



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA  
SOMALIA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

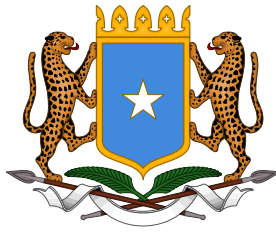


# VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT 2026

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
**GOALS**

2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA  
SOMALIA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

# SOMALIA'S SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



JUNE 2026

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

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# OPENING STATEMENT



It is a great pleasure to present the Federal Republic of Somalia's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2026, a comprehensive account of our nation's progress, achievements, lessons and aspirations in advancing the 2030 Agenda for SDGs. This review comes at a defining moment in Somalia's modern history—one characterised by renewed optimism, deepening institutional maturity and a growing national determination to transform decades of adversity into a future anchored on peace, prosperity, resilience, and sustainable progress.

Since presenting the inaugural VNR in 2022, Somalia has made remarkable strides across multiple dimensions of development. Guided by the aspirations of Centennial Vision 2060 and operationalised through the National

Transformation Plan (NTP I: 2025–2029), the country has embarked on a progressive journey of structural transformation to address immediate development challenges and lay the foundations for a resilient, nationwide, and prosperous future.

A notable development during the reporting period has been the strengthening of Somalia's national statistical and data ecosystem. Reliable statistics constitute the cornerstone of effective governance, evidence-based policymaking, and sustainable development. Over the last four years, Somalia has significantly expanded the production, quality, and availability of official statistics, resulting in substantial improvements in SDG data coverage, monitoring and reporting. Through major statistical operations, methodological reforms, and institutional enhancement initiatives, SNBS has continued to build a modern, responsive, and internationally aligned national statistical system capable of informing policy, measuring progress, and supporting national transformation.

The reporting period witnessed achievements in governance, security, economic reform, human capital development and institutional strengthening. Somalia has to consolidate and expand gains in state-building, public institutions and the reach of government services. The lifting of the decades-long arms embargo by the United Nations Security Council in December 2023 represented a historic milestone in the restoration of Somalia's sovereignty and in growing international confidence in the country's security sector governance and institutional progress.

The country has likewise registered notable progress in economic governance and fiscal reform. The successful completion of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the attainment of debt relief exceeding US\$4.5 billion marked a transformational turning point in Somalia's economic history. This landmark achievement restored international financial credibility, improved fiscal sustainability and created new opportunities for investment, growth and development financing. Complementary reforms in public financial management, domestic revenue mobilisation, and financial sector modernisation have further strengthened the foundations of economic resilience and state-building.



Equally encouraging has been the progress recorded in human and social development. Investments in education, healthcare, water access and social services have continued to expand, placing people at the centre of national development. Increased budgetary allocations to education, recruitment of teachers into the public payroll system, improvements in maternal health outcomes and expanded access to improved water sources accentuate Somalia's keenness towards enhancing the wellbeing, productivity, and human capabilities.

Somalia's growing confidence and international re-engagement have also been reflected through its election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025–2026 term. More than five decades after its previous membership, Somalia's return to the Council symbolises renewed international trust in the country's leadership, diplomatic engagement and constructive contribution to global peace and security.

Notwithstanding these achievements, Somalia is acutely aware that development progress cannot be measured solely through economic growth or institutional advancement. The country faces complex development barriers stemming from poverty, unemployment, climate vulnerability, displacement, food insecurity, and infrastructure deficits. Climate change poses a profound challenge to sustainable development, disproportionately affecting communities whose livelihoods depend on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

Somalia's resilience is yet unwavering. The government has strengthened climate governance frameworks, integrated climate resilience into national development planning and expanded investments in disaster preparedness, adaptation and resilience-building. These efforts point to the cognisance that sustainable development and climate action are mutually reinforcing imperatives that must advance hand in hand. This VNR thus represents Somalia's journey towards transformation. It highlights achievements since 2022 and acknowledges existing pitfalls.

As we look towards 2030 and beyond, Somalia is steadfast in its determination to realise the aspirations of Centennial Vision 2060 and successfully deliver the National Transformation Plan. The progress documented in this review demonstrates that, while significant challenges persist, the foundations for sustainable peace, countrywide growth, institutional resilience and long-term prosperity are steadily being strengthened.

On behalf of the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, I express my profound appreciation to all ministries, departments and agencies of the federal government and federal member states whose commitment, contributions and cooperation made this Review possible. I also extend sincere gratitude to civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, youth groups, women's organisations, development practitioners and other stakeholders whose meaningful engagement enriched the review process and ensured that it reflected diverse perspectives and experiences. I further acknowledge our international development partners for their partnership, technical and steadfast support towards strengthening Somalia's National Statistical System and advancing our developmental agenda.

Finally, I commend the dedicated team at SNBS for their professionalism, technical excellence and tireless efforts in coordinating, compiling and producing this Second Voluntary National Review. Their commitment underscores the strength and maturity of Somalia's statistical system and its indispensable role in supporting national transformation and sustainable development.

**Dr. Abdisalam Abdirahman Mohamed**  
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**Federal Republic of Somalia**

# I ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The preparation of the Federal Republic of Somalia's Second VNR 2026 is a remarkable national undertaking and testament to the collective resolve of government institutions, development partners, civil society, academia, private sector and citizens towards advancing 2030 Agenda. Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, as the coordinating institution for the preparation of this Review, extends appreciation to all stakeholders whose dedication, expertise and collaboration made the successful completion of this report possible. The VNR embodies a truly participatory national process that brought together broad spectrum of institutions and actors committed to accelerating our national transformation and sustainable development.

Gratitude to H.E. (Hon) Mohamud Abdirahman Beenebeene, Minister of Planning, Investment & Economic Development, for his policy & strategic guidance, steadfast advocacy for evidence-based policymaking & use of official statistics in national planning & decision-making. His support was key to advancing alignment between SDGs, NTP & Vision 2060.

Special recognition is accorded to SNBS leadership and core technical team whose professionalism, reliability and exceptional performance under demanding timelines were instrumental in coordinating, compiling, reviewing and finalizing this report. We acknowledge technical contributions of Dr. Abdisalam Mohamed, Director General, Mr. Abdirahman Omar, Deputy Director General; Ms. Faumo Mumin, Director of Planning, Policy & Coordination Services, Hashim Abdinoor, Technical Manager, Macroeconomic & Financial Statistics; Mr. Said Abdillahi, Director, Population & Social Statistics; Ali Said, Director, ICT; Mohamed Yarani, Director of production statistics, Director Shafie (Admin), Dr. Hassan Aden, Senior Advisor; Mr. Mohamed Mohamud, Senior Food Security and Nutrition Advisor; Abukar Mohamed, Senior Communication Specialist; Mr. Zakariya Hashi, Governance Statistics Head of Section; Abdirizak Dahir, Senior Statistician Abdullahi Kelly of Production Statistics; Abdulrazak Karie & Liban Bile of Department of Population & Social Statistics and the design & visualization team, Eng. Mohamed Abukar, Report Designer & infographic specialist; Special thanks to Director Fadumo Mumin for her great work in coordinating stakeholder consultation, consolidating & validating of admin data from MDAs for SDG reporting.

SNBS appreciate all Ministries, Departments & Agencies of Federal Government of Somalia & Federal Member States for their invaluable contributions, data provision, technical inputs and participation throughout the process. Their collaboration ensured this Review reflects Somalia's development achievements, lessons and priorities. We acknowledge important contributions of civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, youth and women's groups, private sector representatives and development practitioners whose perspectives enhanced inclusiveness, credibility and national ownership of the VNR process.

We extend profound appreciation to Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC), United Nations Development Programme, World Bank & other partners for their technical & financial support in bolstering our National Statistical System. Their collaboration has contributed to enhancing statistical capacity, data availability & better policymaking.

Finally, we express our sincere appreciation to all individuals and institutions who participated in consultations, technical reviews and stakeholder engagements undertaken during the preparation of this Review. Their contributions have helped ensure that Somalia's Second Voluntary National Review presents a balanced, comprehensive and forward-looking account of the nation's progress towards National Transformation & Sustainable Development Goals.

## I MAIN MESSAGES

The Federal Republic of Somalia presents its Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at a critical stage in its state-building and development trajectory. Since its inaugural VNR in 2022, Somalia has recorded measurable progress in security, governance, economic and fiscal reform, institutional capacity, social development, and international engagement.

The present review is anchored in Centennial Vision 2060 and the National Transformation Plan (NTP 2025–2029), which shift Somalia's focus from short-term stabilisation to long-term structural transformation, resilience, and inclusive, sustainable growth.

Security and sovereignty have significantly improved. In December 2023, the UN Security Council lifted the decades-long arms embargo (Resolution 2714), recognising advances in security sector governance and weapons management. Parallel military operations by the Somali National Army and community forces have degraded Al-Shabaab's operational capacity and re-established state authority in key areas of central and southern Somalia, creating more enabling conditions for development.

Somalia's international standing has strengthened. In 2024, the country was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2025–2026, assumed its seat in January 2025 and presided over the Council in January 2026. This marks a renewed recognition of Somalia's role in regional and global peace and security.

Economic and fiscal reforms have advanced. Somalia reached the HIPC Completion Point in December 2023, securing over US\$4.5 billion in debt relief and reducing external debt to sustainable levels. This milestone restored international financial credibility and expanded access to development financing. Reforms in public financial management, domestic revenue mobilisation, and fiscal administration have strengthened government capacity, increased domestic revenues and supported a growing national budget.

Human capital development has gained prominence. Public investment in education, health, water and social services has increased, including large-scale recruitment of teachers into the public payroll. Improvements are evident in maternal health, water access and selected service delivery indicators, though gaps remain significant, underscoring the need for sustained investment in people.

Poverty has modestly declined but remains pervasive. Recent data show a reduction in the share of people below the national poverty line; however, poverty is still widespread, especially among rural and nomadic populations. Multidimensional poverty continues to affect most households through overlapping deprivations in education, health, nutrition and living standards. Addressing these disparities remains central to Somalia's development agenda.

Climate change poses a major and growing threat. Recurrent droughts, floods, environmental degradation and climate variability continue to undermine livelihoods, food security and macroeconomic stability. Cyclical droughts cause crop failure, livestock losses and rising humanitarian needs, leaving millions in acute food insecurity and highlighting the urgency of scaling up adaptation and resilience.

Somalia has strengthened its climate policy and institutional framework. Climate resilience is integrated into the NTP, the National Adaptation Plan has been completed, and an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution has been submitted under the Paris Agreement. These instruments provide the basis for climate adaptation, sustainable resource management and disaster risk reduction.

Statistical and data systems have been significantly upgraded. Under the leadership of the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, the production and availability of official statistics and SDG indicators have expanded since 2022. Large-scale household, business, labour, price and

socio-economic surveys now underpin evidence-based policymaking, SDG monitoring and implementation of the NTP, reflecting the growing maturity of the National Statistical System.

These advances have been enabled by strengthened partnerships with development partners, including the World Bank, which have supported statistical capacity, data infrastructure and digital systems. Somalia's evolving data ecosystem is improving the country's ability to track progress, manage crises and inform policy choices.

Notwithstanding this progress, Somalia continues to face deep structural constraints. Insecurity, climate vulnerability, large-scale displacement, humanitarian pressures, limited infrastructure, high unemployment and tight financing conditions threaten hard-won gains. Somalia remains among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries despite its negligible contribution to global emissions, and humanitarian needs remain substantial.

The government is committed to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Under the NTP, priorities include transformational governance, economic diversification, human capital development, climate resilience, stronger institutions and targeted support for youth and women. Key directions are to expand decent work, strengthen social protection, improve access to quality public services, deepen climate adaptation and consolidate peace and security.

This second VNR provides a balanced account of Somalia's journey since 2022—marked by clear progress, persistent challenges and renewed national ambition. It reflects a country moving from fragility to resilience, from recovery to transformation and from dependence towards greater national ownership of its development future.

# | GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Meaning</b>
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
AUSSOM	African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia
BFR	Big Fast Results
BOOST-YOU	Building Opportunities, Outcomes in Social Protection & Youth Employment
CBS	Central Bank of Somalia
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CV-60	Centennial Vision 2060
DWCP	Decent Work Country Programme
EAC	East African Community
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPHS	Essential Package of Health Services
ESSP	Education Sector Strategic Plan
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FMS	Federal Member States
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HSSP III	Health Sector Strategic Plan III
IBAN	International Bank Account Number
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP(s)	Internally Displaced Person(s)
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (Fishing)
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme (WHO/UNICEF)
JMR	Joint Monitoring Report
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality

LFS	Labour Force Survey
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoECHE	Ministry of Education, Culture & Higher Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoPIED	Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEC	National Economic Council
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NDP-9	National Development Plan Nine
NEP	National Employment Policy
NPS	National Payment System
NTP	National Transformation Plan
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Programme
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SARIS	Somalia Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Services
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SFMIS	Somalia Financial Management Information System
SHDS	Somalia Health and Demographic Survey
SIBEC	Somalia Integrated Business Establishment Census
SIHBS	Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey
SNBS	Somalia National Bureau of Statistics
SOB	Sexual Offence Bill
SoDMA	Somali Disaster Management Agency
SPS	Somalia Payment Switch
STARS	Somalia Transaction and Reporting System
TB	Tuberculosis
TSA	Treasury Single Account
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme
TVET	Technical & Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNTMIS	United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia
WB	World Bank
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



The Federal Republic of Somalia submits its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at a defining moment in the country's state-building, recovery, and long-term development. Since Somalia's first VNR in 2022, the country has been implementing its national transformation agenda to consolidate peace and security, strengthen public institutions, accelerate economic recovery, expand social development, and enhance resilience to climate and humanitarian shocks. Despite persistent structural challenges associated with fragility, insecurity, and poverty, Somalia has demonstrated renewed national commitment to advancing comprehensive national development, governance focused on transformation, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup>.

This second VNR reflects Somalia's continued efforts to institutionalise evidence-based policymaking, strengthen national ownership of development processes, and align long-term national aspirations with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The review provides an important opportunity to assess progress achieved since 2022, identify persistent gaps and constraints, share lessons learned and reaffirm the country's commitment towards accelerating SDG implementation through nationally led priorities, institutional reforms, and strategic partnerships.

Somalia's development trajectory is increasingly shaped by an integrated long-term planning architecture anchored in the Centennial Vision 2060 (CV-60), the country's overarching national development vision that charts Somalia's aspirations over a century-long horizon. Centennial Vision 2060 envisions a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and middle-income Somalia, characterised by effective governance, inclusive economic growth, improved living standards, social cohesion, human development, and climate resilience. It establishes the strategic foundation upon which successive medium-term National Transformation Plans (NTPs) are being implemented to translate long-term national aspirations into actionable priorities, measurable targets, and transformational outcomes<sup>2</sup>.

The Somalia National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029, launched in 2024, represents Somalia's inaugural medium-term transformation framework under Centennial Vision 2060. The NTP marks a major shift in Somalia's development planning paradigm from short-term stabilisation and recovery approaches towards long-term structural transformation anchored on national ownership, institutional strengthening, productivity growth, resilience-building and sustainable development. The plan provides a comprehensive national roadmap organised around four strategic pillars: transformational governance, economic transformation, social and human capital development, and climate resilience<sup>3</sup>.

The formulation of the NTP followed one of the most extensive and consultative national planning processes undertaken in Somalia in recent years. Commencing with a strategic high-level retreat in October 2023 that involved the executive branch of the government, including the president, the prime minister, ministers, senior government officials, and the leadership from the private sector, to establish a broad national consensus around prioritised reforms and critical socio-economic growth drivers. This was subsequently followed by comprehensive stocktaking exercises, sector diagnostics, institutional assessments, stakeholder consultations and nationwide Transformation Labs aimed at identifying strategic projects, policy reforms, financing mechanisms and implementation priorities.

1 SNBS, VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT 2022: 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2022), [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-07/VNR%20Report%20Somalia\\_2022.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-07/VNR%20Report%20Somalia_2022.pdf).

2 NEC, CENTENNIAL VISION Federal Republic of Somalia: Building a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Proud Somalia by 2060 (2025), <https://nec.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/SOMALIA-Centennial-Vision-2060-FA.pdf>.

3 MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029 (Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, 2025), <https://mop.gov.so/national-transformation-plan-ntp-2025-2029-report/>.



The Transformation Labs adopted the internationally recognised Big Fast Results (BFR) methodology developed to strengthen delivery-orientated governance and implementation effectiveness. The methodology emphasises strategic prioritisation, measurable targets, implementation tracking, stakeholder participation, institutional accountability, and results-based delivery systems. Through this approach, Somalia established a structured reform and implementation framework encompassing strategic workshops, transformation labs, public consultations, roadmap development, KPI systems, implementation monitoring, external validation, and annual reporting mechanisms. This represents a significant evolution in Somalia's national planning architecture towards a more performance-driven and implementation-focused governance culture.

The NTP 2025–2029 directly supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by aligning national priorities with the SDG framework across the economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions. The plan prioritises targeted, transformative investments in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, energy, education, healthcare, infrastructure, water and sanitation, climate adaptation, employment generation, governance reforms, industrial development, and public modernisation. The NTP further recognises the central role of the private sector as a driver of economic transformation, investment, productivity growth and job creation, hence positioning government as an enabling facilitator of national development and market expansion <sup>4</sup>.

Since the submission of the first VNR in 2022, Somalia has also recorded important macroeconomic, institutional and governance milestones that have strengthened the country's development prospects and reform momentum. Most notably, Somalia achieved the Completion Point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in December 2023, securing approximately US\$4.5 billion in debt relief and substantially reducing the country's external debt burden from approximately 64 per cent of GDP in 2018 to below 6 per cent by the end of 2023<sup>5</sup>. This historic milestone significantly improved Somalia's fiscal sustainability restored international financial credibility, enhanced investor confidence and expanded opportunities for development financing and economic reform.

Somalia's economy has continued to demonstrate gradual recovery and resilience despite multiple external and domestic shocks. Real GDP growth remained relatively robust at 4.2 per cent in 2023, and 4.1 per cent in 2024 following the contraction experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, severe droughts and locust infestations in 2020. Nominal GDP increased from US\$10.9 billion in 2023 to approximately US\$12 billion in 2024, while GDP per capita rose from US\$694 to US\$737 over the same period. Increased investments in telecommunications, construction, trade infrastructure and services sectors, alongside expanding exports and diaspora-supported consumption, continue to contribute to economic activity and market dynamism<sup>6</sup>.

Somalia has also made notable progress in strengthening public financial management and domestic resource mobilisation, contributing to greater fiscal sustainability and state-building efforts. Through comprehensive reforms led by the Ministry of Finance, including modernisation of tax administration, customs reforms, implementation of digital revenue systems and expansion of domestic tax base, federal domestic revenue experienced a substantive increase from approximately USD 263 million in 2022 to an estimated USD 415 million in 2025. These reforms were complemented by the implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA), Somalia Financial Management Information System (FMIS), enhanced fiscal transparency measures and strengthened expenditure controls. Completion of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in 2023 resulted in approximately USD 4.5 billion in debt relief, reducing Somalia's external debt burden to sustainable levels and restoring access to international financial institutions and development financing<sup>7</sup>.

4 MoF, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029.

5 SNBS, SOMALIA POVERTY REPORT 2023 (2023), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Somalia-Poverty-Report-2023.pdf>.

6 SNBS, Somalia Gross Domestic Product Report (2024), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Somalia-GDP-2024-release-text-v3-2025.pdf>; Abdissalam Mohamed et al., Economy on an Upward Trajectory: Key Insights from the 2024 GDP Data Analysis, Policy brief no. 1 (2025), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/policy.pdf>.

7 MoF, 2025 MID-YEAR BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT (2025), <https://www.mof.gov.so/sites/default/files/Publications/2025%20MID-YEAR%20BUDGET%20PERFORMANCE%20REPORT.pdf>; SNBS, SOMALIA POVERTY REPORT 2023.

At the same time, Somalia's economy remains structurally vulnerable due to heavy dependence on imports, climate-sensitive livelihoods and external financing flows. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries are critical pillars of the national economy and major sources of employment and household income, yet recurrent droughts, floods and climate variability continue to undermine productivity and food security. Humanitarian pressures, displacement and poverty continue to affect millions of households, particularly internally displaced persons, women, youth and rural communities<sup>8</sup>.

Somalia's development strategy therefore emphasises resilience-building, climate adaptation, social protection and integrated humanitarian-development approaches. The federal government has prioritised investments in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, food security systems, livelihoods recovery, social protection, sustainable service delivery and rural resilience to bolster the country's capacity to withstand future shocks and at the same time advance long-term development objectives.

The country has strengthened its national statistical systems and capacity for evidence-generation to support policymaking, monitoring, and accountability. In May 2025, Somalia's National Bureau of Statistics launched Somalia's first nationally representative Consumer Price Index (CPI), replacing the previous Mogadishu-only inflation framework and significantly improving national economic monitoring capacity. Somalia has also expanded production of official statistics through the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS), Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Statistical Business Register (SBR), Somalia Integrated Business Establishment Census (SIBEC), GDP statistical rebasing and other major national statistical operations. These advancements reflect Somalia's growing institutional capacity to generate credible, timely and internationally aligned official statistics that support national planning, SDG monitoring and evidence-based governance<sup>9</sup>.

Similarly, SNBS has also implemented several other nationally imperative statistical operations, such as the 2026 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)<sup>10</sup>, the 2025 Somalia Socio-Economic and Demographic Survey (SEDS), and the Somalia High-Frequency Phone Surveys conducted in collaboration with the World Bank to monitor household welfare, livelihoods, and socioeconomic conditions. These initiatives have improved the availability of timely and reliable data for development planning and crisis response. SNBS is preparing to implement the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), undertake the national agriculture census and advance technical and institutional preparations for Somalia's participation in the 2030 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, thereby strengthening the country's capacity to monitor progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Transformation Plan.

Somalia also strengthened its food security information ecosystem through improved coordination, data integration and institutional leadership. Joint Monitoring Reports (JMRs)<sup>11</sup> and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analyses have become central pillars for monitoring food insecurity, drought impacts and humanitarian needs countrywide. Under the technical leadership of SNBS and in collaboration with government institutions, UN agencies and development partners, these platforms provide standardised, evidence-based assessments that guide national policy responses, humanitarian programming, and resilience-building interventions. Institutionalisation of these systems has enhanced the quality, timeliness and credibility of food security data, hence enabled more effective targeting of resources and strengthening Somalia's capacity to anticipate and respond to climate-induced shocks.

8 FAO, Somalia: Emergency and Resilience Plan, 2026–2028 (2026), <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e1fdb3a8-3dc8-46a0-99e5-c98669a7e9f2/content>.

9 SNBS, SOMALIA BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT ANALYSIS BOOKLET 2025 (2025), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Somalia-Business-Establishment-Analysis-Booklet.pdf>; SNBS, Consumer Price Index (CPI) March 2026 (2026), <https://nbs.gov.so/consumer-price-index-cpi-march-2026/>.

10 SNBS, Somalia Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) 2026 (2026), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Somalia-Comprehensive-Food-Security-and-Vulnerability-Assessment-CFSVA.pdf>.

11 SNBS, SOMALIA JOINT MONITORING REPORT (2025), [https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Somalia-Joint-Monitoring-Report\\_Issue-4.pdf](https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Somalia-Joint-Monitoring-Report_Issue-4.pdf).



The Central Bank of Somalia has implemented extensive reforms to modernise the financial sector, enhance financial integrity and expand financial inclusion. Between 2019 and 2025, CBS strengthened regulatory and supervisory frameworks, enhanced oversight of banks, mobile money operators and money transfer businesses and modernised the national payments infrastructure. All licensed commercial banks are now connected to National Payment System (NPS), supported by Somalia Payment Switch (SPS) and the Somalia Transaction and Reporting System (STARS), which facilitate secure real-time payments and interoperability across financial institutions. The adoption of International Bank Account Numbers (IBAN), implementation of electronic KnowYourCustomer (e-KYC) regulations and strengthening of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) frameworks have improved transparency and enhanced confidence in Somalia's financial system.

The private sector continues to play a critical role in Somalia's economic resilience and transformation. Somalia's telecommunications and mobile money ecosystem is among the most dynamic in Africa, with mobile money penetration reaching more than 80 per cent of households nationally and digital financial transactions estimated at approximately US\$25 billion annually. The country has also witnessed a gradual expansion in tourism, construction, financial services and small-scale manufacturing activities, underpinning growing entrepreneurial dynamism and market recovery despite prevailing structural constraints<sup>12</sup> .

As economic activity expands, strengthening the governance of Somalia's labour market has become equally essential. An important milestone in this regard was the adoption of Somalia's new Labour Code in 2025, replacing the outdated 1972 Labour Code after more than five decades. The new legislation aligns national labour governance more closely with international labour standards and provides a modern framework for labour rights, occupational safety and health, non-discrimination, social dialogue, dispute resolution and workplace protection. The reporting period also coincided with the implementation of Somalia's first Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2023–2025. While these developments represent important progress, effective implementation, labour inspection, institutional capacity and enforcement remain significant challenges.

Nevertheless, major development challenges persist. Somalia continues to face high levels of unemployment, particularly among youth and women, widespread informal employment, infrastructure deficits, limited industrial development, low domestic revenue mobilisation, and vulnerability to external shocks. Climate-related pressures, insecurity and displacement continue to affect social service delivery, livelihoods, and household resilience. The country is also still heavily reliant on development assistance and humanitarian financing, underscoring the importance of strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, productive sectors and long-term economic diversification<sup>13</sup> .

Recognising these realities, Somalia's national development agenda increasingly prioritises economic transformation, institutional modernisation, private sector-led growth, employment generation and human capital development. The government has adopted a broad reform agenda aimed at improving public financial management, strengthening fiscal systems, enhancing the business environment, expanding investment opportunities, modernising governance institutions and strengthening service delivery systems across sectors.

This Second Voluntary National Review therefore echoes both Somalia's significant progress and attendant development challenges. It demonstrates the country's determination to build resilient institutions, expand economic opportunity, strengthen governance systems, improve social outcomes and advance inclusive and sustainable development for all Somalis. It further underscores Somalia's strong commitment to multilateral cooperation, national ownership of development priorities, evidence-based planning and the principle of leaving no one behind.

12 SNBS, SOMALIA BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT ANALYSIS BOOKLET 2025; CBS, Annual Statistical Bulletin (2024), [https://centralbank.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Statistical-Bulletin\\_June-2024.pdf](https://centralbank.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Statistical-Bulletin_June-2024.pdf).

13 World Bank, Somalia Poverty and Equity Assessment (2024), <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/9a673c21-2868-42e1-9788-2867caeddb6f>;

As Somalia advances implementation of Centennial Vision 2060, the National Transformation Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the country continues to translate national aspirations into tangible improvements in the lives, livelihoods, well-being, and resilience of the Somali people. The second VNR therefore stands not only as an assessment of progress but also as a reaffirmation of Somalia's collective commitment to attaining sustainable peace, inclusive development, institutional transformation, and long-term national prosperity<sup>14</sup>.

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14 MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029; SNBS, LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REPORT 2019 (2019), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Labour-Force-Survey-Reports-2021.pdf>.

## CHAPTER 2: HOW THE REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED

Somalia's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) for 2026 reflects the Federal Republic of Somalia's continued commitment to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on the foundations of Somalia's first VNR, presented in 2022, this review provides a more comprehensive, methodologically robust, evidence-based and citizen-centred assessment of national progress, challenges and priorities across the SDGs. The 2026 VNR comes at an important stage in Somalia's recovery, reform and state-building journey, during which notable gains have been made in governance, institution-building, economic reform, service delivery, statistical development and coordination across the National Statistical System.

The methodology adopted for the 2026 VNR uses a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative evidence to provide a balanced assessment of Somalia's SDG progress. Quantitative data are used to measure progress against SDG indicators, identify trends and assess gaps, while qualitative evidence captures stakeholder perspectives, implementation experiences, community priorities and lived realities across sectors. This approach ensures that the 2026 VNR is grounded in official statistics and measurable outcomes, while also reflecting the voices and experiences of citizens, institutions and development actors involved in Somalia's sustainable development journey.

A key strength of the 2026 VNR is the substantial improvement in SDG data coverage and availability. Since the 2022 VNR process, Somalia has significantly expanded the production, coordination and use of official statistics, administrative data and sectoral reporting systems under the leadership of the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) and the wider National Statistical System. SDG data coverage increased from approximately 39 per cent during the 2022 VNR process to around 70 per cent for the 2026 review, reflecting major investments in statistical systems, administrative data strengthening, national surveys, censuses and government-led sectoral reporting. This improvement has enabled Somalia to produce a more rigorous, data-driven review of national progress across the SDGs.

Despite significant progress in data production and availability, important data gaps remain in several areas relevant to the principle of leaving no one behind. Continued efforts are needed to strengthen the collection, analysis and reporting of disaggregated data, including employment, income, disability, gender, age and social protection indicators. Improving the availability of disaggregated data will support more targeted policymaking, strengthen monitoring of inequalities and enhance accountability in the implementation of the SDGs.

The VNR relies primarily on official national data sources. These include datasets and reports received from administrative data producers across Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as sectoral statistical systems such as the Education Management Information System



(EMIS) and the Health Management Information System (HMIS), alongside policy documents, strategies, action plans and publications from relevant government institutions. Administrative data play a particularly important role in strengthening the evidence base of the 2026 VNR, reflecting the growing capacity of ministries and government agencies to generate, manage and report data relevant to SDG monitoring.

Reports produced by SNBS using administrative data also constitute important sources for the review. These include the Governance Statistics Reports, the SDG Environmental Indicators Report and other thematic and sectoral publications that provide data on governance, environment, access to services, institutional performance and other priority areas. In addition, key SNBS surveys and statistical operations were used to strengthen the evidence base, including the Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey 2022, the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020 and the Business Establishment Census 2024. These sources provide updated insights into poverty, health, gender, employment, business activity, service access, household welfare and broader socio-economic development trends.

Where official national data are not available, existing datasets from the United Nations, the World Bank and other credible international sources were carefully reviewed and used to support indicator reporting and analysis. These sources were applied cautiously and, where possible, aligned with national data systems and validated against available government information. This helped ensure that the VNR remained nationally owned while also benefiting from internationally comparable data where national sources were limited.

To support data processing, analysis and presentation, statistical tools and analytical techniques were used throughout the review process. Software such as Tableau and Python was applied to clean, analyse, visualise and interpret quantitative data. Tables, charts, graphs and other visual representations were developed to present findings in a clear, accessible and policy-relevant manner. These tools supported the identification of key trends, progress against indicators, data gaps and priority areas requiring further policy attention, while improving the reliability, consistency, and usability of the results.

Stakeholder consultations and key informant interviews were essential components of the VNR methodology. Consultations were conducted with federal government institutions, Federal Member States (FMS), civil society organisations, women's groups, youth representatives, child-focused organisations, organisations representing persons with disabilities, academia, the private sector, development partners and United Nations agencies. These engagements provided valuable insights into sector-specific challenges, implementation progress, community needs and policy priorities. They also helped validate the quantitative findings and ensure that the report reflected a broad range of national perspectives.

Compared to the 2022 review, the 2026 VNR places a stronger emphasis on citizen engagement and inclusive participation. Particular attention was given to capturing the perspectives of groups that are often under-represented in national reporting processes, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced communities and civil society actors working directly with communities.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CHAPTER 3: REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE SDGS 

# NO POVERTY

## Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.

Poverty remains one of Somalia's most urgent and persistent development challenges, with direct implications for livelihoods, human development, social stability, and long-term economic transformation<sup>14</sup>. Consequently, SDG 1 is central to Somalia's national development agenda because as poverty reduction is both a development outcome and a driver of vulnerability. The National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029 provides the main national policy framework for accelerating poverty reduction. It links inclusive economic growth, human capital development, resilience building, social inclusion, service delivery, and institutional strengthening<sup>15</sup>. This framing is important as poverty in Somalia cannot be reduced through income transfers alone. It requires an integrated approach that combines social protection, employment creation, access to basic services, climate resilience, food security, education, health, and strengthened governance systems.

Since the 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR), Somalia has recorded important policy and institutional progress in poverty measurement, social protection, resilience programming, and development financing<sup>16</sup>. At the same time, multiple compounding crises, including climate-driven disasters, armed conflict, and localised inflation, persistently subject Somali households to overlapping vulnerabilities, effectively exhausting their coping capacities and halting long-term economic recovery<sup>17</sup>. This chapter discusses Somalia's progress toward SDG 1, using the latest available evidence on monetary poverty, extreme poverty, multidimensional poverty, household shocks, social protection, and financing for poverty reduction.

14 UN General UNGA, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015.

15 MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029.

16 SNBS, Voluntary National Review Report: 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

17 SNBS, Somalia Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) 2026.

### 3.1: Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

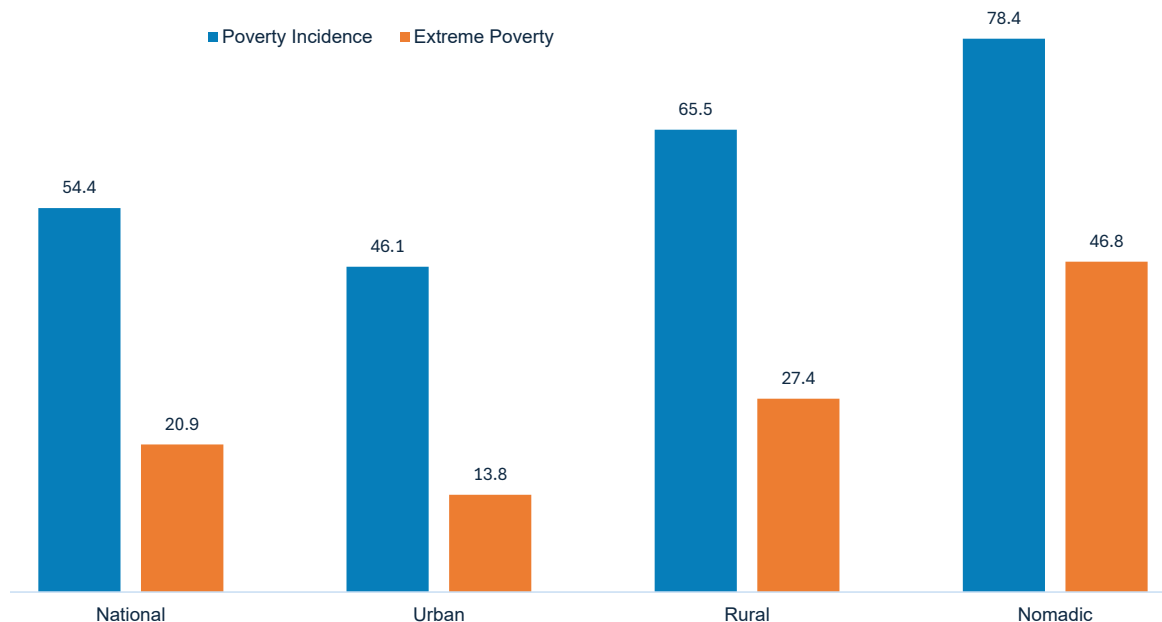
Since the 2022 VNR, Somalia has made progress in three main areas. First, the country has strengthened the evidence base for poverty monitoring through the Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS), the Somalia Poverty Report, the Somalia Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA). Second, the government has expanded social protection through Baxnaano and new adaptive social protection initiatives. Third, Somalia has continued to mobilise external financing for poverty reduction while beginning to frame poverty reduction within longer-term national transformation, resilience, and institutional reform priorities.

#### Target 1.1: Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere

##### Indicator 1.1.1. The proportion of the population living below international povertyline

Using the national food poverty line as a measure of extreme deprivation, Somalia's extreme poverty rate stands at 20.9 per cent. This means that more than one in five Somalis is unable to meet basic food needs through their current level of consumption. Extreme poverty is unevenly distributed by place of residence. The nomadic population records the highest extreme poverty rate at 46.8 per cent, followed by rural areas at 27.4 per cent and urban areas at 13.8 per cent. However, absolute poverty numbers tell a more complex story. Urban residents have the lowest extreme poverty rate, yet they account for the largest share of the extreme poor due to Somalia's rapid urbanisation and the concentration of population in urban and peri-urban settlements. This creates a policy paradox: nomadic and rural communities face the deepest poverty rates, while urban areas contain the largest number of poor people.

Figure 3.1: Poverty Incidence by place of residence, 2022



Source: Somalia Poverty Report 2023

## Target 1.2: Reduce poverty in all its dimensions

### Indicator 1.2.1. tracks the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line.

Somalia's national poverty incidence declined from 69.0 per cent in 2017 to 54.4 per cent in 2022. This improvement demonstrates that progress is possible even in a fragile context. Nevertheless, the level of poverty remains high and requires accelerated, sustained, and better-targeted interventions.

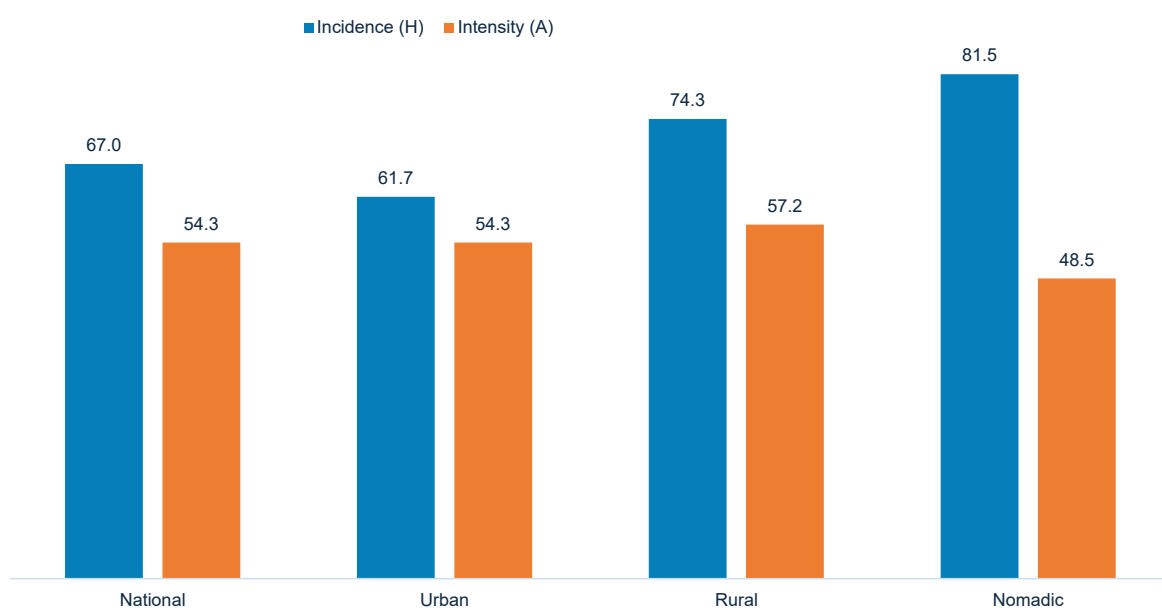
Poverty is most severe among nomadic communities, where 78.4 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line. Rural areas also record a high poverty rate of 65.5 per cent, while urban areas stand at 46.1 per cent. The distribution of poor people by residence type, however, shows that urban poverty requires significant policy attention: urban residents account for more than half of all poor people nationally, while the nomadic population accounts for a smaller share of the total poor despite its very high poverty rate.

### Indicator 1.2.2. measures poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Somalia's Multidimensional Poverty Index, published by the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics in 2024, shows that 67.0 per cent of the population is multidimensionally poor. The intensity of deprivation stands at 54.3 per cent, meaning that poor households are deprived in more than half of the weighted indicators across health, education, and living standards. This confirms that poverty in Somalia is not only about income or consumption, but also about access to services, human capital, housing, water and sanitation, energy, and basic opportunities.

Multidimensional poverty follows a strong spatial pattern. Nomadic communities record the highest incidence at 81.5 per cent, followed by rural areas at 74.3 per cent. Urban areas perform relatively better, but 61.7 per cent of urban residents are still multidimensionally poor. These findings point to the need for a dual strategy: targeted interventions for the most deprived groups and national-scale investments in services and infrastructure to reduce widespread overlapping deprivation.

Figure 3.2: Incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty by place of residence



Source: Somalia Multidimensional Poverty Index Report 2024.



### Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems

Somalia has made notable progress toward Target 1.3 by establishing and expanding national social protection systems. The flagship Baxnaano Programme, launched in early 2020 with World Bank support and implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP, represents Somalia's first government-led nationwide safety net programme. Baxnaano provides predictable income support to poor and vulnerable households, including households affected by drought and chronic poverty.

Baxnaano contributes directly to SDG indicator 1.3.1 by expanding coverage of vulnerable populations and building the delivery systems required for long-term social protection. Its nutrition-linked unconditional cash transfer component supports chronically poor and drought-affected households, including pregnant and lactating women and children vulnerable to malnutrition. Its institutional strengthening component supports beneficiary registries, payment systems, targeting, monitoring, and coordination across federal and state institutions. These systems are essential for building a scalable and shock-responsive safety net.

The programme has also demonstrated Somalia's ability to scale assistance during crises. Over the past three years, Baxnaano expanded both vertically and horizontally, reaching nearly 3 million people, and by late 2025 supporting more than 4 million individuals. These achievements are important steps toward a more predictable national social protection floor, although overall coverage remains below the scale of national need.

Somalia is also expanding adaptive social protection through the Building Opportunities and Outcomes in Social Protection and Youth Employment Project (BOOST-YOU), a four-year initiative for 2025-2029 with financing of approximately US\$112 million. The project aims to support around 738,000 individuals, equivalent to approximately 123,000 households. It focuses on poor and vulnerable populations, including women, youth, IDPs, minority groups, and persons with disabilities. It also targets approximately 168,000 urban youth through employment and entrepreneurship interventions, while 50,000 poor and climate-vulnerable households are expected to benefit from regular cash transfers<sup>18</sup>.

### Target 1.4: Ensure equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services

Progress toward Target 1.4 remains limited but strategically important. Somalia's MPI data reveal persistent deprivation in education, health, water, sanitation, electricity, housing, and other basic living standards. These deprivations reduce household resilience, reinforce intergenerational poverty, and limit the ability of poor households to participate in productive economic activity.

The NTP 2025-2029 identifies service delivery expansion, financial inclusion, land tenure reform, and livelihood development as priorities for poverty reduction<sup>19</sup>. Complementary initiatives, including the Somali National Financial Inclusion Strategy and community-level infrastructure investments by Federal Member States, aim to expand access to credit, productive assets, markets, and public services. However, women, minority groups, IDPs, nomadic communities, and poor rural households continue to face barriers to land ownership, secure tenure, formal finance, and reliable services.

<sup>18</sup> MoLsa., BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES IN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN SOMALIA (BOOST-YOU) PROJECT (2025), <https://baxnaano.so/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Final-BOOST-YOU-SMP-December-2025.pdf>.

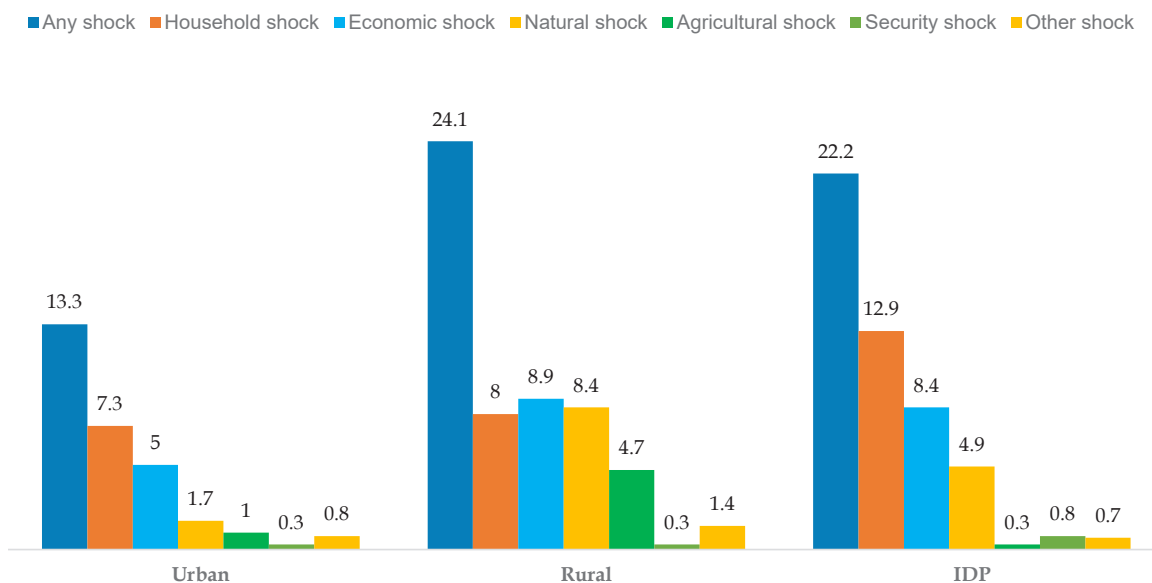
<sup>19</sup> MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029.

### Target 1.5: Build resilience of the poor and reduce exposure to shocks

Target 1.5 is particularly important for Somalia as poverty is closely linked to exposure to drought, floods, conflict, displacement, market shocks, and livelihood insecurity. The 2026 CFSVA shows that rural and IDP households remain disproportionately exposed to shocks. Rural households reported the highest exposure to at least one shock at 24.1 per cent, followed by IDP households at 22.2 per cent and urban households at 13.3 per cent. Household-level shocks were particularly pronounced among IDPs at 12.9 per cent, compared with 8.0 per cent among rural households and 7.3 per cent among urban households.

The nature of shock exposure differs by residence type. Economic shocks are substantial across all groups, particularly in rural areas and among IDPs. Natural shocks are most prevalent among rural communities, reflecting dependence on climate-sensitive agricultural and pastoral livelihoods. Agricultural shocks are also concentrated in rural areas. Security-related shocks appear numerically smaller in the data, but they have wider implications for displacement, market access, livelihoods, service delivery, and social cohesion.

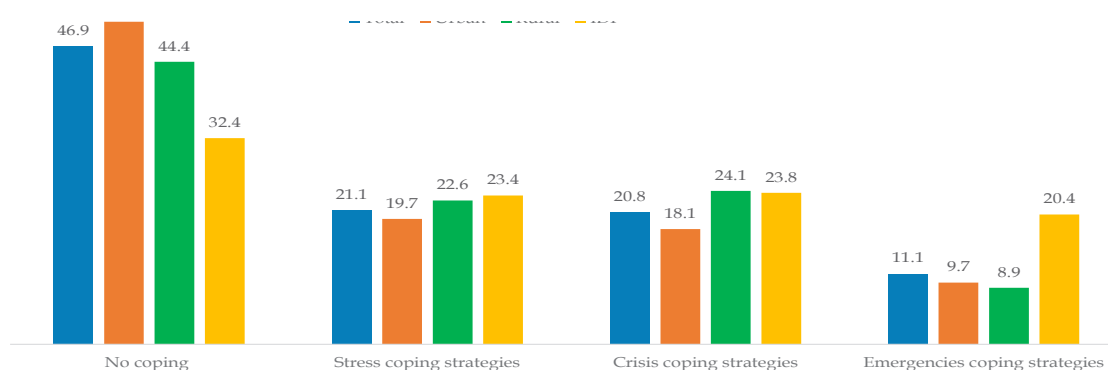
Figure 3.3: Reported Household Shocks by Place of Residence



Source: CFSVA 2026

Livelihood coping data provide further evidence of household vulnerability. At the national level, 46.9 per cent of households reported no reliance on livelihood coping strategies. However, 21.1 per cent adopted stress coping strategies, 20.8 per cent relied on crisis coping strategies, and 11.1 per cent used emergency coping strategies. Emergency coping strategies are particularly high among IDP households at 20.4 per cent, compared with 9.7 per cent in urban areas and 8.9 per cent in rural areas. This indicates that displaced households are more likely to rely on severe strategies that can erode future livelihood capacity and deepen poverty.

Figure 3.4: Livelihood Coping Strategies Index by Place of Residence



### 3.1.6: Major challenges

Despite important progress in social protection, poverty monitoring, resilience-building, and policy reform, Somalia continues to face substantial obstacles in achieving SDG 1. Poverty remains widespread and multidimensional, affecting income, food security, access to basic services, livelihoods, and human development outcomes. More than half of the population continues to live below the national poverty line, while more than two-thirds experience multidimensional poverty. This indicates that poverty in Somalia is not only a question of low income but also a broader pattern of deprivation linked to limited access to education, health, housing, water, sanitation, productive assets, and stable livelihoods<sup>20</sup>.

Recurrent droughts, floods, environmental degradation, and market disruptions continue to undermine household resilience. These shocks reduce agricultural and livestock productivity, erode household assets, increase displacement, and force families to rely on negative coping mechanisms. Rural and IDP households are particularly exposed, as they often have fewer savings, weaker access to services, and limited alternative income sources. In this context, poverty reduction gains remain fragile and can be quickly reversed when climate shocks, conflict, or economic pressures occur.

Conflict, insecurity, and forced displacement remain major drivers of vulnerability. Internally displaced persons face acute deprivation across shelter, food security, health, education, and livelihoods. Their limited access to land, employment, documentation, and durable housing makes recovery more difficult and deepens multidimensional poverty. Insecurity also disrupts markets, restricts mobility, reduces access to services, and weakens the delivery of poverty reduction programmes in affected areas.

Although Somalia has expanded social protection through programmes such as Baxnaano and BOOST-YOU, coverage remains insufficient compared with the scale of need. Financing gaps, institutional capacity constraints, data limitations, and coordination challenges between the federal government, federal member states, and development partners continue to affect programme reach and sustainability. Limited fiscal space and low domestic revenue mobilisation further constrain the government's ability to finance large-scale poverty reduction programmes, leaving Somalia heavily dependent on external support. This dependence exposes national poverty reduction efforts to volatility in official development assistance and shifting global financing priorities.

While social assistance programmes have provided important support to vulnerable households, Somalia continues to face significant challenges in establishing a comprehensive and sustainable social protection system. Large segments of the population, particularly workers in informal employment, women, youth, persons with disabilities and internally displaced persons, remain outside existing social protection mechanisms.

20 SNBS, MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) FOR SOMALIA REPORT (2024), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Multidimensional-Poverty-Index-MPI-2024.pdf>.



## ZERO HUNGER

**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

Somalia continues to face one of the most severe and protracted food security crises globally. Agriculture and livestock are the country's economic mainstay, accounting for more than 60 per cent of GDP, and hence provide livelihoods for the majority of the population. The sector is highly dependent on the performance of the Gu (April–June) and Deyr (October–December) rainy seasons, making food production systems extremely vulnerable to climate shocks, recurrent droughts, floods, conflict, displacement and market disruptions <sup>22</sup>.

Since the first Voluntary National Review in 2022, Somalia has undertaken important institutional and policy reforms aimed at strengthening food security governance and improving resilience. Somalia's food security is a central pillar of the National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029, serving as a strategic blueprint to shift the country away from cyclical, crisis-driven aid toward resilience-building and a development path. The plan integrates climate-adaptive agriculture, nutrition-sensitive social protection, and targeted economic investments to ensure sustainable, long-term food self-sufficiency.

The federal government also developed the National Food Security Policy through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, providing a coordinated framework structured around four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilisation, and stability. In addition, the Somalia Preparedness Plan for Food and Nutrition Security Crises, through its reporting mechanism, the Joint Monitoring Report, established a national coordination platform linking humanitarian response, development programming and government-led anticipatory action<sup>23</sup>. Preparedness Plan is a national operational plan that provides the foundation for a timely and well-coordinated response to an extraordinary FNS crisis in the country. It is a clear and proactive plan of action for a harmonized early response to emerging food and nutrition security crises by the government and humanitarian and development partners.

<sup>22</sup> Federal Government of Somalia, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, National Food Security Policy (2024). National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS), Somalia Statistical Yearbook (latest edition)

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, National Food Security Policy (2024) Joint Monitoring Reports (JMR), Government of Somalia / SNBS / Food Security Coordination Mechanism (2023–2025).



Institutional progress has also been recorded in agriculture and livestock sectors. The establishment of Somalia Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Services (SARIS) strengthened regulation and phytosanitary controls in agricultural inputs with expected significant positive impact on agriculture, while Somalia Livestock Sector Development Strategy guides investment in livestock production and exports. National and partner-supported livestock health interventions achieved significant scale, including vaccinating more than 14.4 million goats against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia and providing veterinary support to approximately 3.5 million livestock <sup>24</sup> .

Despite these efforts, Somalia's food security situation remains fragile and highly vulnerable to shocks. Successive climate-related crises, including the severe 2021–2022 drought and the failed 2025 Deyr rains, substantially reduced crop production, weakened pastoral livelihoods and increased displacement. The worsening food security situation necessitated the activation of the Preparedness Plan, which enabled anticipatory humanitarian response and resilience-building. However, humanitarian financing constraints further undermined response capacity, with the Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 funded at only 20.2 per cent as of September 2025. Funding reductions led to major declines in nutrition treatment services, including reductions in Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) sites.<sup>25</sup>

Food insecurity and malnutrition indicators continue to remain at critical levels. Although the prevalence of undernourishment declined over the past decade, progress has slowed in recent years. Similarly, while moderate or severe food insecurity declined after the peak of the drought crisis, vulnerability remains widespread, particularly among internally displaced persons (IDPs), rural populations, women, and children. Acute malnutrition also deteriorated during the reporting period, with the 2025 post-Deyr IPC assessment recording a national median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 15.1 per cent, placing Somalia at a critical level.<sup>26</sup> The country, therefore, continues to face the dual challenge of responding to recurrent humanitarian crises while building resilient and sustainable food systems that support long-term development and achieve SDG 2.

### 3.1: Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

#### Target 2.1: End Hunger

##### Indicator 2.1.1. Prevalence of undernourishment

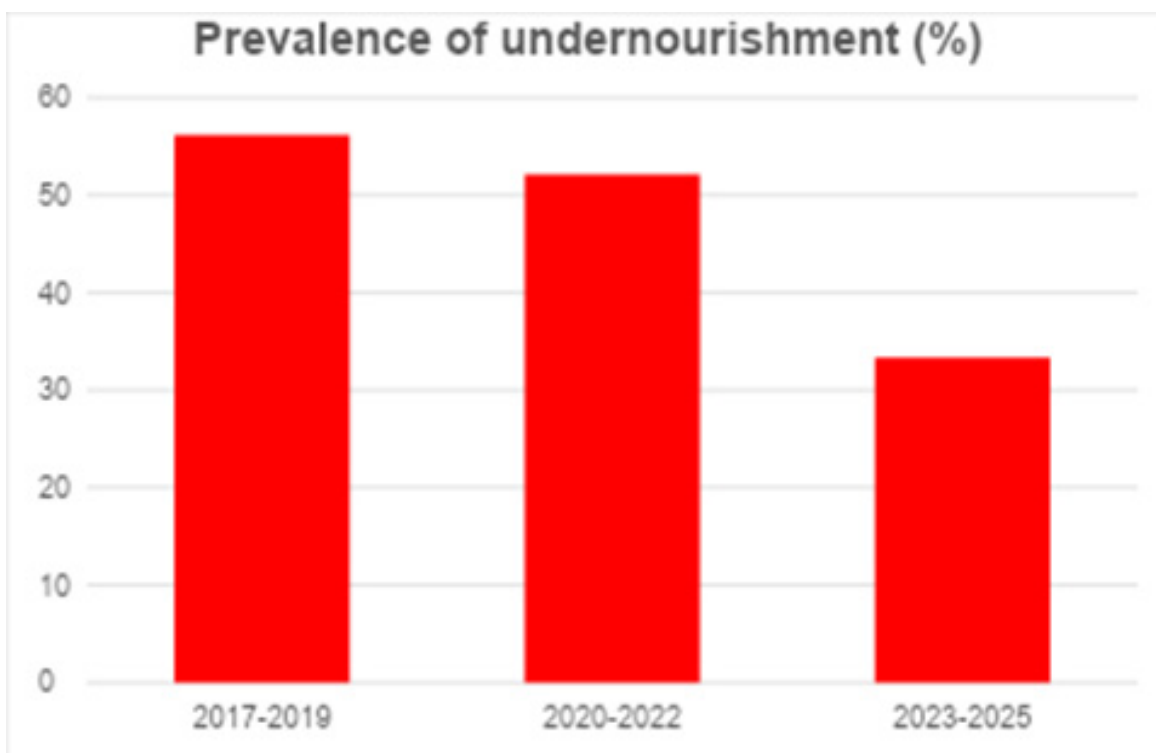
The data indicate that the prevalence of undernourishment in Somalia declined from 56 per cent in 2017–2019 to 52 per cent in 2020–2022 and further to 33 per cent in 2023–2025. The trend indicates gradual improvement in food availability and access over the reporting period. Despite this progress, undernourishment remains a major challenge, reflecting continued vulnerability to climate shocks, conflict, displacement, and economic pressures. Sustained investment in resilient food systems, agricultural production, and social protection will remain important to achieving SDG 2.

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Somalia Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Services (SARIS) Annual Report. Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Somalia Livestock Sector Development Strategy.

<sup>25</sup> [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Somalia\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_Malnutrition\\_Jul\\_Dec2025\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Somalia_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_Jul_Dec2025_Report.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Somalia Acute Malnutrition Analysis, Post-Deyr 2025. Somalia national Bureau of Statistics, Food Security profile (2024).

Figure 3.4: Prevalence of Undernourishment (%), 3-Year Average, 2017–2025



Source: SNBS, 2024, FAOstat, 2025,

### Indicator 2.1.2. Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

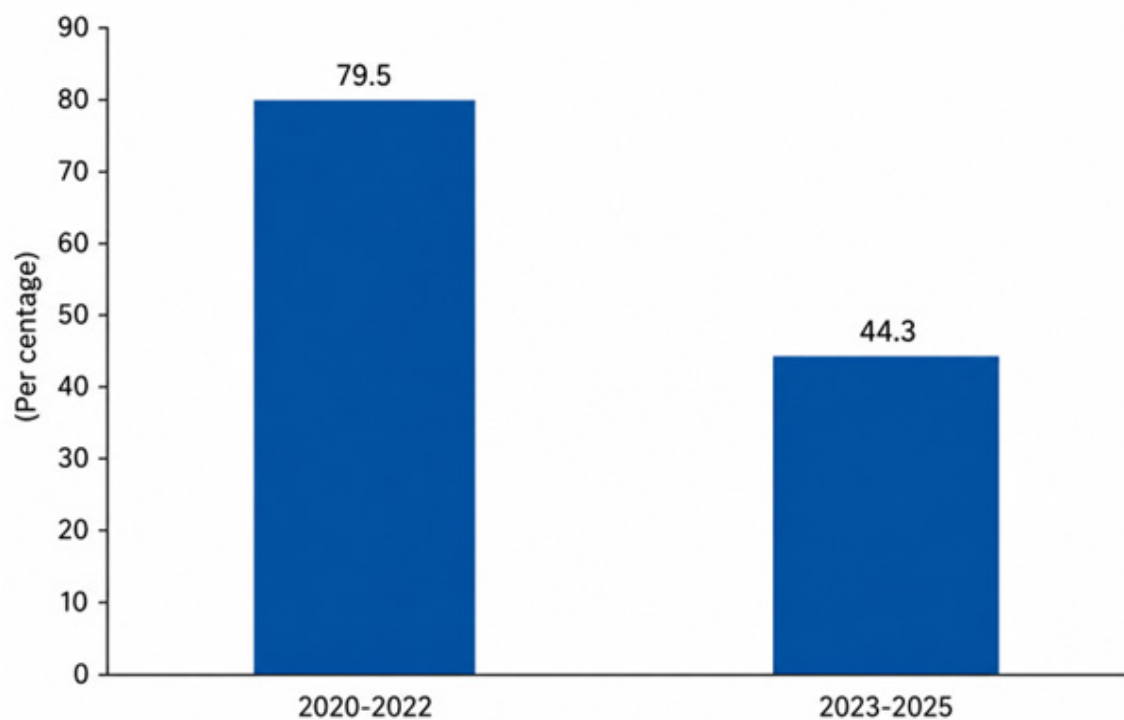
The data shows a significant improvement in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, which declined from 79.5 per cent (2020–2022) to 44.3 per cent (2022–2024). While this headline reduction is substantial, the absolute level remains among the highest in the world and should be interpreted with caution, as the earlier figure reflects the acute crisis period of the 2021–2022 drought and its aftermath<sup>27</sup>.

These estimates are consistent with the latest household-level findings from the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) 2026, which records 44.3 per cent of households experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity over the preceding 12 months, with 14.6 per cent experiencing severe food insecurity. IDP households face the highest burden at 69.0 per cent moderate or severe food insecurity, compared with 49.0 per cent among rural households and 34.6 per cent among urban households. Regionally, the highest food insecurity is recorded in Middle Shabelle (68.2 %), Bakool (60.5 %), and Lower Shabelle (57.0 %). Only 10 per cent of households have cash savings, while over 50 per cent carry debt. Household food spending remains heavily concentrated on cereals and bread (34.4 per cent of the food basket), while fish, eggs and fruits collectively account for only 4.0 per cent, reflecting critical inadequacies in dietary diversification.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Somalia national Bureau of Statistics, Food Security profile (2024). SNBS Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA 2026).

<sup>28</sup> Somalia national Bureau of Statistics, Food Security profile (2024). SNBS Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA 2026).

Figure 3.4: Prevalence of Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity (%)



Source: (CFSVA,2026), FAOstat 2025

Table 3.1: Food Security Status by Place of Residence (%)

Residence	Food Secure (%)	Marginally Secure (%)	Moderately Insecure (%)	Severely Insecure (%)
Urban	43	37	17	4
Rural	22	39	30	3
IDP	9	45	39	7

Source: CFSVA 2026, Somalia National Bureau of Statistics

Table 3.2: Prevalence of Household Food Insecurity based on FIES by Place of Residence

Residence	Moderate or Severe (%)	Severe (%)
IDP	69.0 (±5.0)	27.7 (±3.7)
Rural	49.0 (±4.6)	16.0 (±3.1)
Urban	34.6 (±2.5)	10.1 (±1.3)
National	44.3 (±2.2)	14.6 (±1.3)

Source: CFSVA 2026, Somalia National Bureau of Statistics. 90% confidence intervals shown.

**Target 2.2:** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

**Indicator 2.2.1. Prevalence of stunting (height-for-age <-2 SD) among children under 5 years of age**

Somalia has made some progress in reducing stunting. Stunting among children under five declined from 38 per cent in 2006 to 27 per cent in 2019, driven by investments in antenatal care, infant and young child feeding practices, and social protection. Nonetheless, the national prevalence of 27 per cent remains well above the globally agreed target, and progress has been uneven across population groups. Nomadic children remain the most affected, and conditions are particularly severe in south-central and southwestern Somalia, areas characterised by subsistence rain-fed agriculture and recurrent conflict-related displacement.

**Indicator 2.2.1. Prevalence of stunting (height-for-age <-2 SD) among children under 5 years of age**

Acute malnutrition has deteriorated sharply. The 2025 post-Deyr IPC assessment recorded a national median Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 14.6 per cent, up from 12.0 per cent in the 2024 post-Deyr period placing the country at a Critical level. Approximately 1.84 million children under five faced acute malnutrition in 2026, including 483,000 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 1,352,000 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

Table 3.3 Acute Malnutrition Burden Children Under Five, 2026

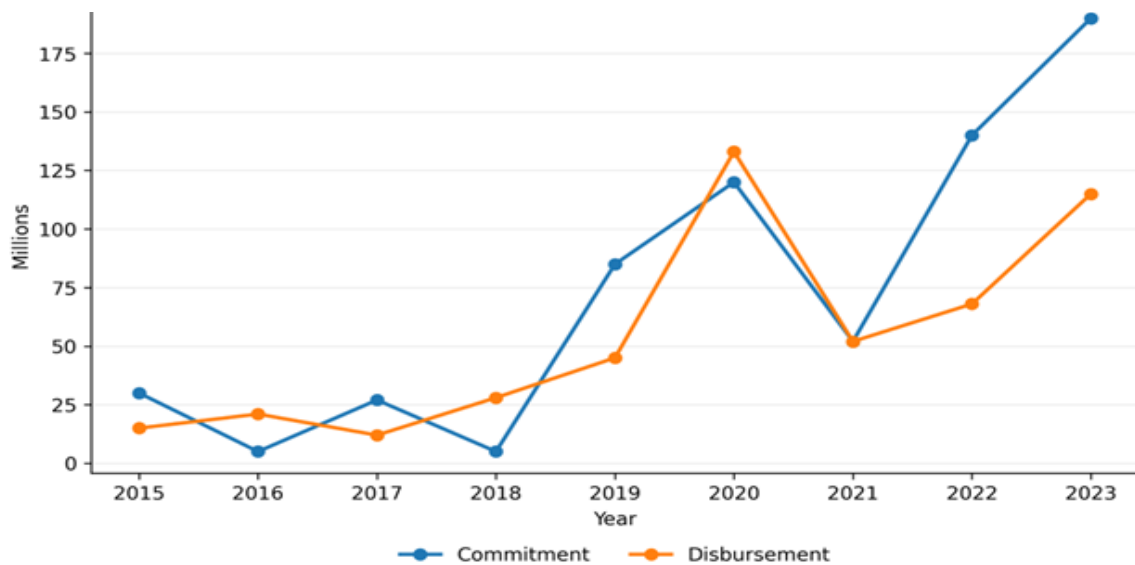
Residence	Food Secure (%)	Marginally Secure (%)	Moderately Insecure (%)	Severely Insecure (%)
Urban	43	37	17	4
Rural	22	39	30	3
IDP	9	45	39	7

Source: IPC Post-Deyr 2025/26 Acute Malnutrition Analysis

**Indicator 2.a.2: Investment in agriculture and official flows to the agriculture sector**

Data on development flows to Somalia’s agriculture sector show an upward trend in both commitments and disbursements since 2018. Agricultural development commitments grew from a low of approximately US\$10 million in 2018 to US\$193 million in 2023. Disbursements broadly tracked this trajectory, rising to US\$134 million in 2020 before contracting in 2021 (US\$50 million) and then recovering to approximately US\$118 million in 2023. The widening gap between commitments and disbursements in recent years, particularly in 2023, where commitments reached US\$193 million against disbursements of US\$118 million, signals that absorption and implementation capacity remain bottlenecks that require urgent attention.

Figure 3.5 Development Flows to Agriculture — Somalia, 2015–2023 (US\$ Millions)



Source: FAOstat, 2025

### 3.2.3. Major Challenges

Despite ongoing efforts to strengthen food security and nutrition systems, Somalia continues to face significant constraints in achieving SDG 2. Recurrent droughts, conflict, displacement, and economic pressures continue to undermine livelihoods, reduce household resilience and disrupt agricultural and livestock production systems. These cyclical shocks have severely eroded household resilience overtime and drive chronic poverty and vulnerability nationwide. High dependency on food imports exacerbates the impact of shocks by exposing household consumption to the volatility of global commodity prices.

Food insecurity has been at critical levels between 2022 and early 2026. As of January 2026, approximately 4.8 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, including 1.2 million people in IPC Phase 4. Projections for February to March 2026 indicated further deterioration, with 6.5 million people expected to face Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity. Malnutrition is also a major concern, particularly among children and vulnerable populations. Limited access to diverse and nutritious foods, combined with climate shocks and declining household purchasing power, continues to contribute to poor dietary outcomes and increased vulnerability to acute malnutrition.

Humanitarian response efforts have also been affected by funding shortfalls. The Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 was funded at only 20.2 per cent as of September 2025, limiting the scale of food assistance and nutrition interventions. Funding reductions affected nutrition treatment services and reduced the operational capacity of nutrition programmes across several areas of the country.

Agricultural production was further affected by poor seasonal performance. In northwestern Somalia, the 2025 Gu/Karan cereal harvest was estimated at only 830 metric tonnes, approximately 93 per cent below the 2010–2024 average. The subsequent failure of the 2025 Deyr rains across much of the country further reduced recovery prospects and increased pressure on rural livelihoods and food systems.

In addition, structural challenges, including weak infrastructure, limited social protection coverage, and fragmented food security data systems, continue to constrain long-term progress toward achieving zero hunger.



## GOOD HEALTH

**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

Health is a fundamental human right and a core foundation for Somalia's wider development transformation. A resilient and well-functioning health system is essential for achieving SDG 3 and advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Furthermore, progress on SDG 3 is directly linked to poverty reduction, human capital development, gender equality, climate resilience, social cohesion and the capacity of public institutions to deliver basic services.

Somalia's health system is organised into five tiers: national and regional hospitals; district hospitals and referral health centres; health centres; primary healthcare units; and community-level services. This tiered structure provides a basis for referral, service integration and community outreach. However, performance remains constrained by financing gaps, workforce shortages, uneven service quality and incomplete geographic coverage. The public health system remains limited in reach and capacity. The private sector provides more than 60 percent of health services, mostly in urban areas, while NGO-supported services remain dependent on donor funding cycles. As a result, service access is highly uneven, with rural, nomadic, and displaced populations facing the greatest barriers.

Since the 2022 Voluntary National Review, Somalia has continued to rebuild its health system in a context shaped by prolonged conflict, political fragility, recurrent droughts and floods, displacement, widespread poverty and limited fiscal space. These structural pressures continue to affect health outcomes, especially for women, children, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, nomadic communities and populations living in rural and underserved areas.

Despite these constraints, the Federal Government of Somalia, through the Ministry of Health and Human Services, has strengthened the policy and institutional architecture for health sector reform. The Health Sector Strategic Plan III (HSSP III) 2022-2026, the updated Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS 2020), the National Transformation Plan 2025-2029 and the Community Health Strategy 2025-2029 provide the main frameworks for expanding access to essential health services, strengthening primary healthcare and advancing UHC. The National Transformation Plan sets a UHC service coverage target of 40 percent by 2029, signaling a clear national commitment to move from fragmented service delivery toward a more coherent health system <sup>29</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> MoH, Somalia Harmonised Health Facility Assessment 2022-2023 (2024), [https://moh.gov.so/so/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Somalia\\_HHFA\\_National.pdf](https://moh.gov.so/so/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Somalia_HHFA_National.pdf); MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029.



The health sector, however, remains heavily dependent on external financing. Domestic health expenditure remains below 1.5 percent of GDP, while more than 90 percent of health sector financing is provided by external partners. This dependence has enabled critical service delivery in a fragile context, but it also exposes the sector to funding volatility, short project cycles and fragmented implementation. The central challenge for Somalia is therefore to convert externally supported health interventions into a nationally led, better-financed, better-regulated, and more equitable health system.

### 3.3. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

Since the first VNR, Somalia has made progress in three broad areas. First, the government has strengthened health sector planning, coordination and policy frameworks. HSSP III, EPHS 2020, the Somalia Health Sector Investment Case 2022-2027, the HMIS Standard Operating Procedures 2022, the RMNCAH Strategy for Social and Behaviour Change 2023-2027 and the Community Health Strategy 2025-2029 collectively provide a clearer national platform for health reform, partner alignment and service delivery.

Second, Somalia has expanded key health infrastructure and regulatory systems. The inauguration of the Somali National Blood Bank in August 2023 marked a major milestone after three decades without a national blood banking system. The rehabilitation of six regional hospitals in Bay, Bosaso, Forlanini, Galmudug, Jowhar and Kismayo has improved access to emergency departments, intensive care, X-ray services and minor operating theatres across several federal states. The establishment of the National Health Professional Council in 2023 also strengthened professional regulation, licensing, accreditation, and accountability within the health workforce.

Third, Somalia has made progress in community health, health information and disease surveillance. The Community Health Strategy seeks to professionalise community health services by employing government-employed female community health workers, supported by community health volunteers. The HMIS SOPs have introduced standardised reporting tools, quarterly data quality audits and monthly data review meetings, helping to reduce fragmentation and promote more routine use of health data for planning and service improvement.

#### Target 3.1: Reduce maternal mortality and improve access to skilled care

##### Indicator 3.1.1. Maternal mortality ratio and 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Somalia has recorded a sustained decline in maternal mortality, but the level remains among the highest globally and continues to reflect deep structural barriers to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services. The maternal mortality ratio declined from 1,040 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2006 to 692 in 2020, according to SHDS 2020. UNICEF estimates indicate a further reduction to 563 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023. This downward trajectory is encouraging, but it remains far above the SDG target and continues to expose women to unacceptable risks during pregnancy and childbirth.

The main drivers of maternal mortality include limited access to antenatal care, low skilled birth attendance, weak emergency obstetric and neonatal care, inadequate postnatal care, high out-of-pocket costs, long distances to health facilities and weak referral systems. These barriers are particularly severe for women in rural, nomadic and displaced communities. The National Transformation Plan prioritises rehabilitation of health facilities, expansion of emergency obstetric and neonatal care, health workforce strengthening, nutrition integration and improved referral systems, with a target of reducing maternal mortality to below 400 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2029.

Administrative data reported through HMIS show an increase in the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel within reporting facilities from 78.0 per cent in 2022 to 97.5 per cent in 2023 and 97.7 per cent in 2024. This suggests improvement in service utilisation among facilities reporting to HMIS. However, these figures should be interpreted with caution as they may not capture births occurring outside facilities, in non-reporting areas, or among populations with limited access to formal health services. Nationally representative survey data remain necessary to validate population-level progress against indicator 3.1.2.

### **Target 3.2: End preventable deaths of newborns and children under five**

#### **Indicator 3.2.1. Under-five mortality rate**

Available evidence points to a continued downward trend in maternal and child mortality over the long term, but progress remains fragile. Newborn and child survival is affected by malnutrition, limited access to skilled delivery care, incomplete postnatal coverage, low immunisation coverage in some areas, poor water and sanitation conditions, and recurrent climate-related shocks. Consecutive droughts, flooding and displacement have increased the vulnerability of children, particularly among IDP households and poor rural communities.

Nutrition is a major risk factor for child survival. Wasting and acute malnutrition have deteriorated since 2020, driven by drought, livelihood loss, displacement and limited access to diverse diets and essential services. The National Blood Bank also contributes indirectly to child survival by supporting treatment for severely anaemic children, while the rehabilitation of regional hospitals improves access to referral and emergency services. Continued integration of nutrition, immunisation, maternal health, water and sanitation, and community health services will be essential for accelerating progress under Target 3.2.

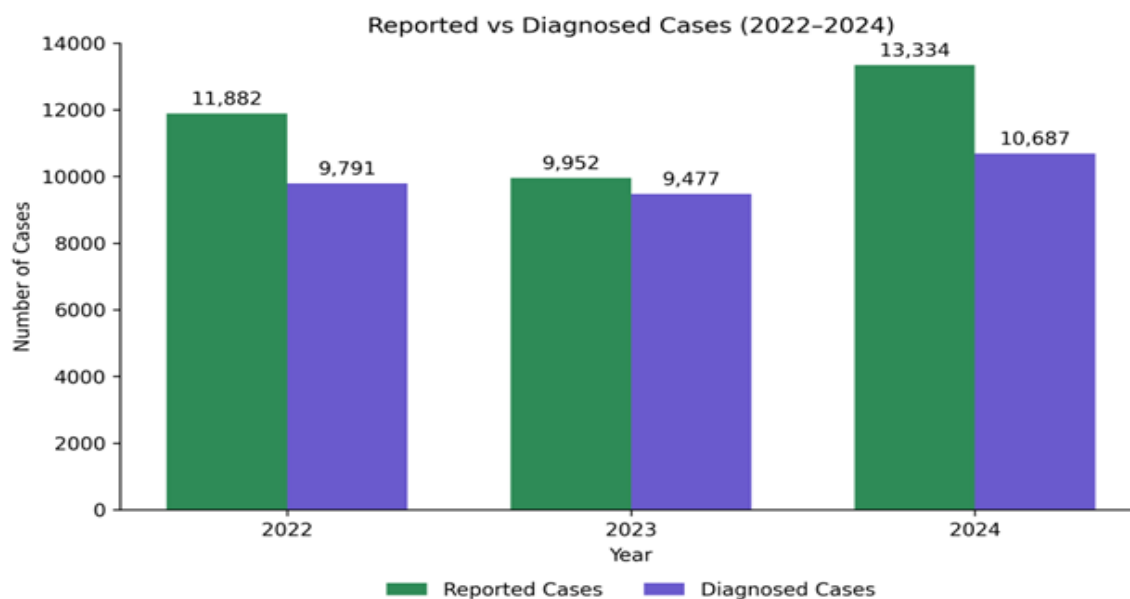
### **Target 3.3: Combat communicable diseases, including tuberculosis**

#### **Indicator 3.3.2. Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population**

Tuberculosis remains a significant public health challenge and continues to place pressure on Somalia's health system. Routine HMIS data show fluctuations in reported TB cases between 2022 and 2024. Reported cases declined from 11,882 in 2022 to 9,952 in 2023, before increasing to 13,334 in 2024. The number of diagnosed cases also increased from 9,477 in 2023 to 10,687 in 2024. The increase in 2024 may reflect expanded screening, improved diagnostic access, stronger surveillance or changes in disease burden. The persistent difference between reported and diagnosed cases indicates the need to strengthen case detection, laboratory systems and treatment linkage.

The underlying drivers of TB include poverty, overcrowded living conditions, malnutrition, displacement and limited access to timely healthcare. Reducing the TB burden will require expanded active case-finding, stronger diagnostic capacity, improved treatment adherence, better integration of TB services into primary healthcare and stronger action on the social determinants of health.

Figure 3.6: Tuberculosis Cases and Diagnoses, Somalia (2022–2024)



Source: HIMS database of Ministry of Health

### Target 3.8: Advance Universal Health Coverage

#### Indicator 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services.

Universal Health Coverage remains the central organising objective of Somalia's health sector reform. The NTP target of reaching a UHC index of 40 per cent by 2029 reflects a national commitment to expand access to essential services while improving quality and financial protection. The updated EPHS provides the service package for this ambition, while HSSP III and the Health Sector Investment Case support prioritisation, partner alignment and financing dialogue. However, UHC is constrained by limited domestic financing, a fragmented delivery system, the concentration of private providers in urban areas, weak referral systems, workforce shortages and persistent out-of-pocket costs. The challenge is not only to expand service coverage, but also to ensure that services are equitable, affordable, safe, people-centred and available to populations outside major urban centres.

### Target 3.d: Strengthen health security, emergency preparedness and health information systems

#### Indicator 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

Somalia has taken important steps to strengthen emergency preparedness and health information systems. The HMIS SOPs establish a unified reporting system across public and private facilities, introduce standard tools, protect patient confidentiality, set clear reporting deadlines and require quarterly data quality audits. These reforms are essential for reducing parallel reporting, improving data consistency and embedding routine data use in decision-making.

Infrastructure investments also support health security. The vaccine storage cold chain facility at Forlanini Hospital strengthens the country's capacity to support immunisation campaigns against measles, polio and tuberculosis, while climate-resilient hospital rehabilitation measures improve emergency preparedness. These investments are particularly important in a country where climate shocks, displacement and disease outbreaks interact with weak service delivery systems.

### 3.3.6. Major Challenges

Despite important progress in policy development, health-sector coordination and in some service delivery areas, Somalia continues to face several major structural challenges that constrain progress toward SDG 3 and universal health coverage.

First, health financing remains critically insufficient and highly dependent on external support. Domestic public spending on health remains below the level required to sustain a functional and equitable health system, while more than 90 percent of sector financing continues to come from external partners. This creates a fragile financing environment in which essential services, health facilities, supply chains, outreach programmes and workforce investments remain vulnerable to donor priorities, funding cycles and humanitarian financing gaps. Limited domestic fiscal space also constrains the government's ability to expand the Essential Package of Health Services, institutionalise community health services, retain qualified health workers and ensure predictable service delivery across federal member states. Without a more sustainable health financing model, Somalia's progress toward universal health coverage will remain uneven and difficult to sustain.

Second, access to quality health services remains deeply unequal across population groups and locations. Somalia's health system continues to face major constraints in infrastructure, workforce availability, service quality, referral systems and regulation. Rural, nomadic, displaced and underserved communities remain particularly disadvantaged, often facing long distances to health facilities, limited availability of female health workers, weak emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and inadequate access to postnatal, immunisation, nutrition and disease-prevention services. At the same time, the large role of private providers and NGOs, while important for service availability, contributes to fragmentation where regulation, coordination and continuity of care are weak. These inequalities reinforce poor maternal, newborn and child health outcomes and limit Somalia's ability to ensure healthy lives for all people, regardless of geography, income, gender, displacement status or livelihood group.

Third, recurrent shocks and weak health information systems continue to undermine health security, planning and accountability. Consecutive droughts, floods, disease outbreaks, food insecurity and population displacement place repeated pressure on an already fragile health system. These shocks disrupt service delivery, increase malnutrition, heighten maternal and child health risks, and increase demand for emergency and humanitarian health services. At the same time, persistent data gaps—including delayed implementation of key household surveys, limited civil registration and vital statistics, incomplete disease surveillance, and uneven reporting from facilities and private providers—constrain evidence-based decision-making. Strengthening health information systems, routine data quality, outbreak surveillance, civil registration and disaggregated SDG monitoring will be essential for targeting resources, tracking progress and improving accountability across the health sector.





## QUALITY EDUCATION

**Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**

Somalia's education sector continues to recover from decades of conflict, displacement, and institutional disruption. Access to education has expanded significantly during the 2022–2026 reporting period through implementation of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP 2022–2026)<sup>30</sup>, strengthened policy reforms, and sustained support from development partners.

Progress has been recorded across several areas of the education sector. The primary school gross enrolment rate increased from 24 per cent in 2021 to 40.4 per cent in 2025, surpassing the ESSP target ahead of schedule. Gender parity in primary education also improved, with the primary Gender Parity Index increasing from 0.84 to 0.93. Adult literacy rates increased from 40 per cent to 53.4 per cent, while higher education enrolment more than doubled during the reporting period.

The education sector has also strengthened its legal and institutional framework. The Higher Education Act (2024)<sup>31</sup> and the National Education Development Fund Act (2025)<sup>32</sup> established important foundations for education governance, quality assurance, and the sector's sustainable financing. Additional reforms have included the development and implementation of policies related to teacher management, girls' education, early childhood education, adult education, school meals, and education management systems.

Somalia has also expanded investments in school construction, teacher recruitment, accelerated education programmes, and education in emergencies. The Federal Government Teacher Initiative significantly increased recruitment and deployment of teachers across the country, while several education programmes supported access for girls, internally displaced populations, and crisis-affected communities. The country also continued to expand emergency education programmes to support the continuity of learning for children affected by conflict, displacement, drought, and climate-related shocks.

<sup>30</sup> MoECHE, National Education Sector Strategic Plan (2022–2026) (2022), <https://spotlight.so/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/FINAL-Updated-23-may-ES-SP.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> Higher Education Act, 2024

<sup>32</sup> National Education Development Fund Act, 2025

Despite this progress, major challenges remain. Learning assessment systems remain underdeveloped, limiting the ability to measure learning outcomes and proficiency levels. School infrastructure deficits continue to affect the quality of education, with limited access to electricity, safe drinking water, sanitation, and digital learning facilities. Teacher shortages and declining proportions of qualified teachers also continue to affect the quality of education, particularly at the secondary level.

### 3.4 Progress since the 2022 VNR

#### Education policies

A strong policy architecture is the foundation of any functioning education system. Over the 2022–2026 period, MoECHE developed, revised, and enacted fifteen education policies spanning the full breadth of the sector, from Early Childhood Education to cybersecurity and integrated Quranic schooling<sup>33</sup>. This policy portfolio is not merely a list of intentions: it reflects a structured, consultative approach to governance in which stakeholders at federal and state level participate in drafting, validation, and endorsement before policies are issued.

All fifteen policies are formally aligned with the National Transformation Plan, the Education Sector Strategic Plan 2022–2026, and Somalia's global commitments under SDG 4. Federal Member States are engaged throughout the policy development cycle from initiation and consultation through drafting, validation, and adoption ensuring that national frameworks are grounded in the realities of regional governance. Where FMS contexts diverge from federal baselines, states are permitted to develop complementary sub-national policies, provided they remain consistent with the federal framework. This structured approach to policy coherence is itself a governance achievement, given the fragmentation that has historically characterised centre–periphery relations in Somalia.

Six policies are currently active and under implementation, each addressing a distinct strategic priority. The National Education Development Fund Policy (2025) establishes the financial architecture for a pooled funding mechanism that will allow Somalia to mobilise, consolidate, and equitably allocate education resources, a critical step toward sustainable domestic financing. The Girls' Education Policy, also reviewed and disseminated in 2025, reflects the sector's recognition that gender equity cannot be achieved through enrolment targets alone; it requires dedicated policy attention to the social, economic, and cultural barriers that keep girls out of school and push them out early.

The National School Meals Policy (2025)<sup>34</sup> addresses one of the most persistent deterrents to school attendance in a food-insecure country: hunger. By committing to a decentralised, locally sourced school feeding programme, the policy connects nutrition, attendance, and learning in a single intervention. The National Teacher Policy (2024) sets a clear direction, that by the end of 2025, unlicensed teachers should no longer be permitted to teach in Somali schools, though its full implementation depends on the finalisation of the Teachers' Competency Framework, which remains in draft<sup>35</sup>. The Early Childhood Education Policy (2025)<sup>36</sup> and the Adult Education Policy (2025)<sup>37</sup> round out the active portfolio, addressing the two ends of the learning continuum that are most often neglected in fragile-state education planning.

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33 MOE Somalia

34 National School Meals Policy (2025)

35 National Teacher Policy (2024)

36 Early Childhood Education Policy (2025)

37 Adult Education Policy (2025)

Furthermore, nine additional policies are either under review or in draft. The National Education Policy, the umbrella framework that governs the entire sector completed its stakeholder consultation process and is awaiting cabinet submission. The ICT in Education Policy and Master Plan and the Child Safeguarding Policy are under review, while the Education Management Information System Policy, which provides the governance structure for Somalia's data infrastructure, is also being updated to reflect the system's growing complexity.

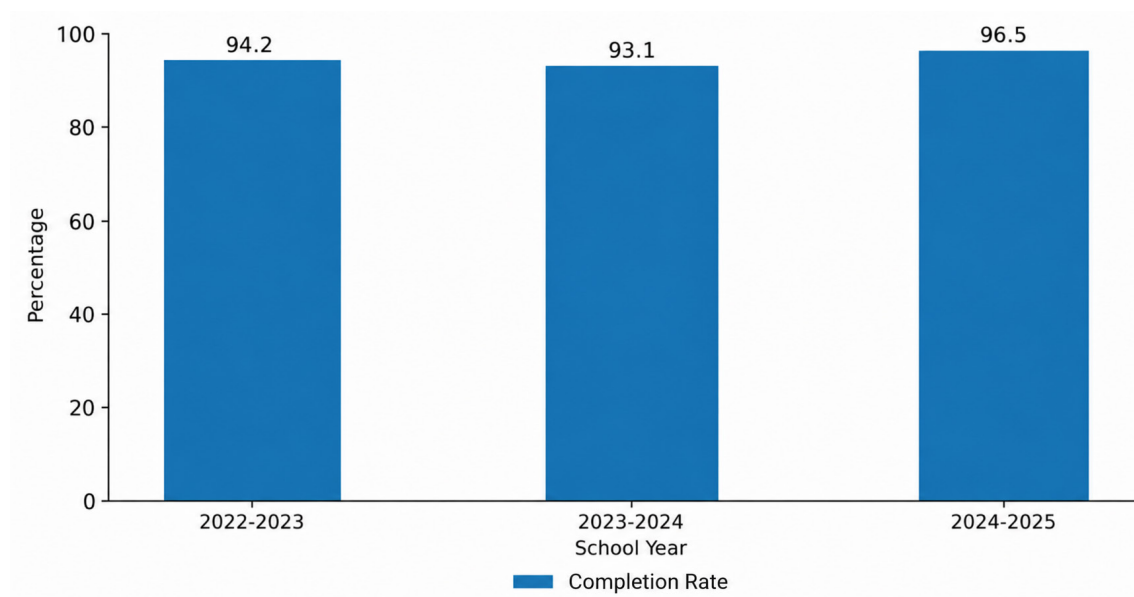
Among the draft policies, the Emergency in Education Policy signals the sector's commitment to formalising its humanitarian response frameworks following the COVID-19 experience and repeated climate shocks. The Integrated Quranic Schools Policy addresses a segment of the education landscape that has long operated outside the formal system; its finalisation will be essential for extending quality standards and teacher training to the millions of Somali children whose first schooling experience is in Quranic School (dugsi). The TVET Policy and the Cybersecurity Policy reflect the sector's forward-looking agenda, preparing Somali youth not only for today's labour market but for the digital economy of the next decade <sup>38</sup>.

#### **Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes**

##### **Indicator 4.1.2. Completion rate (primary and secondary education)**

Primary education completion rates remained high during the reporting period. The Class 8 completion rate remained above 90 per cent between 2022 and 2025 and is projected to reach 98 per cent by the 2024/25 school year.

Figure 3.7. Completion rate primary



Source: Ministry of Education, Education Sector Yearbook (ESY), 2022–2025

The findings indicate that once children enter the primary education system, most remain in school through completion. However, secondary education enrolment and transition continue to lag behind national targets.

**Target 4.2 By 2030**, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

**Indicator 4.2.2. Participation rate in organised learning before the official primary entry age**

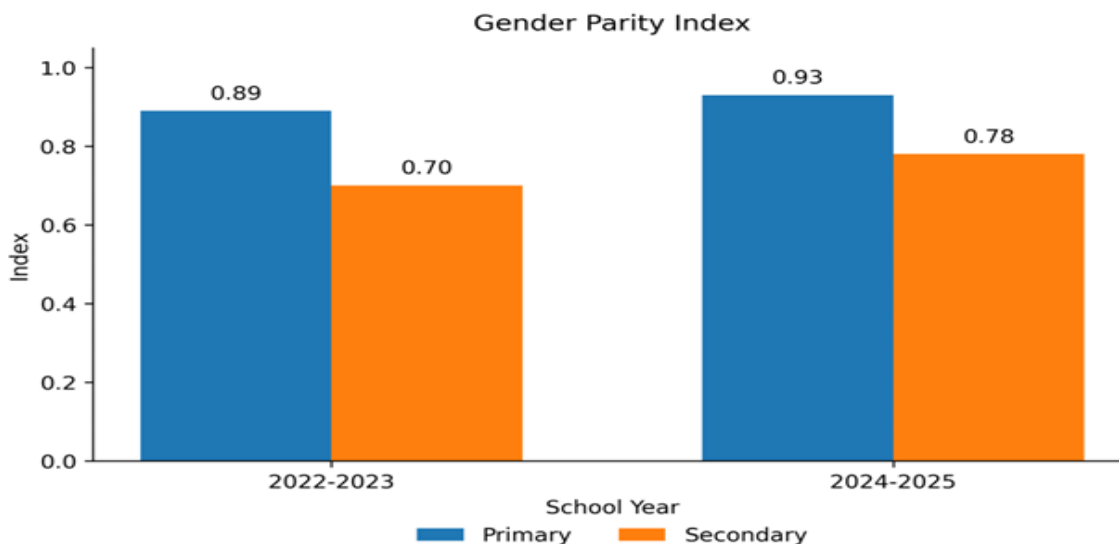
Participation in early childhood education increased gradually during the reporting period. Pre-primary participation increased from nearly zero in 2022 to 4.2 per cent by 2024/25. Although participation levels remain low, progress reflects the gradual expansion of early childhood education services, including the development of early childhood education centres, learning materials, and curriculum frameworks.

**Target :4.5 By 2030**, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

**Indicator 4.5.1. Parity indices in education**

Somalia recorded progress in reducing gender disparities in education during the reporting period. The primary education Gender Parity Index improved from 0.89 in 2020 to 0.93 in 2024/25, while the secondary education Gender Parity Index improved from 0.69 to 0.77.

Figure 3.8: Gender Parity Index



Source: MoECHE, Education Sector Yearbook (ESY), 2024/25

**Target 4.3 By 2030**, Substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

**Indicator 4.c.1: Proportion of teachers with minimum required qualifications**

The education sector expanded teacher recruitment significantly during the reporting period. However, the rapid expansion of enrolment outpaced teacher training capacity. The proportion of qualified primary teachers declined from 67 percent in 2022 to 64 percent in 2024/25, while the proportion of qualified secondary teachers declined from 81 percent to 69 percent over the same period.

### 3.4.1 Major Challenges

Despite significant progress in expanding access to education, Somalia continues to face major structural challenges in achieving SDG 4. One of the most important constraints is the limited capacity to measure and improve learning outcomes. Learning assessment systems remain underdeveloped, making it difficult to monitor the quality of education, identify learning gaps, and assess whether children are acquiring foundational literacy, numeracy, and life skills. Strengthening national learning assessments, education data systems, and school-level monitoring will therefore be essential for improving education quality and accountability.

School infrastructure deficits also continue to undermine the learning environment across the country. Many schools lack adequate classrooms, electricity, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and internet connectivity. These gaps are particularly severe in rural, remote and underserved areas, where weak infrastructure limits access to quality education and contributes to poor attendance and retention. Teacher shortages remain another major challenge, while the proportion of qualified teachers is declining as enrolment expands faster than teacher training and certification systems. Without sustained investment in school infrastructure, teacher development and learning materials, gains in access may not translate into improved learning.

Equity and financing constraints further limit progress toward inclusive and quality education for all. Secondary education participation remains below national targets, especially among girls, rural communities, internally displaced populations and nomadic groups. Economic hardship, insecurity, displacement and social barriers continue to affect school attendance, completion and retention. The education sector also remains heavily dependent on external financing, making service delivery vulnerable to reductions in humanitarian and donor funding. This has particularly affected education in emergencies and accelerated basic education programmes serving vulnerable and out-of-school children. In addition, technical and vocational education and training remain underdeveloped, with limited infrastructure, insufficient qualified instructors and weak linkages to labour market opportunities. Addressing these challenges will be critical for building an inclusive, resilient and skills-orientated education system by 2030.





## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

SDG 5 is directly relevant to Somalia's national development priorities. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a prerequisite for inclusive economic growth, peace, and sustainable development. Somalia's National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029 places strong emphasis on women's empowerment, recognising that national transformation must be inclusive and anchored in women's full participation in economic, social, and political life.<sup>39</sup> It promotes policies to expand women's access to education, employment, leadership, protection, and decision-making, framing gender equality as both a rights priority and an economic and development necessity.

Somali women are active and autonomous contributors in economic and social public life across many dimensions. Data on political participation, land ownership, business ownership, and mobile phone ownership point to a more balanced set of freedoms across several indicators than is often assumed. At the same time, Somali women and girls continue to face serious risks of gender-based and sexual violence, reflecting persistent protection gaps and long-standing gender inequalities that require sustained policy attention.

Since the 2022 VNR, important institutional and legislative developments have shaped Somalia's gender equality landscape. In March 2026, Somalia's provisional constitution underwent milestone amendments, introducing provisions for one-person-one-vote elections, clarifying the allocation of powers, and enhancing the judicial structure.<sup>40</sup> However, there were no substantive changes to provisions related to gender equality. The constitution continues to guarantee non-discrimination and commits to women's participation, but the absence of a comprehensive federal law on sexual and gender-based violence remains a critical legislative gap.

From a data perspective, the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) has made significant progress in expanding gender-disaggregated data. The Business Establishment Census 2024 collected gender-disaggregated data on business ownership, employment, and economic participation.<sup>41</sup> The 2022 Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) includes gender-disaggregated data on poverty, education, health, employment, and access to services.<sup>42</sup> Administrative data from the Governance Statistics Reports provide important evidence on political participation, access to justice, and civic engagement.<sup>43</sup>

39 MoPIED, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029 (Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, 2025), <https://mop.gov.so/national-transformation-plan-ntp-2025-2029-report/>.

40 Federal Government of Somalia. (2026). Constitutional Amendment Act 2026. Federal Parliament of Somalia.

41 SNBS. (2024). Business Establishment Census 2024. Federal Government of Somalia, <https://nbs.gov.so/>.

42 SNBS. (2023). Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey 2022: Main Report. Federal Government of Somalia, <https://nbs.gov.so/>.

43 SNBS. (2024). Governance Statistics Report, 2nd Edition. Federal Government of Somalia, <https://nbs.gov.so/governance-statistics-report-2nd-edition/>.

### 3.5. Policy and legal framework

Somalia's policy and legal framework for gender equality has been shaped by a combination of constitutional provisions, national plans, and emerging legislation at both federal and Federal Member State levels. While significant gaps remain, the framework has strengthened incrementally and reflects growing political will to advance women's rights and gender equality.

The Somalia Sexual Offences Bill (SOB) of 2018 is a proposed landmark law intended to strengthen Somalia's legal response to sexual and gender-based violence. The bill sought to provide a comprehensive framework by clearly defining and criminalising sexual offences, including rape, sexual assault, and coercion, while also improving survivor access to legal, medical, and psychosocial support. Although the bill was approved by the Council of Ministers, it has remained stalled in the Federal Parliament due to political and religious opposition.<sup>44</sup> The failure to enact this legislation represents a significant gap in Somalia's national legal framework for addressing gender-based violence, with direct implications for the realisation of SDG Target 5.2. While progress at the federal level remains limited, some regional administrations have advanced their own legal frameworks, including Puntland's Sexual Offences Law of 2016 and Somaliland's Rape and Sexual Offences Act of 2018. These sub-national frameworks, while important, cannot substitute for a federal law that provides consistent and equal protection for all women and girls across Somalia.

#### 3.5.1. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

#### 3.5.2. Target 5.1: End discrimination against women and girls

**Indicator 5.1.1 measures whether legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.**

Somalia's provisional constitution guarantees non-discrimination and equality and includes specific provisions on women's rights and participation. The constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and includes provisions on women's rights in public life. However, the legal framework remains incomplete: the stalled Sexual Offences Bill leaves a critical gap in formal protections against gender-based violence. There is currently no specific domestic equality law that comprehensively covers all dimensions of Indicator 5.1.1, including overarching anti-discrimination legislation, equal pay legislation, and legislation on sexual harassment. Somalia's score on this indicator therefore remains partial, reflecting constitutional protections without the full statutory framework required for comprehensive compliance.

#### 3.5.3. Target 5.2: Eliminate violence against women and girls

**Indicator 5.2.1 measures the proportion of ever-married women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former husband.**

Gender-based and sexual violence remain serious protection, human rights, and development concerns in Somalia. Women and girls continue to face multiple forms of violence, including intimate partner violence, sexual violence, harmful practices such as FGM and early marriage, and other forms of abuse within both public and private spaces. These risks are often heightened by poverty, displacement, insecurity, weak access to justice, and harmful social norms that discourage reporting or push survivors toward informal resolution mechanisms.

The Somalia Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) 2020 provides the main evidence base for understanding gender-based violence in Somalia. By collecting information from women aged 15–49, the survey captured both perceptions of domestic violence and reported experiences of physical, sexual, and emotional violence.<sup>45</sup> UNFPA's 2024 and 2025 Overview of GBV Data Trends and Service Provision reports provide additional evidence on reported GBV patterns and survivor service access<sup>46</sup>.

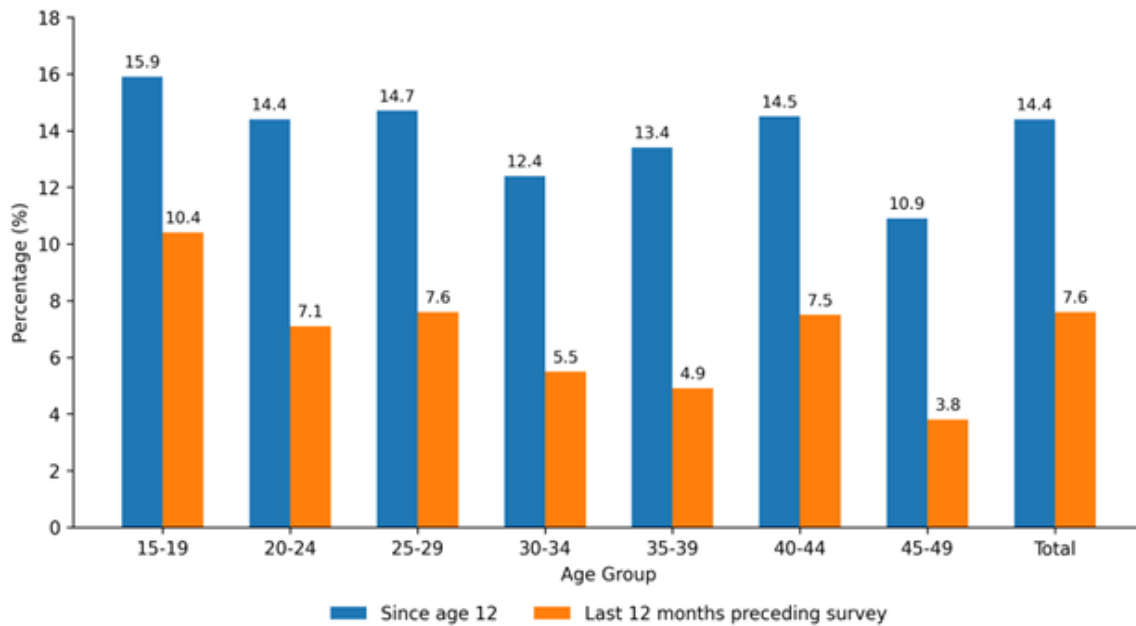
<sup>44</sup> Federal Government of Somalia. (2018). Somalia Sexual Offences Bill 2018. Council of Ministers.

<sup>45</sup> Federal Government of Somalia. (2020). Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020. Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development.

<sup>46</sup> UNFPA Somalia. (2025). Overview of GBV Data Trends and Service Provision 2024–2025. United Nations Population Fund.

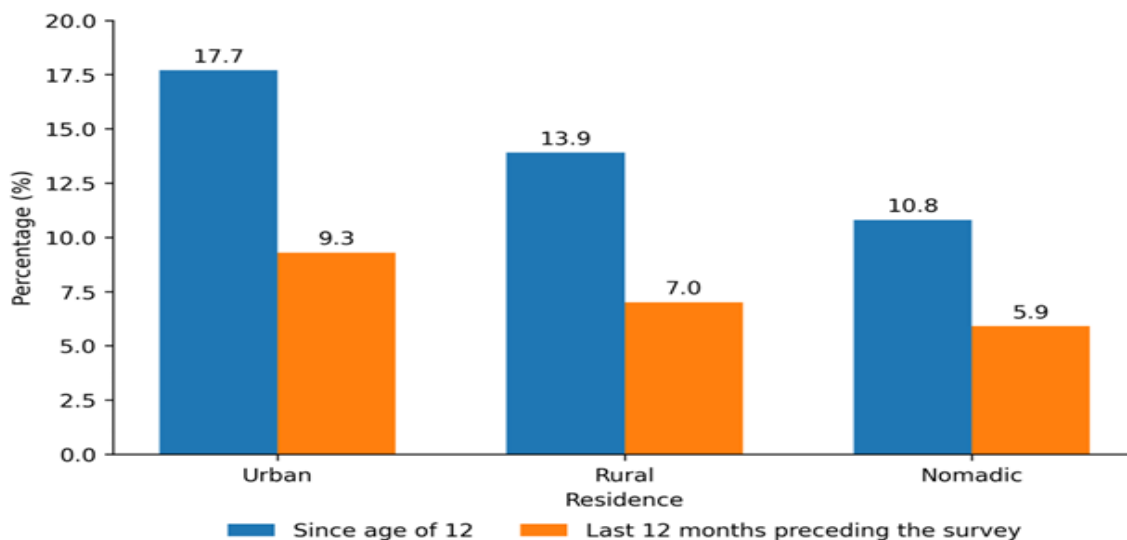
Figure 3.9 shows that 14.4 per cent of Somali women aged 15–49 reported experiencing physical violence since the age of 12, while 7.6 per cent experienced physical violence in the 12 months before the survey. Reported experience was slightly higher among younger women, with 15.9 per cent of women aged 15–19 reporting physical violence since age 12 and 10.4 per cent in the previous year, compared to 10.9 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively among women aged 45–49. By residence, physical violence was reported more frequently among urban women (17.7 per cent) and least among nomadic women (10.8 per cent), although these differences may also reflect variations in reporting behaviour, awareness, and willingness to disclose experiences of violence.

Figure 3.9: Proportion of women aged 15–49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 12, and proportion who experienced violence in the 12 months preceding the survey (%)



Source: Somalia Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS)2020.

Figure 3.10: Proportion of women aged 15–49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 12, and proportion who experienced violence in the 12 months preceding the survey (%) by place of residence



Source: Somalia Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS)2020.

### 3.5.4. Target 5.3: Eliminate harmful practices

Indicators 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 measure early marriage and female genital mutilation respectively.

Indicator 5.3.1 tracks the proportion of women aged 20–24 married before age 15 or 18, while Indicator 5.3.2 measures the proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains highly prevalent in Somalia. The SHDS 2020 found that 99 per cent of Somali women aged 15–49 have undergone female circumcision. Despite this prevalence, Somalia has made important progress in addressing FGM, moving from limited legal protection toward stronger action at the Federal Member State level.

A major step was Galmudug's 2024 law criminalising all forms of FGM, making it the first Federal Member State to do so. Jubaland followed in 2025 with its Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, showing growing commitment across Somalia to end the practice.<sup>47</sup> These efforts build on Article 15(4) of Somalia's Constitution, which states: "Circumcision of girls is a cruel and degrading customary practice, and is tantamount to torture. The circumcision of girls is prohibited." However, there is no national federal statutory law that explicitly defines FGM and criminalises it with specific penalties, which is essential to ensure equal protection across the country.

Serious challenges remain. FGM is deeply rooted in social norms: data from SHDS 2020 show that only 18.9 per cent of women believe the practice should end, and 72.1 per cent still view it as a religious requirement. There is also concern about the medicalisation of FGM, where the practice is carried out or supported by health workers, making prevention and enforcement more difficult.

Between 2021 and 2024, the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development alongside UNFPA reached over 6.9 million people through media outreach, community dialogues, and awareness campaigns. These interventions helped expand public awareness, strengthen community-level prevention, and increase access to life-saving services for women and girls.<sup>48</sup> A key area of progress was the engagement of 2,810 religious and community leaders advocating for the abandonment of FGM and helping to separate the practice from Islamic teachings. Policy advocacy reached 1,490 stakeholders, contributing to stronger national momentum. At community level, 256 communities across South Central Somalia, Puntland, and Somaliland declared their intent to abandon FGM.

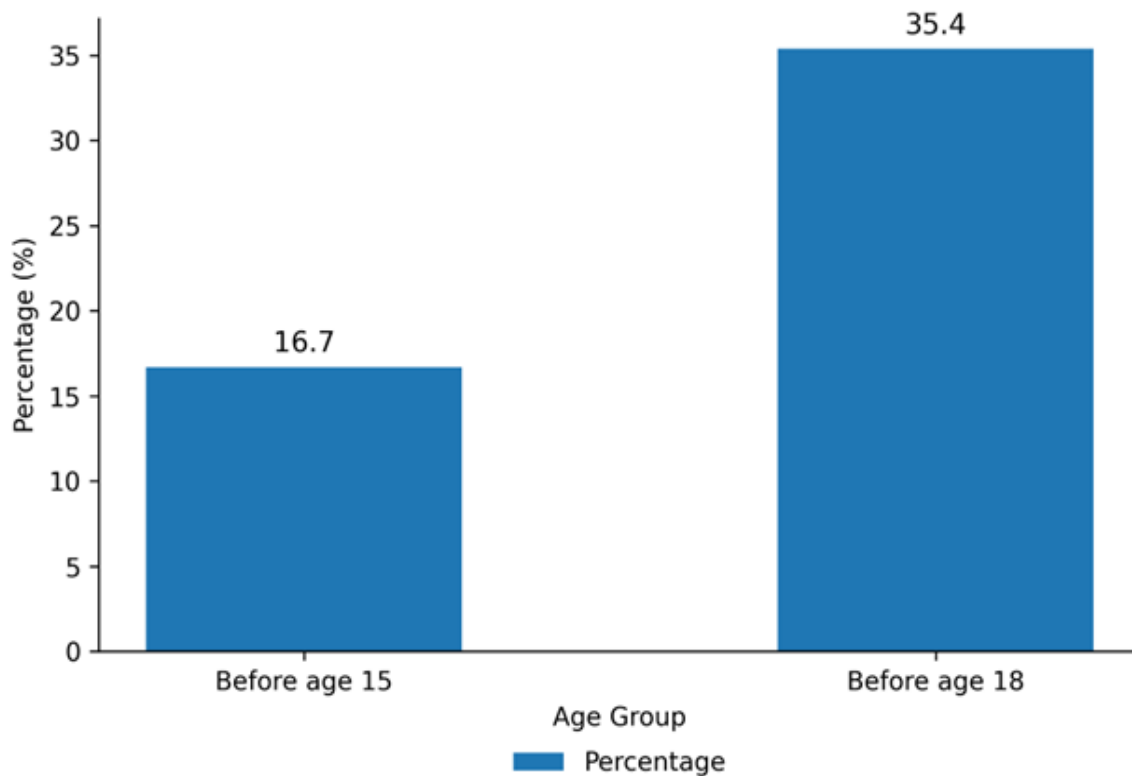
The Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development alongside UNFPA also delivered direct support to survivors between 2021 and 2024, including specialised GBV services for 169,338 women and girls, dignity kits for 40,790 beneficiaries, transitional shelter support for 30,335 individuals, and treatment for 28,698 FGM survivors across health facilities in Banadir, Bosaso, Garowe, and Hargeisa.

On early marriage, Figure 5.3 shows that 35.4 per cent of women aged 20–24 were married before the age of 18, while 16.7 per cent were married before the age of 15. This indicates that early marriage remains a notable practice in Somali society, shaped by a combination of social, economic, and cultural factors. In some communities, marriage is viewed as a form of social protection or family responsibility, particularly in contexts affected by poverty, displacement, insecurity, and limited access to education.

<sup>47</sup> Jubaland State of Somalia. (2025). Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2025. Jubaland Parliament.

<sup>48</sup> Somalia Joint Fund. (2025). Annual Report 2024. United Nations Somalia, <https://somalia.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/SJF%202024%20Annual%20Narrative%20Report.pdf>.

Figure 3.11: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married before age 15 and before



Source: Somalia Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) 2020

**Target 5.5: Women’s full participation in leadership and decision-making**

**Indicator 5.5.1 measures the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.**

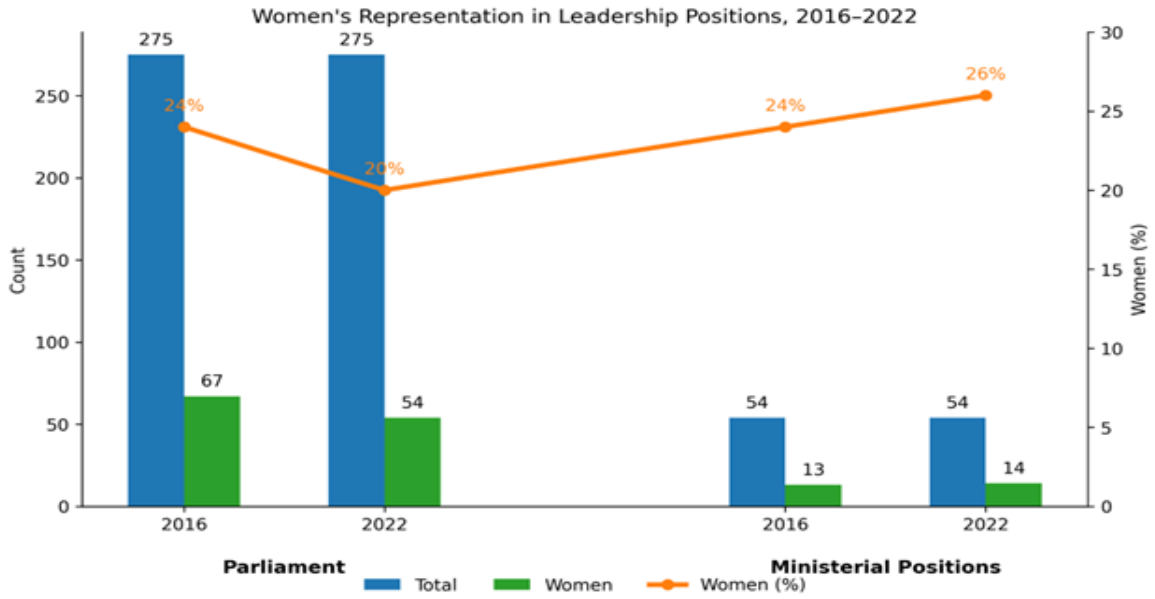
The Somali Women’s Charter, adopted in 2019, has provided an important national framework for advancing women’s rights, leadership, and participation in peace and governance. Its implementation was strengthened through the launch of the National Action Plan in September 2022, which supports both the Charter and Somalia’s commitments under UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security <sup>49</sup>.

Women’s political representation in the 10th Federal Parliament reached 24 per cent in 2017–2018 and declined to around 20 per cent in the 2021–2022 elections, remaining below the 30 per cent quota. Total participation of women in both chambers of Parliament currently stands at 21 per cent. In the executive branch, women hold only 8 per cent of Ministerial positions — two out of 25 Ministers, a figure that significantly underrepresents women in key decision-making roles. In the civil service, women make up 26 per cent of the workforce, representing progress while also highlighting the need for continued effort to achieve greater gender parity (Figure 5.4).

49 Federal Government of Somalia. (2019). Somali Women’s Charter 2019; National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, launched September 2022.



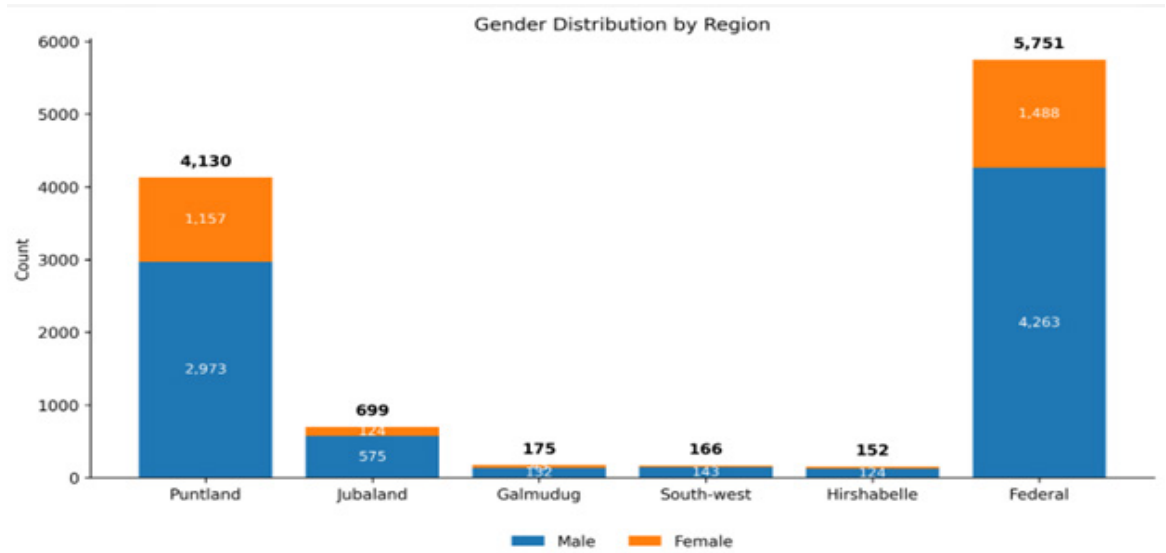
Figure 3.12: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (%)



Source: Governance Statistics Report, 2nd Edition, 2024

Figure 3.13 provides a breakdown of civil servants by gender across the FGS and Federal Member States. Of a total 11,073 public employees, men account for 8,210 (74 per cent) and women for 2,863 (26 per cent). This disparity reflects entrenched cultural and societal norms that prioritise men in formal employment and decision-making roles.

Figure 3.13: Distribution of civil servants of the FGS and Federal Member States by sex, 2023



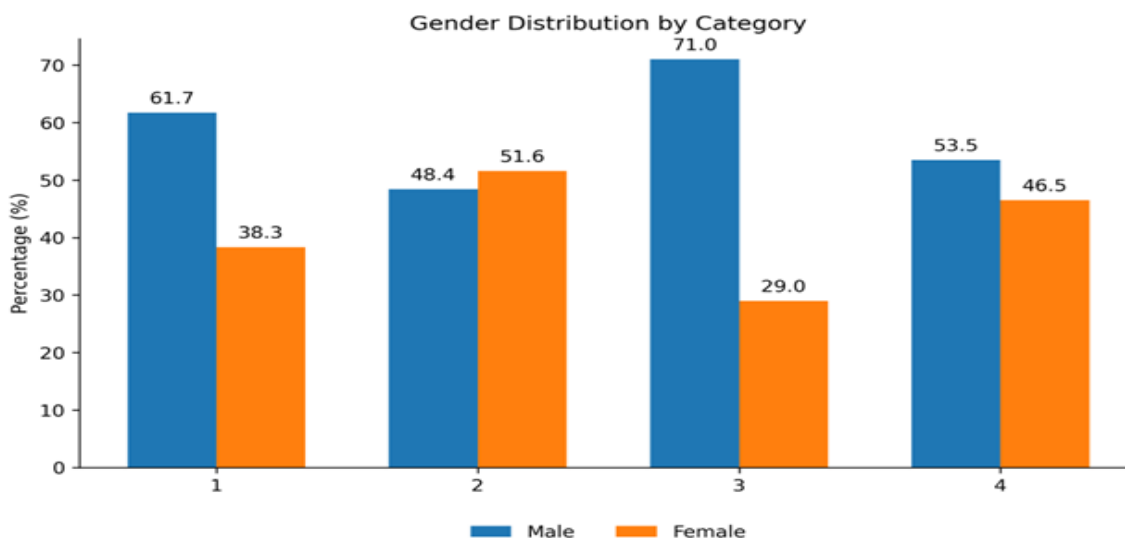
Source: Governance Statistics Report, 2nd Edition 2024.

**Target 5.a: Equal rights to economic resources and land**

**Indicator 5.a.1 measures the proportion of the total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex.**

Figure 3.14 shows that the proportion of the agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land is 53.5 per cent for men and 46.5 per cent for women a seven-percentage-point gap that is notably narrower than in many comparable contexts. This finding suggests that Somali society is not as restrictive in relation to women’s land access as often assumed and points to the important role women play in agriculture and rural economic resilience. However, the gap confirms that gender inequalities in access to productive resources persist and require continued policy attention.

Figure 3.14: Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex (%)



Source: Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS)2022.

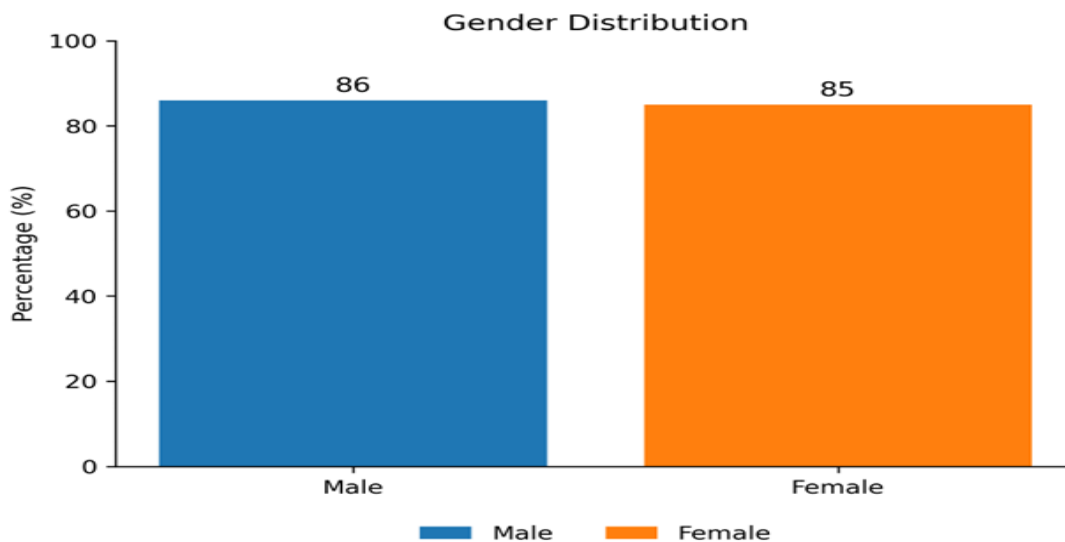
**Target 5.b: Enhance use of enabling technology**

**Indicator 5.a.1 measures the proportion of the total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex.**

Figure 3.14 shows that the proportion of the agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land is 53.5 per cent for men and 46.5 per cent for women a seven-percentage-point gap that is notably narrower than in many comparable contexts. This finding suggests that Somali society is not as restrictive in relation to women’s land access as often assumed and points to the important role women play in agriculture and rural economic resilience. However, the gap confirms that gender inequalities in access to productive resources persist and require continued policy attention.



Figure 3.15: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex (%)



Source: Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS)2022.

### 3.5.8. Major Challenges

Despite the progress documented above, Somalia continues to face persistent and interrelated challenges in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. These challenges cut across multiple SDG 5 targets and must inform future policy and investment priorities.

First, legal framework gaps remain the most critical obstacle. The absence of a federal Sexual Offences Bill and a comprehensive national FGM prohibition law means that women and girls across Somalia lack equal and consistent legal protection. Accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence and harmful practices remains inadequate without these statutory foundations.

Second, despite gradual progress in women's participation in public life and decision-making, significant barriers continue to affect women's economic empowerment and access to decent work opportunities. Women remain disproportionately concentrated in informal and low-income sectors, including small-scale trade, agriculture, domestic work and unpaid family labour. Many women continue to face limited access to productive assets, financial services, vocational training, technology and formal employment opportunities.

Third, deeply ingrained social norms continue to sustain FGM, early marriage, and violence against women. The low proportion of women who favour ending FGM (19 per cent) and the continued strong association between FGM and religious and cultural identity highlight the need for sustained, multi-generational behaviour changes efforts.

Fourth, Somalia's ongoing context of conflict, displacement, and humanitarian need continues to heighten the vulnerability of women and girls to all forms of gender-based violence. Internally displaced women and girls face elevated risks, limited access to services, and reduced legal recourse.

Fifth, despite the constitutionally supported quota, women's representation in Parliament (21 per cent) and in the executive (8 per cent) remain well below the 30 per cent target, reflecting structural and social barriers to women's political participation.

Sixth, Somalia currently lacks nationally representative data for several SDG 5 indicators, including 5.1.1 (legal framework assessment), 5.4.1 (time use), and 5.5.2 (women in managerial positions). Closing these data gaps is essential for evidence-based policy and comprehensive SDG reporting.



## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

SDG 6 is directly and urgently applicable to Somalia’s development context. Access to safe water and sanitation is not only a humanitarian necessity but also a prerequisite for poverty reduction, child survival, gender equity, and human development. Despite substantial progress over the past decade, Somalia still faces profound challenges in delivering safe, reliable, and climate-resilient water and sanitation services to all segments of its population. The National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029 recognises WASH as a cross-cutting priority, linking it to human capital development, climate resilience, and inclusive service delivery<sup>50</sup>.

Somalia’s water and sanitation sector has undergone a significant structural shift over the past decade. Investments in drinking water infrastructure, rehabilitation of water systems, and the scaling up of solar-powered supply networks have extended access to communities that were previously unserved. Improvements in hygiene awareness and sanitation facilities have contributed to better public health outcomes, particularly in vulnerable communities affected by drought, displacement, and limited infrastructure<sup>51</sup>.

The Federal Government of Somalia has strengthened the sector through institutional reforms, policy development, and improved water governance. The establishment of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources created a national body responsible for water policy, regulation, planning, and coordination with Federal Member States. Somalia has developed national water strategies and legal frameworks aimed at improving sustainable water management, climate resilience, and service delivery, shifting the sector from short-term humanitarian responses toward more organized and sustainable development<sup>52</sup>.

The private sector has played a critical role in expanding water services, especially in areas where public infrastructure remains limited. Private water companies, local entrepreneurs, and community-based operators have invested in boreholes, water trucking, small distribution networks, and solar-powered supply systems. Their involvement has improved service availability and helped maintain water access during periods of drought and instability, a contribution the Government recognizes and seeks to build on through an enabling regulatory environment<sup>52</sup>.

50 MoPIED, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029 (Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, 2025), <https://mop.gov.so/national-transformation-plan-ntp-2025-2029-report/>.

51 UNICEF Somalia, WASH Programme Annual Report 2022–2023 (Nairobi: United Nations Children’s Fund Somalia, 2023).

52 Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, National Water Resources Strategy 2021–2025 (Mogadishu: Federal Government of Somalia, 2021).

53 World Bank, Somalia Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene: Public Expenditure Review (Washington, DC: World Bank Group, 2023), <https://documents.worldbank.org>.

### 3.6. Policies and programmes

To address these challenges, the Federal Government of Somalia, together with international organizations including UNICEF, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, has developed several policies and programmes aimed at improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services. These initiatives focus on improving water governance, increasing access to clean water, strengthening sanitation systems, promoting hygiene awareness, and building resilience to climate-related shocks.<sup>54</sup>

The National Water Resources Strategy (2021–2025) is Somalia’s main framework for managing and developing water resources in a sustainable manner. The strategy was introduced to improve water governance, strengthen institutional coordination, and promote integrated water resources management. It aims to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation services while also addressing climate change and water scarcity challenges. Significant progress has been made through improved coordination in the water sector, rehabilitation of rural water systems, expansion of solar-powered boreholes, and increased groundwater mapping activities.<sup>55</sup>

The National WASH Sector Policy and Strategic Plan (2019–2023) provides a national framework for improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services across Somalia. The policy aligns with SDG 6 and emphasises community participation, hygiene promotion, sanitation improvement, institutional capacity building, and public-private partnerships. Progress under this policy includes increased hygiene awareness campaigns, improved sanitation services in public institutions, and greater involvement of local communities in WASH activities.<sup>56</sup>

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is a sanitation approach aimed at eliminating open defecation and promoting better hygiene practices. It encourages communities to take responsibility for sanitation by constructing and maintaining their own latrines without relying entirely on external subsidies. CLTS focuses on behavioural change, community mobilisation, and hygiene education. The Ministry of Health and its partners have introduced implementation protocols advocating the CLTS approach to promote a safe environment for all children, with strong linkages between community action and health education.

The UNICEF Somalia WASH Programme supports the Somali government in delivering water and sanitation services, particularly to vulnerable populations including children, displaced communities, and drought-affected households. The programme focuses on emergency water supply, hygiene promotion, school sanitation, health facility WASH services, and sustainable water infrastructure development. UNICEF has supported the drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes, installation of solar-powered water systems, and provision of hygiene kits during emergencies. Considerable progress has been achieved, though current financing arrangements have not yet delivered ideal outcomes in sustainable access to water and sanitation services.

### 3.6. Policies and programmes

#### Target 6.1: Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Indicator 6.1.1 measures the proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services. Somalia’s drinking water coverage has followed a consistent upward trajectory over the past two decades. National coverage of basic drinking water services stood at 29.0 per cent in 2006 and reached 65.7 per cent by 2020, with urban areas at 78.6 per cent, rural at 53.5 per cent, and nomadic communities at 18.7 per cent. The most recent national household data, collected in 2022, confirms that this trend has continued and that coverage has deepened in quality, not only in reach.<sup>59</sup>

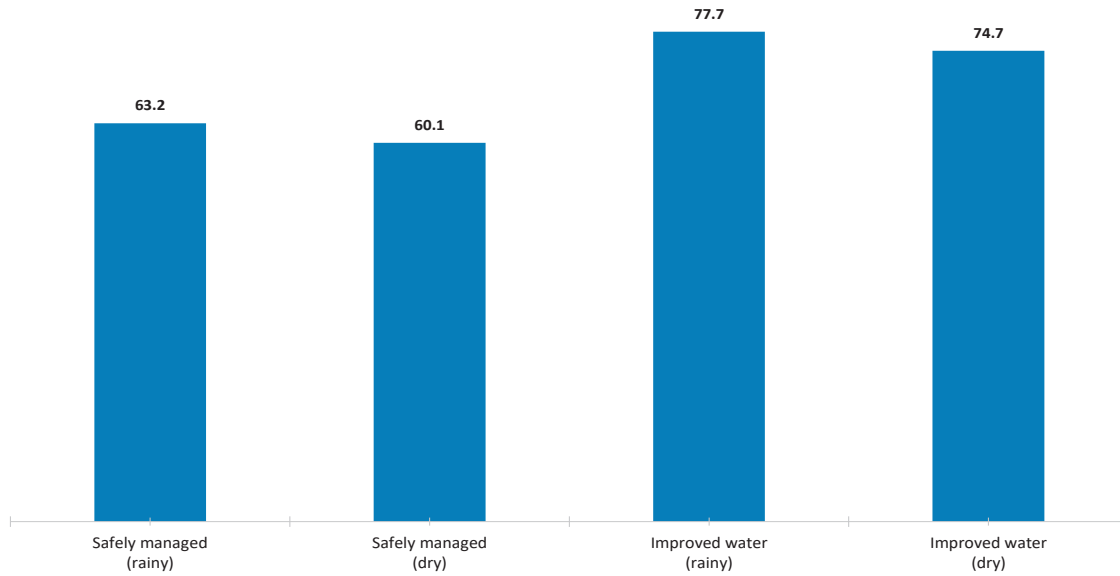
57 Ministry of Health. (2016). Protocol for implementing community-led total sanitation (CLTS) in Somalia. Federal Government of Somalia, <https://moh.gov.so/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Protocol-for-Implementing-Community-Led-Total-Sanitation-CLTS-in-Somalia-2016.pdf>.

58 UNICEF Somalia. (n.d.). Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). UNICEF. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

59 Federal Government of Somalia. 2022. Somalia Voluntary National Review 2022. Mogadishu: Federal Government of Somalia. un.org.

Safely managed drinking water reached 63.2 per cent of the population during the rainy season and 60.1 per cent during the dry season. This seasonal gap of 3.1 percent points is not a minor fluctuation; it reflects the structural dependence of Somalia's water systems on rainfall and the reduced capacity of boreholes and shallow wells during the Haga and Jilal dry periods. At the broader improved water level, coverage stands at 77.7 per cent in the rainy season and 74.7 per cent in the dry season, up from 66 per cent in 2019, a gain of more than ten Percentage points nationally in three years (Figure 6.1).

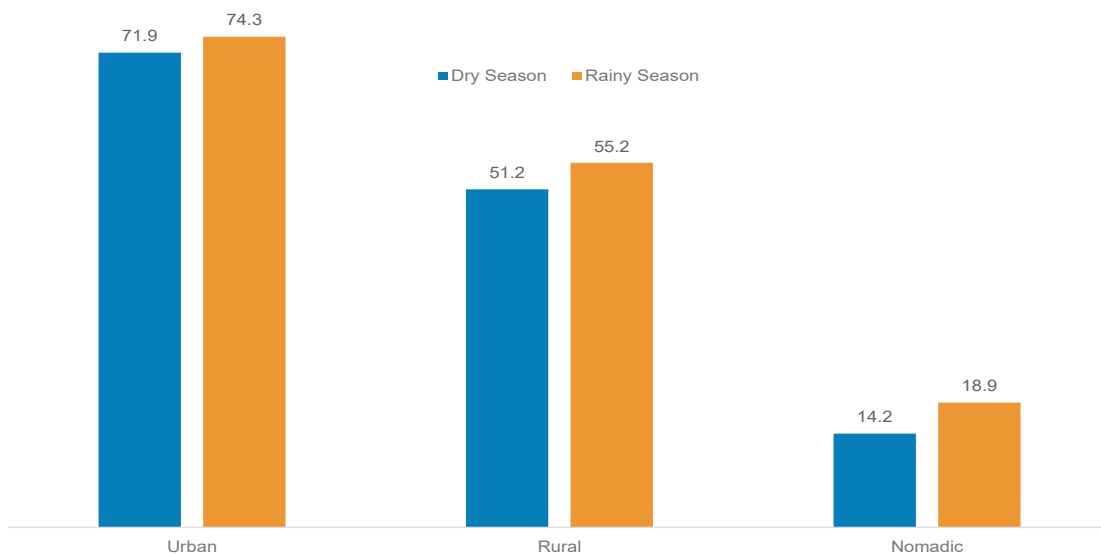
Figure 3.15: Proportion of Population Using Safely Managed and Improved Drinking Water Services by Season (%)



Source: SIHBS 2022

Disparities by place of residence have narrowed but persisted. Safely managed access in the rainy season reaches 74.3 per cent in urban areas, 55.2 per cent in rural areas, and 18.9 per cent among nomadic households. In the dry season, these figures drop to 71.9 per cent, 51.2 per cent, and 14.2 per cent respectively, reflecting the structural dependence of water systems on rainfall and the particular vulnerability of nomadic communities during dry periods (Figure 6.2).

Figure 3.16 Proportion of Population Using Safely Managed Drinking Water by Location and Season (%)



Source: SIHBS 2022



Piped water into dwelling is the main improved source, covering 44.7 per cent of the population in the rainy season and 41.8 per cent in the dry season (SIHBS 2022), though coverage ranges from 55.9 per cent in urban areas (rainy season) to only 2.0 per cent in nomadic settlements (rainy season). 9.6 per cent of the national population in the dry season (and 37.5 per cent of nomads in the dry season) spend more than 30 minutes per round trip, disproportionately affecting women and girls.<sup>60</sup>

## **Target 6.2: Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation**

**Indicator 6.2.1. measures the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water.**

Somalia has maintained steady progress in expanding access to sanitation services, building on the foundations established through institutional reforms, community-led programmes and sustained partnerships with development organisations. At the time of the first VNR, basic sanitation services covered 40.2 per cent of the population in 2020, with urban areas at 49.5 per cent, rural areas at 33.6 per cent and nomadic communities at 0.5 per cent<sup>61</sup>. By 2022, these efforts have translated into measurable gains across all settlement types, with basic sanitation now reaching 47.6 per cent of the national population, a 7.4 per centage-point improvement in two years that confirms the trajectory is moving in the right direction.<sup>62</sup>

By 2022, improved sanitation facilities were used by 60.7 per cent of the national population, 72.5 per cent in urban areas, 54.7 per cent in rural areas, and 8.4 per cent among nomadic households. The more precise measure of progress, however, is basic sanitation, defined as use of an improved facility that is not shared with other households. Basic sanitation coverage reached 47.6 per cent nationally, up from 40.2 per cent in 2020. This improvement was driven largely by rural areas, which rose from 33.6 to 43.9 per cent, and nomadic communities, which increased from 0.5 to 7.3 per cent. Urban basic sanitation reached 56.4 per cent, up from 49.5 per cent in 2020. These gains reflect the cumulative effect of CLTS programming and latrine construction, though 13.1 per cent of the national population still uses improved facilities shared with other households classified as limited sanitation under the JMP service ladder meaning that improved coverage alone overstates the quality of access for a significant share of the population.

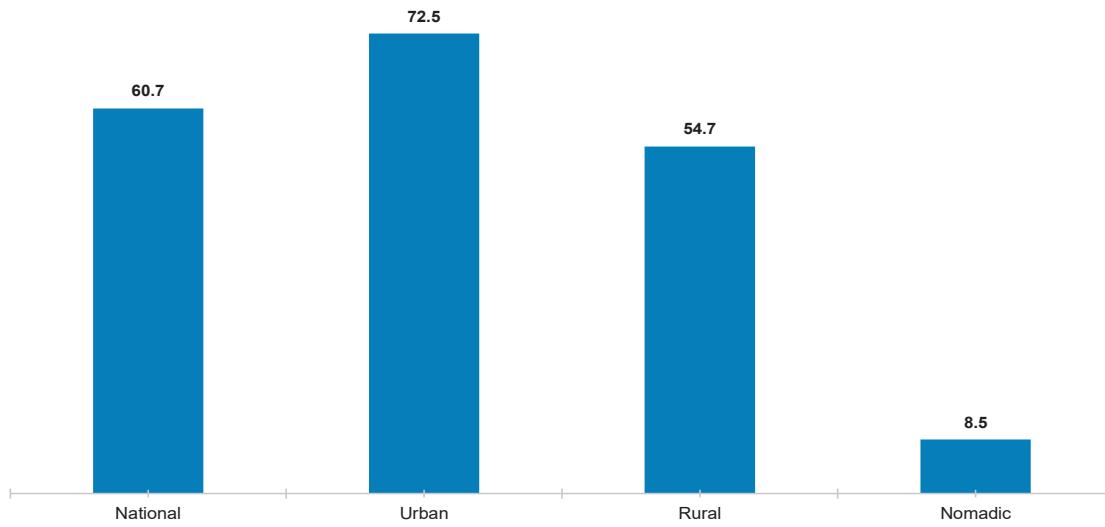
Beyond coverage, 29.2 per cent of households share toilet facilities with other households, a practice that increases disease transmission risks and undermines the health gains from expanded sanitation access (SIHBS) 2022

60 SNBS (Somali National Bureau of Statistics). 2023. Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) 2022. Mogadishu: SNBS. <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SOMALIA-INTEGRATED-HOUSEHOLD-BUDGET-SURVEY-SIHBS-2022.pdf>.

61 Federal Government of Somalia. 2022. Somalia Voluntary National Review 2022. Mogadishu: Federal Government of Somalia. [un.org](https://un.org).

62 SNBS (Somali National Bureau of Statistics). 2023. Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) 2022. Mogadishu: SNBS. <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SOMALIA-INTEGRATED-HOUSEHOLD-BUDGET-SURVEY-SIHBS-2022.pdf>.

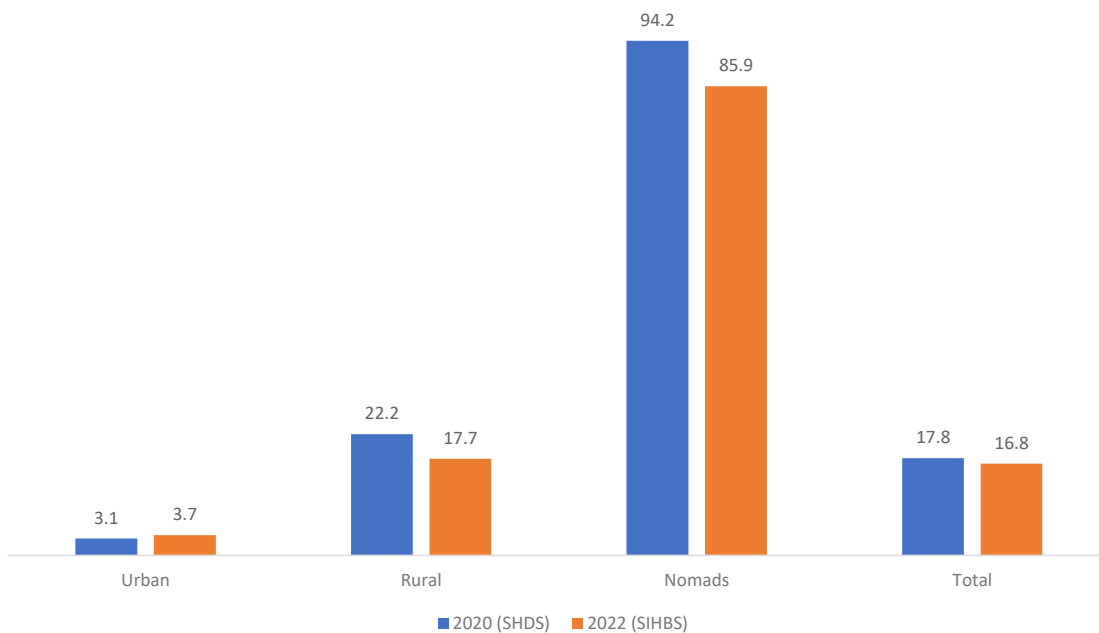
Figure 3.17 Proportion of Population Using Improved Sanitation Facilities by place of residence (%)



Source: SIHBS 2022

Open defecation declined nationally from 17.8 per cent in 2020 to 16.8 per cent in 2022, a one Percentage point reduction that reflects sustained progress across the country. Urban areas remain effectively free of the practice at 3.7 per cent, rural areas stand at 17.7 per cent, and nomadic households at 85.9 per cent, where the challenge remains significant (figure 6.4).

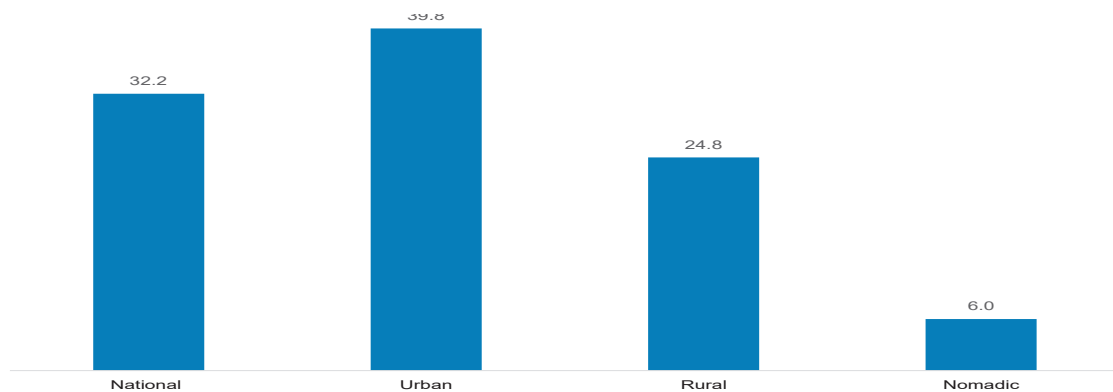
Figure 3.18: Proportion of Population Practicing Open Defecation 2020 and 2022 (%)



Source: SHDS 2020; SIHBS 2022

Handwashing with soap a critical hygiene behaviour that determines whether improved water and sanitation translate into actual health gains is practiced by 32.2 per cent of the population nationally. Urban residents achieve 39.8 per cent, rural 24.8 per cent, and nomadic only 6.0 per cent. This low coverage, especially among nomads, undermines the health gains from improved sanitation and contributes to persistently high rates of acute watery diarrhoea and child malnutrition. (figure 6.5)

Figure 3.19: Proportion of Population Using Soap and Water for Handwashing by place of residence (%)



Source: SIHBS 2022

### 3.6.4. Major challenges

Despite the progress documented above, Somalia continues to face significant structural, climatic, and institutional barriers in achieving SDG 6. First, equity gaps remain severe. Only 14.2 per cent of nomadic households have safely managed drinking water in the dry season, and 85.9 per cent still practise open defecation. Rural areas also lag significantly behind urban centres across all service levels. These gaps reflect structural inequalities related to mobility, geographic isolation, and the difficulty of delivering permanent infrastructure to non-sedentary communities.

Second, despite improvements in access to water services, water insecurity remains a significant challenge across many parts of Somalia. Recurrent droughts, seasonal variability, groundwater depletion and climate-related shocks continue to affect the availability, affordability and reliability of water supplies, particularly in rural areas, pastoral communities and displacement settings. Strengthening integrated water resource management, community participation in water governance and climate-resilient water infrastructure will remain important for ensuring sustainable access to water and sanitation services and reducing vulnerability to future shocks.

Third, Somalia's water systems are not yet resilient to recurrent drought and climate shocks. The seasonal decline in safely managed water access from 63.2 per cent in the rainy season to 60.1 per cent in the dry season demonstrates that climate vulnerability is embedded in existing infrastructure. Greater investment in solar-powered boreholes, water storage systems, and climate-proofed infrastructure is needed to deliver year-round service reliability.

Fourth, the time burden of water collection falls disproportionately on women and girls. 9.6 per cent of the national population and 37.5 per cent of nomadic households spend more than 30 minutes per round trip collecting water.<sup>63</sup> This constraint limits women's participation in education, economic activity, and community life, deepening gender inequality.

Fifth, sanitation infrastructure remains inadequate for a significant share of the population. 29.2 per cent of households share toilet facilities, increasing disease transmission risks, and handwashing with soap remains low at 32.2 per cent nationally. The high rate of open defecation among nomadic communities (85.9 per cent) represents a critical public health challenge that requires mobile and culturally adapted solutions.

sS, weak institutional coordination and financing undermine programme effectiveness. Siloed coordination among government institutions, humanitarian agencies, and local communities, combined with limited financial resources, constrains effective implementation, monitoring, and sustainability of WASH interventions. Current financing arrangements for WASH services have not achieved the levels of progress required to deliver sustainable access to water or sanitation services at scale.

63 SNBS (Somali National Bureau of Statistics). 2023. Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) 2022. Mogadishu: SNBS. <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SOMALIA-INTEGRATED-HOUSEHOLD-BUDGET-SURVEY-SIHBS-2022.pdf>.



## AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.**

Access to affordable and reliable energy is a critical development challenge and a major pillar in the quest for economic recovery, social service delivery and climate resilience. Somalia's electricity system is dominated by privately operated diesel mini grids that function independently in urban centres, with no integrated national electricity grid currently in place. This fragmented structure contributes to some of the highest electricity tariffs globally, thus limiting equitable access to energy services.

Dependence on biomass for household energy use also is extremely high. According to the Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA 2026), by SNBS, 47.9 per cent of households rely on charcoal and 41.3 per cent on firewood as their primary cooking fuel, meaning that 89.2 per cent of households continue to depend on biomass-based energy sources.<sup>64</sup> This dependence aggravates deforestation, environmental degradation, indoor air pollution and climate vulnerability, even as it disproportionately affects women and children.

### 3. 7. Progress achieved since 2022 VNR

Since the 2022 VNR, Somalia has undertaken important reforms in energy sector governance and renewable energy development. The Somalia National Electricity Act (2023) established the legal and regulatory framework for electricity generation, transmission, distribution and consumption, thus creating the National Electricity Authority as the sector regulator. Sector coordination has also improved through Energy Sector Working Group, which brings together federal and state institutions, private electricity providers, and development partners.

Nevertheless, Somalia has recorded notable progress in expanding electricity access and deploying renewable energy. Access to electricity increased from 49 per cent in 2020 to 76 per cent in 2025, while installed renewable energy capacity increased from 0.87 watts per capita in 2020 to 2.7 watts per capita in 2023, driven largely by the expansion of solar-powered mini-grids and decentralised renewable systems.

Energy sector investments have also expanded through programs supporting the rehabilitation of electricity infrastructure, decentralised renewable energy systems, and rural electrification. These efforts are increasingly integrated within national development frameworks, including the National Transformation Plan (2025–2029) and Vision 2060, which recognise energy access as a key driver of economic growth, climate resilience, and social development<sup>56</sup>.

<sup>64</sup> SNBS, Somalia Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) 2026.

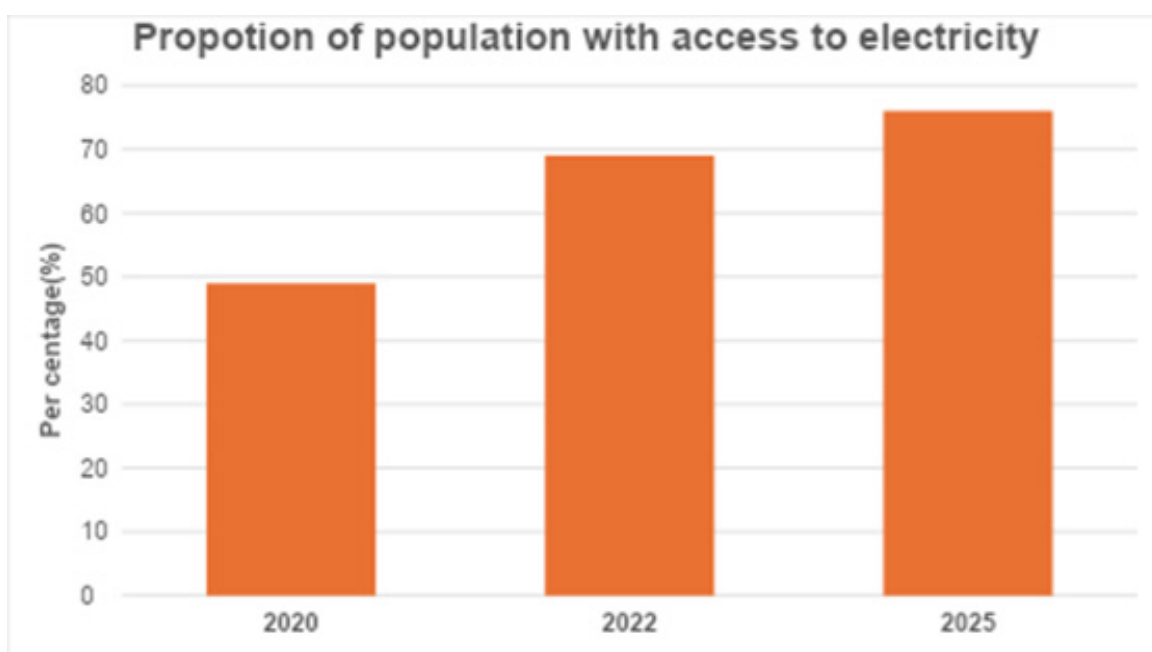
<sup>56</sup> MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029; NEC, CENTENNIAL VISION Federal Republic of Somalia: Building a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Proud Somalia by 2060.

Despite this progress, major structural bottlenecks persist. Affordability issues constrain access for low-income households, while rural and internally displaced populations remain underserved. Dependence on biomass fuels also highlights slow pace of transition towards clean cooking technologies and the broader linkages between energy access, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

### Target 7.1: Universal access to modern energy.

Access to electricity in Somalia increased steadily from 49 per cent in 2020 to 69 per cent in 2022 and further to 76 per cent in 2025. The increase points to expansion of electricity services, particularly through solar-powered mini-grids and decentralized energy systems. Despite this progress, access is still uneven, with rural and displaced populations continuing to face limited electricity coverage.

Figure 3.20: Proportion of population with access to electricity

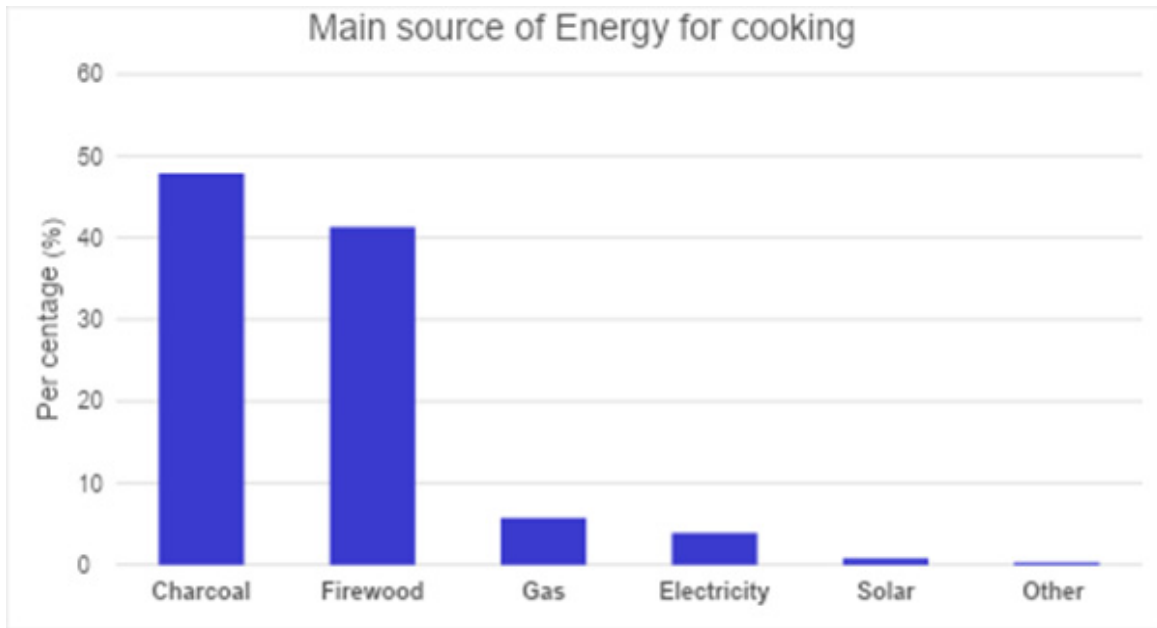


Source: Source: CFSVA2026

### Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

Household cooking energy use in Somalia is heavily dependent on biomass fuels. Charcoal is used by 47.9 per cent of households, with 41.3 per cent relying on firewood. Only a small proportion of households use clean cooking technologies such as gas or electricity. The findings indicate that Somalia's transition towards clean cooking is limited, with reliance on charcoal and firewood contributing to deforestation, environmental degradation and exposure to indoor air pollution.

Figure 3.22: Main Source of Energy for cooking



Source: Source: CFSVA2026

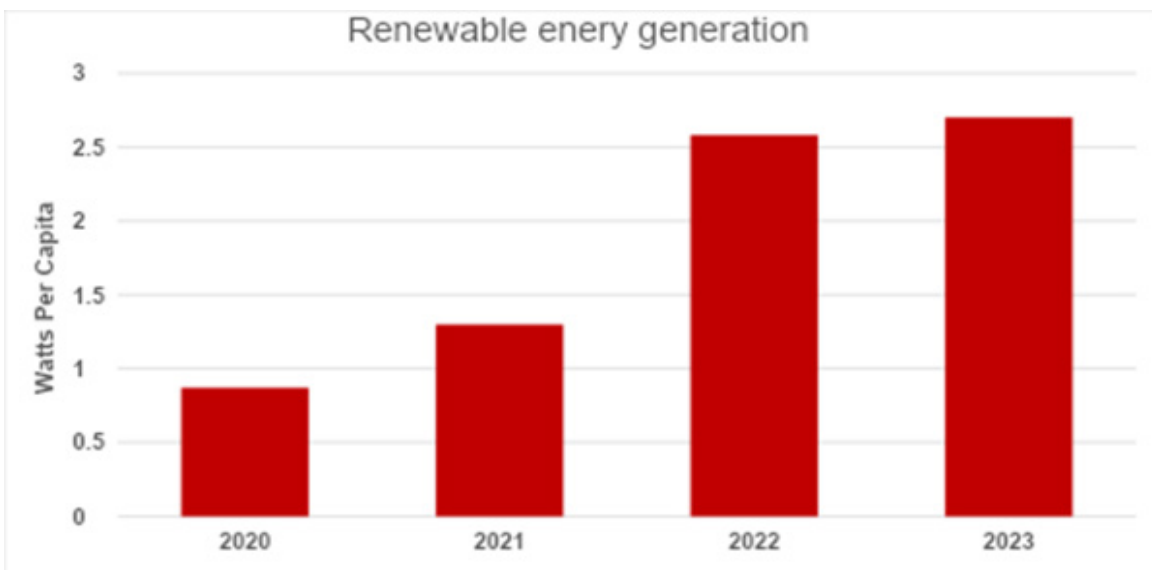
**Target 7.a& 7.b: Means of Implementation**

**Indicator 7.b.1: Installed renewable energy-generating capacity (in watts per capita).**

Installed renewable energy capacity increased from 0.87 watts per capita in 2020 to 2.7 watts per capita in 2023. The increase shows growing investment in renewable energy systems, particularly solar-powered mini-grids and decentralized electricity solutions.

Although renewable energy capacity has expanded, overall levels are low compared to regional averages, hence the need for commensurate investment to meet national energy demand and SDG 7 targets.

Figure 3.23: Renewable Energy



Source: Ministry of Energy and water

### 3.7.3. Major Challenges

Although electricity access has expanded rapidly, affordability is still a major obstacle. According to the CFSVA 2026, approximately 68 per cent of households spend at least 5 per cent of total household expenditure on electricity, with the burden particularly severe among low-income and displaced populations. The energy system is highly fragmented. Absence of a national electricity grid means individual operators manage isolated systems independently, contributing to uneven service quality, high tariffs and inefficiencies in supply. Significant data limitations constrain planning and monitoring. Reliable and disaggregated statistics on rural electrification, energy efficiency and renewable energy usage are limited. In addition, climate change presents aggravated risks to the energy transition. Under projected dry and hot climate scenarios, declining agricultural production and reduced household incomes may increase dependence on charcoal and firewood unless affordable clean cooking alternatives become widely available.





## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

SDG 8 is central to Somalia's national transformation agenda because it links economic recovery, productive employment, private sector development, financial inclusion, youth opportunity and resilience. Since the 2022 Voluntary National Review, Somalia has sustained a gradual economic recovery, strengthened national accounts and price statistics, expanded the business evidence base, and advanced policy reforms related to employment, decent work, financial sector development and youth skills. These gains are important in a country where livelihoods remain heavily shaped by informality, climate-sensitive sectors, remittances, displacement and limited public fiscal space.

The National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029 frames economic transformation as a core pathway for moving Somalia from recovery to long-term growth. The plan prioritises productive sectors, private sector-led growth, infrastructure, energy, skills development, employment creation and improved governance of the economy. Somalia's progress under SDG 8 therefore needs to be understood not only through headline GDP growth, but also through the quality of growth: whether growth creates productive jobs, raises labour productivity, formalises enterprises, expands financial inclusion, improves opportunities for women and youth, and strengthens resilience against shocks.

The evidence reviewed in this chapter shows a mixed picture. Economic growth has recovered, exports and investment have increased, mobile money has widened access to financial services, and new employment policy frameworks have been adopted. However, growth remains vulnerable to climate shocks, import dependence, inflationary pressures and limited productive diversification. Labour market data also show persistent unemployment, high youth NEET rates, gender disparities, widespread informality and a significant mismatch between skills development and labour market demand. Accelerating progress toward SDG 8 will therefore require a deliberate shift from consumption- and remittance-supported recovery to productivity-driven, inclusive and employment-rich transformation.

### 3.8. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

Since the first VNR, Somalia has recorded progress in five broad areas relevant to SDG 8. First, the economy has continued to recover from the combined effects of COVID-19, drought and locust shocks, with real GDP growth reaching 4.2 percent in 2023 and 4.1 percent in 2024. Second, the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) has strengthened macroeconomic monitoring through the rebasing of national accounts and the launch of the first nationally representative Consumer Price Index (CPI), replacing the earlier Mogadishu-only inflation framework.

Third, Somalia has expanded the evidence base on enterprise activity through the Somalia Integrated Business Establishment Census (SIBEC) and the Statistical Business Register. These sources provide a clearer picture of enterprise structure, informality, sectoral concentration and the role of micro-enterprises. Fourth, financial inclusion has continued to deepen through the rapid expansion of mobile money and strengthening of domestic financial institutions. Fifth, the Federal Government has advanced employment policy architecture through the National Employment Policy, the Decent Work Country Programme and the NTP's emphasis on youth employment, TVET expansion and enterprise development.

These advances provide an important platform for SDG 8 implementation. Nevertheless, they have not yet fully translated into broad-based decent work, higher productivity or structural economic transformation. The main challenge for the period to 2030 is to convert macroeconomic recovery and private sector dynamism into formal, productive and inclusive employment, particularly for young people and women.

#### Target 8.1: Sustain Per Capita Economic Growth

##### Indicator 8.1.1: Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita

Indicator 8.1.1 measures the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita. Somalia's national accounts are produced by the SNBS using the System of National Accounts 2008 framework, with 2022 as the base year. At constant 2022 prices, real GDP grew by 4.1 percent in 2024, following growth of 4.2 percent in 2023. This represents a strong rebound compared with the 2.8 percent contraction recorded in 2020<sup>66</sup>, when the economy was affected by COVID-19, severe drought and locust infestations.

Nominal GDP increased from USD 10.96 billion in 2023 to USD 11.97 billion in 2024, while GDP per capita increased from USD 694 to USD 737<sup>67</sup>. Gross fixed capital formation also increased to USD 3.20 billion in 2024, equivalent to 26.7 percent of GDP, reflecting investment in construction, telecommunications, trade infrastructure and related activities. These trends indicate renewed economic activity and investment momentum.

At the same time, the structure of growth reveals continuing vulnerabilities. In 2024, household final consumption expenditure accounted for 133.4% of GDP, which underscores the critical role of diaspora remittances in funding consumption that exceeds domestic productive capacity. Gross Fixed Capital Formation increased significantly to \$3,201 million (26.7% of GDP)<sup>68</sup>, indicating ongoing investments in trade infrastructure, telecommunications, and construction.

<sup>66</sup> SNBS, Somalia GDP Report 2024 (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2025), Mogadishu: SNBS.

<sup>67</sup> Somalia GDP Report 2024

<sup>68</sup> SNBS, Somalia GDP Report 2024 (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2025), Mogadishu: SNBS.

Figure 3.24: Somalia Real GDP Growth Rate, 2018–2024 (%)

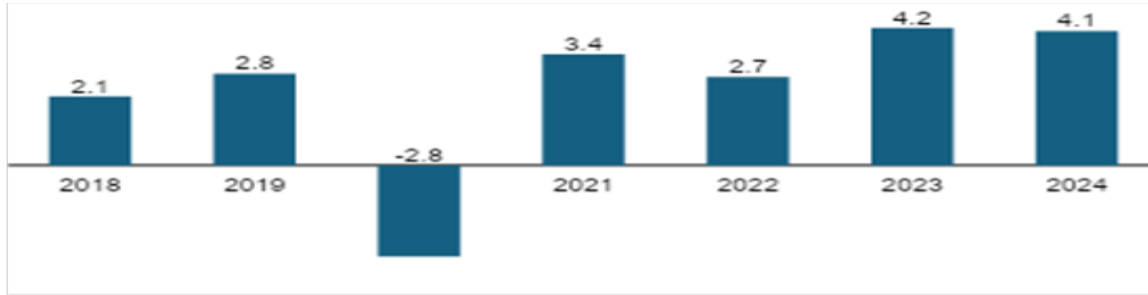
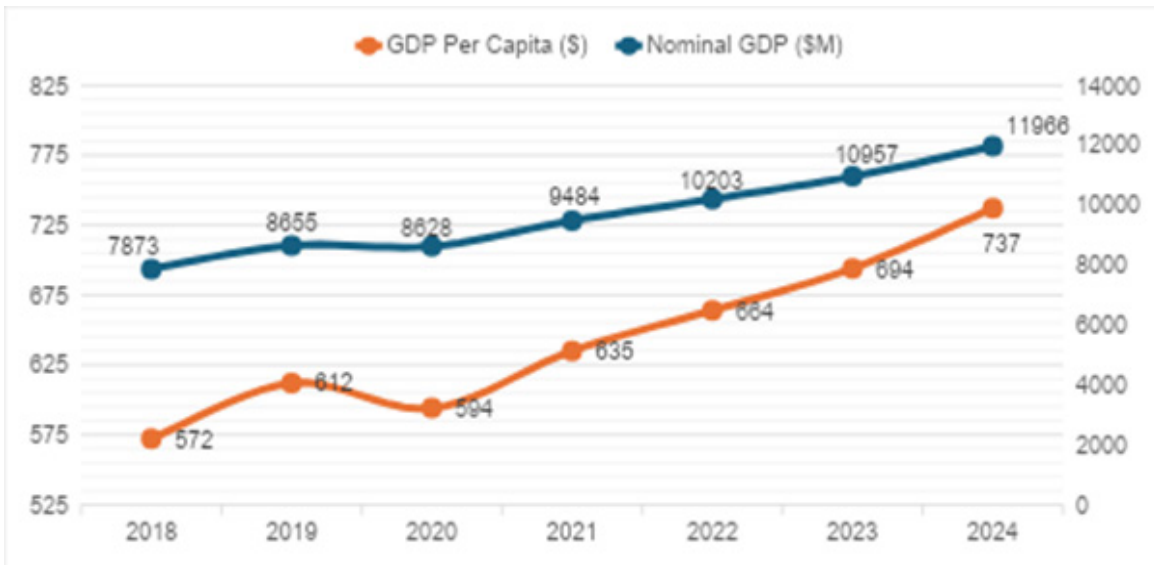
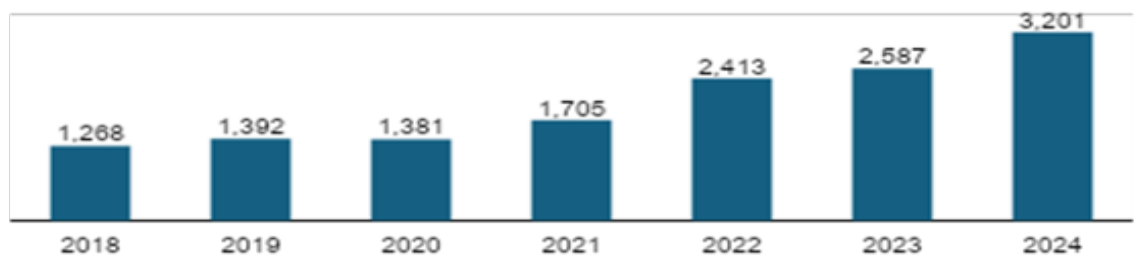


Figure 3.25: Somalia Nominal GDP and GDP Per Capita, 2018–2024



Source: SNBS GDP Report 2024

Figure 3.26: Gross Fixed Capital Formation, 2018–2024 (Million USD)



Source: SNBS GDP Report 2024





### 3.8.2. Macroeconomic stability and inflation monitoring

Although inflation is not a standalone SDG 8 indicator, price stability is essential for decent work, household welfare and inclusive growth. Somalia has attained a historic milestone on 4 May 2025 by launching the first nationally representative Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Somalia. This initiative marks a transition from the previous Banadir (Mogadishu)-only index to a system that encompasses all six Federal Member States and Somaliland. The new CPI is calculated using basket weights from the 2022 Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) and follows the international COICOP 2018 classification <sup>69</sup>.

The annual headline inflation rate increased from 5.4 percent in January 2026 to 5.6 percent in February and then to 7.8 percent in March 2026. The monthly inflation rate in March 2026 was 2.4%. The main contributors to inflation were Restaurants and Accommodation Services (20.9%), Education (14.9%), Health (13.7%) and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (8.0%). Food remained the largest contributor to overall inflation, accounting for about 46% of the CPI basket, reflecting the heavy weight of food expenditure in household budget <sup>70</sup>.

The spike in inflation was mainly due to the drought conditions, higher import costs and disruption of trade and supply chains due to the Hormuz blockade, which impacted the movement of goods and economic operations in many areas. Supply constraints and increased transport costs sharply pushed domestic prices up in March 2026, given Somalia's high dependence on imported consumer goods, food, fuel and medicines.

Table 3.4 CPI Summary — Jan 2026 - March 2026

Division	% -change annual		
	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
CPI TOTAL	5.40%	5.60%	7.80%
01 - Food and non-alcoholic beverages	7.70%	7.80%	8.00%
02 - Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	0.20%	1.30%	2.30%
03 - Clothing and footwear	3.00%	4.00%	5.80%
04 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	6.40%	4.20%	8.90%
05 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household mai	1.20%	6.10%	6.30%
06 - Health	9.40%	12.20%	13.70%
07 - Transport	-4.70%	-3.20%	4.70%
08 - Information and communication	5.60%	1.20%	5.10%
09 - Recreation, sport and culture	5.50%	4.30%	6.50%
10 - Education services	14.30%	14.80%	14.90%
11 - Restaurants and accommodation services	10.00%	12.80%	20.90%
12 - Insurance and financial services	1.50%	1.60%	3.00%
13 - Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and	-0.10%	1.20%	2.90%

Source: SNBS, CPI March 2026

<sup>69</sup> SNBS, National CPI Jan-Mar 2025, First Quarterly Report (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2025), Mogadishu: SNBS

<sup>70</sup> SNBS, CPI March 2026 (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2026)

The Federal Member States' regional rates of inflation differ greatly from one another. Due to difficulties in agricultural supply caused by the drought, South-West State recorded the highest annual inflation rate at 9.3 percent, followed by Banadir at 8.9 percent and Galmudug at 8.8 percent. Jubaland recorded annual inflation of 7.3 percent, while Puntland and Hirshabelle experienced relatively lower annual inflation rates at 6.5 percent and 6.1 percent respectively<sup>71</sup>.

## Target 8.2 :Achieve Higher Levels of Economic Productivity

### Indicator 8.2.1: Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Employed Person

Indicator 8.2.1 calculates the rise in labour productivity. Since 2019, there has not been a continuous Labour Force Survey, which limits direct measurement. Somalia's labor productivity is estimated to be around \$3,770 per employed person per year in current USD terms based on LFS 2019 microdata and SNBS GDP data<sup>72</sup>.

The SNBS Statistical Business Register (SBR) 2024 includes 492 ICT and telecommunications firms as well as 64 financial sector establishments across the country<sup>73</sup>. Compared to the national average, these high-productivity industries produce much more value-added per worker. The telecom industry has significantly lowered transaction costs and increased economic connectedness, with mobile money systems handling an estimated \$25 billion a year<sup>74</sup>.

Table 3.5 Economic Productivity Indicators

Indicator	Value	Year
Labour Productivity (\$/person)	~\$3,770	2019
ICT/Telecom Establishments	492	2024
Financial Sector Establishments	64	2024
Export Volume Growth	+35.6%	2024

Source: SNBS, GDP Report 2024, LFS2019, Facts and Figures 2024

## Target 8.3: Promote Development-Oriented Policies

### Indicator 8.3.1: Proportion of Informal Employment in Total Employment

The informal economy is an important part of the job market in Somalia. The 2019 Somalia Labor Force Survey showed that (80. 7%) of jobs in the country are informal. Wholesale and retail trade is the biggest sector, with 136,626 out of 174,149 registered businesses (78. 5%) This sector is where most unregistered or informal businesses are found<sup>75</sup>.

The SNBS Business Establishment Census 2024 captures 174,149 businesses in the country. Out of these, 83,008 are micro establishment at (47. 7%), 43,207 are informal businesses at (24. 8%), and 47,934 are formal businesses (27. 5%) The informal sector is thought to contribute about 36% to the country's economy.

The Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry has started a plan to help businesses operate officially. This includes making it easier to register businesses

71 SNBS, National CPI Jan-Mar 2025, First Quarterly Report (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2025), Mogadishu: SNBS

72 Somalia Labour Force Survey 2019 (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics with ILO technical support, 2019), Mogadishu: SNBS

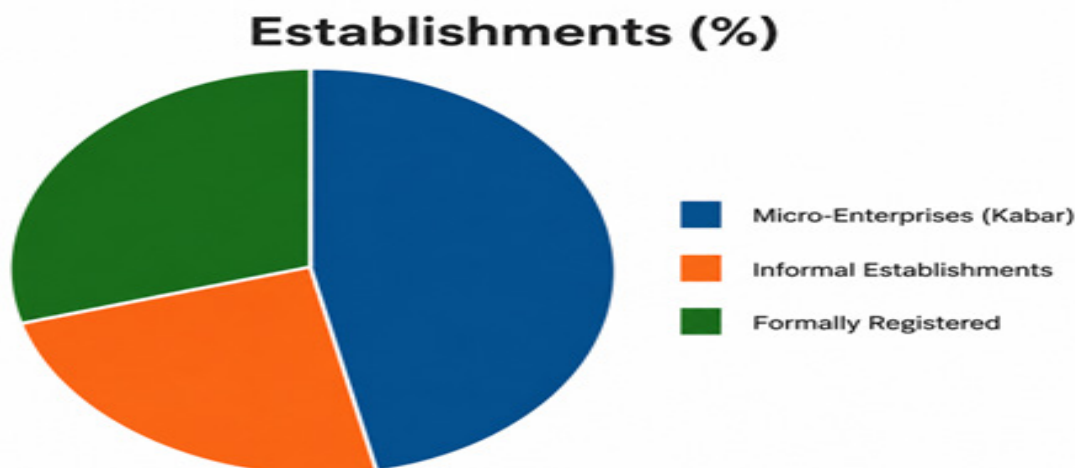
73 SNBS, Business Establishment Census Report (SIBEC 2024) (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2024), Mogadishu: SNBS.

74 CBS, Annual Statistical Bulletin 2024 (Central Bank of Somalia, 2024), <https://centralbank.gov.so/>.

75 Business Establishment Census Report (SIBEC 2024) (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2024), Mogadishu: SNBS



Figure 3.28: Business Establishments by Type



Source: SNBS, SIBEC 2024

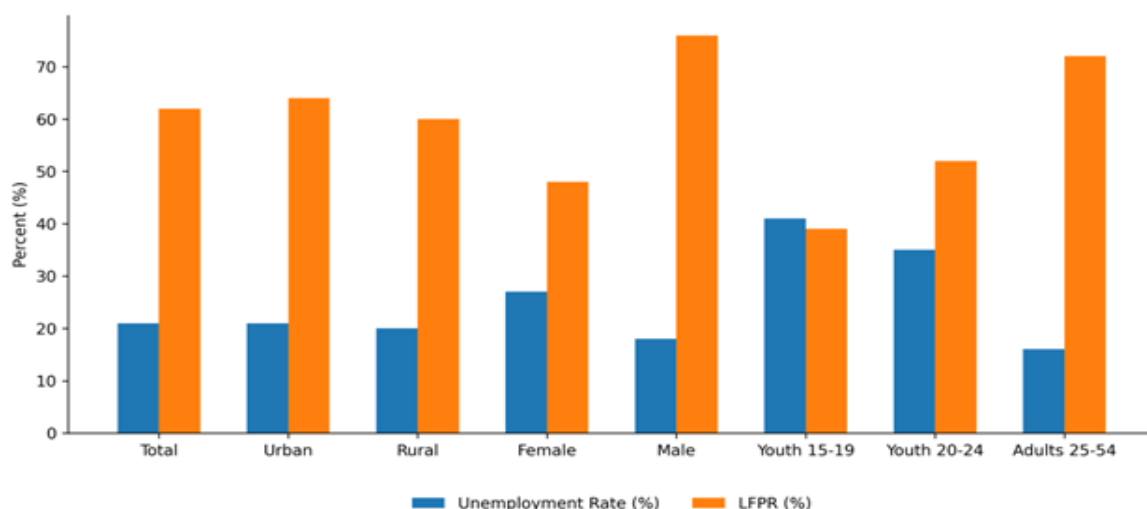
**Target 8.5: Achieve Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work**

**Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment Rate by Sex, Age and Disability**

Indicator 8.5.2 measures unemployment by sex, age and disability. The 2019 Somalia Labor Force Survey (SNBS/ILO) is the primary data source and remains the most recent nationally representative labor market survey. The next LFS is planned for 2025–2026 <sup>76</sup>.

The national unemployment rate among populations aged 15 and above is 21.4%. Female unemployment is 27.3 Percent higher than male unemployment, which is 18.4%, indicating systemic gender disparities. Rural unemployment (20.1%) is slightly lower than urban unemployment (21.7%). Youth unemployment is the most significant issue. The unemployment rate for the 15-19 cohort is 41.5%, the highest of any demographic group, while the 20-24 cohort has a rate of 35.2%. In 2024, the National Employment Policy (NEP) was approved by the Federal Ministry of Labor <sup>77</sup>.

Figure 3.28: Business Establishments by Type



Source: SNBS 2019 LFS

<sup>76</sup> ILO, ILOSTAT Database - Somalia Country Profile (International Labour Organization, 2024), <https://ilostat.ilo.org/>.

<sup>77</sup> Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, National Employment Policy and Decent Work Programme 2024 (Federal Government of Somalia, 2024).

### 3.8.6. Target 8.6: Reduce Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training

**Indicator 8.6.1 measures the proportion of youth aged 15-24 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).**

The youth (15–24) labor force participation rate stands at 15.1% (8.8% for ages 15–19 and 24.3% for ages 20–24). Employment-to-population ratios are 5.1% for ages 15–19 and 15.8% for ages 20–24. The official youth NEET rate for the 15–24 cohort is 44.2% nationally (37.7% for males and 50.2% for females). Net secondary school enrolment is approximately 24% nationally. The Federal Ministry of Education is expanding TVET from 12,000 enrolments (2023) to a target of 50,000 by 2030. The Somalia Reconstruction and Resilience Framework include a \$45 million component for youth skills development <sup>78</sup>.

Table 3.6 Economic Productivity Indicators

Indicator	Value	Year
Youth LFPR (15–24)	33.1%	2019
Emp. Ratio (15–19)	5.1%	2019
Emp. Ratio (20–24)	15.8%	2019
Secondary Net Enrolment	~24%	2023
Official Youth NEET Rate (15–24)	44.2%	2019
TVET Enrolment	12,000	2023
TVET NTP Target (2030)	50,000	2030

Source: SNBS LFS 2019; Federal Ministry of Education, EMIS 2023.

### Target 8.9: Promote Sustainable Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest-growing areas in Somalia. This growth is boosted by the large number of Somali people living abroad (about 2 million), visitors coming back, and increasing interest from people around the world. Tourism directly added about 5.2% to the GDP in 2024, which is around \$280 million in value. In 2024, hotels made \$85 million. There were 142 licensed hotels, and they were full, about 62.5% of the time on average <sup>79</sup>.

In 2024, more than 125,000 international visitors came. About 70% were people returning to their country, 20% were business travelers, and 10% were tourists. Aden Adde International Airport served more than 900,000 travelers in 2024

Table 3.7 Tourism Sector Performance Indicators (2024)

Indicator	Value (2024)
Tourism Direct GDP	5.2% (~\$280M)
Total Tourism Value	\$450–\$500M
Hotel Revenues	\$85 million
Licensed Hotels	142
Occupancy Rate	62.5%
International Visitors	125,000+
Airport Passengers	900,000+

Source: <https://tourism.gov.so/>

<sup>78</sup> Federal Ministry of Education, EMIS 2023 (Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education, 2023).

<sup>79</sup> Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Tourism Statistics Report 2024 (Federal Republic of Somalia, 2024), <http://tourism.gov.so/>.

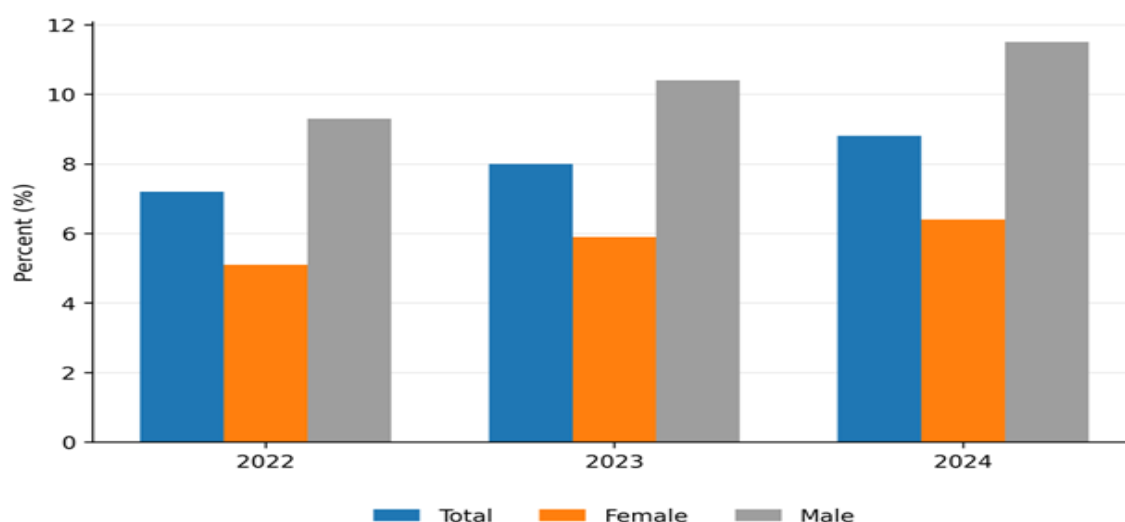
## Target 8.10: Strengthen Domestic Financial Institutions

Indicators 8.10.1 and 8.10.2 measure access to financial institutions and use of financial services.

In Somalia, the banking environment is unique, as few individuals turn to conventional banks, whereas mobile money services are widely embraced. The CBS said there were 103 bank branches across the country in 2024, which is about 1 branch for every 100,000 adults. There are six banks that are allowed to operate. The rate of people with formal bank accounts is 8.8% across the country<sup>80</sup>.

Most people in Somalia use mobile money: 81.8% of homes have access to mobile money services. Four main companies are in charge: Hormuud, Somtel, Golis and Telesom. Money sent back home from abroad reached \$4,807 million in 2024, which is an 11.9% increase from 2023. This dual financial system and limited formal banking with extensive mobile money networks asserts both unique opportunities for financial inclusion and challenges for regulatory oversight and monetary policy transmission<sup>81</sup>.

Figure 3.29: Somalia Financial Inclusion Indicators, 2022–2024



Source: CBS, Annual Statistical Bulletin 2024; SNBS, SIHBS 2022

Table 3.8 Inward Transfers by Category — (2023–2024, Million USD)

Transfer Category	2023 (\$M)	2024 (\$M)	Change
Individual (Diaspora)	1,807	2,017	+11.6%
Business Transfers	1,583	1,764	+11.4%
NGO / Humanitarian	907	1,026	+13.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,297</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>+11.9%</b>

Source: SNBS, Facts and Figures 2024, 8th Edition

<sup>80</sup> CBS, Annual Statistical Bulletin 2024 (Central Bank of Somalia, 2024), <https://centralbank.gov.so/>.

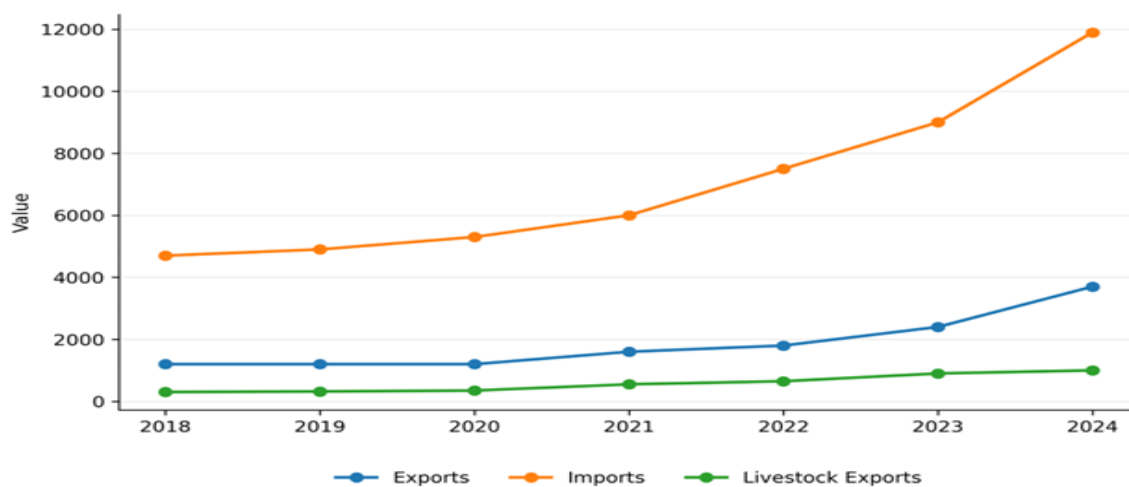
<sup>81</sup> SNBS, Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) 2022 (Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2022), <https://nbs.gov.so/somalia-integrated-household-budget-survey-sihbs-2022/>.

### Target 8.a: Increase Aid for Trade Support

Given Somalia's status as a very impoverished country, assistance with trade plays a vital role in boosting its goods production capacity. The UN Aid Flows Report 2019 showed that \$153.3 million was given for trade-related support<sup>82</sup>. In 2024, big promises were made to help with trade. The African Development Bank agreed to give \$23.36 million to help expand the power grid in Bosaso. The European Union promised to spend \$53.3 million to help create energy from renewable sources. The World Bank is giving \$200 million for five years to help with the Somalia Crisis Recovery Project, which includes important improvements to trade infrastructure.

Somalia has become much better at selling its goods to other countries. The sales of goods and services went up from \$2,404 million in 2023 to \$3,735 million in 2024. This is an increase of 55.4% when looking at current prices and 42.3% when adjusting for inflation. This increase was mainly due to high demand for farm products.<sup>83</sup>

Figure 3.30: Somalia Exports, Imports & Livestock Exports, 2018–2024 (Million USD)



Source: SNBS GDP Report 2024

Table 3.9 Aid for Trade Commitments

Aid Category	2019 (\$M)	2024 (\$M)
Economic Growth	58.8	—
Infrastructure	82.9	23.4 (AfDB)
Private Sector	11.6	—
Renewable Energy	—	53.3 (EU)
Crisis Recovery	—	200 (WB)
Baseline Total	153.3	—

Source: UN Somalia, Aid Flows in Somalia Report 2019; AfDB 2024; EU Delegation 2024; World Bank P180432.

82 UN Somalia, Aid Flows in Somalia Report 2019 (United Nations; World Bank; Federal Government of Somalia, 2020), <https://somalia.un.org>.

83 AfDB, Somalia Country Portfolio Performance Review (CPPR) (African Development Bank Group, 2024).

### Target 8.b: Develop a National Strategy for Youth Employment

Since young people make up most of Somalia's population and have the highest unemployment rates in the country, this issue is very important for policy decisions. In 2024, the Federal Ministry of Labour approved the National Employment Policy (NEP) with help from the Council of Ministers. The NEP is included in the NDP-9 and the new National Transformation Plan (NTP) for 2025 to 2029. Important parts include: a National Youth Employment Program that aims to provide 50,000 job placements every year; increasing TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) enrollments from 12,000 to 50,000 by 2030; a fund to support young entrepreneurs; and programs for public works.

The ILO Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) for Somalia (2024-2027) is an agreement between the Federal Government and the ILO. It sets the main plan for how to improve work conditions in the country. The Ministry of Labour has set up a special team for Decent Work <sup>84</sup>.

#### 3.8.11. Major Challenges

While Somalia's recent growth has been encouraging, there exists several challenges that constrain significant progress in SDG8, and thus connected SDGs. First, in Somalia, there is widespread prevalence of informal and vulnerable employment. A large majority of workers earn their livelihoods through informal economic activities, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, construction, transport, domestic work, street vending and small-scale trading. While the informal economy provides livelihoods for millions of Somalis and contributes significantly to economic resilience, many workers remain outside formal labour regulation and protection systems.

Informal workers often lack written contracts, occupational safety and health protections, social security coverage, access to labour dispute resolution mechanisms and stable sources of income. Women, youth, internally displaced persons and low-income households are disproportionately represented in informal employment and therefore face heightened vulnerability to poverty, economic shocks and climate-related disruptions. Addressing informality requires an integrated approach that combines employment creation, skills development, access to finance, labour market governance, social protection and support for gradual economic formalisation. Expanding protections and opportunities for workers in the informal economy will be essential for reducing poverty, improving productivity and advancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Second, youth unemployment and underemployment remain among the most significant challenges facing Somalia's labour market. Although young people constitute the majority of the population and represent an important source of economic potential, many continue to face barriers in accessing productive and sustainable employment opportunities. Limited job creation, skills mismatches, restricted access to technical and vocational education and training, and the dominance of low-productivity informal employment continue to constrain labour market outcomes for young people. Young women, rural youth and internally displaced youth face additional disadvantages in accessing employment and livelihood opportunities. Accelerating investment in skills development, entrepreneurship, vocational training and labour market programmes will be important for supporting economic transformation, reducing poverty and strengthening social stability.

Third, Somalia's economy remains heavily dependent on consumption, remittances, imports and climate-sensitive sectors. The trade deficit continues to widen, and productive capacity remains limited across manufacturing, value addition, logistics and formal services. Although investment has increased, productivity gains remain concentrated in a few dynamic sectors such as telecommunications, finance and trade. The challenge is to broaden economic transformation so that growth generates higher-value production, export diversification and decent work across regions.

<sup>84</sup> ILO, Decent Work Country Programme for Somalia (2024-2027) (International Labour Organization, 2024), ILO Geneva.



## INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG 9 is centered in building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. Somalia has made significant progress on this Goal on both a prerequisite and a driver of SDG 8 outcomes: without reliable infrastructure, adequate energy, and growing industrial capacity, sustained economic growth and productive employment are unattainable

Somalia's infrastructure is shaped by decades of conflict-related destruction, severe underinvestment, and the prioritization of humanitarian over developmental expenditure. At the same time, Somalia presents remarkable exceptions: the telecommunications and mobile money sectors developed under a self-regulated private sector model are among the most advanced in sub-Saharan Africa. The country achieved 4G coverage of 64% of the population by 2022 and commercially launched 5G services in 30 cities by 2024 .<sup>85</sup>

This chapter reports on three SDG 9 targets with available data: inclusive industrialization (manufacturing value added and employment); official international support for infrastructure (Target 9.a); and mobile network coverage (Target 9.c). Each target section includes an introduction, key data, and a summary of key challenges.

### 3.9. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

#### 5G Commercial Deployment and ICT Leadership

Somalia launched commercial 5G services in 30 cities in 2024, building on 64% 4G population coverage achieved in 2022. The Somalia Integrated Business Establishment Census identified 492 ICT and telecommunications establishments nationally. Mobile money systems transact an estimated of \$25 billion per year, placing Somalia's mobile financial ecosystem among the most advanced in Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Infrastructure Investment Mobilization

Since 2022, the African Development Bank has made significant infrastructure investments, including \$23.36 million. Bosaso power grid grant (December 2024); the World Bank's \$200 million Somalia Crisis Recovery Project; and the European Union's \$53.3 million renewable energy initiative (October 2024). Manufacturing value added accounts for 4.6% of GDP, with 5,821 manufacturing establishments nationally.

<sup>85</sup> Sources: Internet Society Pulse, Somalia Profile ([pulse.internetsociety.org](https://pulse.internetsociety.org));

## Target 9.2: Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization

### Indicator 9.2.1 — Manufacturing Value Added

In 2023, the contribution from the manufacturing industry was 4.6% to the economy, which is around \$550 million. The SNBS Facts & Figures 2024 shows that there are 5,821 manufacturing establishments nationally, which makes up 3.3% of all 174,149 registered businesses<sup>86</sup>. This sector includes making food, building materials, light fabrics, and everyday products. The Somalia Integrated Business Establishment Survey (SIBES) is being prepared and will give the first detailed basic information about businesses.

### Indicator 9.2.2 — Manufacturing Employment

ILOSTAT 2021 indicates that approximately 2% of all jobs fall within the manufacturing industry.<sup>87</sup> The government aims to support small businesses (MSMEs) by exploring the feasibility of industrial areas in Mogadishu and Bosaso while also encouraging investments in agricultural processing. ISS Africa Futures (2023) predicts that the manufacturing sector's contribution to the economy could grow to 10. By 2043, there could be a 7% increase if targeted investments in policies are implemented.

Table 3.10 Manufacturing and Industry Indicators

Indicator	Value & Year	Status
9.2.1 — Mfg Value Added (% of GDP)	4.6% (~\$550M) 2023	Partial
9.2.2 — Mfg Employment (% of total)	~2% (2021)	Partial
Mfg Establishments	5,821 (3.3% of 174,149) 2024	Available

## Target 9.a: Facilitate Sustainable Infrastructure Development

### Indicator 9.a.1 — Official International Support to Infrastructure

Many nations have contributed extensively to infrastructure development efforts. The UN Aid Flows Report 2019 reported that there was \$82.9 million in official support for building infrastructure. This included \$42.3 million for transport, \$25.7 million for water and sanitation, \$12.5 million for energy and information and communication technology (ICT), and \$2.4 million for other things<sup>88</sup>. In December 2024, the African Development Bank agreed to give \$23.36 million to improve the Bosaso power grid. In October 2024, the European Union pledged \$53.3 million for clean energy projects<sup>89</sup>.

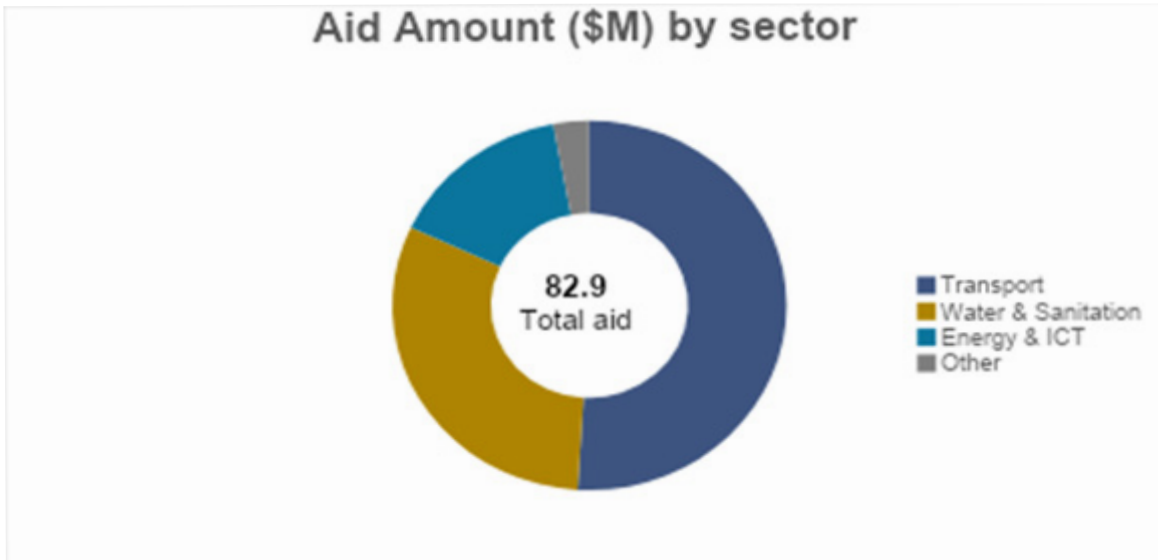
<sup>86</sup> Somalia National Bureau of Statistics. (2025). Facts and Figures 2024 (8th ed.). Mogadishu: SNBS

<sup>87</sup> International Labor Organization. (2024). ILOSTAT database — Somalia country profile. <https://ilostat.ilo.org>

<sup>88</sup> Sources: UN Somalia, Aid Flows Report 2019; AfDB 2024

<sup>89</sup> European Commission, EU-Somalia Cooperation: Annual Operational Tracking Report on Renewable Energy Investments (2024)

Figure 3.30: Infrastructure Aid by sector



Source: UN Somalia Aid Flows 2019 (somalia.un.org); AfDB; EU Delegation 2024

Table 3.11 Official International Support to Infrastructure

Sector / Programme	Amount	Year
Transport (Roads, Ports, Airports)	\$42.3 million	2019
Water & Sanitation	\$25.7 million	2019
Energy & ICT	\$12.5 million	2019
TOTAL — 2019 Baseline	\$82.9 million	2019
AfDB Bosaso Power Grid Grant	\$23.36 million	Dec 2024
EU Renewable Energy Programme	\$53.3 million	Oct 2024

Source: UN Somalia Aid Flows 2019 (somalia.un.org); AfDB; EU commission 2024

### Target 9.c: Increase Access to Information and Communications Technology

#### Indicator 9.c.1 — Population Covered by Mobile Network

The technology sector in Somalia stands out as one of the most impressive achievements since the nation emerged from conflict. The industry has moved past the need for traditional phone lines by using a competitive private sector approach. In 2022, 64% of people had access to 4G service, and in 2024, 5G services started in 30 places. The internet is used by 28% of people in the country<sup>90</sup>.

90 Sources: Internet Society Pulse, Somalia Profile (pulse.internetsociety.org);



Figure 3.31: Infrastructure Aid by sector

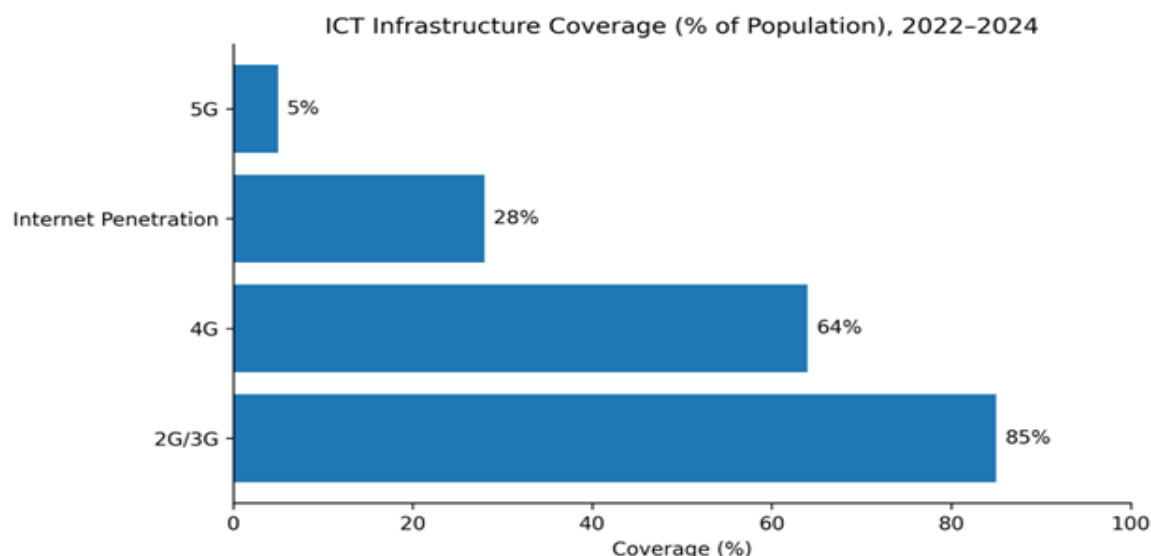


Table 3.12 ICT Infrastructure Indicators

ICT Indicator	Value	Year
4G Mobile Coverage	64%	2022
5G Commercial Launch	30 cities	2024
5G Population Coverage	~5%	2024
Internet Penetration	28%	2022
ICT Sector Establishments	492	2024

Source: Internet Society Pulse ([pulse.internetsociety.org/somalia](https://pulse.internetsociety.org/somalia)); SNBS, SIBEC 2024

### 3.9.4. Major Challenges

Reliable and affordable electricity is the single most critical infrastructure gap limiting industrial activity. Somalia's energy costs are among the highest in the world due to dependence on expensive diesel generation. Expansion of the national grid and renewable energy alternatives are preconditions for industrial growth.

The absence of a comprehensive industrial census means that manufacturing value added estimates carry significant uncertainty. The completion of SIBES will be critical to establishing a credible baseline and enabling evidence-based industrial policy.

Despite recent commitments, Somalia's infrastructure deficit is vast. Roads connecting Federal Member States remain largely unpaved or destroyed; the power grid covers a fraction of territory; and port capacity requires modernization to support growing trade volumes. The gap between pledged and disbursed infrastructure aid remains a persistent challenge.

Infrastructure planning and implementation requires effective coordination across six Federal Member States with varying institutional capacity, technical resources, and political priorities. Weak intergovernmental coordination mechanisms can delay implementation and create duplication.



## CLIMATE ACTION

**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

Somalia is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world despite contributing a negligible share of global greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024, total greenhouse gas emissions were estimated at 34.41 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, with per capita emissions of approximately 1.899 tonnes per person per year. Agriculture, forestry and land use sectors account for the majority of national emissions, echoing the country's overreliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods and natural resources<sup>91</sup>.

Climate change exacerbates existing environmental and socio-economic challenges nationwide. The country experiences cyclical droughts, floods, erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged water scarcity, land degradation and increasing temperatures, all of which connive to hamper food security, livelihoods, displacement, and economic resilience. Between 1991 and 2015, average temperatures in Somalia were already approximately 1°C higher than the historical baseline, with climate projections pointing to further spikes in temperature in the coming decades<sup>92</sup>.

The Horn of Africa nation is exceedingly exposed to climate-related disasters. In 2025, the Federal Government of Somalia declared a state of emergency following severe drought conditions affecting large parts of the country. Climate shocks continue to disproportionately distress rural and pastoral communities, exerting pressure on agricultural production systems, water resources and livelihoods.

### 3.10. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

Since the 2022 VNR, Somalia has strengthened its climate governance and policy frameworks. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has been established as a dedicated line ministry responsible for coordinating climate action and environmental management. Somalia also submitted its Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) in 2025<sup>93</sup>, increasing its emissions reduction commitment to 34 per cent by 2035.

91 Edgar, GHG Emissions of All World Countries (2025), [https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report\\_2025](https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/report_2025).

92 World Bank, SOMALIA COUNTRY CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT (2026), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099021926013569996/pdf/P501734-ed11fda9-5b2d-417b-b32e-3cca829643c4.pdf>.

93 MoECC, Somalia's Third Generation Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) (2025), [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-06/Somalia%20NDC%203.0\\_Submitted\\_to\\_UNFCCC\\_Final.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-06/Somalia%20NDC%203.0_Submitted_to_UNFCCC_Final.pdf).

## Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

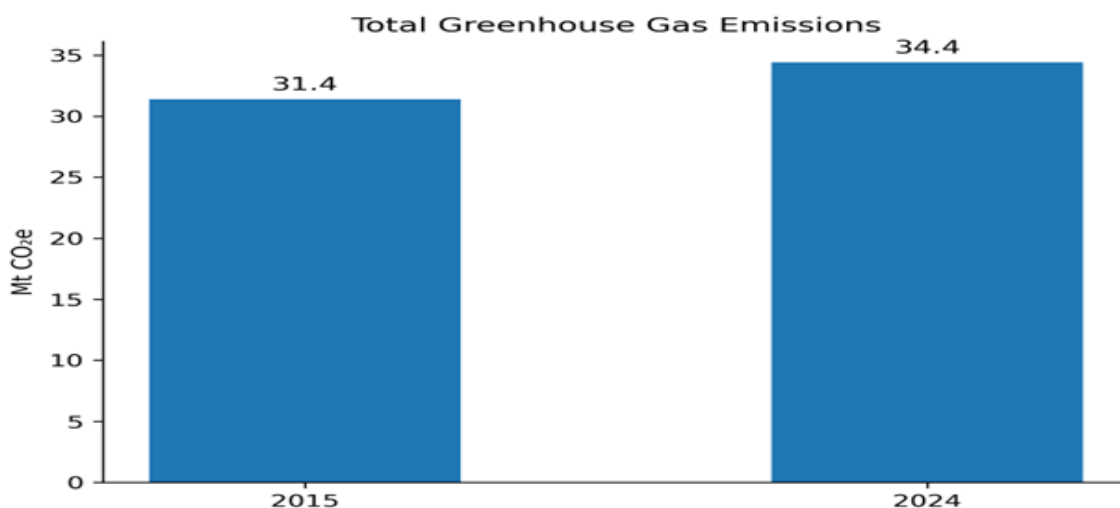
### Indicator 13.2.1: Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications

Somalia has boosted integration of climate action into national planning and policy frameworks. The country submitted its Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) in 2025 and finalized National Adaptation Plan (2024), outlining priority actions for climate adaptation and resilience-building. Climate resilience is also integrated within the National Transformation Plan (2025–2029), owing to a growing recognition of climate change as a major development challenge affecting livelihoods, food security, infrastructure and economic growth.

### Indicator 13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Greenhouse gas emissions in Somalia increased from 31.44 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2015 to 34.41 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024. Although the country is among the world's lowest contributors to global emissions, it bears the brunt of other global dipropionate emitters, in addition to contending with pressure from agriculture, forestry and land use activities.

Figure 3.32: Greenhouse



Sources: Ministry of Commerce & Industry; ILOSTAT; SNBS 2024

## Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

### Indicator 13.3.2: Capacity-building for climate action

Progress has been recorded in institutional capacitation for climate action, including adaptation, mitigation, climate monitoring and disaster preparedness. The country has enhanced institutional coordination mechanisms and climate governance structures through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and other national institutions. Capacity-building efforts have also supported climate monitoring systems, early warning mechanisms, adaptation planning, and climate-related policy development at national and subnational levels

### 3.10.4. Major Challenges

Despite progress in strengthening climate governance and resilience frameworks, Somalia still contends with severe climate-related setbacks. Recurrent droughts, floods, rising temperatures and environmental degradation continue affecting livelihoods, food security, water availability and displacement across the country.

Failure of 2025 Deyr rains and prolonged drought conditions during the 2025–2026 Jilaal season worsened humanitarian needs and pressure on climate-sensitive livelihoods. Somalia has experienced repeated major floods in recent years, including the November 2023 floods that affected approximately 2.48 million people and displaced more than 1.2 million people<sup>94</sup>.

Greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase gradually, driven mainly by agriculture, forestry and land use activities. At the same time, implementation of climate policies and adaptation programs are inhibited by limited institutional capacity, weak coordination and insufficient climate financing.

Dependence on externally funded project-based climate interventions limit long-term sustainability and national ownership of climate action programs. Gaps in climate data systems, hydrometeorological infrastructure and early warning systems constrain climate monitoring and preparedness efforts.



94 [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-06/somalia\\_deyrfloods\\_r-pd-na\\_executive\\_summary\\_07062024.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-06/somalia_deyrfloods_r-pd-na_executive_summary_07062024.pdf)



## LIFE BELOW WATER

**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.**

Somalia has the longest coastline in mainland Africa, spanning almost 3,333 kilometres, and exercises sovereign rights over an extensive maritime domain covering more than 800,000 square kilometres. This marine environment contains significant biodiversity and fisheries resources and supports livelihoods, food security and opportunities for sustainable economic development<sup>95</sup>. Despite this potential, Somalia's marine resources is vulnerable to overexploitation, environmental degradation and weak governance systems. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing puts pressure on fish stocks and marine ecosystems, even as limited fisheries infrastructure, weak monitoring systems and insufficient investment hinder sustainable management of marine resources.

### 3.11. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

Since the 2022 Voluntary National Review, the country has enhanced marine governance and ocean management frameworks. The federal government aligns national fisheries governance systems with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and strengthened fisheries licensing, monitoring and enforcement systems. Satellite monitoring and licensing systems for offshore fishing vessels have improved oversight of fishing activities within Somalia's Exclusive Economic Zone. Progress has been made via the implementation of Somali Sustainable Fisheries Development Project (Badmaal), which supports fisheries infrastructure development, governance strengthening and sustainable fisheries management across several federal member states and Banadir Regional Administration.

The country has additionally amplified efforts to combat IUU fishing through better maritime surveillance, enforcement measures and penalties against illegal fishing activities. Despite the aforesaid efforts, marine ecosystems face substantial pressure from IUU fishing, marine pollution, weak environmental monitoring systems and absence of designated and effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Climate change likewise presents increasing risks to marine biodiversity and fish stocks through rising sea temperatures and environmental degradation.

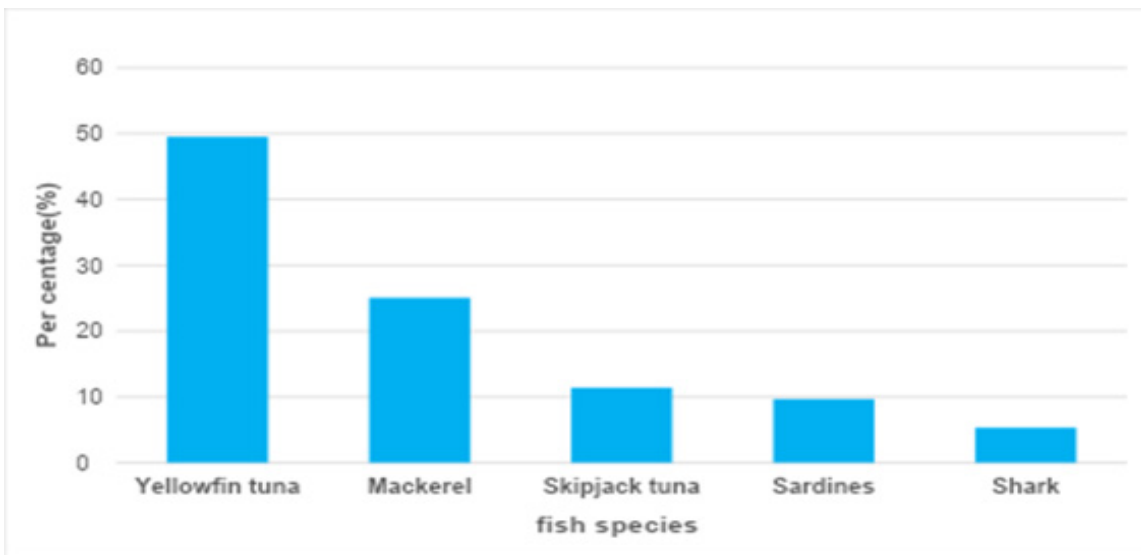
<sup>95</sup> SNBS, Somalia Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) 2026.

**Target 14.4: Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices**

**Indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels**

Efforts are underway to buttress fisheries governance systems to support the sustainable management of marine resources and address IUU fishing. Improvements in licensing systems, maritime surveillance and monitoring of offshore fishing activities have boosted regulatory oversight within Somalia’s Exclusive Economic Zone. In spite of all these initiatives, IUU fishing poses a major threat to fish stock sustainability, local livelihoods and marine resource management. Annual economic losses associated with IUU fishing are estimated at USD 306 million, underscoring the magnitude of the issue. Fish markets in Somalia are concentrated around limited number of species. Yellowfin tuna accounts for the largest share of traded fish species, followed by mackerel and skipjack tuna, reverberating the limited diversification within domestic fisheries markets.

Figure 3.33: Distribution of fish species traded in local markets, 2025



Data Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, 2025

**Target 14.5: Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas**

**Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas**

Absence of officially designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) makes marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass habitats, vulnerable to environmental degradation and unsustainable exploitation. To assuage this gap, the federal government, in partnership with development partners, has initiated programmes that seek to support biodiversity conservation and establishing protected terrestrial and marine areas. Planned interventions include conservation and restoration activities across several ecologically significant coastal and marine ecosystems. These efforts aim to strengthen marine biodiversity protection, ecosystem resilience and sustainable natural resource management while supporting livelihoods of coastal communities.

## Target 14.c: Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS

### Indicator 14.c.1: Progress in implementing international instruments related to oceans and marine governance

Somalia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1989 and continues promoting alignment between national legal frameworks and international maritime governance standards. Ocean governance priorities have been integrated into the National Transformation Plan (2025–2029). Somalia also participates in regional marine and environmental cooperation frameworks, such as the Regional Organization for Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Recent reforms in fisheries licensing, maritime monitoring and enforcement systems demonstrate progress in strengthening implementation of international marine governance obligations and improving sustainable management of marine resources.

#### 3.11.4. Major Challenges

Despite the progress in marine governance and fisheries management systems, Somalia contends significant hurdles in achieving SDG 14. IUU fishing is a threat to marine sustainability, leading to depletion of fish stocks, loss of government revenue and pressure on coastal livelihoods. Marine ecosystems is made highly vulnerable owing to the absence of officially designated and effectively managed Marine Protected Areas, as had been discussed earlier. Climate change poses long-term risks to marine biodiversity and fishing productivity. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification and environmental stress are expected to affect resilience in fish biomass and marine ecosystem over the coming decades. Marine pollution, limited fisheries infrastructure, weak environmental monitoring systems and insufficient investment in marine conservation constrain sustainable ocean management. Gaps in fisheries data and reporting systems limit evidence-based planning and effective monitoring of marine resources.





## LIFE ON LAND

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**

Somalia's terrestrial ecosystems form the foundation of its economy, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. Rangelands, forests, and drylands support pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods, while agriculture and livestock remain major contributors to employment, food security, and export earnings. However, Somalia's ecosystems are highly fragile, with much of the country classified as arid or semi-arid and increasingly exposed to drought, land degradation, desertification, and climate change.

Decades of conflict, recurrent droughts, overgrazing, unsustainable land use, and heavy dependence on biomass fuels have accelerated environmental degradation across the country. Charcoal production, widespread use of firewood for cooking, and unregulated tree cutting continue to contribute to deforestation and declining forest cover. At the same time, soil erosion, vegetation loss, and water degradation continue to weaken ecosystem resilience and reduce land productivity, particularly in drought-prone regions.

### 3.12. Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

Since the 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR), Somalia has made important progress in strengthening environmental governance and sustainable land management. The government adopted the National Environmental Policy and enacted the Environmental Protection and Management Act establishing a stronger institutional and legal framework for environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and natural resource management<sup>96</sup>. Progress has also been made in developing the National Forestry Policy and the National Charcoal Policy aimed at addressing deforestation and promoting sustainable forest management.

Somalia has also advanced implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and expanded land restoration and resilience programmes across several regions. In parallel, environmental restoration initiatives such as the Green Somalia Initiative, launched in 2022, aim to expand tree planting, restore degraded landscapes, strengthen biodiversity conservation, and improve resilience to drought and desertification.

96 MoECC, Policies and Strategies (2026), <https://moecc.gov.so/policies-and-strategies/>.

Despite these efforts, environmental pressures remain severe. Forest cover continues to decline, while droughts, extreme temperatures, and ecosystem degradation continue to threaten livelihoods, biodiversity, and long-term environmental sustainability. Limited institutional capacity, weak environmental enforcement, and gaps in environmental data systems continue to constrain effective monitoring, planning, and implementation. The country therefore continues to face the dual challenge of protecting its natural ecosystems while simultaneously strengthening resilience, supporting sustainable livelihoods, and addressing the growing impacts of climate change and land degradation.

**Target 15.1: By 2030,** ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

**Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area**

Forest cover in Somalia continues to decline gradually, decreasing from 9.8 per cent in 2018 to 9.2 per cent in 2023. The decline reflects continued pressure on forest resources driven by widespread dependence on charcoal and firewood for household energy, alongside unregulated tree cutting and recurrent drought conditions. Despite ongoing reforestation and environmental restoration initiatives, deforestation remains a major environmental challenge. Continued reliance on biomass fuels, combined with limited access to affordable alternative energy sources, continues to contribute to forest degradation and ecosystem loss.

Figure 3.34: Forest area as a proportion of total land area



Data Source: SDGs Report, 2025

**Target 15.9: By 2030, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts**

**Indicator 15.9.1: National biodiversity planning and integration into national reporting systems**

Somalia developed its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2015, providing the national framework for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable natural resource management. The strategy supports integration of biodiversity considerations into national planning and aligns Somalia's environmental commitments with international biodiversity frameworks. Since 2022, Somalia has strengthened environmental governance through the adoption of the National Environmental Policy and the Environmental Protection and Management Act. These frameworks provide an institutional basis for improving environmental regulation, ecosystem protection, and biodiversity conservation.

Although implementation capacity remains limited, these policy and institutional developments represent important progress toward integrating biodiversity and environmental sustainability into national development planning and reporting systems.

### 3.12.3. Major Challenges

Despite ongoing efforts to strengthen environmental governance and ecosystem restoration, Somalia continues to face significant environmental pressures. Recurrent droughts, desertification, deforestation, and land degradation continue to threaten biodiversity, livelihoods, and ecosystem resilience.

Forest cover continues to decline due to widespread dependence on biomass fuels, particularly charcoal and firewood, which remain the dominant household energy sources. Limited access to alternative energy sources and weak environmental enforcement continue to accelerate deforestation and degradation of forest resources.

Land degradation also remains extensive across large parts of the country. Biological degradation, soil erosion, drought, and declining vegetation cover continue to reduce land productivity and increase vulnerability among pastoral and agropastoral communities. Climate change presents additional long-term risks through rising temperatures, recurrent droughts, and increasing pressure on already fragile ecosystems. At the same time, limited environmental data systems and institutional capacity continue to constrain monitoring, planning, and implementation of environmental policies and restoration programmes.





## GOAL 16

### PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.**

SDG 16 is considered more than just a sector-specific goal in Somalia. It provides a foundational framework for national recovery, state-building, and the achievement of sustainable development. This is why Somalia's National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029 places "Transformational Governance" as its first pillar and frames peace, the rule of law, effective federalism, inclusion, and institutional performance as central to national transformation<sup>98</sup>. Since the last VNR report (2022), Somalia has recorded significant progress in the security and justice sectors, stabilisation, local governance, reconciliation, and the electoral process.

In 2023, the UN Security Council fully lifted the arms embargo on Somalia, signalling a strong international recognition of the country's progress in weapons and ammunition management, security sector reform and institutional recovery<sup>99</sup>. This shift was reinforced by the transition from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), which became effective on 1 January 2025<sup>100</sup>. It reflects a further move toward Somali-led security arrangements. In parallel, the UN established the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) in October 2024 as a way to prepare for the UN's handover of its political mission duties to Somali institutions and the UN Country Team<sup>101</sup>.

Despite notable progress, Somalia's peace and governance transition remains incomplete and fragile. Al-Shabaab continues to pose a major domestic and transnational security threat<sup>102</sup>, while the Islamic State-linked militants remain active in parts of Puntland<sup>103</sup>. Inter-clan conflicts continue to further undermine local security and social cohesion. At the same time, institutional coordination between the federal government and FMS continues to be marked by tensions, limited cooperation, and weak dispute-resolution and coordination mechanisms. Ongoing electoral reform and efforts to move towards direct elections have generated incremental progress but also sustained political contestation. Within this context, Somalia's advances on SDG 16 need to be understood as partial gains achieved amid persistent political contestation, insecurity, and institutional fragility.

98 MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029.

99 UNSC, 'Resolution Number S/RES/2714 (2023)', 2023, <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/sres2714-2023>.

100 AUSSOM, 'About AUSSOM', 2025, <https://au-ssom.org/about-aussom/>.

101 UNTMIS, 'UNTMIS Mandate', 2024, <https://untmis.unmissions.org/en/untmis-mandate>.

102 Mohammed Ibrahim Shire, 'Provocation and Attrition Strategies in Transnational Terrorism: The Case of Al-Shabaab', *Terrorism and Political Violence* 35, no. 4 (2023): 945-70, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2021.1987896>.

103 C. Nna-Emeka Okereke and Felix Ikalewumi, 'Understanding Terrorism in Somaliland and Puntland', in *Palgrave Handbook of Terrorism in Africa*, ed. Rohan Gunaratna and C. Nna-Emeka Okereke, Palgrave Studies in Global Security (Springer Nature Switzerland, 2025), [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-89940-9\\_10](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-89940-9_10).

### 3.16: Progress achieved since the 2022 VNR

Since the 2022 Voluntary National Review, Somalia has made significant progress toward SDG 16 through reforms and initiatives that strengthen peace, security, justice, accountable governance, and institutional capacity. In Somalia's context, progress on SDG 16 is inseparable from the broader state-building process. Strengthening public institutions, extending state authority, improving security, advancing reconciliation, expanding access to justice, increasing transparency, and promoting inclusive political participation are all central to building the foundations for sustainable development.

Progress has been most visible in security sector reform, stabilisation, public financial management, justice and correctional reform, institutional strengthening, electoral reform, and Somalia's renewed regional and international engagement. At the same time, implementation remains uneven. Insecurity, limited institutional capacity, federal coordination challenges, weak justice infrastructure, corruption risks, incomplete civil registration systems and limited disaggregated governance data continue to constrain progress. The following section reviews progress against selected SDG 16 targets that are most relevant to Somalia's national context and development priorities.

#### Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates

Somalia has made gradual but important progress toward SDG Target 16.1. These gains are connected to national security operations, stabilisation in areas liberated from extremist groups, community-level reconciliation, police reform and efforts to restore state authority in areas previously affected by Al-Shabaab control. In August 2022, the Somali National Army, supported by local Ma'awisley forces and international partners, launched a major military campaign across Hiiraan, Middle Shabelle, Galgadud, and Lower Shabelle regions<sup>104</sup>. Between 2022 and 2024, Somali forces recaptured over 215 locations, including key strategic towns and supply routes previously controlled by Al-Shabaab<sup>105</sup>. This campaign represents one of the most significant Somali-led security offensives in recent decades and reflects growing national efforts to reduce violence, restore state authority, and improve security in areas previously affected by insurgent control.

Security gains have also been supported by financial measures targeting Al-Shabaab's revenue networks. In January 2023, the Somali government announced the freezing of approximately 250 bank accounts and the closure of around 70 mobile money accounts linked to the group, while broader anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing reforms were strengthened through new legislation and domestic sanctions measures<sup>106</sup>. These financial actions are important because Al-Shabaab's ability to tax, extort and move funds is directly linked to its operational capacity.

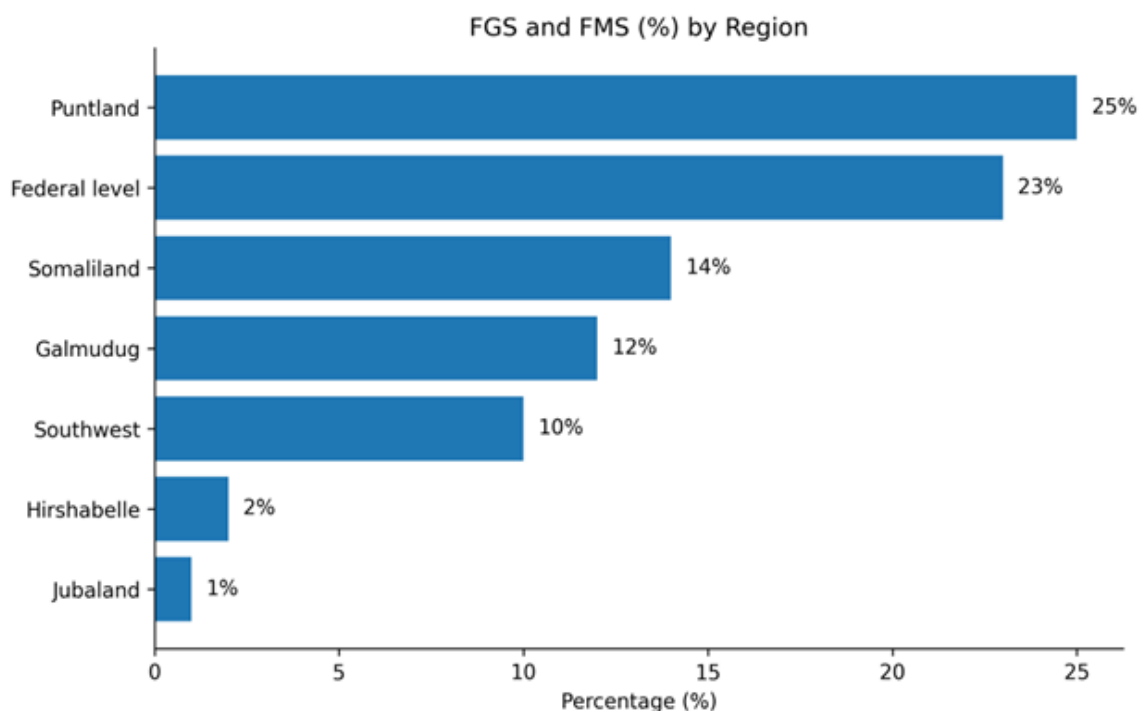
Available crime data also provide an emerging baseline for tracking intentional homicide under Indicator 16.1.1. According to the 2024 governance statistics report, Somalia recorded 465 reported homicide cases in 2023, equivalent to an estimated homicide rate of 2.5 per 100,000 population. This figure should be interpreted cautiously because crime reporting coverage remains uneven across regions, population groups and conflict-affected areas. Nevertheless, it provides an important starting point for strengthening public safety monitoring, law enforcement capacity, justice sector coordination and crime reporting systems.

104 Hassan Aden and Ahmed Musa, Re-Thinking Somalia's Stabilisation in Liberated Areas (2023), <https://www.prio.org/publications/13841>.

105 Muibu Daisy, Somalia's Stalled Offensive Against al-Shabaab: Taking Stock of Obstacles (2024), <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/somalias-stalled-offensive-against-al-shabaab-taking-stock-of-obstacles/>.

106 GI-TOC, COMMERCE UNDER SIEGE DISRUPTING AL-SHABAAB'S HOLD ON MOGADISHU'S ECONOMY (2025), [Commerce-under-siege-Disrupting-al-Shabaabs-hold-on-Mogadishus-economy-GI-TOC-April-2025.pdf](https://www.gi-toc.org/2025/04/commerce-under-siege-disrupting-al-shabaabs-hold-on-mogadishus-economy-gi-toc-april-2025.pdf).

Figure 3.35: Distribution of Homicide Crimes in FGS and FMS in 2023



Data Source: SDGs Report,2025

Despite these gains, progress on Target 16.1 remains fragile. Al-Shabaab continues to pose a major domestic and transnational security threat, while Islamic State-linked militants remain active in parts of Puntland. Conflict-monitoring data show that levels of violence and fatalities in Somalia remain high. Between April 2023 and March 2025, ACLED data cited by EUAA recorded 5,944 security incidents and an estimated 14,883 fatalities, compared to 3,323 security incidents in 2022, resulting in 6,522 fatalities <sup>107</sup>.

### 16.3: Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all

Somalia has made significant progress in strengthening the rule of law and expanding access to justice. A major reform milestone was the launch of the Justice Sector Strategy 2025-2029 in December 2024. The strategy was developed through 43 consultation sessions with approximately 1,000 participants and generated more than 3,000 stories and insights, including perspectives from women, children, displaced communities, minorities and other vulnerable groups. It was developed in partnership with federal member states and international partners and seeks to better coordinate Somalia's formal, federal, customary and Shari'a-based justice systems into a more coherent national justice framework, while recognising the continued role of restorative justice and traditional mechanisms such as Xeer.

The Justice Sector Strategy sets out priorities for strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, judicial independence, financial sustainability, professional capacity, public trust, access to justice, knowledge management and cross-sector collaboration. This is particularly important in Somalia, where formal justice institutions remain unevenly distributed, and many citizens continue to rely on customary, religious and community-based mechanisms to resolve disputes

<sup>107</sup> EUAA, Security Incidents, Estimated Civilian Fatalities and Casualties (2023), <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/coi/somalia/2025/security-situation/14-recent-overall-security-trends/141-security-incidents-estimated-civilian-fatalities-and-casualties>.

Administrative justice data show continued public use of justice institutions. In 2023, more than 37,000 criminal, civil and administrative cases were recorded across attorney general offices at federal and federal member state levels. Of formally registered judicial cases, 63.4 per cent were concluded and decided, while 36.6 per cent remained pending due to ongoing investigations or legal proceedings. These figures suggest that the justice system is functioning and being used, but they also point to the need to strengthen case management, reduce delays and improve the completeness and comparability of justice data across jurisdictions.

Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms continue to play a critical role in expanding access to justice, especially in areas where formal institutions are limited. In 2025, more than 5,300 disputes were resolved through UNDP-supported ADR centres. Since 2023, nearly 2,000 elders, women, youth and religious leaders have been trained as community mediators. These mechanisms help resolve disputes locally, reduce tensions and strengthen social cohesion, but they must be supported by safeguards that protect rights, promote gender equality and ensure fairness for vulnerable groups.

Police reform has also improved access to justice by strengthening links between communities and law enforcement. Under the Joint Police Programme Phase II, 10 Local Police Partnership Boards were established across five Federal Member States. Nearly 3,000 police officers and community members were trained on human rights, leadership and the New Policing Model, while more than 570 participants took part in gender-responsive policing workshops. These measures are important for building public trust, improving community safety and strengthening accountable policing.

### **Targets 16.5 and 16.6: Reduce corruption and build effective, accountable and transparent institutions**

Somalia has continued to strengthen public institutions as part of its broader state-building and reform agenda. Progress under Targets 16.5 and 16.6 is reflected in reforms to public financial management, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing systems, public administration, justice institutions, police reform and the growing use of administrative data for governance monitoring. These reforms are central to building state legitimacy and improving the capacity of public institutions to deliver services, manage public resources and respond to citizens' needs.

The full lifting of the UN arms embargo in December 2023 was a major institutional milestone. It signalled international recognition of Somalia's progress in weapons and ammunition management, security sector governance and institutional recovery. This achievement also increased the importance of sustaining accountable security governance, transparent weapons management and effective oversight mechanisms.

The transition from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia to the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia, effective from 1 January 2025, further reflects Somalia's movement toward Somali-led security arrangements. Similarly, the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia in October 2024 marked a step toward transferring political mission responsibilities to Somali institutions and the UN Country Team. These developments demonstrate growing confidence in national institutions, while also underlining the need to maintain coordination, accountability and capacity during the transition.

Despite reform progress, institutional effectiveness remains uneven. Coordination between the Federal Government and Federal Member States continues to be affected by political tensions, limited cooperation and weak dispute-resolution mechanisms. Governance data systems also remain incomplete, particularly across crime reporting, justice data, civil service data, gender participation data and public satisfaction measures. Strengthening institutions therefore requires not only new laws and strategies, but also implementation capacity, predictable financing, data systems, public accountability and stronger intergovernmental coordination.



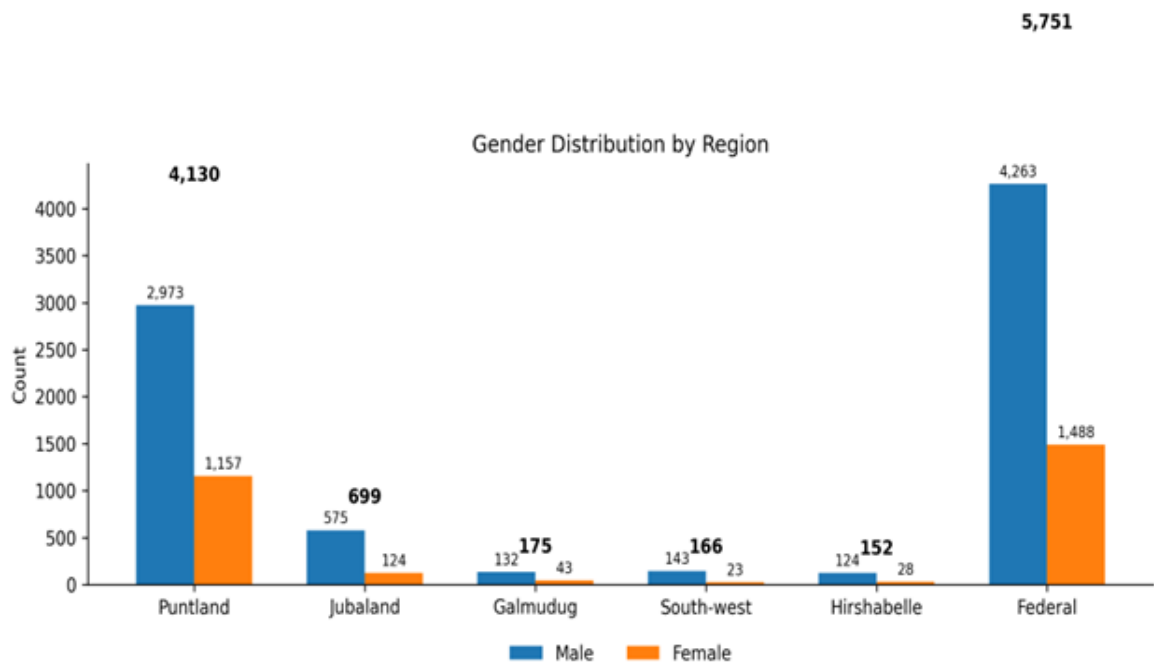
**Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making**

Somalia has made important progress toward more inclusive and participatory governance, especially through the reintroduction of direct local elections in Mogadishu, Puntland and South West State. Several additional elections are planned across Federal Member States. This shift toward one-person, one-vote elections sets an important democratic precedent and demonstrates movement away from indirect electoral arrangements toward broader citizen participation.

The significance of this progress should be framed carefully. Direct local elections represent a clear advance toward universal suffrage, but they do not yet amount to nationwide direct elections. Sustaining and deepening this progress will require political consensus, transparent electoral administration, effective security planning, robust civic education, credible electoral dispute-resolution mechanisms and sustained agreement between the federal government, federal member states and other political stakeholders.

Inclusive gender representation remains mixed and, in some areas, concerning. In the 2022 election, women's representation in the Upper House increased from 24 per cent in 2016 to 26 per cent, while representation in the Lower House declined from 24 per cent to 20 per cent over the same period. In the executive branch, women held only 1 of 25 ministerial positions as of June 2026. These figures show that electoral and institutional reforms need to be accompanied by stronger measures to promote women's representation in political and administrative leadership.

Figure 3.36: Distribution of Homicide Crimes in FGS and FMS in 2023



As Somalia advances toward a democratic governance system, it is imperative to implement policy interventions that ensure inclusive representation and promote women’s participation across all branches of government.

### Target 16.8: Broaden and strengthen Somalia's participation in regional and global governance

Somalia has made notable progress in strengthening its role in regional and global governance. In June 2024, Somalia secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-2026 term. Its election by an overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly was historically significant because it marked Somalia's return to the Security Council after 54 years, having last served during the 1971-1972 term. This achievement represents a major diplomatic milestone and symbolises Somalia's renewed engagement in international peace, security and development.

Somalia's regional integration also advanced through its admission to the East African Community in November 2023 and full membership in March 2024. EAC membership is expected to strengthen regional cooperation, improve market access, deepen diplomatic relations and support Somalia's economic and institutional integration with neighbouring states. Somalia also remains an active participant in IGAD and the African Union, reinforcing its role in regional dialogue on peace, security and development.

These achievements are relevant to SDG 16 because participation in regional and global governance expands Somalia's voice in international decision-making and reflects growing international confidence in the country's institutions. The priority going forward is to translate diplomatic gains into practical benefits for national development, including regional trade, security cooperation, migration governance, climate resilience and institutional capacity-building.

#### 3.1.6: Major challenges

Despite progress, Somalia continues to face major challenges in achieving SDG 16. First, extremist groups remain capable of carrying out attacks, particularly in rural areas, newly recovered districts and strategic urban centres. This means that security gains remain reversible unless consolidated through local governance, justice, policing, and building community trust. Second, Somalia's federal settlement remains politically sensitive. The constitutional review process has achieved important formal milestones, including parliamentary approval of constitutional amendments in March 2026, but it has also sparked disagreement among some Federal Member States, opposition actors and political stakeholders.

Third, access to justice remains uneven. Rural communities, nomadic populations, IDPs, women, minorities and low-income households face barriers related to distance, cost, legal awareness, limited legal aid and weak institutional coverage. ADR mechanisms help bridge this gap. However, they must be reinforced with safeguards to guarantee fairness, inclusion, and the protection of rights. Fourth, institutional data systems remain incomplete. While progress has been made in crime reporting, justice data, civil service data, gender participation data, and public satisfaction data, their development remains inconsistent across FMS.





## PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.**

Somalia recognises that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires strong, inclusive, and accountable partnerships at all levels. In line with SDG 17, the Federal Government of Somalia has prioritised improving the effectiveness of development cooperation, strengthening national systems, and fostering multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure that development efforts are country-led, transparent, and results-orientated. The Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) provides strategic leadership in coordinating development cooperation and ensuring that external assistance is coherently aligned with national priorities, particularly through the implementation of the National Transformation Plan (NTP 2025–2029) <sup>108</sup>.

Somalia's partnership framework is grounded in the recognition that domestic resource mobilisation, technology transfer, trade integration, statistical capacity, and inclusive governance are mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. Progress across these dimensions has been uneven but encouraging, reflecting the country's continued recovery from decades of fragility and its growing institutional capacity to lead its own development agenda

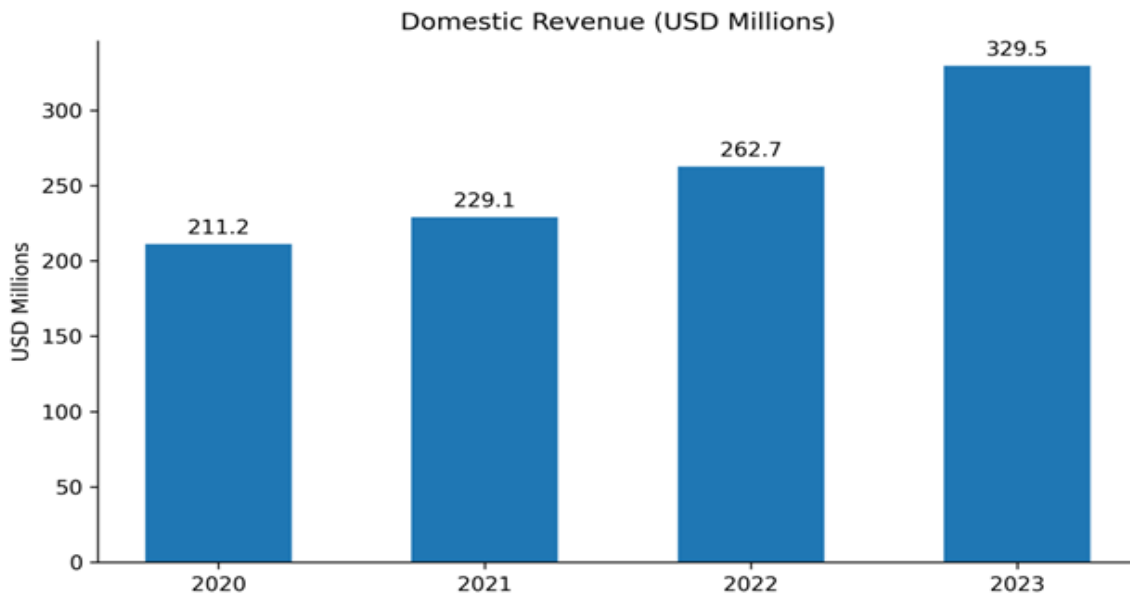
### 3.17. Progress Achieved since 2022 review

#### Target 17.1: Domestic Revenue Mobilisation

Somalia has made significant progress in domestic revenue mobilisation under Target 17.1. In 2022, domestic revenue reached USD 262.7 million, representing a 25 per cent increase over 2021. This positive trajectory continued in 2023, with domestic revenue increasing to USD 329.5 million — an absolute increase of USD 66.8 million — maintaining a 25 per cent growth rate relative to the previous year.

<sup>108</sup> MoP, National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029.

Figure 3.37: Proportion of Annual Growth in Domestic Revenue



© Ministry of Finance

As a share of GDP, domestic revenue rose to 3.2 per cent in 2022, up from 3.0 per cent in 2021, driven largely by strong performance in non-tax revenues and sustained government efforts to strengthen tax administration and institutional capacity<sup>109</sup>.

Somalia's domestic revenue base comprises taxation, customs duties, and non-tax revenues, including income tax, VAT, excise duties, fees, fines, and licenses. The increase in domestic revenue between 2022 and 2023 is attributable to enhanced tax collection measures, ongoing customs reforms, increased airport-related fees, growth in taxes on goods and services, and broader improvements in revenue generation systems.

**Targets 17.6, 17.8: Technology**

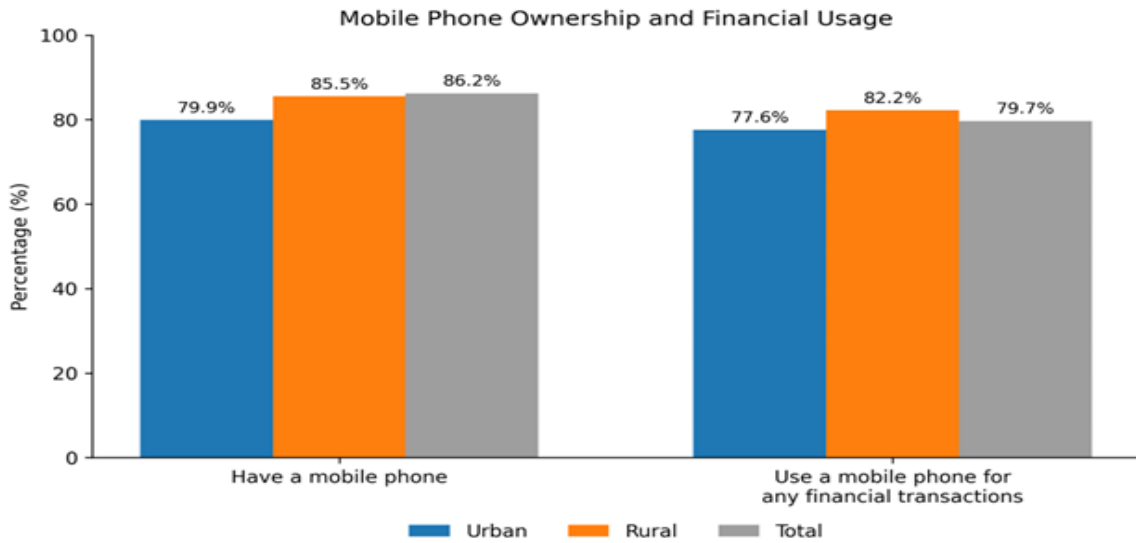
Somalia has made notable progress in advancing the technology-related dimensions of SDG 17, particularly Targets 17.6 and 17.8, by expanding digital access and strengthening the use of mobile-enabled services. According to the Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) 2022, mobile phone ownership among individuals aged 15 years and above is widespread, with 85 per cent reporting access to a mobile device<sup>110</sup>. Among mobile phone users, 81.8 per cent utilise mobile-enabled financial transactions, underscoring the growing role of digital financial services in promoting economic inclusion, household transactions, and resilience. The widespread use of mobile technology has significantly improved access to communication, financial services, and market information, particularly in areas with limited formal banking infrastructure.

<sup>109</sup> World Bank, Joint Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Analysis. (2023), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099063023133538413/pdf/BOSIB01d9ec64800b0a138061f3193f5b7a.pdf>.

<sup>110</sup> SNBS, Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) 2022 (2023), <https://nbs.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SOMALIA-INTEGRATED-HOUSEHOLD-BUDGET-SURVEY-SIHBS-2022.pdf>.



Figure 3.38: Proportion of Annual Growth in Domestic



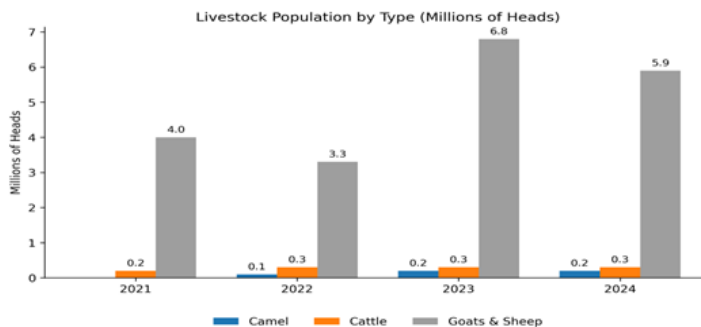
© SNBS – SIHBS

Under SDG Indicator 17.8.1, which measures the proportion of individuals using the internet, Somalia continues to expand digital connectivity, the SIHBS 2022 indicates that approximately one in four individuals aged 10 years and above accessed the internet, with usage substantially higher in urban areas than in rural communities. Mobile phones remain the primary means of internet access, reflecting their central role in bridging connectivity gaps across the country. Internet usage is also strongly associated with educational attainment, increasing from 14.2 per cent among individuals with no formal education to 87.1 per cent among those with university-level education. These trends demonstrate Somalia’s growing capacity to leverage digital technologies as a driver of economic development, financial inclusion, and progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Targets 17.10, 17.11, 17.12: Trade**

Somalia’s export performance has demonstrated resilience and growth. In 2023, livestock exports reached their highest level, at 7.4 million heads, following 4.2 million heads in 2021 and a decline to 3.7 million heads in 2022. In 2024, livestock exports remained robust, exceeding 6.4 million heads, comprising more than 5.9 million goats and sheep, 291,692 cattle, and 212,616 camels. Livestock exports, including live animals, meat, and skins, reached an estimated USD 1.03 billion in 2024, accounting for approximately 66 per cent of total goods exports.

Figure 3.38: Proportion of Annual Growth in Domestic



© Central Bank of Somalia

In addition to livestock, Somalia has continued to diversify its export base. Between 2021 and 2024, the country exported approximately USD 143.1 million worth of fish, highlighting the growing importance of the fisheries sector. Other export commodities include crops, vegetable oils, minerals and forest products, contributing to a broader and more resilient export portfolio<sup>111</sup>.

**Indicator 17.11.1:** Developing countries and least developed countries' share of global exports. Somalia's accession to the East African Community (EAC) marks a significant milestone in enhancing regional integration. The Federal Republic of Somalia was admitted to the EAC on 24 November 2023 and became a full member on 4 March 2024. Membership is expected to facilitate improved market access, reduce trade barriers, and strengthen economic cooperation within the region<sup>112</sup>.

### Target 17.15: Policy and Institutional Coherence

Under SDG indicator 17.15.1, Somalia has made notable progress in aligning development cooperation with national priorities. According to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), complementary evidence for Somalia, approximately 89 per cent of development co-operation interventions are aligned with country-defined outcome objectives<sup>113</sup>. This coherence is anchored in the National Transformation Plan 2025–2029 and the Centennial Vision 2060. These serve as the primary instruments guiding both government programming and partner support. However, the use of country-owned results frameworks by development partners remains limited at 49.8 per cent. Only a modest share of indicators are drawn from national monitoring and statistical systems. Full programmatic coherence between partner interventions and national systems has yet to be achieved.

Somalia's most significant achievement under Target 17.15 is the growing confidence of development partners in its national public financial management systems. Ninety-nine per cent of development cooperation funding to the public sector is channelled through national systems. This confidence was further affirmed in December 2023. The Executive Boards of the IMF and the World Bank approved the HIPC Initiative Completion Point for Somalia, providing total debt service savings of USD 4.5 billion. External debt was reduced from 64 per cent of GDP in 2018 to less than 6 per cent by the end of 2023<sup>114</sup>. Somalia implemented thirteen of fourteen floating completion point triggers, including on public financial management, domestic revenue mobilisation, governance, and statistics. These achievements demonstrate deepening institutional capacity and sustained reform commitment, enhancing the effectiveness, alignment, and long-term sustainability of development interventions.

The fiscal space created through debt relief and ongoing public financial management reforms provides an important opportunity to accelerate investment in sustainable development priorities. Continued efforts will be required to ensure that development financing contributes to employment creation, social protection, human capital development, climate resilience and improved public services. Strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, enhancing public expenditure effectiveness and aligning development finance with national development priorities will remain important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, continued international cooperation and concessional financing will be necessary to support Somalia's transition from humanitarian dependence towards sustainable and inclusive development.

111 CBS, Annual Report 2024 (2024), <https://centralbank.gov.so/annual-report-2024/>.

112 IMF, Somalia: Selected Issues (2024), <https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400297168.002>.

113 effectivecooperation.org, Somalia - Global Partnership 2023-2026 Monitoring Round Compilation of Complementary Evidence (n.d.), <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/sites/default/files/2026-03/Somalia%20-%20complementary%20evidence.pdf>.

114 IMF, IMF and World Bank Announce US\$4.5 Billion in Debt Relief for Somalia (2023), <https://www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2023/12/13/pr23438-imf-and-world-bank-announce-us-4-5-billion-in-debt-relief-for-somalia>.

### Target 17.16: Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Somalia has made deliberate efforts to adopt a whole-of-society approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. The National Development Plan 2020–2024 (NDP-9) and the National Transformation Plan 2025–2029 were developed through participatory processes and formally enacted by Parliament, reflecting both political ownership and inclusive consultation. The government has engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organisations, the private sector, Federal Member States, development partners, trade unions, and philanthropic actors. Somalia's overall stakeholder engagement score stands at 0.67 out of 1, assessed as moderate, with engagement spanning the preparation of national development strategies, dialogues on development priorities and results, and joint accountability assessments <sup>115</sup>.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships have also been strengthened through institutionalised consultation mechanisms involving government, employers' organisations, trade unions, civil society and development partners. These partnerships have supported policy development, implementation of labour and employment reforms, social protection initiatives and broader national development objectives, contributing to greater ownership and inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs.

### Target 17.18: Statistical capacity

Somalia has also significantly improved its statistical capacity under SDG Indicator 17.18.1, strengthening its ability to monitor and report progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Data coverage has increased from 41.7 per cent to 70.2 per cent, with Somalia now reporting on 153 out of 218 applicable indicators across all 17 SDGs. This progress was supported through the development of an integrated SDG tracker with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), providing policymakers and stakeholders with more reliable, accessible, and timely development data. These advances reflect Somalia's growing institutional commitment to evidence-based policymaking, data-driven governance, and transparent reporting on national and global development priorities.

#### 3.17.7. Major Challenges

Somalia's efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goal 17 have yielded notable progress. However, the country continues to confront structural and systemic obstacles that limit the full realisation of its ambitions for partnership and implementation. Persistent data gaps and inconsistencies remain a central constraint, reflected in the limited availability of disaggregated statistics and ongoing difficulties in comprehensively tracking development cooperation flows. These information deficits weaken the evidence base required for effective planning, coordination, and accountability.

At the same time, institutional and capacity limitations within public sector systems hinder the coherent coordination, implementation, and monitoring of development interventions. Development cooperation is not yet fully aligned with national systems, with many partners making only limited use of country-owned results frameworks and the national statistical system. This fragmentation is further compounded by constraints on parliamentary oversight, as data gaps—particularly the incomplete recording of development cooperation within the national budget framework—restrict the legislature's ability to scrutinise and guide the use of external resources.

<sup>115</sup> effectivecooperation.org, Somalia Monitoring Results 2023 - 2026 (2026), <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/resources/somalia-monitoring-results-2023-2026>.

## CHAPTER 4. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD TO 2030



Since the first VNR in 2022, Somalia has made measurable progress in strengthening state institutions, improving public financial management, expanding the production and use of official statistics, deepening social protection, advancing climate policy, improving service delivery, and restoring international financial credibility following debt relief. These gains demonstrate that progress is possible even under conditions of fragility, insecurity, climate vulnerability and constrained fiscal space.

At the same time, the review shows that Somalia's development challenge remains deeply structural. Poverty, food insecurity, displacement, unemployment, gender inequality, weak infrastructure, limited fiscal capacity, climate shocks and institutional constraints continue to interact in ways that slow progress across the Sustainable Development Goals. The lesson emerging from this VNR is therefore clear: Somalia cannot achieve the SDGs through fragmented sectoral interventions alone.

The next phase requires an integrated national acceleration agenda that links peacebuilding, economic transformation, human capital development, climate resilience, institutional reform, financing and data systems into one coherent pathway toward 2030. The National Transformation Plan 2025–2029 provides the central platform for this acceleration. It should serve not only as a planning framework, but also as the national delivery mechanism through which SDG commitments are translated into sequenced reforms, measurable targets, budget priorities and accountable implementation.

Going forward, Somalia's task is to move from planning to delivery: strengthening coordination across federal institutions and Federal Member States, aligning partner support behind national priorities, improving implementation discipline, and ensuring that public resources are directed toward programmes with the greatest impact on poverty reduction, resilience and inclusive growth.

First, Somalia must consolidate peace, security and state authority as the foundation for sustainable development. Security gains in recovered areas need to be followed by civilian administration, justice services, reconciliation, local governance, basic services and livelihood recovery. Without this transition from military stabilisation to developmental state presence, progress will remain vulnerable to reversal. Strengthening rule of law, access to justice, inclusive political participation and accountable institutions must therefore remain central to Somalia's SDG acceleration strategy.

Second, Somalia must treat climate resilience as a national development imperative rather than an environmental sub-sector. Recurrent droughts, floods, land degradation and water stress are already affecting poverty, food security, health, displacement, infrastructure and macroeconomic stability. The way forward requires scaling up adaptation across agriculture, livestock, fisheries, water, urban planning, disaster preparedness and social protection. Early warning systems, anticipatory action, climate-smart production, drought-resilient water infrastructure, flood management and ecosystem restoration should be integrated into national and subnational development planning.

Third, Somalia must accelerate investment in people. Progress toward 2030 will depend heavily on whether the country can expand access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, water, sanitation, social protection and skills development. Particular attention is needed for children, women, youth, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, minority groups, nomadic communities and underserved rural populations. Human capital investment is not only a social priority; it is the basis for productivity, resilience, social cohesion and long-term economic transformation.



Somalia recognises that strengthening public services and care systems will be important for advancing inclusive and sustainable development. Continued investment in healthcare, childcare, water and sanitation services, education and community-based social services can contribute to improved wellbeing, reduced inequalities and increased participation of women in economic and public life. Strengthening access to quality public services will remain an important component of efforts to leave no one behind.

Fourth, Somalia must move from survival-oriented livelihoods toward productive and inclusive economic transformation. This requires expanding decent work, youth employment, women's economic participation, financial inclusion, enterprise development, value addition, infrastructure, energy access and market connectivity. Agriculture, livestock, fisheries, renewable energy, construction, digital services, transport, and light manufacturing offer important opportunities for job creation and diversification. The private sector should remain a central partner, but its contribution will depend on stronger regulation, access to finance, reliable infrastructure, improved security and a more predictable business environment.

Building on recent reforms, priority attention should also be given to effective implementation of the Labour Code 2025 and related labour market policies. Strengthening labour administration systems, labour inspection services, occupational safety and health frameworks, social dialogue mechanisms and employment governance institutions will be important for promoting decent work, improving labour market outcomes and supporting inclusive economic growth. Effective implementation should also support freedom of association, collective bargaining and inclusive social dialogue through representative workers' and employers' organisations as important mechanisms for improving labour market governance and promoting decent work. Continued implementation of the National Employment Policy, the Decent Work Country Programme and other labour market reforms will be important for expanding productive employment opportunities, particularly for women, young people and workers in vulnerable forms of employment.

Fifth, Somalia must strengthen national financing for sustainable development. Official development assistance and humanitarian financing will remain important, but they cannot substitute for a stronger domestic resource base. Somalia should continue expanding domestic revenue mobilisation, improving tax and customs administration, strengthening public financial management, increasing budget transparency and ensuring that national budgets progressively allocate more resources to social services, resilience, infrastructure and poverty reduction. Development partners should increasingly align financing with the NTP, use country-owned systems where feasible, and support long-term institutional capacity rather than short project cycles.

Sixth, Somalia must place data, statistics and evidence at the centre of implementation. The expansion of SDG data coverage is one of the strongest achievements of this review, but important gaps remain, particularly in disaggregated data by sex, age, disability, displacement status, geography and livelihood group. Continued investment in the National Statistical System, administrative data, household surveys, censuses, geospatial data, digital platforms and SDG tracking will be essential. Better data will allow Somalia to identify who is being left behind, target resources more effectively, monitor implementation, and strengthen accountability to citizens and partners.

Finally, Somalia's way forward to 2030 must be guided by national ownership, inclusive participation and a whole-of-society approach. Government institutions, Federal Member States, Parliament, civil society, women's organisations, youth groups, persons with disabilities,

academia, the private sector, religious and community leaders, the diaspora and development partners all have roles to play. The SDGs will only be achieved if implementation becomes a shared national project, rooted in Somali priorities and responsive to the lived realities of communities.

Somalia's second VNR therefore presents a balanced message: the country has made important progress, but the pace of transformation must accelerate. The priority for the remaining years to 2030 is to convert reform momentum into visible improvements in lives, livelihoods, institutions and resilience. By aligning the 2030 Agenda with Centennial Vision 2060 and the National Transformation Plan, Somalia can move from recovery to transformation, from vulnerability to resilience, and from fragmented interventions to a more coherent, nationally owned development pathway.



The Federal Republic of Somalia  
Somalia National Bureau of Statistics  
Voluntary National Review 2026  
2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development

