
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT: SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION
STRATEGY

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Introduction

After the country witnessed more than two decades of civil and terror war so, Somalia had recovered from chaotic and then transitional period. The country currently took a peaceful handover of power which has been going on since 2012 upto now. The task ahead in building credible institutions which are capable of delivering social fairness such as access to fair justice was enormous. Like many countries, Somalia recovered from conflict and faced a significant development challenges, namely corruption. Corruption undermines human development and diverts public resources away from the provision of essential services. It increases inequality and hinders national and local economic development by distorting markets for goods and services. It also erodes the Rule of law and destroys public trust in governments and leaders.

This report is a comprehensive report for the support implementation project funded by the UNDP with the implementation of the Integrity Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Justice of

FGS. It addresses the implementation of outputs 1, 2 and 3. The Ministry of Justice of FGS in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), embarked on an integrity enhancement project. The project aimed, among others, to fight against corruption by first enhancing the institutions tasked with the fight against corruption and strengthening the policy and legal regimes to fight against corruption and enhance the integrity.

The fight against corruption has been much emphasized in the Somali National Development Plan NDP-9, equally agenda 2030, and the sustainable development goals SDG-16 address the fight against corruption.

Implementation of the Project Outputs

During the reporting period, the project has successfully achieved its key priorities and has further been amended for 3 months. This has enabled the Ministry to reach key milestones in the fight against corruption. In the reporting period between January 2020 to December 2020, the key achievements reached were include:

- a. Development and endorsement of the National Anti-corruption Strategy
- b. Strengthened coordination among key government institutions
- c. Approval of Anti-corruption Commission
- d. Contextualization of the regional and international anti-corruption conventions
- e. Socialization of NACS and awareness raising

The above and other milestones have been achieved during this period. Further, the government commitment to fight against corruption has been amplified by the sentencing of the top government officials for corruption scandals. During the reporting, various activities were conducted which were equally contributing to the public awareness about corruption, especially the youth and the general public campaigns, were carried. This has contributed to the trust in the public that efforts to combat crime were the priority. Acceptance of these efforts could be seen throughout the social media handles where positive feedback received.

This year as it comes to an end, has brought endless challenges. This was brought about by the current pandemic COVID-19 that has claimed the lives of more than a million people, affected the global economy, and restricted people to their homes as governments imposed a quarantine in the bid to combat community transmission.

This report highlights the successful implementation of the outputs under the stipulation of the Letter of Agreement with the UNDP. The three outputs which were successful implemented include:

- a. Output 1 - Endorsement and socialization of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS).
- b. Output 2 - Ratification of the UNCAC.
- c. Output 3 - Anticorruption coordination arrangements.

Output 1: Endorsement and Socialization of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS)

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Justice carried out an extensive assessment that was inclusive of all stakeholders, including line ministries, civil society organizations, federal member state ministries, and the private sector. The consultation aimed to carry out to find out the key corruption drivers, its risk areas and identify priority areas for intervention. The Ministry of Justice has successfully carried out and implemented the actives under the output as mentioned above;

- a. The NACS prioritized five main points (i) leadership (ii) strengthening anti-corruption institutions and laws, (iii) strengthening fiscal accountability (iv) and public service accountability. The government-endorsed the NACS and various socialization activities among the ministries were equally carried out.
- b. The government approved the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) through the cabinet.

After political lobbying and sustained efforts by the Ministry of Justice, this activity was endorsed by the cabinet. This gave the effect to implementation by all the government institutions to implement the policy.

- c. The NACS is disseminated within the Federal Government structure (Judiciary, executive, and legislative), the Federal Member States, the private sector, the civil society.

The above activity has equally been implemented; the National anti-corruption strategy has been disseminated in all institutions, private and civil society. The endorsed NACS was socialized through a workshop in attendance of federal member states line ministries, the Federal level line ministries, the private sector, and civil society. (event report available for this event) the two days workshop was a success as all stakeholders discussed and learned the content of the NACS. More than 1000 copies of the translated NACS were equally distributed to the concerned stakeholders; further, through the social media handles and the

Ministry's website, the public viewed and downloaded the document, and this has been publically shared.

d. The Anticorruption Commission established

The Ministry successfully carried all the pre-selection activities necessary for the anti-corruption commission appointment, which is a crucial commission tasked with fighting endemic corruption. Upon carrying out the pre-selection, the Ministry submitted background checks, meeting with critical stakeholders on the issue, and submitted the proposed candidates for the commission to the cabinet. The cabinet endorsed the commission unanimously. The Ministry's top officials led by the minister ensured and through all the necessary political lobbying for the commission's endorsement through the cabinet to the parliament. The commission's approval has been included in the parliament agenda, and it awaits approval from the parliament.

During the reporting period, the government efforts to fight against corruption enabled the Ministry of Justice

Output 2 - Ratification of the UNCAC.

During the reporting, important activities were carried out in implementing the activities under the second outputs:

- Analyzing the legal consequences,

The Ministry of Justice's integrity coordination unit convened key institutions intending to analyze the standard result of Somali ratifying the united Nations anti-corruption convention. The various consequence was identified following the event that conveyed different key government institutions.

In preparation for the ratification of the UNCAC and regional anti-corruption conventions, various concurrent activities were carried out, among this include,

- a. Translating UNCAC and the regional conventions into Somalia'
- b. Endorsement of the regional conventions by the cabinet
- c. Engagement with global experts and the UNCAC secretariate, UNODC on UNCAC issues, including relevant provisions that Somalia may put declaration and articles to reserve from.

During the reporting, as part of the government efforts to enhance the efforts to fight against corruption, building the necessary laws, for that matter, the Ministry in various meetings consulted

all the stakeholders, reviewed all the regional and international anti-corruption conventions. Carried out the context and legal analysis to into the provisions of the conventions in order to best adapt to the current Somali context. The convention all translated into the Somali language have been printed and submitted to both houses of parliament.

Output 3 - Anticorruption coordination arrangements.

Under the above out, the Ministry carried various activities aimed at enhancing coordination structure among the various Federal and Member state institutions.

Under these output activities included that were successfully implemented:

- Horizontal Government Coordination engagement established
- The Vertical Government Coordination engagement established
- The Public-Private sector engagement established

Horizontal and vertical coordination workshops event |

During the reporting, the Ministry of Justice's vision is to enhance integrity by building the core institutions' systems in combating corruption. This month the Ministry held a two-day workshop on Covid-19 and corruption, and generally continuing with the integrity enhancement activities among core government institutions.

The workshop discussed the challenges of COVID-19 and how, during such pandemic corruption, the stealing of the little resources could have a ripple effect on society. The members equally addressed their progress towards implementing integrity enhancement as per the National anti-corruption strategy.

The participant |

The invitee comprised, among others;

- a. The Ministry of Finance;
- b. Ministry of Internal affairs;
- c. Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- d. The Auditor-General;
- e. The Attorney General;
- f. Finacial Reporting Center

- g. Ministry of Planning
- h. Supreme Court
- i. Civil Society Organizations

The above mentioned horizontal core institution discussed the milestone and the core objectives in enhancing integrity, especially during Covid-19. Members elaborated the need to form a steering committee to execute the integrity enhancement to increase government services predictability. The workshop brought senior civil servants in these core institutions horizontal workshop. They discussed challenges and the way forward. Further members added that from individual to government institutions, to the private sector, there is a moral duty imposed by both the divine and positive laws to curb corruption and from that point of departure, members highlight the challenges facing proper horizontal coordination, members suggested;

Equally, output three was successfully implemented with better coordination structures in place with both federal member states, civil society organizations and national key institutions. Different meetings and discussions helped understand such coordinations arrangement, with expected regular meetings and secretariate established for both the horizontal and vertical arrangement for ease of coordination with all stakeholders in the fight against corruption

Private coordination workshops

Ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Justice and Judicial affairs to curb corruption at all levels and from every sector have led to a fruitful engagement by the Ministry with the private sector and civil society to enhance the integrity and fight corruption.

Participants from different private sectors, including big companies established in the country, the chamber of commerce, discussed various international anti-corruption instruments regulating the business environment and their impact on measures and tools to improve integrity and transparency in business. They agreed that fighting corruption is increasingly essential for the Somali business climate and for companies conducting business in Somalia— especially for companies involved with foreign companies due to increasingly demanding international standards, instruments, and review mechanisms.

They highlighted some key elements to encourage a clean business environment in Somalia, the obstacles that have held back Somalia in its fight against corruption, and the means to overcome them. Participants underlined the available tools that assist businesses in successfully establishing and implementing integrity initiatives, with a particular focus on the standards for companies, their associations, and industry federations to make valuable contributions to the fight against corruption. Participants also considered concrete ways to improve the business climate's integrity based on the discussions of the day. The participant underscored a disturbing climate of impunity perpetrated by the clannism through corruption elements are encouraged, and good governance and proper law enforcement that is not centered on immunity as the solution to combating corruption.

International anti-corruption day: 9th December 2020

During the reporting period, the international anti-corruption commemoration event was held in a colorful and well-organized ceremony attended by a wide array of stakeholders, international partners, and government officials from different core institutions. This year's theme was focused on COVID-19 and corruption, the current global pandemic that has paralyzed the government's efforts to mitigate the virus, curtailed the worldwide economy and left societies confined to their homes across the world as restrictions on travel and movement in the bid to minimize the spread of the virus. Three successive events were conducted in commemoration of the international anti-corruption day in order to raise the awareness of the society and re-new the commitment of the FGS.

The Ministry's long tradition of amplifying the standard approach to ending the endemic corruption has proved once again useful. This year's comparative advantage brought by this year's milestones towards integrity enhancement has been welcomed by all international partners and the top government officials.

The event celebrated worldwide is an opportunity for the world to commemorate the efforts to combat corruption. The Minister H.E Abdulkadir Mohamed Nor (Jama) highlighted the government's efforts to curb corruption unchanged and that institutions tasked with fighting corruption, including the anti-corruption convention, will work closely to end the endemic corruption.

Challenges and way forward |

During the reporting period, the pandemic's biggest challenge, which hurtled the implementation of the projects as it was scheduled. This caused a delay; however, the Ministry completed the outputs despite the challenge. Equally, other challenges include:

- a. Somalia as a post-conflict environment, is confronted with significant government effectiveness challenges, through the loss of infrastructure and trained staff and weakened professionalism and systems, as well as lack of administrative capacity and resources, hinder efforts to combat corruption efforts by the government.
- b. In addition to capacity and legitimacy challenges, post-conflict settings are often characterized by the varying quality of leadership, with weak, non-existent or changing government leadership lacking the political will and/or capacity to address governance issues and corruption.
- c. Insecurity and challenges of rule of law equally remain. Justice as identified by the NACS is a key risk area; public trust in the areas remain weak.

Recommendation |

In order to continue to combat corruption, it is necessary to continue the momentum and scale up such efforts to the federal member states in the efforts, among others, the following was the recommendation that come out from the various workshops and continued engagement with the different institutions.

1. To address the structural obstacles in government institutions to support business development, building notably on the principles of transparency, participation, and accountability;

2. Foster a culture of business integrity and compliance, raise public awareness of corruption and the importance of integrity, including through the education and dissemination of integrity principles in schools and universities,
3. Business associations play an essential role in defending companies and engaging in advocacy and should therefore be active in restoring the image of a business and bring to light Somalia "s competitive perimeter;
4. That private sector and civil society organizations are new actors with whom communication should be reinforced in order to ensure their involvement in and their support for efforts against corruption; and
5. The civil society groups may serve as valuable partners in implementing anti-corruption measures so enhancing their relationship is highly valued in all workshops.
6. Fighting impunity through law enforcement approaches In general terms, and some authors argue that the focus should be on making corruption high-risk, low reward activity through measures at increasing the risks of effective detection.
7. Addressing corruption in the aid sector and the government's role in addressing those kind of corruption is also equally important.
8. Mobilizing non-government actors for anti-corruption reform is highly essential to build as civil society capacity which has been found to play the most effective (supportive) role in areas such as protection monitoring, and advocacy.

SOME OF THE PICTURES



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