



Republic of Somaliland  
8<sup>th</sup> High Level Aid Coordination Forum  
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# PSG 3 - JUSTICE REFORM

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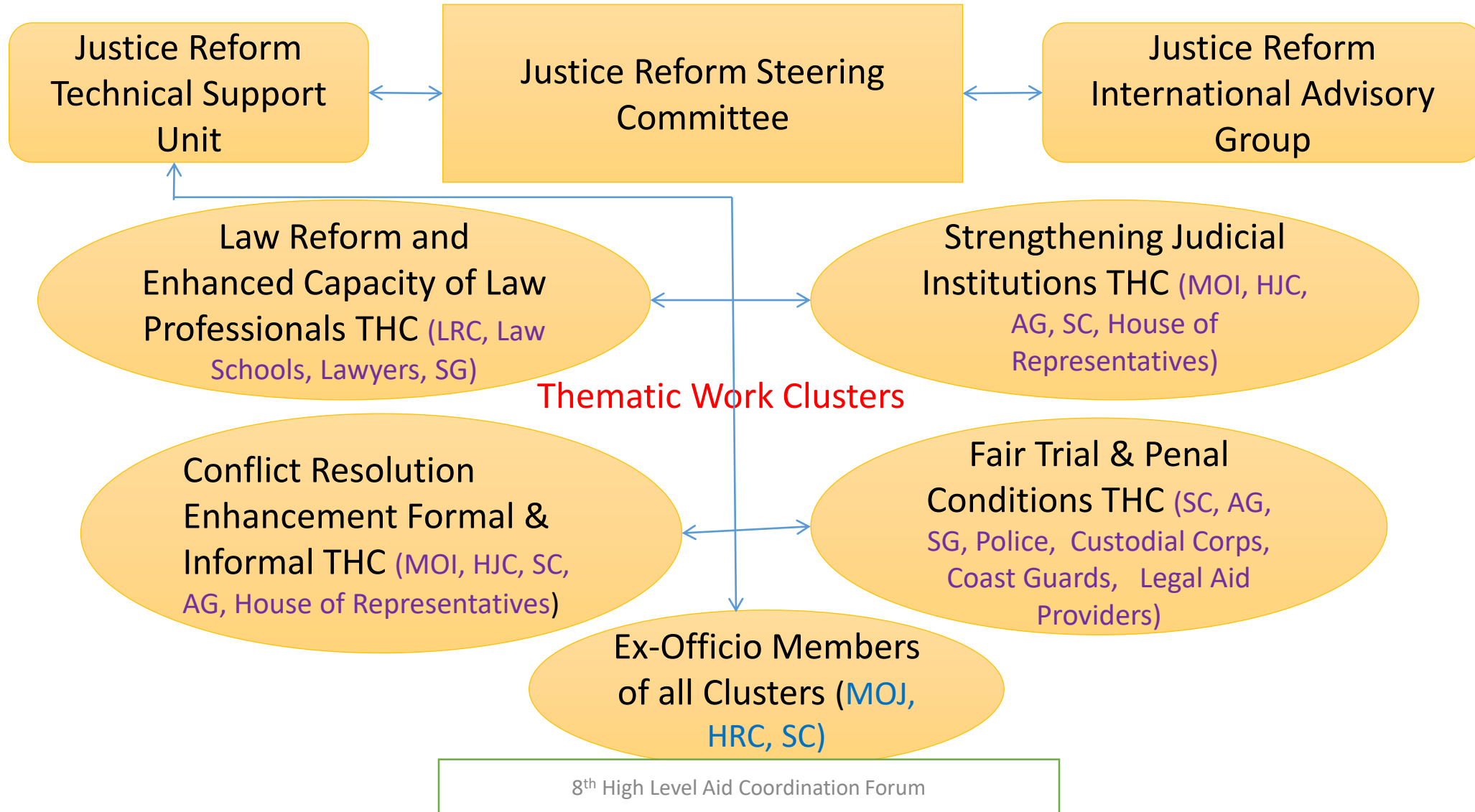


Purpose:

**ATTAIN ACCESS TO AN EFFICIENT AND  
EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR ALL**



# JUSTICE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE





# Achievements:

## Capacity of the justice institutions strengthened

- High Judicial Council (HJC) institutionalized ;
- Judicial Code of Conduct adopted;
- Advanced trainings on the law of evidence, terrorism, piracy, SGBV and juvenile offenders' cases provided to judges and Deputies Attorney General;
- Case management system piloted in Hargeisa lower courts;
- **93** law graduates including **24** females trained as judges under the MOJ Internship Programme and recruited at the Judiciary;
- Mobile court activities supported in **6** regions;
- The **6** most needed Legal compendiums developed;



## Achievements (Cont'd)

### Access to responsive justice system enhanced

- National Legal Aid Policy adopted by the Council of Ministers;
- Legal Aid Code of Conduct adopted;
- Legal Aid Bill approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted before the parliament;
- A complaints mechanism against judges and prosecutors set up;
- Authorities at the detention places trained on the right to a lawyer and particularly to legal aid lawyer at all stages of the criminal justice system;
- Ministry of Justice supported to coordinate provision of legal aid;
- Public Defendor officers nominated in **4** regional capitals;
- Legal Aid Providing Institutions supported to provide legal aid;



# Achievements (Cont'd)

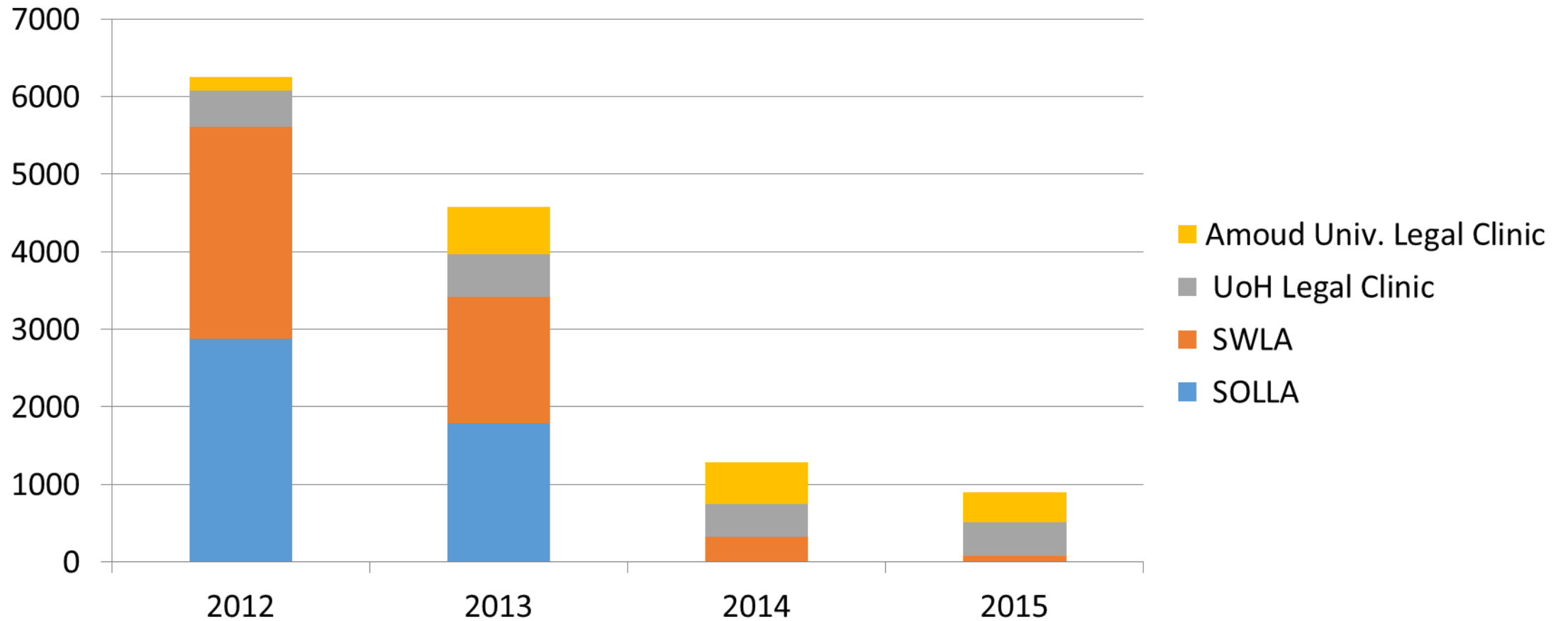


## Infrastructure of the justice institutions enhanced

- Ministry of Justice HQ and **3** regional offices (out of the **6** main regions) constructed;
- Prison capacity somewhat improved - **2** regional prisons constructed and **4** old prisons undergone renovation and extension;
- AG HQ undergone extension and **2** regional AG offices constructed;
- Prisoners' rehabilitation facilities established in **4** out of the **15** prisons in Somaliland;
- **10** ammunition and small arms' stores constructed for **9** out of the **15** prisons and the custodial Corps HQ.



# Provision of Legal Aid: 2012-2015





# Achievements (Cont'd)

## Protection of women against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including rape and domestic violence enhanced

- **3** Bahikob Centres established and supported to assist victims of SGBV;
- Bahikob Centres assisted **277** cases during the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of 2015 compared to **291** cases received during the same period in 2014;
- Women Lawyers' Association supported to provide legal aid mainly to victims of SGBV;
- Circulars instructing judges and Deputies AG to resolve rape cases only under the formal legal system was issued by the Chief Justice and the Attorney General;
- A declaration calling for GBV cases to be resolved only under the formal legal system was issued by 2006 Somaliland Elders' Conference;
- **56** judges, prosecutors and police investigators trained on serious/organized and SGBV crimes.



# Challenges



- 1) The short term LOA's seldom provide timely funding of planned activities;
- 2) Underfunded legal aid services caused tremendous decline in the provision of legal aid during the last two years;
- 3) the increase in the human resource (HR) of the judiciary did not significantly contribute to the service delivery as court halls, offices and equipment did not increase proportionately with the HR;
- 4) Support to the mobile court system was confined to the transportation of judges - provision of similar support to the prosecution, without which court proceedings would not commence, was overlooked;
- 5) Case management need to be cascaded into the lower courts of the other 5 main regional capitals;



# Challenges (Cont'd)



- 6) Lack of support to Law Review initiatives result in the continued application of outdated laws, which do not deal well with most of the contemporary criminal and civil cases;
- 7) Many perpetrators of SGBV crimes go unpunished for lack of evidence as a result of nonexistence of forensic laboratories in Somaliland;
- 8) The probabilities for re-offending in respect of the prisoners convicted of serious crimes such as terrorism and piracy remain to be very high due to lack of appropriate rehabilitation programmes;
- 9) Lack of adequate transport precludes the Custodial Corps from responding well to the court schedules and to the prisoners transportation needs.
- 10) Prison capacity in general still remain far from being adequate; women's prison facilities and juvenile rehabilitation centres are of a critical situation.



# Expression of Gratitude



The Justice sector institutions are very grateful for the above-mentioned achievements to UNDP, UNODC, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNSOM/HR Unit, DFID, EU, Government of Norway, Government of Japan, FCO, Save the Children International, ICRC, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), IOM, DDG and Horizon Institute for their contributions to the above-mentioned achievements.

I apologize for any unintentional omission from the above list of any government, agency or organization that contributed to the development of the Somaliland justice sector.

**Thank you all for your attention**