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Advancing **RULE OF LAW** in Somalia

Somalia's rule of law, security, and justice sector faces persistent challenges, including political instability, the protracted conflict with Al-Shabaab, and limited state presence outside major cities. Weak institutions, delayed constitutional reform, and unclear federal-state power sharing have slowed the development of consistent legal frameworks, accountable policing, and functional corrections systems.

Yet, the progress made in the areas of governance and state-building and economic development creates new opportunities. The 2022 elections, renewed federal-state engagement through the National Consultative Council, and the launch of the National Stabilization Strategy (2022–26), and the Justice Sector Strategy (2025–29) signal strong commitment to advancing federalized policing, justice sector reform, and community-centered security. The government's recognition that military operations must be paired with governance, justice, and service delivery in newly recovered areas opens the door to holistic peacebuilding.

UNDP's Rule of Law, Security, and Justice Portfolio builds on this momentum through an integrated, people-centered approach. It supports the development of a federated justice and corrections model, professionalized and accountable policing, arms control, and expanded community access to justice.

Complementary peacebuilding and reintegration efforts address the root causes of violent extremism, strengthen social cohesion, and build trust between the state and its citizens. By connecting political agreements to tangible local services, the portfolio contributes to sustainable peace, inclusive governance, and a renewed social contract in Somalia.

Somalia: Key Facts

- **Fragile States Index:** 1st out of 179 countries (2024)
- **Gender Inequality Index:** 164th out of 166 (HDR 2024)
- **Seats held by women Federal Parliament:** 20%
- **SDG Index Rank:** 164th out of 167 countries (SDG Tracker)
- **Press freedom ranking:** 145 out of 180 countries (RSF 2024)
- **Corruption Perceptions Index:** 179th out of 180 (TI 2024)
- **Human Development Index (2025):** 192nd out of 193
- **Rule of Law Index:** 193 out of 193 countries (WB 2022)
- **Judicial System:** A mix of traditional, Sharia, & formal legal systems
- **Percentage of women civil servants:** 31% (SNBS 2023)
- **Criminal case disposition rate:** 68% (of 6,114 cases filed in 2022 in FGS and across all FMS)



OUR RESPONSE

We collaborate closely with our partners and work on institutionalizing capacity-building for civilian oversight, applying a holistic approach to the rule of law. Through our joint programmes, we contribute to building a capable, accountable, acceptable and affordable justice and security

sector, within a framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights. These goals are critical to long-term peace in Somalia.

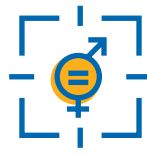
Efforts to improve Somalia's justice and security are undertaken using the following approaches:



Comprehensive
rule of law
engagement



People centric
and community
engagement



Addressing Gender
and other forms of
Inequalities



Achieving Peace
Justice and Strong
Institutions

The Rule of Law portfolio through all the different components is well placed to help build bridges between institutions and communities in areas of rule of law, especially at the district/local level that can strengthen the social contract between the people and the state.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Country-wide Religious Scholars Network:

Established a network of 216 scholars across 16 locations in Somalia, promoting social cohesion and peace, including women scholars.

UNSCR 1325 Action Plans: Supported the Government in developing national and subnational action plans for gender equality and women's inclusion in peacebuilding efforts.

Justice and Correction Partnership: Facilitated collaboration between federal and state governments to strengthen justice systems, promoting stability in recovered areas.

Adoption of the Justice Sector Strategy: Using innovative tools and methods of systems thinking and foresight, key justice sector actors developed & adopted the first National Justice Sector Strategy.

Women's Peace Networks Institutionalization: Operationalized 17 women's peace networks, amplifying women's voices and promoting gender-sensitive peace approaches.

GBV Prevention Advocacy: Engaged 500+ change agents in community advocacy to prevent gender-based violence, challenging harmful norms.

State Police Acts and Community Policing Policy:

Developed legal frameworks for policing at the state and the community level, enhancing law enforcement professionalism and community collaboration.

National Police Force Training Strategy:

Developed a training strategy to enhance the capacity and professionalism of the Somali federal and state police.

Galmudug State Police Force Establishment:

Supported the establishment of the Galmudug State Police Force, enhancing security and governance in the region.

Generative Dialogue for Justice Solutions:

Supported inclusive justice solutions through generative dialogue, improving communication and trust between communities and institutions.

Justice and Corrections Model Development:

Continued support for a people-centered Justice and Corrections Model, involving key stakeholders to operationalize the model.





ONGOING PROJECTS

Project Name	Focus Areas	Project Duration	Partners	Donors	Total Budget
Joint Police Programme (Phase II)	SDGs 5, 16	2024-2026	Ministry of Security FGS, FMS, SPF and State Police	European Union United Kingdom	US\$10,500,000
Women Peace and Protection Joint Programme	SDGs 5, 16	2022-2025	MoWHRD at FGS and ministry of women at FMS	Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Somalia Joint Fund (SJF), Canada	US\$6,600,000
Joint Justice and Correction Programme	SDGs 5, 16	2023-2027	FGS and FMS Ministries of Justice, FGS Supreme Court of Somalia, Custodial Corps	EU, Netherlands, SJF	US\$16,334,989
Stabilization Support (Supporting Somali Police Force)	SDGs 5, 16	2024-2025	Federal & state police, FMS at Hirshabelle & Galmudug	Japan	US\$ 1,700,000
Preventing Violent Extremism and Crime (PVEC) in Somalia	SDGs 5, 16	2023-2027	Ministry of Justice Religious Affairs & Rehabilitation, Ministry of Justice, MERA WADAHADAL NABADEED	Finland, Republic of Korea	US\$5,000,000
Joint Rule of Law Programme in Somaliland	SDGs 5, 16	2024-2026	Hargeisa Group Hospital (SGBV), Nat Human Rights Commission	EU	US\$3,000,000
Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities Project in Somalia	SDGs 5, 16	2024-2025	National Disabilities	King Salman Humanitarian Centre, MPTF	US\$1,000,000
Building Accountable and Sustainable Security in Somali Federal Member States (BASIS)	SDGs 5, 16	2024-2026	ONS and MoIS	SJF	US\$1,800,000



OUR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Women, Human Rights and Development (MoWHRD) FGS
- Ministries of Women at Federal Member States (FMS)
- Ministry of Justice at FGS and FMS
- Ministry of Internal Security at FGS and FMS
- FGS Supreme Court
- National Human Rights Commission, Somaliland
- Baahikoob Group Hospital
- Lawyers Professional Associations
- Somali National University, Local CSOs
- UN Woman and other UN Agencies in Somalia
- Ministry of Religious Affairs at FGS and FMS level
- Office of National Security level
- Office of National Security



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