the data gathering process to find out the official data. Also, data from civil society organizations, international organizations and UN agencies were gathered.

PART A - PROCESS

a)   The track record on reporting

Somaliland has never reported to the UN HLPF because of its political status as an unrecognised state. Nevertheless, it has endorsed the SDGs and included in its national development framework, the NDPII. Civil society has a key role in serving as an intermediary to sketch the progress made by Somaliland and remaining gaps in order to link the local communities to global forums and discussions.

While there have not been any civil society formal inputs to the HLPF, this is not the first time Somaliland civil society has reported to an international forum. In 2015, civil society of Somaliland prepared and submitted a shadow report of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) to the UN Human Rights Council. The UPR civil society report was based on consultation process with 40 organizations located in all the six regions of Somaliland. After the report was submitted, civil society held a workshop with the government officials to introduce and share with the report recommendations. The government welcomed the recommendations and the process, which enabled Somaliland's issues to be tabled in an international forum. This SDG16+ progress report is being built on the experience gained from the UPR as well as the coordination and cooperation mechanism utilized during the drafting and preparation of the UPR report in 2015.

b)   Alignment

The government of Somaliland adopted its first national development plan in 2011 (2011 to 2016). This National Development Plan preceded the Sustainable Development Goals. Upon the ending of the timeframe of the NDP, the second phase of the plan was prepared to cover 2017 to 2021. The process of the adoption of the second plan called the National Development Plan II was spearheaded by the Ministry of National Planning and Development. Government agencies in national, regional and district level participated in a consultation process. Civil society groups advocated for inclusion and alignment of SDGs in the development plan. Finally, the National Development Plan II (NDP II) was approved by the cabinet in 2017.

The NDP II incorporated SDG16+ and its targets. According to the National Development Plan II, "the SDGs are the technical foundation for which the NDP II has been developed."[3] SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 are aligned with the sector divisions of the NDP II. The NDPII includes many targets relevant to SDG16+, including specific targets on: reducing violence; improving the rule of law, eliminating organised crime, reducing corruption and bribery, developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions, enhancing public participation in decision-making, reducing the harmful practise of female genital mutilation (FGM), and improving human rights mechanisms.

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3.   NDP II Document, page 9

Nonetheless, SDG16+ are rarely mentioned or aligned with government strategic plans and policies outside of the NDPII. The only strategic plans that refer SDG16+ are the Strategic Plan (2018-2020) of the Ministry of Justice and the draft Judiciary Strategic Plan of the Judiciary sector. Others including the National Gender Policy and the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (2018-2021) are examples of vital related documents lacking to refer SDG16+.

c) Official Government strategy, structures and capacities for SDG16+

The National Development Plan II was formed by the Ministry of Planning and National Development as the lead institution for the government of Somaliland. The process was largely government run but civil society were included in consultations. Comparatively, the formulation process was more inclusive than NDP I which was prepared without any consultations with civil society. In NDP II, civil society was consulted and was able to provide recommendations, despite not having a lead role in shaping the contents of the plan. The prioritization workshops for the NPD II were divided into a sector approach. Relevant stakeholders were invited in sector-wise, excluding civil society organizations from engaging in all prioritization processes.

The National Development Plan (NDP II) is divided into five pillars: 1. Economic Development; 2. Infrastructure Development; 3. Good Governance; 4. Social Development; and 5. Environment Protection. Each pillar has a Sector Coordination and Sub-sector Coordination consisting of government departments, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and donors. Sectors and sub-sectors select co-chairs and secretariat. It is the governance sector where SDG16+ targets are integrated, which is where the Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition members play an active role.

While the NDPII is commendable in its ambition, it is too far-reaching – with huge budget gaps and unrealistic indicators. It lacks a clear roadmap for implementation and financing. The "estimated cost of NDPII interventions and outcome is around USD 2 billion in total" in the four years of the plan,[4] while the annual budget of the government in 2019 is 2, 334, 320, 463, 251 Somaliland Shillings, which is the equivalent of USD 182, 397, 572.[5] The Ministry of Finance prepares budget allocations and its distribution is not a reflection of the NDP II, weakening feasibility of reaching targets. According to the Somaliland Aid Follow Report, in 2017 Somaliland has received $81,452,692.60 of aid from international nongovernment organizations and UN agencies.[6] These institutions do carry out projects in Somaliland and do not necessarily base their planning on the NDP II.

The coordination mechanism for NDPII implementation takes place at a national level, but sub-national architecture is missing. The plan was to establish the District

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4. NDP II document,
5. Exchange rate fluctuates. This conversion is USD 1 equals Somaliland Shillings 10, 000.
6. Somaliland Aid Follow Report, December 2018

Development Framework in all the 23 districts of Somaliland to coordinate NDP II implementations in sub-national level. Such framework loosely exists in 8 districts that are under the Joint Programme for Local Governance and Service Delivery (JPLG). This framework is existing within the JPLG process but does not operate separately. The JPLG is a joint program that helps selected local governments and it "is a joint programming tool for alignment of UN priorities to governments as well as to multiple development partners' strategies and to coordinate programme implementation and financial management of the five participating UN agencies."[7]

The Ministry of Planning and National Development is planning to prepare and publish a progress report in 2019 on the NDPII. Currently, any review or update on the NDP II progress has either not taken place or not been made public. The Ministry of Planning is responsible for the overall monitoring in collaboration with relevant government departments. There is no monitoring policy in place. Hence coordinated and strategic monitoring and evaluation do not exist. Thus, there is very little information on the progress made. The department of statistics under the Ministry of Planning is the statistics office of the government.[8] In the absence of a synchronized data collection scheme, the office does not receive updated data from the other government agencies. Its data collection is based on surveys that are mostly carried out once in every five years. There is no systematic data collection grounded on format prepared to capture data built on indicators of the NDP II.

Technical and financial challenges are the main barriers preventing effective government data collection. For NDPII progress to be effectively monitored, all government institutions need to change their data collection methods and to put in place an effective and strategic monitoring system that is reflective of the NDP II indicators and is available for stakeholders and the public.

d) Civil society strategy, structures and capacities for SDG16+

Cognizant of the importance of coordination and cooperation for genuine implementation of the SDGs, the Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition was established officially in 2018 to enhance collaboration among civil society groups, recognising the importance of partnerships if the 2030 Agenda is to be successfully implemented. The Coalition is open for all civil society groups and activists in Somaliland to join. As a result, an increasing number of organizations and individuals are on the process of becoming full members. The plan is to expand to enable communities in villages and remote towns to join the Coalition so that their concerns and demands are part and parcel of the work of the Coalition.

Coalition members coordinated consultations on SDG16+ with 55 civil society organisations across all six regions of Somaliland. This led to the identification of

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7. http://www.jplg.org/index.php/contents/articles/2/about-us.html
8. Somaliland Statistics Act

short-term and long-term priority SDG16+ targets and accompanying activities. These activities are intended to complement government, donor, international and national civil society initiatives, and are aligned, where possible, with the Somaliland National Development Plan II.

The creation of the Coalition has helped socialise the language of the SDGs in the work of civil society. For instance, SDG16 is part of the widely circulated Human Rights Centre (HRC) annual review of 2018.[9] Additionally, HRC and the Coalition collectively published a report on the access to justice in Somaliland with collaboration with the Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice. The report was launched in the Hague and Hargeisa and served as an awareness and advocacy tool in national and international levels. The Coalition members attended conferences in New York, Freetown (Sierra Leone), Hague, and Stockholm, linking Somaliland's progress with global forums and discourses. Each member of the Coalition has taken SDG16+ targets as part of its day to day activities, increasing awareness and contributing implementations. Renewed campaigns for women's political participation have been taken under the umbrella of the SDG16+ and active leadership of the members of the Coalition. The Coalition also serves as a platform for coordination of SDG16+ civil society activities to enable information sharing, cooperation and collective implementation of activities. This enables certain organizations such as human rights defenders to get a safer platform to work on sensitive human rights issues using the language of development under the SDGs recognized and endorsed by the government of Somaliland and signed by the international community, giving a global relevance.

Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition met with senior government officials in relevant ministers, judicial bodies and agencies including the Chief Justice, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Parliamentary Relations & Constitution, the Minister of Social Affairs, Deputy Minister of Planning, director generals of ministries of Justice, Planning and National Development, Information and Interior among others. The purpose of these interactions was to share with the authorities the work and plans of the coalition pertinent to the SDG16+ and to develop a partnership and cooperation.

Availability of data is very limited in Somaliland due to a number of factors. First, there is no centralized system and standard to record official data. Second, departments with data do not document in an easily accessible manner. Third, documented data is not based on human persons who sought services in agencies, but rather the number of cases recorded. This removes a human face from the data and makes hard to get meaningful information that can tell how many people, for instance, were arrested in a year or contacted with the judicial authorities. Fourth, there are questions on the accuracy of official data and data with civil society. The later always record data on the basis of implementation of a project and there is a tendency of reporting success to donors. Fifth, transparency to share information with the public, particularly, civil society is a hard and legal framework for the right to information is lacking.

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9. The Coalition members use SDGs in their reports. Example: http://hrcsomaliland.org/the-situation-of-freedom-of-expression-in-somaliland/

PART B: CONTENT

a) Priority SDG16+ targets

The NDP II acknowledges the SDGs and incorporates some of its targets. But the prioritisation process of the NDP II was carried out by the government with little room for civil society. It is drafted in an ambitious way and is challenged by financial gaps. Civil society recognized the need to formulate priorities for the short term and long term taking into account the global indicators and national indicators as well.

Because the NDP II process was government-owned, civil society needed to undertake a prioritization process that is owned and contributed by civil society across the country and from diverse groups. Civil society prioritisation was an inclusive process which provided an opportunity that was not available in the NDP II. Inclusive engagement promotes common ownership and collaboration needed to push civil society interventions to contribute to the development.

As a result of the consultations, the following priority targets were identified:

1. SDG16.3 - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

   Related Somaliland NDPII Target - By 2021, increase effectiveness and efficiency of rule of law at the national level and ensure equal access to justice for all by 70%.

2. SDG16.7 - Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

   Related Somaliland NDPII Target - By 2021, enhance public/community participation in the decision-making process of all national matters.

3. SDG16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

   Related Somaliland NDPII Target - By 2021, develop national communication policies and strategies for promoting access to information and community engagement.

   Related Somaliland NDPII Target - By 2020, amend and develop media sector regulations and develop media quality Standards

4. SDG 5.3 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

   Related Somaliland NDPII Target - Reduce the harmful practices of female genital mutilation by 10 % (Addressing issues of GBV) - FGM 89.1 % as a target.

5. SDG 5.5 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

    Related Somaliland NDPII Target - By 2021, increase and promote the number of female workers in leadership positions in the public sector to 20%.

    Related Somaliland NDPII Target - Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

Given the capacity of partners producing this report, it was decided that not all these priority SDG16+ targets would be focused upon in this inaugural report. Instead, it was decided that the report would cover SDG 16.3, SDG 16.10, SDG 5.5, and SDG 5.3 in 2019, with a view to expanding the scope in subsequent years.

b) Indicators for selected SDG16+ targets

In February 2019, civil society organizations including Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition collectively identified indicators to be used for the priority targets previously identified by civil society consultation workshops held in 2017 and 2018. The identification of the indicators was based on the availability of data relevant to each indicator. The UN-IAEG indicators and complementary national indicators were chosen to be used. The reason for the selection of indicators from various sources was to find indicators most appropriate in the particular context of Somaliland.

Therefore, both global indicators and the national indicators adopted by the government of Somaliland in its National Development Plan II were considered. From the consultation of civil society representing various and diverse groups, the following indicators were decided to be used for the progress report and to guide the data gathering.

SDG16.3 - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
Official UN-IAEG indicators to use:
• 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms • 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
Additional national indicators to use:
• 16.3.a Proportion of cases where legal assistance services were provided • 16.3.b Percentage of the population that have a positive perception of access to justice.

SDG 5.3 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
Official UN-IAEG indicators to use:
• 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
Additional national indicators to use:
• 5.3.a Number of legislation related to criminalising and preventing the practice of FGM/C

SDG16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
Official UN-IAEG indicators to use:
• 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of arbitrary detention journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months • 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
Complementary global indicators to use:
• 16.10.4 Freedom of the Press index score
Additional national indicators to use:
• 16.10.a Number of verified cases of a permanent prohibition on individuals practising journalism, the cancellation of licences in the previous 12 months

SDG 5.5 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.
Official UN-IAEG indicators to use:
• 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments • 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
Additional national indicators to use:
• 5.5.a Proportion of women in leadership positions in political positions • 5.5.b Proportion of women in the current cabinet positions

c)   Review of Progress

1. SDG16.3 - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

The government allocates budget for the access to justice institutions such as the judiciary, police and the ministry of justice. The budget allocated for these institutions is small and hardly covers any extensions or expansion. However, it is the foundations

for formal justice delivery mechanism available for the public. In 2019, the budget for the judiciary was 1.4% while it was 1.25% in 2018 of the national budget. In comparison to 2018, there is a slight increase. The majority of the budget is allocated for salaries and allowance.

Supreme Court	Percentage of allocation	Lower Courts of all regions[10]	Percentage of allocation
Salary and allowance	77%	Salary and allowance	90%
Usage of equipment and operations	21%	Usage of equipment and operations	7%
Maintenance of vehicles	2%	Construction of new building for Hargeisa Appeal Court and Oodweyne regional/district court	3%
Total	**100%**		**100%**

Figure 1: *Disaggregation of the allocation of the judiciary in the 2019 budget[11]*

International organizations and UN agencies provide technical support to state agencies, while civil society organizations tend to work on advocacy and legal aid provisions. Donors provide the justice institutions support channelled through UN agencies, international organizations, companies and local organizations. Absence of coordination, strategies and data pose a challenge in meaningful contribution. Civil society activities mainly take place in urban areas and focus on the formal justice system. The informal justice system is largely ignored, despite being a conflict resolution mechanism for many people in rural and nomadic areas as well as towns. In 2018, 12 new courts were established in small districts.[12] District courts are first instance courts with jurisdiction over misdemeanor criminal acts, family cases and civil cases whose monetary value is less than 3 million Somaliland Shillings (approximately 300 USD).

Somaliland Aid Follow Report (December 2018) shows that governance sector, which "includes security, justice, media, elections, etc.," received in 2017 from INGOs $4,966,306.94, constituting 6% out of the total contributions of the INGOs and UN agencies in that year. Mardojiheh region (the capital) received the "most 44%."[13] The data in the report is not disaggregated and does not show what has been actually done.

Civil society organizations who took part in the consultation workshops held across the country for diverse stakeholders selected SDG16.3 to be included as the priority in the short term and to cover the progress report. Access to justice and rule of law are

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10. Lower courts are courts of the first instance (district and regional courts) and appeal courts in regions.
11. Source: 2019 Annual Budget approved the House of Representatives
12. Ibid
13. Somaliland Aid Follow Report, December 2018

vital for a post-conflict country that is striving to build strong institutions, rule of law and constitutionalism. Many of the population of Somaliland live in rural and nomadic areas and in internally displaced person camps around cities.[14] Hence ensuring access to justice for all and removing all barriers hindering disadvantaged groups to access justice is proposed to be a top priority.

In the data gathering for this target, nongovernmental organisations, government departments and the judiciary were focused to find out information. The following international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies were contacted and asked to provide data and information regarding this target and their field of work: UNDP, UNFPA, Pact, Horizon, Axiom, UNSOM and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Under this target, the issues we plan to include in the next report include a specific section on women's access to justice, IDPs access to justice, and informal conflict resolution mechanism such as customary law with special focus on rural and nomadic communities.

Indicator: 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

In 2018 annual report of the Police published in 3rd November, the Police stated that 19, 664 occurrences of criminal cases were reported to the police across the country.[15] Only 28% were brought to court. More than half of these criminal cases were pending at the time of the report. According to the report, 44% were resolved outside of the court system and have not proceeded to formal court. These cases were resolved through settlements reached by involved parties using customary law and other informal conflict resolution mechanisms. There is no record of how outside court conflict resolution involved reported criminal cases were handled nor the nature of these cases.

14. https://somalia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Population-Estimation-Survey-of-Somalia-PESS-2013-2014.pdf
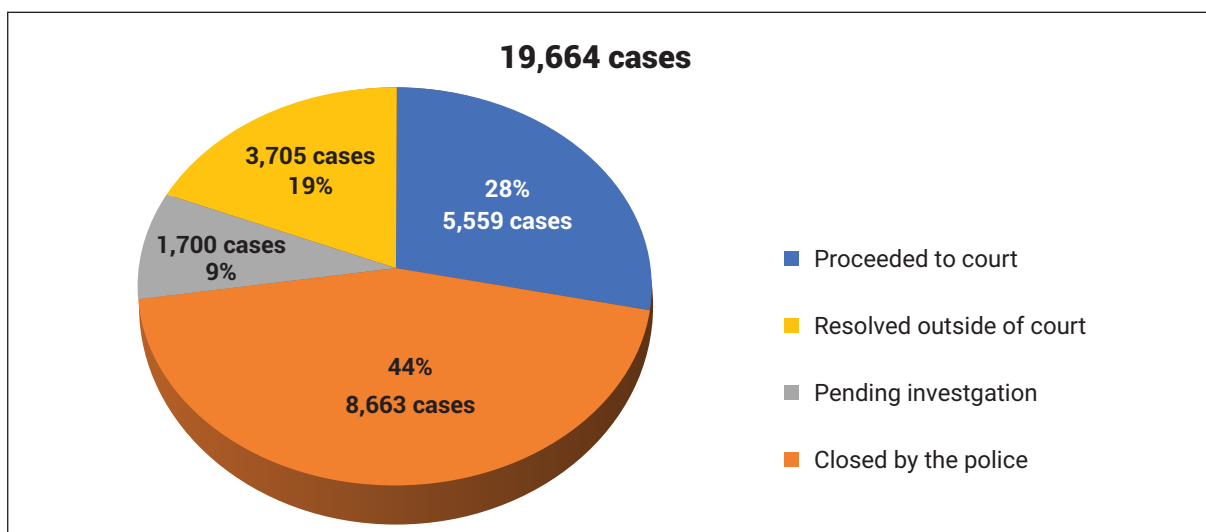15. Police Annual Report, 3rd November 2018

19,664 cases

- 28% 5,559 cases (Proceeded to court)
- 44% 8,663 cases (Closed by the police)
- 1,700 cases 9% (Pending investigation)
- 3,705 cases 19% (Resolved outside of court)

Legend:
- Proceeded to court
- Resolved outside of court
- Pending investgation
- Closed by the police

Figure 2: *Cases reported to Somaliland police in 2018*

In 2018, the courts of Somaliland received 9037 civil cases and 6371 criminal cases.[16] This makes a total of 15, 408. At least two people are involved in every case, meaning more than 30, 000 people sought justice from the courts in 2018. To expand the judiciary activities to those who are not resident in proximate to court infrastructures, courts moved in a process called mobile courts. Mobile courts are not special courts, but sometimes judges hearing cases travel to villages, rural areas and prisons located outside of cities to hear cases. In 2018, the mobile courts have received 725 criminal cases and 561 civil cases. The parties involved in these cases were 2831 people.[17]

Overall cases filed with the courts in 2018

- 41% (Criminal cases)
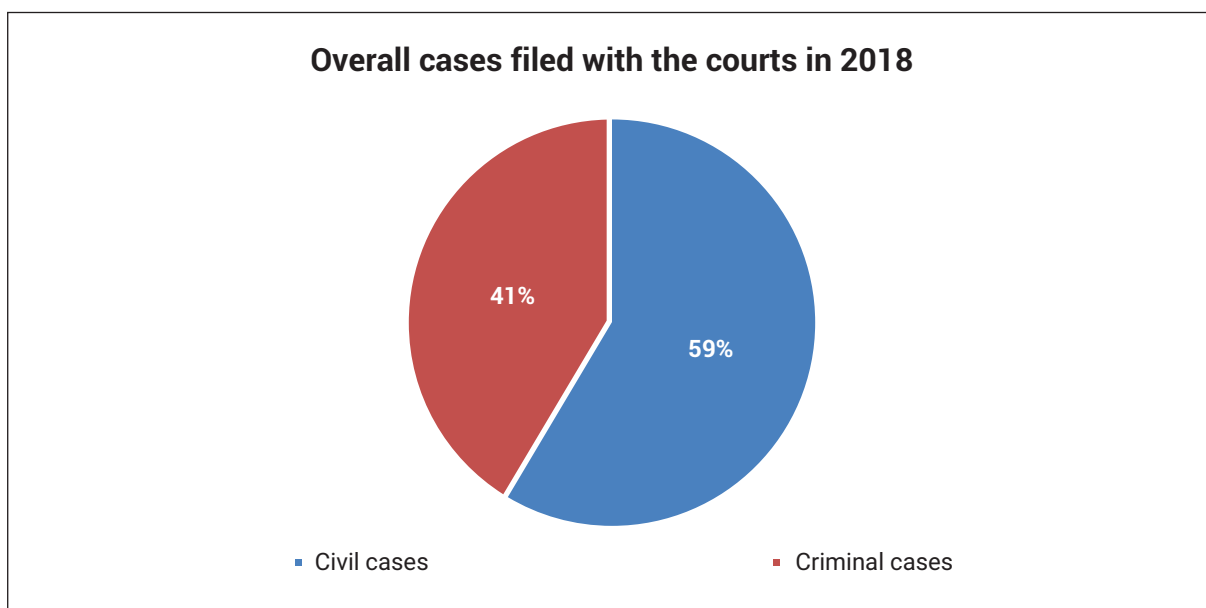- 59% (Civil cases)

Legend:
- Civil cases
- Criminal cases

Figure 3: *Proportion of civil and criminal cases filed with Somaliland Courts in 2018*

16. Somaliland Judiciary Commission
17. Ibid

Both the police and court reports are not disaggregated and are not based on the people who sought service, but rather the number of cased filled. Therefore, it is not clear how many victims were involved in the 19, 664 cases reported by the police. The same data gap exists in the court reports.

Indicator: 16.3.a Proportion of cases where legal assistance services were provided

Legal aid is paramount for access to justice. The criminal procedure law of Somaliland does not oblige the state to provide free legal services to all accused persons.[18] According to the law, only a suspect charged of a criminal act whose minimum punishment is 10 years of imprisonment are eligible for state-sponsored free legal representation. Few serious crimes fall under this category. Hence the majority of accused persons who cannot afford legal fees are not eligible for state-sponsored legal aid. The civil laws do not offer state-sponsored legal aid to those who are parties of civil cases.

In 2018, 539 cases were given free legal aid representation by the public defenders of the Ministry of Justice and nongovernmental legal aid institutions.[19] The majority of representations took place in Hargeisa. In nationwide the Ministry of Justice has only 4 public defenders tasked to provide free legal services.[20] They are overwhelmed by the overload of cases. In 2018, they received 211 cases[21]. This is 52 cases per lawyer in a year. To fill the gap, there are nongovernmental entities that provide legal aid. A Legal Aid Bill is under the consultations process and if passed, will expand state responsibility to provide legal aid and will recognize paralegals who are currently not acknowledged by law.

There are 25 legal aid lawyers with the University of Hargeisa, Somaliland Lawyers Association, Somaliland Women Lawyers Association, Horizon and the Ministry of Justice. The legal profession is largely unregulated. The Lawyers Licensing and Disciplining Commission (LLDC) is responsible for providing licenses to lawyers allowed to practice in Somaliland. But only 50 lawyers are registered with the institution. In the absence of a registration, there is no information regarding the overall lawyers working in the country, nor information on how many pro bono services, if any, are provided. The estimate given by staff in the LLDC and the Somaliland Lawyers Association is 90 lawyers in all regions. The majority of these lawyers are based in Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland.

The University of Hargeisa (UOH) Legal Clinic - Human Rights Unit has been providing free legal aid to people in need of legal aid services, particularly to, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, IDPs and extremely vulnerable members of the host communities in matters relating to criminal cases, civil cases, and customary law, and provides

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18. The Criminal Procedure Code
19. Sources: Ministry of Justice, Somaliland Lawyers Association and the University of Hargeisa. There could be more cases that are not reported to the Ministry by other legal aid providers.
20. Ministry of Justice, Access to Justice Department
21. Ibid

legal counselling and mediations where necessary. In 2018, the Legal Clinic - Human Rights Unit - supported by UNHCR – provided legal aid for 1,334 asylum seekers and refugees through legal representation, mediation, counseling and referral to the police and/or other partners and conditional cash-based Shelter support from January to December 2018. Female beneficiary were 785 of these cases which equates to 59%, while male beneficiary were 549 which is 41%. In the case of nationality, the majority of beneficiaries were Ethiopian nationals (1,249), 71 were Yemeni and 7 Eritrean; 3 Syrian; 2 Congolese and 1 Palestinian and Bangladeshi.

In addition, the Legal Clinic, Human Rights Unit played a key role in the prevention of deportations and arbitrary detentions of Asylum Seekers and Refugees. In this regard, Legal Clinic, Human Rights Unit updated asylum seekers and refugees on the human rights situation in the region and conducted 127 detention monitoring activities including police station and prison monitoring in Hargeisa, Berbera, Wajaale and Goroyo Awal Borders, Gabiley, Borama and Buroa in 2018. During that period 110 POCs detainees were reported and 106 of them were released through police invention and court representations, where the 4 remained detainees are convicted by the court.

The total number of prosecutors were 46 Deputy Attorneys General and 15 prosecutors in 2017.[22] The ratio is "one prosecutor to every 57,000 Somalilanders." [23] This is higher in comparison to judges. The judges are 186,[24] which makes one judge to every 18, 817 citizens. Funding challenges impede the expansion of justice.

Indicator: 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population

Somaliland has 14 prisons.[25] The number of the prison population was 2,402 prisoners in 2017.[26] In 2018, the prison population is 3, 753. The largest prisons are Hargeisa Central Prison and Mandheera Prison, which is located northeast of Hargeisa. Relevant authorities have not provided a segregated data on the unsentenced detainees. In many cities including Hargeisa, the capital and the most populous city, unsentenced detainees are held in police stations. The police reported on 3rd November 2018 that 1, 700 criminal cases were pending before the courts. At least one accused person is involved in every case. In the 2018 police report, unfinished criminal cases represented 9% of the total cases.

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22. Informed Investment in Somaliland's Justice Sector Baseline Study Report, Horizon Institute 31 July 2017
23. Informed Investment in Somaliland's Justice Sector Baseline Study Report, Horizon Institute 31 July 2017
24. Somaliland Judiciary Commission
25. Ministry of Justice
26. Informed Investment in Somaliland's Justice Sector Baseline Study Report, Horizon Institute 31 July 2017

S/N	Prison Name	Male	Female	Juvenile[27]
1	Hargeisa	639	------	97
2	Madera	661	-----	56
3	Borame	170	9	26
4	Burao	468	3	30
5	Las'anod	132	9	27
6	Cerigabo	311	10	32
7	Berbera	155	1	12
8	Gabiley	136	31	13
9	Baligubadle	51	----	11
10	Salaxley	52	-------	8
11	Ainabo	89	--------	40
12	Ceel-afweyn	136	------	11
13	Gar-adag	132	4	19
14	Dhahar	165	-------	4
Sub-total		3,315	63	375
The total Number of Prisoners were 3,753 inmates in the year of 2018[28]				

Figure 4: *Prison population in Somaliland in 2018.*

Indicator: 16.3.b Percentage of the population that have a positive perception of access to justice.

According to the UNDP Justice Perception Survey Report (2016), the "level of trust in the formal justice system in terms of integrity were below average" The survey found that the level "of knowledge of the presence of formal justice institutions (89%) and the knowledge of the role of justice officials (58%) was higher than knowledge of rights and freedoms (39%)." Meanwhile, there is gender disparity in terms of knowledge where "women had significantly lower levels of knowledge of the role of justice officials compared to men." "Only 14% of respondents said that they could easily access legal assistance (free legal aid or lawyers). Those who were more likely to access such centres."[29] "Integrity of the police was low," but knowledge of the services of the police was high, compared to the courts, the report found "higher patterns of physical access to police institutions."[30] The survey says:

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27. Birth certificates are not common in Somaliland. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the age. Hence there is always a dispute about the age, particularly when the accused claims to be a child. Accusations are made that the police inflate age to try children as adults. According to the Juvenile Justice Law, everyone under the age of 15 is a child. Those aged between 15 to 18 do not have full criminal responsibility.
28. Source: Ministry of Justice
29. Rule of Law Perception Survey Somaliland, UNDP, December 2016
30. Ibid

Perception of quality of access was low. Only 49% of the respondents agreed that the police would provide them assistance 'at all times'. Such expectations were higher among the uneducated, poorer groups and those located in MJ and Awdal. 56% of respondents said that they would only report a crime to the police, but only 19% stated that they would also pursue a case.[31]

Data gaps

Currently there is limited or no available data on:

> » the number of people who were victims of crimes: available data does not capture the number of victims who reported crimes to the authorities. The data is rather registered as the number of cases, recorded from the perspective of the accused.

> » the number of people who sought justice from the courts and the police

> » the cases resolved through informal conflict resolution mechanisms such as customary law and Sharia law-based adjudications;

> » the total number of detainees who are not serving in prison terms: in many cities police stations serve as detention centres to hold an accused person at pre-trial and during trial stages. The police limit the information it shares. Therefore, although the overall prison population is known, the data of the people in police stations is not available. Knowing this data could make possible to get the information regarding the number of detainees who are not found guilty by a court.

> » the proportion of cases that have received legal services: no data on how many of them were given free legal aid.

> » financing given to the justice sector, particularly from international and UN agencies.

Efforts to analyse the data is further hindered as the majority of data is not disaggregated into sex and age and other specifications to grasp a better understanding of the situation in Somaliland.

2. SDG 5.3 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Somaliland has one of the world's highest rates of FGM, with UNICEF estimating that 98% of women aged 15 to 49 have undergone the procedure.[32] Legislation to ban FGM

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31. Ibid
32. https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/29/somaliland-i-convinced-my-sister-not-to-do-type-3-fgm-on-her-daughter

is still being debated, following on from a religious fatwa in February 2018 that partially outlawed FGM. A new law would only be the starting point in ending the practise – as significant resources would need to be invested in educating Somaliland's population and creating mechanisms to enforce the legislation.

Given a cultural and religious meaning, FGM is a harmful practice that has been a practice in long period of time and is widespread in both rural and urban areas. The constitution of Somaliland (2001) provides a general clause stating that cultural practices that are harmful should be eliminated, but it does not mention FGM. A law specifically dealing with FGM does not exist. There is no budget allocation from the government earmarked for eliminating FGM or giving assistance to the survivors. The interventions of civil society, international organizations and UN agencies have been principally on awareness raising, advocacy and capacity building. Recent endeavour from civil society to strive for enacting a law is ongoing and is yet to materialize, requiring strong advocacy, better coordination and commitment. Data on the finances from international organizations and UN agencies on anti-FGM activities and projects are not publicly available and were not found during the data gathering.

In the data gathering for this target, nongovernmental organisations and government departments were focused to find out information. The following international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies were contacted and asked to provide data and information regarding this target and their field of work: ActionAid, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Indicator: 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 99.1%.[33] Cutting takes place when girls are between the ages of 4 and 14. 85% of women have undergone Type III ('sewn closed'/infibulation, also referred to as 'Pharaonic Circumcision').[34] It is performed by traditional practitioners and medical staff as well.[35] As reported by 28, "69% of women aged 15–49 who have heard of FGM believe it should be discontinued."[36]

Indicator: 5.3.a Legislation related to criminalising and preventing the practice of FGM/C

Legislation banning FGM does not exist in Somaliland. The National Gender Policy identifies FGM as a harmful practice. The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family, and civil society organizations have been undertaking a process to draft a

33. Somaliland: The Law And FGM, August 2018, 28
34. Ibid
35. R. A. Powell and M. Yussuf (2018) Changes in FGM/C in Somaliland: Medical narrative driving shift in types of cutting. Evidence to End FGM/C: Research to Help Women Thrive. New York: Population Council. Available at http://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2018RH_FGMC-Somaliland.pdf.
36. SOMALILAND: THE LAW AND FGM, August 2018, 28 Too many

legislation to end all forms of FGM. The draft legislation is not yet tabled before the parliament and cabinet. There is a Fatwa from the Ministry of Religious affairs banning the most extreme forms of FGM but not banning every form of the procedure. Due to the lack of a law criminalizing FGM, there are no prosecutions related to FGM.

3. SDG16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Open and free media is imperative for any democratic society to thrive and attain sustainable development. Somaliland's constitution enshrines the freedom of the press as an essential part of the country's democracy.[37] The government of Somaliland represented by the Ministry of Information and media professional organizations and civil society organizations are working towards drafting a legislation applicable to the media. The government budget does not include support for the protection and training of journalists. International and national nongovernment organizations are engaged in giving short term training. But in 2017, the first journalism faculty has been opened by the University of Hargeisa in collaboration with the journalist's association and a donor.

The report acknowledges that it has become difficult to report the accessibility of the public to information. The next report will cover the statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.

In the data gathering for this target, nongovernmental organisations, government departments and the judiciary were focused to find out information. The following international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies were contacted and asked to provide data and information regarding this target and their field of work: Horizon, UNSOM and UNDP.

Indicator: Number of statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

The Constitution of Somaliland and the Press Act (2004) guarantee and protect freedom of media. A process of drafting a comprehensive media act has been carried out in 2018 to amend the Press Act. Consultation workshops were held in Hargeisa for different stakeholders. The draft media law covers a wide range of media issues and is intended to resolve media and government frictions. The University of Hargeisa opened the first journalism degree in Somaliland to contribute improvement of media professionalism and ethics.

Indicator: Number of verified cases of arbitrary detention journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

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37. NDPII p121

In 2018, 28 journalists were arrested by the authorities, and 10 of them were charged with criminal cases.[38] All were released. There is no journalist currently in prison. According to the Somaliland Journalists Association, the average days in detention for arrested journalists are 2 days and a half.

> Indicator: 16.10.a Number of verified cases of a permanent prohibition on individuals practising journalism, the cancellation of licences in the previous 12 months

In 2018, four media outlets were banned. Waaberi newspaper was banned on 19th June 2018 by court order, SOMNEWS and SBS televisions were ordered to halt operations on 29th May 2018 by the Ministry of information, and court in Hargeisa issued a decision suspending Foore newspaper in a year. Waaberi newspaper and SOMNews television were reinstated by the appeal court and by the Minister of Information respectively.

> Indicator: 16.10.4 Freedom of the Press index score

2018 Freedom House report has a section on Somaliland which marked Somaliland as following:

> **Somaliland: Partly Free (43/100)[39]**
> **Aggregate rating: 4.5/7**
> **Political rights: 4/7**
> **Civil liberties: 5/7**
> (1=most free, 7=least free)

In the 2017 index, Somaliland was also marked parlty free with a score of 40/100[40] which shows that in the past 12 months the situation has been worsening.

4. SDG 5.5 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

The constitution of Somaliland emphasises gender equality, prohibits discrimination and obliges ensuring full participation of women in leadership. NDP II targets increasing women's participation in leadership. Yet, women face difficulties in having full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership positions. A proposed quota for women in the House of Representatives which was rejected by the Parliament has been again tabled before the Parliament in an attempt to push participation. But even if it is approved it guarantees only 20% in the House of Representatives, leaving many challenges unaddressed.

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38. Somaliland Journalists Association and Human Rights Centre annual reports of 2018
39. https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2018/somaliland
40. https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2017/somaliland

In the data gathering for this target, nongovernmental organisations, government departments and the judiciary were focused to find out information. The following international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies were contacted and asked to provide data and information regarding this target and their field of work: Saferworld, UNDP, UNFPA and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Under this target, this report does not include data on the proportion of women in managerial positions in the private sector, the perception of the public and the number of legislations promoting women's participation and removing gender discrimination. It is anticipated that the next report to cover these issues in further depth.

Indicator: 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

In Somaliland, there is:

- 1 female member of the House of Representatives (out of 82 members).
- 0 female members of the *Guurti,* House of Elders (out of 82 members).
- 0 female mayors in the 23 districts of the country.
- Just 9 female district councillors out of 305 seats, which equates to just 3% women in the councils.[41]
- 0 female governors or deputy governors out of 13 governors and 13 deputies.

Indicator: 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

In Somaliland, there is:

- 1 director general (the equivalent of permanent secretary) in Somaliland's ministerial departments out of 25 positions.
- 1 female who is head of a government commission, agency or authority out of 21; and
- Women constitute 25% of civil servants.[42] With evidence suggesting that the majority of them work in lower ranking offices.[43]

5.5.a Proportion of women in leadership positions in political positions

Somaliland has three political parties. Each party has a senior leadership consisting of chairperson, deputies and secretary general. There is only one deputy chairwoman across the three parties. In 2012 local government councillors' election, 2088 candidates competed for 305 seats. There were 135 female candidates, which constitutes 6.4% of total candidates.[44] Only 9 were elected, which constitutes just 2.9% of the total seats.[45]

41. Somaliland: A Male Democracy, Centre for Policy Analysis, November 2018
42. Somaliland Civil Services Commission, 2018 report
43. Somaliland: A Male Democracy, Centre for Policy Analysis, November 2018
44. National Electoral Commission data
45. The last election for the local councils happened in 2012

In the 2005 House of Representatives election, 7 women ran for office[46] and only two were elected (2% of total seats).[47]

5.5.b Proportion of women in the current cabinet positions

The total of current cabinet members is 32. Women have two full ministers and a deputy minister (9% out of total seats). The previous government which handed over power in December 2017 had 2 women cabinet members.

Data gaps

Currently there is limited or no available data on:

- the number of women in senior leadership in the private sector and the nongovernmental organizations;
- the funding provided by international organizations and UN agencies on gender-related projects;
- The disaggregated positions of women who are civil servants.

Information not being shared

The report authors contacted a wide range of national and international organisations in order to gather as much relevant data as possible to inform this progress report (see Annex). However, international organisations and UN agencies were not forthcoming in sharing important data. Many organizations keep survey reports as confidential, although these reports carry important information and data. This makes hard to understand the progress that has been made and what each organization is doing. To better understand progress and gaps, it is imperative to know financial flows. Organizations are not transparent on specifics of projects and funding. A weakness of information sharing within organizations (local, international and UN) complicate the situation and might lead overlap of resource spending and project implementations.

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46.   Source: Nagaad Women Organizations Umbrella
47.   The last parliamentary election happened in 2005.

a) Conclusion

This progress report by Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition demonstrates that Somaliland has made laudable achievements despite big challenges in capacity and resources to implement the ambitious 2030 Agenda. If the challenges and gaps outlined in this report are addressed and critical factors that are key for success are utilized, Somaliland can make a further and steadfast progress. But this will require cohesive and transparent cooperation and concrete commitment and willingness from all stakeholders.

The National Development Plan II of Somaliland recognizes and endorses some SDG16+ targets, and the government has expressed willingness to work towards accepting and contextualizing the SDGs. Although the NDP II is not a replica of the SDGs, Somaliland is ahead of many countries in linking its development plan with the 2030 Agenda.

Civil society organizations have played a vital role in localizing SDDG16+ and carrying out inclusive initiatives to identify priorities and bring together stakeholders to cooperate in realizing SDG16+. They have worked to increase the awareness among the public and decision makers around SDG16+ issues, in both local and international platforms. A localization process has taken a particular route that could help other countries' localisation processes.

The realization of the SDGs will require consistent and better strategized funding from the government and other sources including donors and the private sector. There is a funding gap that is hindering attaining marked goals. Existing limited funding sources are not well coordinated and are rarely allocated on the basis of SDGs targets. There is a need to support the strengthening of the capacity of government agencies and civil society organizations tasked with implementing and monitoring the SDGs. The government of Somaliland lacks a real mechanism to report to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Institutions are challenged by absence of reliable data and lack of data sharing when there is a data. Data sharing mechanisms within government institutions and between the government and the civil society is very weak. Existing civil society data is not used for official monitoring.

Availability of data is very limited in Somaliland. There is no centralized system and standard to record official data. Departments with data do not document in an easily accessible manner. There are questions on the accuracy of official data and data with civil society. Transparency to share information with the public, particularly, civil society is a hard and legal framework for the right to information is missing. Technical and financial challenges include barriers facing government agencies to collect data. There is no monitoring policy in place. Hence coordinated and strategic monitoring and evaluation do not exist. This all hinders implementation of the SDGs and SDG16+, as it is hard to assess where the gaps are, what implementation is having an impact, and what needs to be scaled-up.

The following table summarises achievements made, challenges, gaps and the critical factors that are key for success:

Achievements	Challenges	Gaps	Critical factors for success
SDGs are in the NDPII: targets and indicators of the SDGs have been incorporated in the National Development Plan II (NDPII).	There is a major budget gap if the NDPII is to be implemented	Collection of data for key targets based on identified indicators.	Support for subnational and localised implementation efforts of all stakeholders
	There is weak capacity in government and civil society to monitor and implement the agenda	Monitoring capabilities for authorities	Creation and strengthening of mechanism for Somaliland authorities and civil society to report to the UN;
Civil society have been consulted on SDG16+ priorities	Weak coordination, leading to potential duplication between civil society, government departments, and UN agencies.		Improvement of stakeholder coordination involving government institutions, UN agencies, civil society organizations and international organizations, and establishment of collaboration and cooperation.
CSOs are using the SDG16+ in their advocacy and public messaging.	Absence of reliable data to assess true measures of progress	Trusted, long-term resource streams on SDG16+ priority targets	
	No mechanism for the government of Somaliland to report on its progress		Support for data gathering.

b) Recommendations

The government, national civil society, international organizations and UN agencies have different roles to play in implementing SDG16+. A thorough understanding is needed of what interventions are taking place in Somaliland to contribute to the achievement of SDG16+. Ensuring that these efforts are then further coordinated will be an important factor for success in the coming years. It is also essential to cooperate and share data. The Ministry of Development and National Planning (MoNPD) should mandate provision of data collected by INGOs and Local NGOs and strengthen the capacity of its Statistics Department. The MoNPD should make data available for the public, and the Parliament should enact Right to Information Act. Civil society organizations (CSOs), international organizations and UN agencies should support and capacitate the Statistics Department and other government agencies and include SDG16+ priorities in Somaliland into their strategic plans and activities. UN agencies should be transparent in providing data for the programs and budgets implemented in the country with disaggregated per region to build on achievements made and to be monitored, and provide support SDG16+ localisation process.

Somaliland Government (Executive Branch)

SDG16+ Implementation Process:

1. The Office of the President should convene representatives of relevant government agencies, UN agencies operating in the country, and civil society to review progress, gaps, and challenges on SDG16+ implementation in Somaliland.

2. Ministry of Planning and National Development (MoNPD) should mandate that INGOs and Local NGOs provide data collected for their projects to the Statistics Department for compilation.

3. MoNPD should strengthen the Statistics Department to collect, analyse and publicly release information regarding SDG16+ from the government agencies.

4. House of Representative should introduce the Right to Information Act so that it will be mandatory for government and civil society to provide information to the public

5. MoNPD should ask INGOs and Local NGOs to copy donor reports to the Ministry similar to the EU initiative asking their implementing partners to provide a copy of their reports to MoNPD – to allow for the data collection on SDGs

SDG 16.3 - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all:

1. Increase budget allocations for the justice sector such as the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice legal aid and access to justice initiatives and increase the availability of legal aid lawyers for those who cannot afford to hire lawyers;

2. Greater budget allocation for mobile courts;

3. Review data collection mechanisms for the judiciary and the police and make the data publicly available;

4. Adopt criminal justice policy to coordinate justice sector activities and strategies and adopt a rehabilitation approach to prevent overcrowding prisons;

5. Review and reform outdated laws that predate the Constitution of Somaliland. These laws should include the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code;

6. Reform the Police in compliance with the Constitution of Somaliland and the international human rights standards, and create an independent police oversight and judicial accountability.

SDG 5.3 - Eliminate all female genital mutilation:

1. Allocate funds for anti-FGM activities and increase public awareness, and establish coordinated message to avoid conflicting messages;

2. Prepare and submit to the Parliament Anti-FGM Act that prohibits all forms of FGM.

SDG 16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements:

1. Implement the Press Act (2004) and article 32 of the Constitution of Somaliland on issues of media to decriminalize media and stop arrests and shutting down of media houses;

2. Support education and training for media professionals and promote self-regulatory mechanism to handle complaints;

SDG 5.5 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

1. Adopt 33% quota for women in all organs and agencies including for both houses of the Parliament, local councils, the cabinet and executive appointments;

2. Increase women's full and effective participation in leadership by creating inclusive decision making, gender equality and ending gender discrimination.

Somaliland Parliament

1. Approve the Legal Aid Bill;

2. Enact a law that governs alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;

3. Enact Anti-FGM Act that prohibits all forms of FGM;

4. Enact Right to Information Act;

5. Review the Judiciary Organization Act with provisions strengthening judiciary independence including secure tenure for Supreme Court judges.

Somaliland Judiciary Commission

1. Increase the number of judges and prosecutors and deploy in areas that do not have a judicial presence;

2. Appoint women lawyers as judges;

3. Create an anti-corruption mechanism that is supportive of easy public reporting of irregularities and simplified complaint system;

4. Increase accessibility of justice institutions to rural and nomadic communities;

5. Create an online system for all regions so that courts can monitor case progress.

National civil society

1. Should produce SDG16+ progress reports every two years to build a base of evidence to help support official accountability efforts;

2. Should provide an annual report to Somaliland authorities on their efforts to implement the SDGs;

3. Should build SDG16+ priorities in Somaliland into their strategic plans and activities;

4. Should make all data publicly available;

5. Should support the implementation of the recommendations provided by this report.

UN Agencies (in-country and headquarters)

1. Should be transparent in providing data for the programs and budgets implemented in the country with disaggregated per region to build on achievements made and to be monitored;

2. Should closely collaborate and build the capacity of the statistics department at the Ministry of National Planning and Development;

3. Should support local and subnational civil society organisations with efforts to localise SDG16+ agenda;

4. Should make all data publicly available;

5. Should provide support to the expansion of justice to rural, internally displaced and other vulnerable groups;

6. Support human rights-based reforms that are based on human rights standards;

7. Should support implementation of the recommendations provided by this report.

International partners

1. Should commit resources to strengthen the capacity of MoNPD to monitor and review progress to achieving SDG16+;

2. Should include specific reporting commitments around progress towards delivering the SDGs for all grants for work and activities in Somaliland;

3. Should support civil society efforts to raise awareness of, and mobilise around, the SDG16+ agenda in Somaliland. This should not just be focused in Hargeisa but instead, reach all 6 regions of Somaliland;

4. Should make all data publicly available;

5. Should provide support to the expansion of justice to rural, internally displaced and other vulnerable groups;

6. Support human rights-based reforms that are based on human rights standards;

7. Should support implementation of the recommendations provided by this report.

List of civil society organized who attended consultations to collect civil society priorities for SDG16+ action in Somaliland

1. Somaliland Non-State Actors Forum (SONSAF)
2. Somaliland Youth Organizations Umbrella (SONYO)
3. Network Against FGM (NAFIS)
4. Human Rights Centre Somaliland (HRC)
5. NAGAAD Women Umbrella
6. Acedemy for Peace and Development (APD)
7. Somaliland Journalists Association (SOLJA)
8. SONDO,
9. Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF)
10. Social Research and Development Institute (SORADI)
11. Somaliland Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER)
12. Horn Youth Development Association (HYDA)
13. Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA)
14. Taakulo Somaliland Community (TASCO)
15. Adem Academy
16. Somaliland Women Lawyers Assocation (SWLA)
17. Barwaaqo Voluntery Organizations (BVO)
18. Somaliland Youth Development Assocation (SOYDA)
19. Somaliland Youth Society (SYS-Burao)
20. Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO)
21. Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization (SOYVO)
22. United Togdher Association (UNITA)
23. Kulmis
24. Somaliland Diaspora Agency (SDA),
25. Youth Volunteers for Development and Environment Conservation (YOVENCO)
26. YADVO,
27. General Assistance and Volunteer Organization (GAVO),
28. Africa Youth Development Association (AYODA),
29. Center for Consultancy and Research Development (CCORD),
30. SCRD,
31. Somaliland Cayn Association (SCA),
32. Dalkaab,
33. Sool United Non-Governmental Organization (SUNGO),
34. Horseed,
35. Somaliland Community Development Association (CDA),
36. Somaliland Women Enterpeneur Association (SLWEA),
37. Committee of Concerned Somalis (CCS)
38. Somalis Against Violent Extremism (SAVE)
39. Horn Aid,
40. SIHA Action,
41. Sahil Women Business Association
42. Royal Institute,
43. Chamber of Commerce,
44. East Africa Law Firm (EALF),
45. Somaliland Medical Association (SMA),
46. The Girls Generation (TGG),
47. Muslim College,
48. Hiigsi Hogan,
49. NUGAL University,
50. Sanaag University,
51. Golis University,
52. Alpha University,
53. Berbera Marine,
54. Univeristy of Hargeisa University,
55. Amoud University

Annex 2: Data gathering

The following institutions were contacted for the data gathering:
Institutions and Targets

1. The Office of the Chief Justice and the Judiciary Commission (16.3, 16.10)
2. Ministry of Justice (16.3, 16.10)
3. The Ministry of Justice
4. Ministry of Planning (16.3, 16.7)
5. Ministry of Health (5.3)
6. Ministry of Social Affairs (5.2, 5.3)
7. Ministry of Information (16.10)
8. Ministry of Religious Affairs (5.3)
9. Ministry of Interior (16.3, 16.10)
10. Baahi Koob (5.2)
11. National Electoral Commission (NEC) (5.5)
12. Political Parties (Kulmiye, Waddani and UCID) (5.5)
13. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (16.3, 16.7, 16.10, 5.5)
14. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (5.3)
15. United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) (16.3. 5.3, 5.5)
16. United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) (16.3, 16.7, 16.10)
17. PENHA (5.5)
18. Save the Children (5.3)
19. Horizon (16.3)
20. Axiom (16.3)
21. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) (16.3, 5.5)
22. Safer World (16.7, 5.5)
23. Network Against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS Network) (5.3)
24. Waapo (5.2)
25. Nagaad Network (5.3, 5.5, 16.7)
26. Somaliland Non State Actors Forum (SONSAF)(16.7, 16.10, 5.5)
27. Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA) (16.7, 5.3, 5.5)
28. Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS) (5.2)
29. Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO) (16.10, 5.5)
30. Somaliland Journalists Association (16.10, 16.7)
31. Women in Journalism Association (WIJA) (16.10, 16.7)
32. Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF) (16.7)
33. University of Hargeisa Legal Clinic (16.3)
34. Somaliland Women Lawyers Association (16.3)
35. Somaliland Lawyers Association (16.3)
36. Human Rights Centre (16.10, 5.3)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS