



*"We are optimistic that
the high-quality seeds
will help us..."*

Sayid Ali

Photo taken by WFP
of SCOPE redemption

TESTIMONIES

"Without the money provided to us through [FAO's] Cash+ Agri, I would have had to beg for food to survive. We are optimistic that the high-quality seeds will help us to ensure the future food security of our village."

Sayid Ali, Baidoa

"Thousands of Somali families returning from neighbouring countries like Kenya, Yemen and Djibouti have benefited from assistance from humanitarian partners working to help them reintegrate. "When we arrived at the way station, [WFP and UNICEF] registered us and took fingerprints, and then gave me this [SCOPE] card for food and cash."

Adiga with baby Geedi, Kismayo

"I don't have close relatives in Kismayo [Thanks to] UNHCR cash assistance I was able to pay my rent three months in advance."

Sharifa Muhumed Osman, Kismayo



**Photo taken by UNHCR staff
in Kismayo IDP camp during
an inter-agency rapid
assessment**



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The emergency response to the current drought illustrates Somalia's continued fragility: the country is again at risk of famine with 3.1 million people, or approximately 25% of the population, currently in a state of Crisis or Emergency¹. Since November 2016, 750,000 drought-induced internal displacements have been identified, and an estimated 1.1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are in protracted crisis, many as a result of the 2011 famine that resulted in the deaths of more than 250,000 people. The severity of the drought and its impacts highlights the need to move towards social protection and longer-term strategies.

There are currently no large-scale, government-led social protection programmes in Somalia, and the government lacks the basic capacity to identify the poorest and most vulnerable community members. Somalia's rich tradition of familial and community-based coping strategies, including substantial remittances from the diaspora², is insufficient to address the challenges of the context. Humanitarian assistance has reached some 2.5 million people a month since April, mostly displaced, returning, and extremely poor people in rural and peri-urban areas. This assistance has been a major driver of the slight improvement in food security figures. However, such assistance is short term and designed to address acute needs, missing the underlying causes of vulnerability to poverty and risk.

Vulnerable families struggle to access basic services, many of which are privately provided at prohibitive cost to the very poor. Young people, often excluded from education, are increasingly drawn to urban life but lack the skills or cannot find the jobs they need. Donor-funded programs implemented by NGOs and the UN struggle to provide the coverage, continuity or range of services required to meet these needs due to security constraints or dependence on short-term, humanitarian funding.

¹ <http://www.fsnau.org/ipc/ipc-map>

² https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-keeping-lifeline-open-somalia-remittances-310713-en_0.pdf



PROMISING PRACTICES FROM PAST EXPERIENCES

Under the Somali Compact 2013–2016, Somalia identified five Peace and State Building Goals (PSGs) and worked together with the UN and donors to drive them forward. Social protection was identified under the fifth PSG, and regional states worked together with the federal government to conceptualize a vision and way forward. This cross-regional support and coordination will be critical for successfully undertaking social protection programming in the future. Under the new National Development Plan 2017–2019, social protection and access to services has been highlighted as a priority for the government.

Whilst a formal government-led social protection programme is not yet in place, various partners are implementing social safety net programmes, including UN- and NGO-led unconditional and conditional cash transfers; school feeding programs; and food assistance. Multi-partner and multi-year initiatives are in place, including projects to assist IDPs and returnees with Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights; governance systems; access to social services; social, economic and political inclusion; and building community resilience. Cash+ initiatives are also successfully being undertaken, combining key productive inputs or access to services with cash transfers to increase the overall impact of support.

In addition, multiple humanitarian actors are increasingly coordinating their use of cash transfers, laying the groundwork for future action. Under the current crisis, a Cash Working Group (CWG) has been coordinating and harmonizing transfer values and coverage, with a view to enabling longer-term support in the future. UN agencies and NGOs are also moving towards joint programming and the common use of systems that allow accurate identification of households and deliberate joint transfers, WFP and UNICEF-backed SCOPE platform, a beneficiary management system that uses biometrically secured e-cards.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Align development and humanitarian actors behind a government-led vision and objectives;
- A number of humanitarian and social protection instruments can support social protection objectives, and when complementary, can lead to pathways for citizens out of poverty and vulnerability;
- Use of a common mechanism to support households (e.g. cash transfers) can lead to common processes between social protection and humanitarian actors, joint programming and/or the use of one system for delivering support to communities.

MAIN CHALLENGE(S) AHEAD AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

The Somali government has identified social protection as necessary for progress and a priority for action under the National Development Plan (NDP). Key next steps include: developing of policy and institutional structures; building capacities and awareness for local ownership; and identifying the needs of the most vulnerable, including youth, IDPs and minority groups. Social protection is located within the “Resilience Pillar” of the NDP, revealing an understanding of the importance of its role not just in bridging humanitarian and development initiatives, but in other key processes, including the durable solutions initiative for IDPs. The Resistance Pillar Working Group, tasked with driving the goals of the pillar forward, including social protection, is a strong government-led coordination body for action led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

Achieving nationally owned social protection in Somalia requires commitment to the provision of long-term, predictable funding that can build on the gains made through humanitarian support. Such support is a pre-requisite for implementing proactive, predictable social protection programmes.



USEFUL RESOURCES

[Somalia National Development Plan 2017 - 2019](#)

[UNICEF SP framework Somalia](#)

[SCOPE in Somalia: cash-based transfer assistance](#)

[Aid flows in Somalia: analysis of aid flow data, April 2017, Federal Republic of Somalia.](#)