

Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

Project in Somalia



© UNDP SOMALIA

Project Summary

In Somalia, persons with disabilities face immense challenges, including discrimination, limited access to mobility support, stigma, and exclusion. Women and girls with disabilities face double whammy of stigma and discrimination based on both gender and disability. With over 11% of the adult population living with disabilities, the need for inclusion and empowerment has never been greater.

In 2024, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), with funding from KSRelief, launched the Capacity Development and Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities Project in Somalia. Guided by the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), this initiative aims to advance the rights of people with disabilities by providing policy and advocacy support, training, assistive logistics and infrastructure. The project aligns with Somalia's 9th National Development Plan, contributing to its objective of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and supporting vulnerable and socially excluded segments of society.

Quick Facts

Duration: March 2024 - March 2025

Location: Somalia

Project Budget: US\$ 968,290.40

Implementing Agency: UNDP

Funding Partner: King Salman Relief and Humanitarian Center (KSRelief)

Project Beneficiaries: Direct: 22,650
Indirect: 25,000

Project Partners

- National Disability Agency, Somalia (Federal level)
- Ministry of Employment & Social Affairs, Somaliland
- Ministry of Women & Human Rights, Galmudug State (MOW-GSS)
- Ministry of Women, Family Affair & Human Rights Development, Southwest State (MOW-SWS)
- Ministry of Women, Family Affair & Human Rights, Jubaland State (MOW-JL)



Somalia's Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre takes a selfie with wheelchair recipients at the handover ceremony on International Day for Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2024, in Mogadishu

Main Objectives

- I To advocate for changes in national policy frameworks and systems to address stigma and discrimination at – interpersonal, familial, intrapersonal, and structural levels; and
- I To empower relevant government, civil society and community duty bearers, with technical and operational capacities to develop effective strategies to improve access to services by women/girls with disabilities and their families, resulting in changed behavior rooted in stigma and discrimination.

Key Achievements

- 1 A 15-seat minivan, customized for Persons with Disabilities, was handed over to the National Disability Agency. This vehicle is now providing mobility support to over 600 Persons with Disabilities on average in a month, enabling them to attend meetings, workshops, trainings, and social events, thereby reducing transportation barriers and promoting their active participation in society.
- 2 1240 wheelchairs, 750 white canes, and 750 crutches were distributed to for Persons with Disabilities. These assistive devices have significantly improved their mobility, independence, and access to essential services, ultimately enhancing their quality of life.
- 3 A toll-free hotline was established to provide counseling, psychosocial support, and referral services to Persons with Disabilities. Since its launch, the hotline service has reached over 300 individuals, offering critical support and improving access to essential mental health and protection services.
- 4 The project developed a comprehensive sign language curriculum and trained 50 individuals in sign language. This initiative has enhanced participants' communication skills, increasing accessibility for the hearing-impaired community and establishing a pool of trained Somali sign language to support inclusive communication.
- 5 Three psychosocial support centers (one-stop centers) in Kismayo, Baidoa, and Dhusamareeb were renovated and equipped to provide improved access to psychosocial services. These centers now serve as safe spaces for hundreds of Persons with Disabilities, offering essential services in those centers.
- 6 Two sign language training halls in Hargeisa and Mogadishu were renovated and equipped with essential materials, including tables, chairs, whiteboards, ICT equipment, and projectors. These improvements have created a conducive learning environment for sign language training, hence promoting inclusiveness.
- 7 Four roundtable workshops were organized to promote the protection and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The workshops, which reached 339 participants (215 males & 124 females), empowered persons with disabilities, strengthened advocacy efforts, and facilitated dialogue on policy and service improvements.
- 8 The National Disability Agency was equipped with office furniture, ICT equipment, and a technical advisor, enhancing its ability to support and advocate for Persons with Disabilities more effectively.
- 9 50 community influencers from three Federal Member States were engaged to conduct awareness activities, including door to door awareness and social media campaigns, drama and radio talk shows. These campaigns reached over 9,900 Persons with Disabilities and the broader communities, reducing stigma and promoting inclusion.
- 10 More than 235 formal justice providers (half of them women) in Baidoa, Dhusamareeb, and Kismayo were trained on disability rights. The training has enhanced the justice sector actors' understanding of disability rights, promoting fair and inclusive legal processes for PWDs.

Sustainable Development Goals



CONTACT US

Mogadishu Country Office
AAI Airport Road,
Mogadishu, Somalia
Email: registry.so@undp.org
www.undp.org/somalia

Nairobi Support Office
UNON, UN Avenue,
Block D5, POB 28832,
Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254204183640/2

UNDP Somalia
@UNDPSomalia
@undpsom
@undpsomalia

Visit our website for more information



<https://go.undp.org/pwd>

