

REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND



SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR

NDP III PRIORITIES 2025-2027



MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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Abbreviation

CCT	Cross-cutting Theme
CHR	Children's Rights
CSD	Central Statistics Department
DAC	Displacement Affected Communities
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GOV	Governance Sector
NDPIII	National Development Plan III
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
MoLSAF	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family (now MoLSAF)
NDPIII	National Development Plan III (2023–2027)
NPC	National Planning Commission
PR	Public Resource (sub-sector under Governance sector)
PWDs	People with Disabilities
RBM	Results-Based Management
SCF	Social Care Facilities / Social Care Framework (context: sector programs)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLSH	Somaliland Shilling
SOC	Social Protection Sector (Outcome Code)



1. Introduction

The Social Protection Sector under NDPIII plays a vital role in safeguarding the rights and welfare of Somaliland's most vulnerable groups, including children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and those experiencing extreme poverty. Anchored in the Social Development Pillar and aligned with the SDGs, the sector builds on historic achievements in legislation, social care services, and pilot programs to strengthen both formal and informal protection systems. However, the mid-term review of NDPIII (2023–2025) highlighted disruptions from political, security, and fiscal challenges that necessitated a recalibration of priorities for the period 2025–2027. The prioritization process, rooted in evidence-based and participatory approaches, ensures scarce resources are directed toward feasible, high-impact interventions that advance equity, inclusion, and resilience. By doing so, the sector aims to sustain progress toward Vision 2030, reinforce social cohesion, and provide a realistic roadmap for protecting livelihoods and dignity amidst emerging shocks and vulnerabilities.

This sector booklet presents the social protection sector's contributions to NDP III, including its alignment with national development pillars and SDGs, progress highlights, prioritization rationale, methodology, and agreed priorities for 2023–2027. It also provides an overview of sector

monitoring mechanisms, coordination structures, and institutional responsibilities. By consolidating progress to date and clarifying future priorities, the booklet serves as a roadmap for policymakers, development partners, private sector actors, and civil society to jointly accelerate progress in the sector.

1.1. Sector Mandate

The Social Protection sector is mandated to safeguard the rights and welfare of Somaliland's most vulnerable populations, including mothers, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, internally displaced persons, and those facing extreme poverty. This mandate is grounded in Article 19 of the Somaliland Constitution, which places responsibility on the State to provide care and protection for individuals who cannot care for themselves. Building on this foundation, the sector works toward the Somaliland Vision 2030 aspiration of an inclusive and resilient society supported by an effective social protection system. The ultimate goal is to ensure that all citizens, regardless of background or circumstance, have access to a minimum level of protection that allows them to maintain dignity and improve their living standards throughout their lives.

1.2. Pillar/SDGs Alignment

The sector is under the Social Development Pillar of the National Development Plan III



(NDPIII), which emphasizes equity, inclusion, and resilience in the face of shocks such as drought, epidemics, and climate change. It also contributes directly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

1.3. Historic Achievements

Over the years, the sector has achieved important milestones in both policy and programmatic areas. Key accomplishments include the drafting and approval of critical legislation such as the Child Rights Act, the Disability Rights Act amendments, the National Gender Policy, and the Labour Law reforms, alongside the development of the draft Social Protection Policy. On the programmatic front, Somaliland has successfully piloted cash transfer schemes in partnership with international development partners, launched the public pension scheme for armed forces and civil servants, expanded social care services including childcare centers, rehabilitation centers, and GBV safe houses, and strengthened traditional solidarity systems such as zakat and sadaqah. Collectively, these achievements highlight Somaliland's progress in building a social protection system that draws from both formal and informal mechanisms to protect households, reduce vulnerabilities, and promote social cohesion.

2. NDP-III Sector Progress Highlights 2023-2025

The Social Protection sector has 21 operational benchmarks. 19 of the 21 operational benchmarks are directly reported to the Social Protection sector and are implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family (MoLSAF), previously known as the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family (MESAF), while the remaining 2 contribute towards the Social Protection sector but are reported to the Public Resource Sub-sector under the Governance sector. For more information on the additional 2 operational benchmarks, please see GOV-PR-8.9.c and GOV-PR-8.9.d, under the leadership of the Civil Service Commission.

The Social Protection Sector has consistently exceeded its planned targets over the 2023–2025 period, demonstrating strong implementation capacity and effective delivery of interventions. The overall milestone achievements reached 141%, indicating significant overachievement relative to planned outputs. Total achievement scores and yearly achievement percentages further highlight the sector's ability to deliver on its objectives, enhance efficiency, and provide sustained support to vulnerable populations across Somaliland.

During the reporting period, the Social Protection Sector implemented activities beyond the NDPIII priorities to strengthen long-term capacity and policy implementation. Notably, a social protection curriculum was

developed for social studies students at universities, enhancing knowledge and skills for future professionals in the sector. Additionally, the sector advanced the strategic implementation of the Child Alternative Care Policy, supporting improved care services for children at risk of losing parental care and reinforcing the sector's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable populations.

Children's Rights Crosscutting Theme

This section focuses on activities related to safeguarding children's rights. Of the 6 planned activities, only 3 have been completed, achieving a performance rate of 50%. While progress has been made, half of the planned initiatives are still pending, indicating the need for additional focus and resources to ensure comprehensive coverage of children's rights programs.

Displacement Affected Communities (DAC) Crosscutting Theme

Activities aimed at assisting displaced and affected populations have shown moderate success. Out of 15 planned activities, 9 have been completed, achieving a 60% performance rate. While a majority of activities have been executed, 6 remain pending, highlighting the need for sustained efforts to fully meet the sector's objectives.

Gender Crosscutting Theme

The gender section tracks initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and

women's empowerment. Out of 3 planned activities, 2 have been completed, resulting in a performance rate of 67%. This reflects a relatively strong performance, though one activity remains pending, highlighting an area that requires follow-up to fully achieve the sector's objectives

3. Prioritization Rationale

The Somaliland National Development Plan III (NDP-III) was officially launched in March 2023 to serve as the country's guiding framework for sustainable development. However, the implementation of the plan has faced significant setbacks due to unforeseen national and global events. Delayed elections and armed conflicts in the eastern Sool region diverted national attention and resources away from planned development initiatives. At the same time, the global economic crisis and subsequent reduction in international aid further constrained fiscal space, limiting the government's ability to deliver on its development commitments.

These challenges have forced the government to reallocate portions of the development budget toward urgent security and election-related expenditures, leaving critical development priorities underfunded or delayed. The combination of political, security, and financial pressures has disrupted the pace and balance of NDPIII implementation,

reducing the plan's ability to deliver results as originally envisioned.

Given these realities, a mid-term review was deemed essential to recalibrate NDPIII for the remaining implementation period (2025–2027). The review provides an opportunity to re-prioritize interventions, ensuring that scarce resources are directed toward the most pressing and feasible development needs. It also strengthens the alignment of ongoing initiatives with the country's long-term Vision 2030 while responding to current contextual challenges.

Specifically, the objectives of the mid-term review are to: (i) prioritize outcomes and critical outputs; (ii) refine indicators to allow for more accurate monitoring of progress; (iii) adjust cost estimates to reflect present realities; (iv) reassess potential budget and financing sources; and (v) address emerging implementation challenges. These adjustments will enhance accountability, efficiency, and impact in the delivery of NDPIII.

In summary, the mid-term review is both a corrective and strategic exercise. It acknowledges the unforeseen disruptions that have constrained progress while providing a clear roadmap for improved implementation. By focusing on realistic priorities, recalibrated costs, and credible financing strategies, the government aims to safeguard the relevance of NDPIII and ensure its continued contribution to Somaliland's socio-economic transformation.

4. Prioritization Methodology and Process

The prioritization methodology was designed to be evidence-based, participatory, and results-oriented, ensuring both technical rigor and broad ownership. The process began with a comprehensive stocktaking of the first 2.5 years of NDPIII implementation. This review identified what had been achieved, what remained incomplete, and where significant gaps persisted. Interventions already delivered were set aside, while unfinished and high-impact priorities became the focus of the review.

Using standardized tools and agreed criteria, interventions were then scored and ranked against dimensions such as strategic alignment with NDPIII and SDGs, urgency, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and equity. This process was supported by extensive consultations — including 48 meetings with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as sector-level discussions with development partners — to validate evidence and secure consensus. Once priorities were identified, cost estimates were recalculated, financing options were reassessed, and the results were consolidated into sector-specific booklets. These booklets will serve as the national framework for guiding investment, coordination, and monitoring of NDPIII for the period 2025–2027.

5. Social Protection Sector Priorities RBM

The Social Protection Sector prioritization exercise for 2025–2027 identifies a set of high-impact interventions aimed at strengthening Somaliland’s social protection system. Key priorities include finalizing institutional capacity for national and sub-national roll-out, operationalizing a Targeted Child Benefit Scheme and a Universal Child Disability Benefit Scheme, and establishing a humanitarian cash transfer mechanism for families affected by shocks and climate emergencies. Most interventions are classified as high priority, with cost estimates ranging from modest technical studies of USD \$10,000 to large-scale financing needs for social transfers SLSH 800 million. Progress to date shows that several milestones, such as designing schemes, conducting scoping studies, and initiating registration, are already completed or in progress, while upcoming years (2025–2027) will focus on full operationalization, budget integration, and rollout. Overall, the findings demonstrate steady progress, but emphasize the need for sustained financing, stronger coordination, and phased implementation to ensure that vulnerable groups, particularly children, persons with disabilities, and crisis-affected households, are adequately protected under NDPIII.

The Social Protection Sector tables are shown in two main formats. The first is the **NDP Outcome table**, which has five columns: *NDP Outcome, Indicator, Unit, Baseline (2021), and Target (2027)*. This table shows the main goals and targets for each level of the sector. The second is the **Critical Output table**, which has ten columns: *Critical Output, Operational Benchmark, Type of Target, Priority, Cost Estimates, the years 2025, 2026, 2027, and the Responsible Institution (MDA)*.

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Strategic Objective SOC - SO-1:		To build a resilient and cohesive society in which all members can access minimum protection that enables them to maintain and improve their living standards.						
NDP Outcome	NDP Outcome Indicator				Unit	Baseline (2021)		Target (2027)
SOC - 1: By 2027, robust well-functioning social protection systems are in place at national and sub-national levels.	SOC - 1.A: Average completion rate of the Outcome's combined operational benchmarks. <i>calculated as ("No. of fully completed milestones by end NDPIII * 100% + Proportional completion of each quantitative operational benchmark) divided by (the total number of operational benchmarks for this outcome)).</i>				%	--		>80%
Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	
SOC - 1.3: Institutional set-up at national and sub-national level operational, in line with the Social Protection policy and legal framework.	SOC - 1.3.b: Institutions are fully prepared or a roll-out exercise, in terms of capacitated staff and necessary tools.	Milestone	High	S18,000	--	In Progress	Completed	MoLSAF
NDP Outcome	NDP Outcome Indicator				Unit	Baseline (2021)		Target (2027)
SOC - 2: By 2027, vulnerable households can access social transfers to address socioeconomic risks.	SOC - 2.A: Targeted Child Benefit scheme is ready for operations according to an independant Social Protection Institutional Review at national and sub-national level, approved by the relevant authorities / stakeholders.				Boolean (Yes/No)	Non-existing		Yes

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	SOC - 2.B: Universal Child Disability Benefit scheme is ready for operations according to an independent Social Protection Institutional Review at national and sub-national level, approved by the relevant authorities / stakeholders.				Boolean (Yes/No)	Non-existing	Yes	
	SOC - 2.C: Emergency Family Cash Transfer scheme is ready for operations according to an independent Social Protection Institutional Review at national and sub-national level, approved by the relevant authorities / stakeholders.				Boolean (Yes/No)	Non-existing	Yes	
Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The Remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	
SOC - 2.1: Established and ready for operations a Targeted Child Disability Benefit scheme in the 4 regions with the highest prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age.	SOC - 2.1.a: Targeted Child Benefit scheme designed and approved, including an analysis of medium-term financial implications for the National Budget.	Milestone	High	S1,000,000	In Progress	Completed	--	MoLSAF
	SOC - 2.1.b: Registration of children between 0-4 years and relevant data linked to criteria that determine eligibility for the Child Benefit scheme.	Milestone	High	S50,000	In Progress	Completed	--	MoLSAF

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	SOC - 2.1.c: Approved next year's National Annual Budget and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework have allocated funds to the roll-out of the Targeted Child Benefit scheme.	Milestone	High	SLSH 500,000	--	In Progress	Completed	MoLSAF
SOC - 2.2: Established and ready for operations a Universal Child Disability Benefit scheme for the most vulnerable children in Somaliland.	SOC - 2.2.a: Universal Child Disability Benefit scheme designed, including an analysis of medium-term financial implications for the National Budget.	Milestone	High	S70,000	Completed	--	--	
	SOC - 2.2.b: Registration of disabled children between 0-15 years and relevant data linked to criteria that determine eligibility for the Universal Child Disability Benefit scheme.	Milestone	High	S65,000	In Progress	Completed	--	MoLSAF

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	SOC - 2.2.c: The approved next year's National Annual Budget and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework have allocated funds to the roll-out of the Universal Child Disability Benefit scheme.	Milestone	Medium	SLSH 250,000,000	--	In Progress	Completed	MoLSAF
SOC - 2.3: Established, and ready for operations, a humanitarian cash transfer mechanism for families affected by shocks and climate emergencies.	SOC - 2.3.b: The approved next year's National Annual Budget has sufficient emergency funds allocated for on-going emergencies that trigger payments in the context of the Emergency Family Cash Transfer scheme.	Milestone	High	SLSH 800,000,000	--	In Progress	Completed	MoLSAF
NDP Outcome	NDP Outcome Indicator			Unit	Baseline (2021)	Target (2027)		
SOC - 3: By 2027, effective social insurance mechanisms for the working-age population have been established.	SOC - 1.A: Average completion rate of the Outcome's combined operational benchmarks. <i>calculated as ((No. of fully completed milestones by end NDPIII * 100% + Proportional completion of each quantitative operational benchmark) divided by (the total number of operational benchmarks for this outcome)).</i>			%	--	>80%		
Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The Remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	

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SOC - 3.1: Next steps identified and road map approved, based on a scoping study report, which identifies potential frameworks to build a multi-tiered social insurance system in Somaliland.	SOC - 3.1.a: ToR of scoping study to build a social insurance system is developed and approved by joint relevant public institutions.	Milestone	High	\$10,000	--	--	Completed	MoLSAF
	SOC - 3.1.b: Scoping study implemented by independent consultancy firm with ample. Experience in the subject matter.	Milestone	High	\$70,000	Completed	--	--	MoLSAF
	SOC - 3.1.c: Road map established by joint relevant public institutions to implement approved next steps based on the recommendations of the Scoping study.	Milestone	High	\$10,000	In Progress	Completed	--	MoLSAF
	SOC - 3.1.d: First steps of approved road map is implemented	Milestone	Medium	\$75,000	--	In Progress	In Progress	MoLSAF
SOC - 3.2: Universal pension scheme for Somaliland civil servants is operational (See also GOV-PR - 8.9).	See GOV-PR - 8.9.c and GOV-PR - 8.9.d, under leadership of the Civil Service Commission	--	--	--	--	--	--	Civil Service Commission

Children's Rights Crosscutting Theme

Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The Remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	

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CCT-CHR - 5.1: Children's Rights Act has been operationalized and implementation progress is monitored.	CCT-CHR - 5.1.c: Annual report on Children's Rights submitted to the President's office and widely disseminated.	Milestone	High	\$9,000	Completed	Permanent	Permanent	MoLSAF
CCT-CHR - 5.1: Reviewed the existing child rights protection structures and the overall status of upholding child rights in Somaliland.	CCT-CHR - 5.2.b: Child Rights Review report approved and main conclusions and recommendations jointly validated.	Milestone	High	\$0.00	--	Completed	Permanent	MoLSAF
	CCT-CHR - 5.2.c: Action Plan developed based on recommendations of the Child Rights Review Report.	Milestone	High	\$0.00	--	Completed	Permanent	MoLSAF

Displacement Affected Communities (DAC) Crosscutting Theme

Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The Remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	
CCT-DAC - 4.1: One-stop-shop toolkit available for IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers that informs them about their their rights and services they are entitled	CCT-DAC - 4.1.a: Content of the one-stop shop toolkit has been developed	Milestone	High	\$5,000	--	In Progress	Completed	MoRHA

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to, including legal and social services.	CCT-DAC - 4.1.b: IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers have easy access to the one-stop-shop toolkit.	Milestone	High	\$5,000	--	--	Completed	MoRHA
CCT-DAC - 4.2: Developed and implemented repatriation programs for refugees and irregular migrants voluntarily returning to their countries of origin or relocating to third countries.	CCT-DAC - 4.2.a: Agreement in place with development partners regarding repatriation or 3rd country relocation of refugees and irregular migrants.	Milestone	High	\$0	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	MoRHA
CCT-DAC - 4.3: Developed and implemented resettlement programs for IDPs, refugees and returnees.	CCT-DAC - 4.3.a: Agreement in place with development partners regarding resettlement programs in Somaliland.	Milestone	High	\$0.00	--	In Progress	Completed	MoRHA

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	CCT-DAC - 4.3.b: Resettlement programs to assist IDPs, refugees and returnees to settle in Somaliland are operational and ready to start.	Milestone	High	\$106,015.00	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	MoRHA
	CCT-DAC - 4.3.c: IDPs, refugees and returnees are assisted to voluntarily settle in their host communities or in other regions of Somaliland.	Milestone	High	\$0.00	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	MoRHA

Gender Crosscutting Theme

Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The Remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	
CCT-GEN - 1.1: Electoral districts with Gender Based Violence working groups (GBV-WGs) established and operational.	CCT-GEN - 1.1.a: Information/ Guidelines/ Training kit developed for the functioning of GBV-WGs at regional and district level.	Milestone	High	\$0.00	Completed	--	--	MoLSAF

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	CCT-GEN - 1.1.d: Number of electoral districts with GBV working groups operational.	Accumulated Total	High	\$57,600.00	3	6	9	MoLSAF
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People with Disabilities (PWDs) Crosscutting Theme

Critical Output	Operational Benchmark	Type of Target	Priority Level	Total Cost Estimates	The Remaining NDP-III Period			MDA Resp.
					2025	2026	2027	
CCT-PWD - 2.1: Improved legal framework that advance the rights of People with Disabilities (PWDs).	CCT-PWD - 2.1.a: Mapping of legal instruments that need to be improved to advance the rights of PWDs.	Milestone	High	\$8,000.00	In Progress	Completed	--	MoLSAF
	CCT-PWD - 2.1.b: Legal instruments targeted to be amended to advance the rights of PWDs are being drafted.	Milestone	High	\$50,000.00	In Progress	In Progress	Completed	MoLSAF

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	CCT-PWD - 2.1.c: Number of new or amended legal instruments that have been submitted for approval as a result of the mapping exercise.	Accumulated Total	High	\$0.00	0	1	2	MoLSAF
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6. Annexes

6.1. Annex1: NDP III MEAL Calendar (2025–2027)

The following calendar outlines the monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) processes of the National Development Plan III (NDP III). It is binding for all Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as Sector Lead MDAs, and aligned development partners. Quarterly Reporting Cycle

Type of report	"Year N "(This is the Implementation year)												" Year N+1"						By whom?					
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J		J				
quarterly Operational Progress Reports	<i>Submission to DG</i>	31			30		31			31														All PSDs of all MDAs
	<i>MDA internal validation</i>		15			15			15			15												
	<i>Sharing with SCF-chairs</i>		20			20			20			20												
	<i>Compilation for the whole year</i>											28												
Sector Outcome Progress Report	<i>Data collection Outcome targets</i>											28												PSDs of sector lead MDAs
	<i>Submission to DG</i>												15											
	<i>Analysis and validation w/SCF</i>												31											
	<i>Sharing with MoPND/CSD</i>												5											
Annual Operational Progress Report	<i>Compilation of Annual Report</i>														10									PSDs of sector lead MDAs
	<i>Submission to DG</i>														15									
	<i>MDA internal validation</i>														30									
	<i>Sharing with MoPND/M&E</i>																15							
	<i>Sharing with MoPND/CSD</i>																15							
	<i>Sharing with relevant SCF chair</i>																15							
National Progress Report	<i>Compilation of all MDA reports</i>																15							MoPND (M&E dept. and CSD)
	<i>Outcome data check by CSD</i>																30							
	<i>Submission to DG of MoPND</i>																		10					
	<i>Analysis and validation NPC</i>																		25					
	<i>Report dissemination</i>																		31					

SECTORS COORDINATION MEETING CALENDAR in 2025

Sectors	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Social Protection			26			25			24			17



6.2. Annex1: Sector MDAs List

1. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family (MoLSAF)
2. Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MoRHA)
3. Civil Service Commission