NEW DEAL IMPLEMENTATION FACILITY

E-CONSULTATION: SOMALIA 2016

TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE SOMALIA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2019

Photo: Oskar Lehner

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جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
الدولي والتعاون التخطيط وزارة

Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

UNDP

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THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MOPIC) OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA & THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

After the successful implementation of the Somali New Deal Compact, through which Somalia reached a consensus on a pathway to promote peacebuilding and statebuilding and set up a number of structures to pursue those goals, the Federal Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation (MOPIC) of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has recently finalized the **[Somalia National Development Plan 2017-2019 (NDP)](#)**. The plan articulates Government development priorities, providing a structure for resource allocation and management and guiding development partner support within the defined FGS priorities in the coming three years.

The Government is fully committed to listening to the Somali people regarding their priorities and expectations and seeks to strengthen the relationship between state and citizenry. Given this priority, MOPIC and UNDP collaborated to implement an internet based survey to capture the voices of a wide number of people. The security situation in Somalia limits travel and therefore the ability to conduct traditional large-scale surveys. The chosen media allows an online mechanism to provide inclusive opinions about specific themes as individuals respond to questions in a quick and easy manner. Therefore, the electronic medium has been used as a method through which to gather information on citizens' preferences in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Somalia National Development Plan for 2017-2019.

The goals of this initiative were three-fold:

1. **Develop and implement an inclusive NDP:** Increased participation from a wide array of voices will better inform State institutions at both the federal and sub-federal levels and civil society as they jointly implement the NDP. The initiative was specifically implemented at a first stage with the hope for **furthering women's inclusiveness**.

2. **Raise awareness of the NDP and the SDGs amongst Somali people**: The survey was disseminated and therefore widely viewed on online Somali news websites. It was accessed both within Somalia and across the diaspora.

3. **Test Trial**: The e-survey aimed to serve as a test trial to whether such type of tool could be applicable and useful in other, similar contexts as a method to promote civic engagement and participation throughout (and outside of) the country.

The e-survey content was agreed upon between MOPIC and UNDP. It included 19 questions, the first eight of which gathered information that allows for a disaggregated analysis by: Gender, Age, State (& Diaspora), Rural/Urban, Relationship Status, Education Level, Employment Status, and Sector of Society. The second part of the survey focused on gathering information on awareness of the SDGs and the Somali NDP, SDG preferences and perceived progress on SDG implementation, factors affecting development, investment prioritization, and implementation and participation as related to development programmes and policies in Somalia. Please see the full survey for a list of questions in Annex 1.

SurveyMonkey, an online survey and questionnaire software tool, was used to design, edit and track responses to the survey. Dissemination was done both in English and in Somali through different Somali online news websites. Online dissemination was complemented by the organization of a consultation in Mogadisu on 5 October 2016 with rural women from the Federal Member States. The reason why rural women were consulted separately is their limited access to internet and use of online tools, which impeded them to participate at a large scale in the e-consultation.

Analysis of responses was done through Microsoft Excel software and focused on disaggregation by gender (men/women), State & Diaspora (Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South-West, Jubaland, Somaliland, Region of Banadir, and diaspora) and Sector of Society (public, private, civil society and academia).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

A total of 807 persons participated in the survey. Of these, 777 responded online while 30 rural women from the states of Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South-West and Jubaland, and the Region of Banadir contributed to a face-to-face consultation in Mogadishu. Out of the 807 respondents, 573 (71%) of them were male. Most respondents were between 18 and 44 years old: 307 (41%) were 18-29 years old and 316 (42%) were 30-44 years old. Nearly 65% of the respondents were married, whereas 31% of them were single. Very few respondents were either widowed (<1%) or divorced (less than 4%).The vast majority of them were well-educated, 82% holding a university degree. Most respondents (72%) were employed, however a significant minority (22%) were not employed. In regards to the State of residence of the respondents, almost 35% of them are from the Region of Banadir, 29.5% from the diaspora, 12.4% from Puntland, 5.8% from South-West State, 5% from Galmudug, 4.1% from Jubaland, 3.3% from Somaliland and 2.1% from Hirshabelle. Within the diaspora the majority, 33%, are located in the United States, followed by 22% in the United Kingdom and 11% in Sweden. With regards to the sector of society, 44.7% of the respondents identified themselves as civil society, 19.6% as private sector, 18.7% as public sector and 17% as academia. 95.1% of respondents live in urban areas, while only 4.9% do it in rural areas. This report analyzes responses of the e-survey by sex, area of residence and sector of society. Collected data may be used for further disaggregated analysis by i.e. marital or employment status, educational degree or rural/urban area of residence. Profiles of respondents can be further dissaggregated by sex, or analysis which combine two or more of these variables.

SDGs and NDP are well known in Somalia: Around 60% of respondents are aware of SDGs and the Somali National Development Plan

Poverty reduction , Food security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture, Education, Health, and Building Effective and Inclusive Institutions, Peace, Justice are the most prioritized SDGs (1, 2, 3, 4 and 16).

Most people feel their situation in the past 12 months has improved. For all proposed SDGs, the percentage of respondents who consider that the situation of their families has improved is higher that the percentage of respondents who consider it has gotten worse

Progress was most notably perceived in poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, health & well-being and education, and less in making cities inclusive, safe and sustainable, promoting sustainable consumption and production, and ensuring good and inclusive governance. Respondents perceive better progress in the last 12 months in the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and less progress in implementation of SDGs 11, 16 and 12

Conflict and limited government capacity hamper peace. Persisting conflict and limited institutional capacity are the factors which respondents have considered affect most peacebuilding and statebuilding, while strengthening of national systems and developing clear strategies and plans are the preferred options to promote development

Security, justice, education and health are the key, most urgent areas for investment

Political leadership, followed by capacity building and resources availability are considered as the main factors contributing to an effective implementation of the National Development Plan

A majority of the people consulted perceive that **public participation in politics is insufficient** and believe that, when equally represented in decision making, **women can bring leadership and value to development**

Cultural barriers, followed by lack of a legal framework which promotes gender equality, limited resources and opportunities available for women and lack of awareness of women's rights are considered as main **factors preventing women's equal participation in development**

Some differences in perceptions between Somali men and women arise. Men are more aware of SDGs than women, while both men and women show similar preferences on SDG prioritization. Women perceive better progress in SDG implementation than men, have a lower perception of existence of limitations in public participation in politics and to a greater extent consider they have the capacity to lead development in the country when given equal opportunities as men

Level of awareness of SDGs and the National Development Plan as well as investment prioritization and factors perceived to affect National Development Plan implementation slightly vary amongst States.

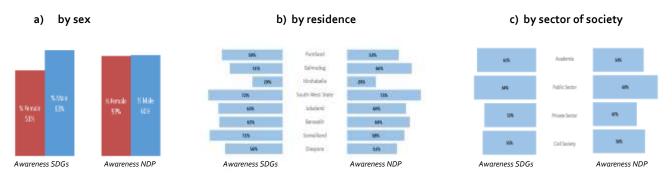**Perceptions on the National Development Plan vary slightly by sector of society** (**public, private, civil society or academia).** Main differences are reported in the degree of awareness of SDGs and the National Development Plan (higher for public sector and lower for private sector), perception of progress in SDG implementation (higher in private sector) and in public participation in politics.

OVERALL RESULTS

Awareness of SDGs and NDP

Respondents reported having a similar awareness of the SDGs and the National Development Plan (NDP), with average rates of 60 and 59%, respectively. No difference was observed in the degree of awareness of the NDP by sex, while 63% of men reported to be aware of the SDGs against 51% of women. Slight differences in level of awareness were observed by state of residence, being South-West the state in which higher levels of awareness were reported and Hirshabelle the lower. With regards to disaggregation by sector of society, awareness of SDGs and of NDP was reported highest for public sector and lower for private sector respondents.
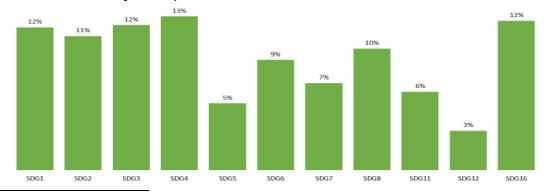
Figure 1. Level of awareness of SDGs and the NDP by: a) sex (men/women); b) residence (Puntland, Galmudug, South-West State, Jubaland, Banadir, Hirshabelle, Somaliland, diaspora); and c) sector of society (academia, public, private, civil society)

Prioritising SDGs

Figure 2 shows how the respondents prioritized the SDGs[1]. The top priority, Quality education (SDG4), is closely followed by Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16), Health & well-being (SDG3), Elimination of poverty (SDG1), and Ending hunger, achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture (SDG2).

Figure 2. Prioritized SDGs *(in % of total responses)*

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[1] Respondents were requested to priotitize up to 6 SDGs amongst the following ones: SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education promote lifelong learning; SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; and SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In order to male the question more easily understandable and facilitate data management, the Federal Government of Somalia decided to focus on 11 SDGs and not on all 17 SDGs.

Slight differences were observed by sex in SDG prioritization. A higher proportion of women than of men prioritized SDG5 (Gender equality), SDG1 (Poverty reduction) and SDG2 (Hunger eradication, food security and sustainable agriculture), while men gave more importance than women to SDGs 16 (Peace, inclusiveness, justice and effective institutions), 8 (Sustainable and inclusive economic growth), 6 (Water and sanitation) and 4 (Education). For the rest of SDGs considered differences in prioritization by men and women were less significant. This sex differentiated prioritization reinforces research which shows that through their participation in public decision-making as politicians, parliamentarians, voters, entrepreneurs and community actors, women influence governance agenda to be more responsive to needs of all members of the community. For instance; land rights, poverty alleviation, HIV/AIDS, gender discrimination and violence against women.

As shown in Figure 3, respondents from all states, as well as from Banadir and the diaspora, and for all sectors of society considered (academia, public sector, private sector and civil society), prioritized PSGs 1 (Poverty reduction), 2, 3 (Health & well-being), 4 (Education), 16 and to a lesser extent 8 and 6, rather than SDGs 7 (Sustainable access to energy), 11 (Inclusive and sustainable cities), 5 (Gender equality) and 12 (Sustainable production and consumption). Some slight variations were observed amongst states and by sector of society.

Figure 3. Prioritized SDGs *(in % of total responses)* **by a) residence and b) sector of society**

a) **By residence**

b) **By sector of society**

Progress in realizing SDGs in the last 12 months

As shown in Figure 4[2], respondents perceived SDGs 1 (Elimination of Poverty), 2 (Elimination of hunger and promotion of food security and sustainable agriculture), 4 (Quality education) and 3 (Health & well-being) as those ones for which the situation of their families had most improved in the previous 12 months, while SDGs 16 (Peace, justice & strong institutions), 11 (Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities) and 12 (Sustainable consumption and production) were those perceived as having observed less progress during that period. It is important to highlight though that the percentage of respondents who indicated that the situation of their families had improved is higher for all SDGs considered in this exercise than the percentage of respondents who indicated the situation got worse.
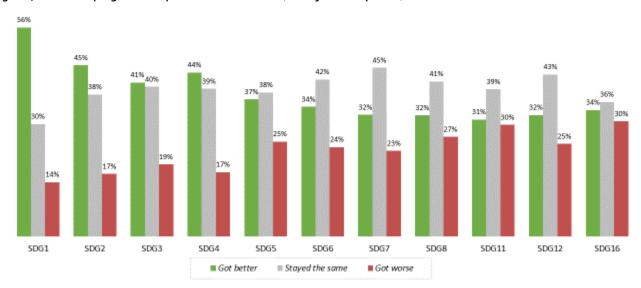
Figure 4. Perceived progress in implementation of SDGs *(in % of total responses)*

Both men and women perceived that the situation for their families had improved in the previous 12 months in relation to most of the SDGs considered in the exercise, in particular for PSGs 1 (Poverty reduction), 2 (Elimination of hunger and improvement in nutrition and sustainable agriculture), 3 (Health & well-being) and 4 (Education). There were only two SDGs (11 - Inclusive, sustainable and safe cities - and 12 - Sustainable consumption and production) for which a higher percentage of respondents of a specific group (in this case men) considering that situation got worse was higher than the percentage of respondents of that same group who considered that the situation improved. In general terms, women perceived better progress in SDG implementation than men.
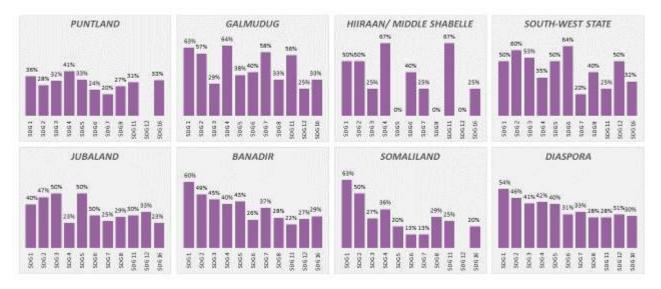
Perception of improvement in SDG implementation varied by residence and by sector of society (Figure 5). For the different states -as well as for the Region of Banadir and the diaspora- (Figure 5a), SDGs 4 (Education) and 1 (Poverty reduction) were perceived as having yielded better results, followed by 2 (Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture) and 3 (Health & well-being), depending on the state. Figure 5b shows differences in the perception of progress in the implementation of SDGs during the period of 12 months preceeding the consultation amongst the four sectors of society considered. Private sector was the group which perceived better improvement (difference between the percentage of respondents who considered that the situation improved and the percentage of respondents who considered that the situation got worse) for all SDGs considered, followed by public sector and way behind by civil society and academia. Respondents of the different compared stakeholder groups considered that there had been progress rather than deterioration in the implementation of most of the SDGs considered. Respondents from academia considered that the situation had got worse (rather than improved) in the preceding period of 12 months for SDGs 3 (Health and well-being), 6 (Water and sanitation) and 11 (Inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable cities and human

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[2] Respondents were requested to chose, for each prioritized SDG, one of the following options: "Got better", "Stayed the same", "Got worse", "Don't know") in response the their perception of progress in the previous 12 moths

settlements). Civil society respondents considered that the situation had deteriorated rather than improved for SDGs 8 (Sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work) and 12 (Sustainable consumption and production). Public sector respondents estimated that only SDG 11 had deteriorated rather than improved during that period, while for private sector respondents all SDGs were considered to have made improvements rather than got worse.

Figure 5. Perceived progress in implementation of SDGs *(in % of total responses)*

    a)   **By residence** *(in % of total responses which indicated that the situation related to a specific SDG got better)*

    b)   **By sector of society** *(% of total responses)*

Factors affecting peacebuilding and development

Factors considered by respondents as those which most affect peacebuilding and development in Somalia (Figure 6) were conflict/violence (85% of responses considered this factor as very important or important), social cohesion (82%) and institutional capacity (81%), and to a lesser extent civil society (74%) and private sector engagement (66%), followed by inequality (52%) and women's access to and control of resources (49%).[3]

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[3] Respondents were proposed to chose one of the following options for each proposed factor: "Very Important", "Important", "Limited", "Low", or "No effect"
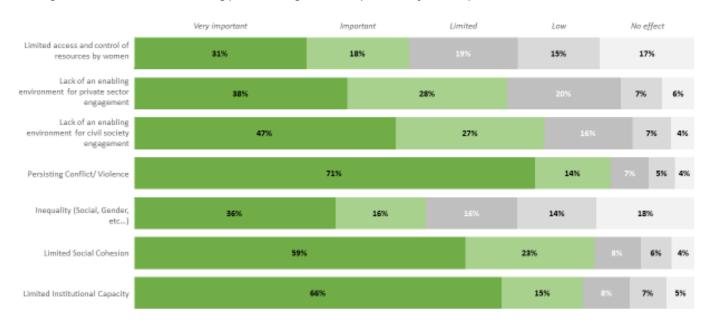
Figure 6. Perceived factors affecting peacebuilding and development *(% of total responses)*

	Very important	Important	Limited	Low	No effect
Limited access and control of resources by women	31%	18%	19%	15%	17%
Lack of an enabling environment for private sector engagement	38%	28%	20%	7%	6%
Lack of an enabling environment for civil society engagement	47%	27%	16%	7%	4%
Persisting Conflict/ Violence	71%	14%	7%	5%	4%
Inequality (Social, Gender, etc...)	36%	16%	16%	14%	18%
Limited Social Cohesion	59%	23%	8%	6%	4%
Limited Institutional Capacity	66%	15%	8%	7%	5%

Both women and men considered conflict/violence, social cohesion and institutional capacity as those factors which most affect peacebuilding and development. Percentage of respondents who consider limited access and control of resources by women and inequality as very important or important factors affecting peacebuilding and development is higher in women than in men.

In all states, Banadir Region and the diaspora violence/conflict, institutional capacity, social cohesion and civil society engagement are considered as the main factors affecting peacebuilding and development, followed by inequality and private sector engagement. Violence has been the factor considered to have a most important effect in Puntland, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Banadir, Somaliland and by the diaspora, while civil society engagement has been the factor considered as very important for most respondents from South West State and institutional capacity in Galmudug.

Academia, public sector, private sector and civil society respondents considered violence as the most important factor affecting peacebuilding and development, followed by private sector engagement, access and control of resources by women, inequality and social cohesion, depending on the case.
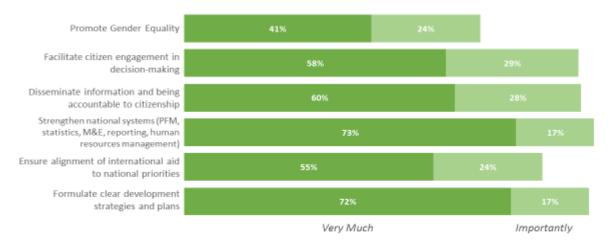
Preferred strategies to promote development

Figure 7[4] shows that strengthening national systems (including public finance management, statistics, human resources management, monitoring & evaluation and reporting), formulating clear development strategies and plans, information sharing & accountability, and civic engagement were the highly prioritized strategies for promoting national development (90, 89, 88 and 87% of total responses considered their effect –respectively- as very much important or important), while alignment of international aid to national priorities (79%) and gender equality (65%) were prerceived as less important.

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[4] Respondents were requested to chose one of the following response options to the question *"To what extent do you consider that the strategies stated below should be prioritized by the government to promote national development?"* for each one of the proposed strategies: "Very Much", "Importantly", "To a limited manner", "No need to be prioritized", "I don't know". Proposed strategies were: a) Promote gender equality; b) Facilitate Citizen Engagement in Decision-making; c) Disseminate information and being accountable to citizenship; d) Strengthen national systems; e) Ensure alignment of international aid to national priorities; and f) Formulate clear development strategies and plans. Figure 7 shows percentages of repondents who answered "Very Much" and "Importantly"

Figure 7. Prioritized strategies to promote national development *(% of responses "Very Much promotes national development" and "Importantly promotes national development" in relation to total responses)*
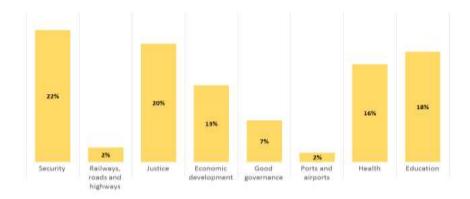

Both men and women considered strengthening of country systems and strategic planning as the two best strategies (amongst those proposed) to promote development. Higher percentages of men (92% for both factors) than of women (86% and 82% respectively) think that strengthening country systems and formulating clear strategies and plans very much or importantly promote national development, while the percentage of women (79%) who chose gender equality as a factor which "importantly" promotes national development is higher that the percentage of men (62%).

When disaggregating by residence or by sector of society, strengthening country systems and formulating clear plans also appear as the preferred factors which promotes national development. Strengthening national systems was the option most frequently chosen as very important or important factor by the diaspora and in Puntland, Hirshabelle, Banadir and Somaliland, while it was formulating clear development plans and strategies in South West State, and facilitating civic engagement in decision-making in Galmudug and in Jubaland. Academia, and public and private sector respondents also chose strengthening of country systems and formulation of clear plans as the options (amongst those proposed) which most contribute to national development. Civil society respondents majorly considered four of the proposed options (strengthening of country systems, formulation of clear plans & strategies, information sharing & accountability, and citizenship engagement in decision-making) as very important or important factors for development.

Investment prioritization

Figure 8⁵. Investment priorities *(% of total responses)*

As shown in Figure 8, sectors/areas for which respondents (overall) would ask their government to allocate more resources are security (22% of total responses), justice (20%), education (18%) and health (16%), followed by economic development (13%), governance (7%), and railways, roads and highways and ports and airports (2% each).
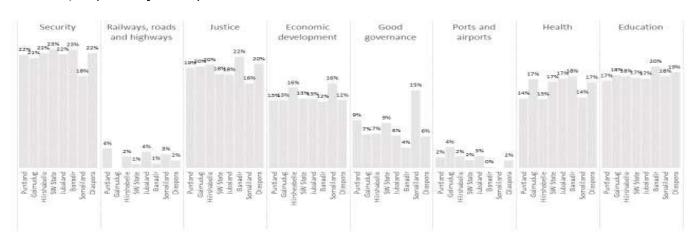

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⁵ Respondents were requested to choose up to five investment areas amongst the following (Security; Railways, Roads and Highways; Justice; Economic Development; Good governance; Ports & Airports; Health; and Education) to which they would like their government to channel more resources

Minimal differences were observed by sex in prioritized areas for government investment. Both men and women chose security, justice, education and health as those sectors in which they would suggest the government to channel more resources, ranging from 22% to 16% of total responses. A greater percentage of men (13%) than of women (10%) prioritized investments in economic development, while more women than men prioritized investments in ports, airports, railways (4% of women's responses vs 1 % of men's responses), and roads and highways (4% of women's responses vs 2% of men's responses).
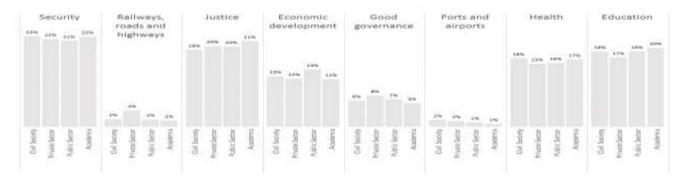
A similar sectoral prioritization of investments is observed in relation to state/region of residence, being also security, justice, education and health, followed by economic development, those sectors most frequently prioritized by respondents (Figure 9). Some issues to highlight are the lower prioritization of security (18% vs overall average of 22%) and higher of justice (22% vs overall average of 20%) and of ports and airports (4% vs overall average of 2%) by respondents (respectively) from Somaliland, Banadir and Galmudug in relation to the rest of participants of the survey, or the higher prioritization of economic development by Somaliland and Hirshabelle (16% of responses vs overall avergage of 13%) in relation to other states. In addition, a higher percentage of responses from Somaliland prioritized good governance (15% vs overall average of 7%) and economic development (16% vs overall average of 13%). Responses from the diaspora were very similar to the average of total responses.

Figure 9. Investment priorities by residence (Puntland, Galmudug, South-West State, Jubaland, Banadir, Hirshabelle, Somaliland, diaspora) *(% of total responses)*

A similar pattern is observed in responses disaggregated by sector of society. Minimum differences were observed in preferred sectors for government investment between academia, public sector, private sector and civil society (Figure 10). Respondents from each of these groups would majoritaly like that the government increased investments in security, justice, education and health, followed by economic development, good governance, and transport infrastructure. Private sector respondents showed greater preference for increasing investments in railways, roads and highways (4% of total respondents) in relation with the average (2% of total respondents)

Figure 10. Investment priorities by sector of society (academia, public, private, civil society) *(% of total responses)*

Factors contributing to effective National Development Plan implementation

Respondents considered (Figure 11[6]) that the most important factors which would help women and men benefit equally from the achievement of National Development Plan priorities are political leadership (33% of total responses), capacity building and more finance (23% or responses each), new and innovative partnerships (13%), and technology, data and information (8%).

Figure 11. Factors required for effective National Development Plan implementation *(% of total responses)*
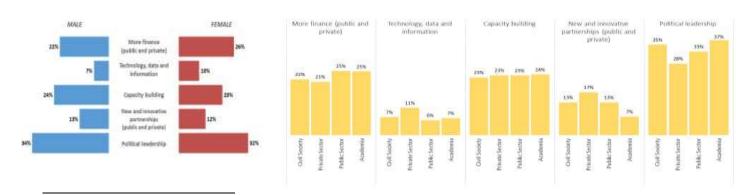

Both women and men (Figure 12 a) prioritized political leadership, followed by funding and capacity building as factors which most contribute (amogst those proposed) to an effective implementation of the National Development Plan. Women prioritied funding (26 versus 22%), technology, data and information (10 versus 7%) in relation to men, while higher percentage of men (24 versus 20%) respondents prioritized capacity building as an important factor for effective National Development Plan implementation, in relation to women.

Figure 12b shows that political leadership was the factor (amogst those proposed) which academia, private sector, public sector and civil society respondents considered most contribute to an effective implementation of the National Development Plan, followed by capacity building and funding, and to a lesser extent, by new and innovative partnerships, and by technology, data and information. Academia and public sector considered to a greater extent than private sector and civil society funding as an important factor. Private sector was the sector which to a greataer extent prioritized technology, data and information as well as new and innovative partnerships, and the sector which less prioritized political leadership as an important factor to ensure an effective implementation of the National Development Plan.

Figure 12. Factors required for effective National Development Plan implementation *(% of total responses)*

a) By sex (men, women)	b) By sector of society (academia, private, public, civil society)

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[6] Respondents were requested to chose a maximum of two of the following factors which would help women and men benefit equally from the achievement of National Development Plan priorities: More finance (public and private), Technology, data and information, Capacity building, New and innovative partnerships (public and private), and Political leadership

Certain differences have been observed by area of residence amongst respondents on their perception of the importance of a number of factors affecting National Development Plan implementation. However, political leadership was considered the most important factor contributing to the implementation of the National Development Plan (particularly for respondents from Puntland, Galmudug, Banadir, Somaliland and the diaspora). Respondents from Hirshabelle, South-West State and Jubaland prioritized capacity building as a factor to promote effective NDP implementation. Galmudug and South-West State considere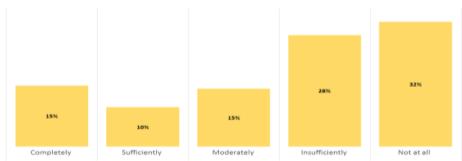d funding as an important factor to a greater extent than respondents from other areas of residence, while Hirshabelle and Jubaland gave more importance to building innovative partnerships. Finally, it is important to highlight that a much higher percentage (17%) of responses from Somaliland in relation to responses from other areas considered technology, data and information as an important driver for an effective implementation of the National Development Plan.

Political participation

In terms of to public participation (Figure 13[7]), a majority of respondents believed that the political system in Somalia doesn't allow (32%) or insufficiently allows (28%) citizens to have a say in what the government does, while 15% perceived public participation as moderate, 10% sufficient and 15% complete.

Figure 13. Perception of public participation in politics *(% of total responses)*

[7] Respondents were requested to indicate the extent into which they considered that the political system in Somalia allows citizens to have a say in what the government does, by choosing one of the following responses: Not at all, Insufficiently, Moderately, Sufficiently, or Completely

Women had a more positive perception of public participation in Somalia than men. 20% of women respondents (against 14% of male) considered that the Somali political system completely allows citizenship's political participation, 24% of them (against 12% of men respondents) deemed opportunities for political participation are moderate, while 50% of women (against 63% of men) felt that political participation is insufficient or does not exist.

In regards to differences in perception by area of residence (Figure 14), respondents from the Region of Banadir (22%), followed by Galmudug (21%), Hiirshabelle (18%), South-West State and the diaspora (17%) were those who to a greater extent considered that public participation in Somalia completely satisfy their demands. For all the areas of residence analyzed, the percentage of respondents who deemed that there is no public participation in politics or that it is insufficient exceeded 60%, except for those from the Region of Banadir (48%) and Galmudug (45%).
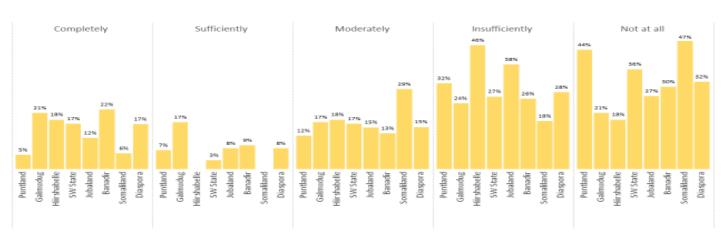
Figure 14. Perception of public participation in politics by residence *(results expressed as % of total responses)*

Minimal differences in the perception of quality of public participation in politics were observed by sector of society. Respondents from civil society, academia and public and private sector majoritarily –with percentages ranging from 59 and 62%- indicated that the Somali political system does not allow or insufficiently allows citizens to have a say in politics. Amongst these same sector groups, a higher percentage of respondents from the academia (35%) considered that citizens have full or sufficient opportunities to politically express themselves, against percentages of 23-26% for the other three sector groups considered.

Gender equality

With regards to women's equality two parameters have been analyzed, namely the perception by Somali people of women's capacity to successfully take leadership roles and contribute positively to national developmental and political processes, and of the factors which prevent women's equal participation.

When asked to focus on women's leadership[8], 60% of respondents considered that if women are equally represented in decision making they would be able to bring leadership and value to development in Somalia. 72% of women respondents, compared to 55% of male respondents, believe that women can bring leadership and value to development in Somalia (Figure 15a). Slight differences were observed by sector of society in their perception of women's leadership capacity (Figure 15b), with public sector showing lower levels than private sector, academia and civil society, and by residence. Respondents from Jubaland (60%), followed by South-West State, Somaliland and Galmudug (59%) were

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[8] Participants to the survey were requested to respond by either "Yes" or "No" to whether or not they considered that women can bring leadership and value to development in Somalia when equally represented in decision making

those who to a greater extend positively perceived women's leadership capacity, as opposed to respondents from Puntland and Banadir (54%), Hiirshabelle (55%) and the diaspora (56%).

Figure 15. Perceptions on women's capacity to lead and contribute to development *(% of total responses)*

<table>
<tr><td align="center">a) **By sex (men, women)**</td><td align="center">b) **By sector of society (academia, private, public, civil society)**</td></tr>
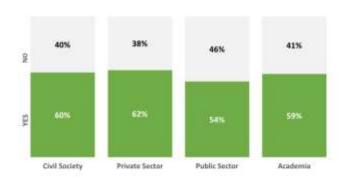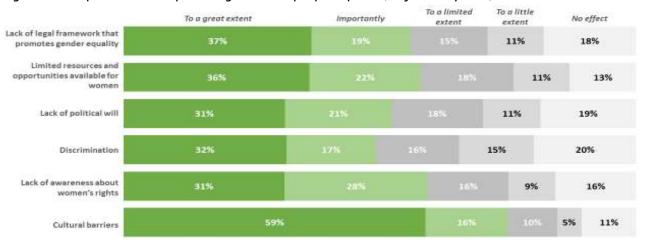</table>

In what regards to perception of factors which prevent women's equal participation[9] the existence of cultural barriers was considered as the most important one (75% of respondents considered it as a very important or important factor), followed by lack of awareness about women's rights (59%), limited resources and opportunities for women (58%), lack of legal framework for the promotion of gender equality (56%), lack of political will (52%) and discrimination (49%) (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Perceptions on factors preventing women's equal participation *(% of total responses)*

	To a great extent	Importantly	To a limited extent	To a little extent	No effect
Lack of legal framework that promotes gender equality	37%	19%	15%	11%	18%
Limited resources and opportunities available for women	36%	22%	18%	11%	13%
Lack of political will	31%	21%	18%	11%	19%
Discrimination	32%	17%	16%	15%	20%
Lack of awareness about women's rights	31%	28%	16%	9%	16%
Cultural barriers	59%	16%	10%	5%	11%

65% of men and 65% of women believe 'Cultural Barriers' prevent to a great extent women's equal participation in development in Somalia (Figure 17). It is also remarkable the fact that a higher proportion of men in relation to women consider lack of political will as a factor which to a great extent or importantly prevent women's participation in development. No remarkable differences were observed on the perception of factors preventing women's equal participation neither by residence nor by sector of society.

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[9] Participants to the survey were requested to respond the extent into which they considered that the following factors are preventing women's equal participation in development in Somalia: Cultural barriers; Lack of awareness about women's rights; Discrimination; Lack of political will; Limited resources and opportunities available for women; and Lack of legal framework that promotes gender equality. For each of these proposed factors, respondents were requested to select one of the following options: To a great extent; Importantly; To a limited extent; To a little extent; or No effect.
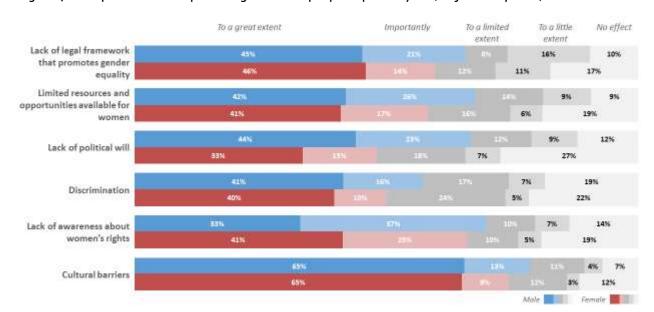
Figure 17. Perceptions on factors preventing women's equal participation by sex *(% of total responses)*

ANALYSIS & LESSONS LEARNED

An e-survey is a tool which facilitates reach out to a broad number of citizens. Its main limitation is that it only reaches population which have access to internet and to dissemination channels. Somalia has a high rate of rural people, a high degree of illiteracy, a high number of IDPs, and limited internet access in many parts of the country. These factors limited participation in the e-consultation. Survey respondents were primarily from urban areas (mostly Mogadishu) and diaspora, were largely male and have high-level education. Thus, the use of the e-consultation tool has been useful to capture feedback from certain segments of the population (literate, urban, with access to internet), which correspond to a greater extend to male (but not only), highly educated, employed citizens, as well as diaspora, but has minimally reached out to rural, illiterate population. Women participation in the e-survey was significantly lower (29%) than that one of men (71%). The use of e-consultation tools is not effective to capture views and perspectives of groups of people with limited access to or who are not used to to using internet, like rural people, elderly, displaced persons, nomadic population or, to a lesser extent, women.

One of the primary goals of this analysis was to listen to the voices of women. In this regards, the survey fell short: 573 of the initial 771 responses were from men. To mitigate this result, MOPIC took the initiative to conduct a workshop addressed to rural women to increase the quantity of women's responses. The additional data was added to the analysis, increasing women respondents to 234 of 807 total respondents. Moving forward it may be important to **complement the e-survey tool with workshops or meetings with targeted groups of population** to ensure the participation of IDPs, women, pastoralists, and non-literate people. In order to improve the reach out of the e-survey to the whole geography of Somalia, it is important also to disseminate it through different webpages with demonstrated penetration in the different states of the country and in targeted population groups, as well as within diaspora population.

Despite these limitations this type of ICT is useful and has strong potential for governments to aid inclusive policy-making, programme monitoring, and to strengthen citizenship engagement. Further, it is both **inexpensive and accessible** to conduct such exercises. It can help facilitate interation between citizenry and government institutions and improve confidence in and legitimacy of the State and can be used for and adapted to multiple purposes.

One of the conclusions of the exercise is that those population segments which have better access to internet or the ability or initiative to participate in e-surveys are urban, diaspora, male, high-level educated, young and middle-aged, as opposed to rural, displaced people, elderly and women. This can be useful for State authorities to develop mechanisms to improve reach out to these specific groups.

With regards to the results of the survey, the relatively high (60%) level of awareness of Somali population of both the SDGs and the National Development Plan might be due to an effective reach out of media and sensitation campaigns to certain population groups, particularly in those which have greater access to information (including in urban areas and abroad).

Respondents have majorly prioritized SDGs which refer to human dignity (1- Poverty reduction; 2 - Elimination of hunger, nutrition and sustainable agriculture), basic social services (3 - Health and well-being; 4 - Education) and good governance, peace and justice (SDG 16), followed by SDGs 8 (Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and 6 (Water and sanitation) and, to a lesser extent, by SDGs 7 (Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 11 (Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements), 5 (Gender equality and women's empowerment) and 12 Sustainable consumption and production). It is widely perceived that the country has experienced progress in the implementation of all SDGs considered in the survey, in particular to those related to poverty alleviation, food security, health and education.

A majority of respondents (60%) felt that public participation in development is insufficient or does not exist, and that women have the capacity to exercise leadership and contribute to development if provided equal opportunities. Finally, Somali repondents identified factors such as violence, institutional capacity and social cohesion as those ones which most affect peacebuilding and development, and strengthening national systems and developing plans with clear priorities as important requirements to successfully implement the National Development Plan.

In what relates to differences observed by gender, awareness of SDGs was reported higher for men (63%) than for women (51%). Women to a greater extent than men prioritized PSG5 (Gender equality), while men showed more preference for PSGs 16 (Good governance, peace and security) and 8 (Sustainable economic growth) than women. Very slight differences were observed by gender in the perception of factors which affect peacebuilding and development and which prevent women's participation in the development process. Women respondents considered inequality and women's access to resources and opportunities as a more important factor affecting development than men, while more men than women perceived political will as an important factor influencing women's participation.

While in general terms responses to the different questions or the e-survey are similar by State or region of residence (and for diaspora respondents), some differences in priorities and perspectives have been observed. Respondents from Hirshabelle expressed lower degree of awareness of SDGs and the National Development Plan, which is possibly due to the fact that, being the state which was created most recently, its institutions may have been less prepared to advocate for SDGs and NDP in relation to institutions from other states. Respondents from different states have expressed the same preferred areas of investment (security, justice, education, health and economic development), and lower interest in investments in good governance and transport infrastructure, with some differences by state/region of residence (or diaspora).

A higher percentage of respondents from public sector and academia reported to be aware of SDGs and the NDP in relation to respondents from civil society and the private sector. A majority of respondents from all four sectors of society perceived that political participation of Somali people is non-existent (with greater percentages for academia and civil society) or insufficient (with greater percentages for public and private sector).

MOPIC-UNDP E-Survey: Somalia 2016

<u>Personal information</u>

1. Which is your gender?
    a. Female
    b. Male
2. What is your age?
    a. Under 18
    b. 18 - 29
    c. 30 - 44
    d. 45 - 59
    e. 60+
3. Where do you live?
    a. Puntland
    b. Galmudug
    c. Hiiraan / Middle Shabelle
    d. South-West State
    e. Jubbaland
    f. Banaadir
    g. Somaliland
    h. Abroad (please specify country)
4. Please indicate in which area do you live:
    a. Rural
    b. Urban
5. Which of the following best describes your current relationship status?
    a. Married
    b. Widowed
    c. Divorced
    d. Single
6. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?
    a. Less than high school degree
    b. High school or equivalent
    c. Some college but no degree
    d. University degree
7. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?
    a. Employed
    b. Not employed
    c. Retired
    d. Disabled, not able to work
8. In which of the following groups do you consider you are?
    a. Civil society
    b. Private sector
    c. Public sector
    d. Academia

<u>Awareness of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the National Development Plan</u>

9. Are you aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals signed by 193 World Leaders at the United Nations in September 2015?
    a. Yes
    b. No
10. Are you aware of the National Development Plan which is being formulated in Somalia and will be implemented in the period 2017-2019?
    a. Yes
    b. No

<u>Priorities</u>

11. Which six of the following Global Goals are of immediate concern to you and your family?
    a. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
    b. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
    c. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
    d. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
    e. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
    f. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
    g. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
    h. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
    i. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
    j. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
    k. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

<u>Perception of progress</u>

12. How would you rate the situation for you and your family on your chosen Goals over the past 12 months? (Got better, Stayed the same, Got worse, Don't know)
    a. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
    b. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
    c. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
    d. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
    e. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
    f. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
    g. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
    h. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
    i. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
    j. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
    k. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

<u>Factors affecting development</u>

13. To what extent do you consider that the following factors affect peacebuilding and achievement of development results in Somalia? (Very important effect, Important effect, Limited effect, Low effect, No effect)
    a. Limited institutional capacity

      b.   Limited social cohesion

      c.   Inequality (social, gender, ...)

      d.   Persisting conflict/violence

      e.   Lack of enabling environment for civil society engagement

      f.   Lack of an enabling environment for private sector engagement

      g.   Limited access and control of resources by women.

14. To what extent do you consider that the strategies stated below should be prioritized by the government to promote national development? (Very much, Importantly, To a limited manner, No need to be prioritized, I don't know)

      a.   Formulate clear development strategies and plans

      b.   Ensure alignment of international aid to national priorities

      c.   Strengthen national systems (public finance management, statistics, monitoring & evaluation, reporting, human resources management).

      d.   Disseminate information and being accountable to citizenship.

      e.   Facilitate citizenship engagement in decision- making.

      f.   Promote gender equality.

Budget prioritization

15. If you could ask your government to focus more resources on 5 national issues, which would these be?

      a.   Security

      b.   Railways, roads and highways

      c.   Justice

      d.   Economic development (production, economic promotion)

      e.   Good governance

      f.   Ports, airports

      g.   Health

      h.   Education

National Development Plan implementation

16. Which of the following would help women and men benefit equally from the achievement of your chosen National Development Plan priorities selected in the previous question? (Please select a maximum of two options)

      a.   More finance (public and private)

      b.   Technology, data and information

      c.   Capacity building

      d.   New and innovative partnerships (public and private)

      e.   Political leadership

Participation and engagement

17. How much would you say the political system in your country allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?

      a.   Not at all Insufficiently

      b.   Moderately

      c.   Sufficiently

      d.   Completely
18. If women are equally represented in decision making, do you think they can bring leadership and value to development in Somalia?
    a. Yes
    b. No
19. To what extent do you consider that the following factors are preventing women's equal participation in development in Somalia? (To a great extent, Importantly, To a limited extent, To a little extent, No effect)
    a. Cultural barriers
    b. Lack of awareness about women's rights
    c. Discrimination
    d. Lack of political will
    e. Limited resources and opportunities available for women
    f. Lack of legal framework that promotes gender equality.