

**COMMUNITY STABILIZATION THROUGH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF
VULNERABLE YOUTH**

PROJECT BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY 16/08/2016 AT 11:00 AM (SOMALIA TIME)

UNDP Conference Hall, MIA, Mogadishu, Somalia

MINUTES OF THE MEETING (MOM)

Agenda:

11:00 – 11:20	Welcoming and Opening Remarks by Jonathan on behalf of UNDP DCD
11:20 - 11:35	Opening Remarks by Donor representative; government of Japan via VTC
11:35 - 12:00	Opening Remarks by HE the Representative of Federal Government
12:00 - 12:20	Remarks by South West and Jubbaland Representatives
12:20 - 12:40	Update by the Project Manager on the project and achieved progress.
12:40 - 13:20	Open Discussion and way forward
13:20 - 13:30	Closing remarks

Participants:

- Attached Annex A

Welcoming and Opening Remarks by representative of UNDP

Mr. Jonathan Brooks, PREP Programme Manager, on behalf of Mr. David Akopyan, UNDP DCD, officially opened the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the participation of federal government of Somalia as well as Jubbaland and South West states. Mr. Jonathan, made a brief introduction to the project and also emphasized on the importance of coming together and working together on resolving the challenges. “The right way of working together is to jointly manage and implement such these projects” he added. Mr. Jonathan mentioned that this was the first Board Meeting for Community Stabilization project and the main purpose was to update each other on the project progress made up to that moment and to discuss the way forward as well as other surrounding issues.

Donors’ Representative

Government of Japan represented by Japan Embassy in Kenya has been invited to join the meeting. However, they were not available due to other commitments and mentioned to participate in the next one and requested minutes to be shared.

Opening Remarks by Federal Government Representative

H.E. Osman Libah Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) welcomed all the participants and stated that he was pleased to have, in this meeting, two state ministers, from Jubbaland and South West states. His excellency mentioned that it was not the first time MoLSA work with UNDP/PREP programme and expressed his appreciation to work together again. The Deputy Minister emphasized that their role is to smoothly facilitate implementation of these projects in these locations to make them fruitful and successful. He also urged the states to equally facilitate and participate in the success of this project, as long as it supports the youth, who is a very important part of the society. His excellency also mentioned that they closely work with relevant state ministries, particularly, Jubbaland and South West ministries of Youth and Sports, on other UN-funded projects in these states. At the conclusion, Deputy Minister, thanked UNDP and Government of Japan for working together to support vulnerable youth, who are susceptible to be recruited by the criminal or terrorist groups.

Opening Remarks by Jubbaland State Representative

H.E. Mohamed Mohamud Yusuf, Jubbaland Minister of Youth and Sports, welcomed all participants and particularly the Federal Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs as well as UNDP. His excellency, Mr. Mohamed articulated the importance of this project as it addresses the very problems that Jubbaland currently face, which was the widespread unemployment of youth, no matter whether they graduated from secondary school or university. “In this lingering situation of unemployment among youth in Jubbaland, youth don’t have much options, either they join Al-shabab or migrate and die while trying to cross the sea to get better life” the Minister expressed. In addition, H. E. the minister stated that, recently, youth in Jubbaland has been sensitized and their awareness raised, however, they need to be trained on the required skills to let them support themselves and their families economically. H.E. the minister pronounced that due to the insecurity in the country, many times, youth has been mistreated and they feel marginalized, which was another factor to be sensibly considered. In conclusion, the Minister urged all the participants to pay every effort to turn words into action.

Opening Remarks by South West State Representative

H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Abdi, the Minister of Youth and Sports of South West State, thanked all participants and emphasized the importance of collaboration among the different actors in this thematic area and mentioned that his Ministry and the federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs work together in different projects including Youth Employment. His Excellency, also mentioned that they collaborated with the UNDP/PREP staff when they were carrying out the ground assessment for the identification of suitable interventions in Baidoa. His Excellency hoped this excellent cooperation among the different actors and different levels to continue and to address the unaccountable challenges in this area. Mr. Abdullahi explained the huge challenges facing youth in South West as this state is so populated and might be 20% of the population in the country concentrated in this state and most of the population is youth, which compounded the problem. This makes it necessary to give the due consideration and support youth. His excellency, noted that all these problems cannot be addressed at one time but gradually and hoped this project to be the beginning. The minister assured that he is ready to support any activity that addresses the problems of youth.

Presentation by the Project Manager on the project progress

Mr. Abdillahi Hussein, Community Stabilization Project Manager, presented project progress to date to participants and also highlighted issues that needs to be discussed and decisions made. Details of the presentation are attached as Annex B to the minutes. Hard copies of the first Project Progress Report was shared with all participants

Open Discussion and Way Forward

H. E. Mohamed Mohamoud, Jubbaland Minister of Youth and Sports, raised the question of the project coverage and asked if there is a plan to expand the project to other regions and districts other than state capitals and highlighted the pervasive needs of such these interventions in the other regions and districts as well i.e. Gedo region.

H. E. Mr. Osman, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, emphasized on the need of distributing the tiny support that country gets from the UN and international community in a balanced way, and criticized the current trend and said that many times most of the international support have gone to the capitals and people ignored the neediest regions and districts, and emphasized on the need to distribute the UN support in a very balanced way.

Mr. Jonathan, the PREP Programme Manager, stated that for this current project, locations as well as the activities have been already selected. Mr. Jonathan expressed that the need to extend the project to other regions and districts was obvious and promised to request, through the next round of request for proposals, the Government of Japan to fund more activities in these locations. Mr. Jonathan also mentioned that there are two other projects in the pipeline including “the Durable Solutions Project”, that will focus not only in capitals but also to move to the newly discovered districts as security situation permits. The Program Manager, indicated that youth employment will be one of the main thematic areas of focus and he hoped to get additional funds to cover the needs to the extent possible.

H.E. Mohamed, Jubbaland State Minister, reiterated that as government they know the locations that are in need more than others for such these interventions, and took Baardheere as an example; “It is one of the newly liberated areas and the community as well as the youth need to be supported as they were in Al-Shabab occupation so many years” the Minister added.

H.E. Mr. Abdullahi, The South West State Minister, expressed his feeling that the major part of the UN support, or international support, went to areas other than youth and mentioned if they would have gone to youth they would have made a huge positive impact. Therefore, the Minister suggested that youth problems to be addressed as early as possible and advocacy group to be established to advocate for youth and youth-focused support, such as the skills trainings, sports, etc. In addition, His Excellency, advised that clarity of the roles and responsibilities of the partners in such these collaborative interventions to be maintained. In conclusion, the Minister put forward that his ministry wanted to accelerate their support to youth and due to this they need a technical person to be seconded to Ministry and as long as they didn't have budget for that the minister asked if can be funded from this project.

Hon. Hassan Shariff, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, underlined the importance of coordination among different actors and different projects at federal level, which is one of the main roles of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Mr. Hassan urged all partners whether UN or state institutions to involve the Ministry as they normally coordinate with all stakeholders, which makes everything easy.

H.E. Abdullahi, suggested that technical officers of the MOLSA to support state ministers in overall supervision of the projects and other similar activities.

Mr. Jonathan, the Programme Manager, welcomed the request from the Jubbaland Ministry to get a technical person to support the ministry in youth related activities, however, he mentioned that as this project is small and with limited

funds, it might not be possible to be funded from Community Stabilization project, but it could be planned and funded from other projects in the pipeline.

All the ministers raised the importance of capacitating the ministries at both federal and state levels by hiring for them the required temporary technical advisors and they agreed with Jonathan that it was not visible at that time to be funded from this small project and advised this issue to be considered in the coming projects.

H.E. Mr. Osman, the Deputy Minister of MOLSA raised the issue of information sharing among the partners and the importance of direct communication (in a parallel way), which he thought would solve many issues).

Mr. Adow Mohamed, the Technical Advisor of MOLSA, reiterated the importance of the information sharing and the need to circulate the projects-related information, (beneficiaries, activities, partners and whoever else involved or stakeholders) and suggested that these statistics to be kept at MOLSA.

Decisions Made:

- a.) Raise More Funds: Project board members agreed on the need to raise more funds for this project to expand its geographical coverage and include more regions and districts.
- b.) Cooperation: Project Board Members also agreed on the need to enhance the cooperation among the partners at all levels and due to this they advised information sharing and communication mechanisms to put in place.
- c.) Capacity Building: Board Members advised that ministries at both federal and state levels to be capacitated
- d.) Regular Consultations: Project board members reiterated that at the designing stage of each intervention all stakeholders at all levels to be consulted. In addition, they advised to be consulted regarding the selection of target locations of the coming project (in the pipeline).
- e.) Next CS Project Board Meeting: Agreed to be scheduled in November 16, 2016.

In summary, regarding the progress of the project, the Project Board Members were satisfied with the progress made so far.

Closing Remarks

Government: H.E. Osman Libah, the Deputy Minister, MoLSA thanked UNDP and the Government of Japan, and also the state ministers for their contribution and willingness to make this project one of the successes.

Mr. Jonathan, chairing the meeting, concluded the meeting by thanking H.E. Osman Libah, the Deputy Minister, MOLSA and all other state ministers for their excellent contribution and collaboration.

Signed by:

Jonathan Brooks, Programme Manager - PREP


H.E. Osman Libah
Deputy Minister, MOLSA
Federal Government of Somalia (FGS)

Annex A
List of Participants

#	Name	Organization	Title	Location	
Federal Government:					
1.	H.E. Osman Libah	Federal MoLSA	Deputy Minister	Mogadishu	
2.	Hon. Hassan Shariff Osman	Federal MoLSA	Permanent Secretary	Mogadishu	
3.	Mr. Adow Mohamed Adan	Federal MOLSA	Advisor	Mogadishu	
Jubbaland State Government:					
4.	H.E. Mohamed Mohamud Yusuf	JL-MoYS	Minister	Kismayo	
South West State:					
5.	H.E. Abdullahi Abdi	MoYS	Minister	Baidoa	
UNDP:					
6.	Mr. Jonathan Brooks	UNDP	Programme Manager	Mogadishu	
7.	Mr. Zubair Ezzat	UNDP	Deputy Programme Manager	Mogadishu	
8.	Mr. Abdirisak Aden	UNDP	Programme Specialist	Mogadishu	
9.	Abdillahi Hussein	UNDP	Project Manager	Mogadishu	