

EN

ANNEX

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe

Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Somalia

1. IDENTIFICATION

Action: Support to rapid local stabilisation in newly recovered areas in Somalia

Action Reference: NDICI CR 2022 / 41

Cost: EUR 4 500 000 (European Union (EU) contribution).

Budget Line: 14 02 03 10

Duration: Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

Lead service: FPI

2. ACTION SUMMARY

Since August 2022, the fight against al-Shabaab in Somalia has gained significant momentum and public support. Community militias have been at the forefront of an intensification of counter-insurgency operations, which have made steady progress against al-Shabaab in Somalia's central Hiraan region. Operations have spread into the neighbouring regions of Galguduud and Lower Shabelle. A significant number of towns and villages are being liberated. Punitive actions by fleeing al-Shabaab fighters against the local communities, including destruction of critical infrastructure have had a devastating effect. This is set against the backdrop of an extreme drought affecting the country, following four consecutive failed rainy seasons over the past two years, which leads towards famine-like conditions. This measure will aim to act as an essential first response in liberated areas and to deliver on critical infrastructure and basic service delivery priorities, that enhance security and humanitarian aid delivery. The measure forms part of the broader EU effort to support the relief and stabilisation efforts in the country, particular in newly recovered areas.

3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

3.1 BACKGROUND

Since August 2022, an intensification of counter-insurgency operations started in Somalia's central Hiraaan region, where community militia, supported by the Somali National Army, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) forces as well as U.S. air support, were able to make steady progress against al-Shabaab. Operations have spread into neighbouring regions of Galguduud and Lower Shabelle. A significant number of towns and villages – many of which have been under the direct control of al-Shabaab for more than 10 years – are being liberated. Punitive actions by fleeing al-Shabaab fighters against the local communities, including the destruction of critical infrastructure such as housing, wells, hospitals, schools and cell phone towers, have had a devastating effect. This is set against the backdrop of an extreme drought affecting the country, following four consecutive failed rainy seasons over the past two years, which leads towards famine-like conditions. The rise in conflict, the threat of al-Shabaab reprisals and the impact of the ongoing drought have led to significant displacement. It is essential to create circumstances suitable for displaced persons to return and resume their lives. Politically, it is important for the Government to be able to demonstrate its ability to provide swift and visible relief, public services and progress in the wake of successful security operations in liberated territories.

Intra-clan conflicts continue to serve as one of several drivers of instability and insecurity in Somalia. It will therefore be essential to take existing conflict dynamics fully into account and closely monitor developments in liberated areas.

Flexibility in targeted sectors and geographical areas will be key to adapt to quick changing security conditions and to the government rehabilitation strategy. Activities have to demonstrate local communities the benefits of working together in rebuilding critical infrastructure and basic service delivery priorities. The identification of these priorities requires close involvement of communities and local authorities and need to be supported by inter-clan dialogue and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Given the ongoing drought and significant humanitarian needs, ensuring respect of civil-military guidelines and a clear distinction and coordination between stabilisation support and humanitarian aid will also be essential.

Stabilisation activities in Somalia, particularly the construction or rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, should also take into account that climate adaptation measures and a review of the management of ecosystems could reduce violence and lower the risk of future violent inter-clan conflicts.

3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT

An intensification of counter-insurgency operations, punitive actions by fleeing al-Shabaab fighters against the local communities, set against the backdrop of an extreme drought in Somalia, constitute an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other European

Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and due to available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second paragraph, points (a), (f), (g), (o) and (p) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to (a) support, through the provision of technical and logistical assistance, for the efforts undertaken by international, regional and local organisations and by State and civil society actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, transitional justice, women’s and youth empowerment, in particular with regard to community tensions and protracted conflicts; (f) support for reinforcement of State capacity - in the face of significant pressures to rapidly build, maintain or restore its core functions, and basic social and political cohesion; (o) support for socio-economic measures to promote equitable access to, and transparent management of, natural resources in a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, including peacebuilding, and (p) support for measures to address the potential impact of sudden population movements with relevance to the political and security situation, including measures addressing the needs of host communities.

3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	High, medium, low	Mitigation
Access to affected areas is restricted due to active hostilities or land mines	High	Action to be implemented with a high degree of flexibility and adaptability to react to changes on the ground. Close coordination with Somali security forces.
Security situation endangers staff safety	High	Abide by security guidelines.
Additional displacement alters the population dynamics in the target location	High	Action to include scenario planning and work on preparedness. Close involvement of communities and local authorities as well as relief agencies.
Political instability and reshuffling of key government officials	Medium	Engage government entities/offices and institutions rather than individuals.
Sustainability of infrastructure projects due a lack of funds for running / maintenance	Medium	Cautious approach will be ensured regarding the budgetary impact of construction.

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the action is to support rapid local stabilisation in newly recovered areas in Somalia.

4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 4.2.1 Support to government-led stabilisation processes and inclusive economic development;
- 4.2.2 Support to reconciliation and social cohesion.

5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results/outcomes include:

Expected Result (1): Local conflict-sensitive stabilisation projects are identified and implemented.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Monitor security situation and displacement trends;
- 5.1.2 Conduct governmental stakeholder consultations;
- 5.1.3 Initiate community consultation and community-driven planning processes on the investment in and management of infrastructure and natural resources;
- 5.1.4 Implement identified priority projects on basic infrastructure, service delivery and livelihood enhancement, with a particular focus on opportunities for women and youth;
- 5.1.5 Promote governmental ownership.

Expected Result (2): Enhanced dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Conduct and regularly update gender-sensitive conflict-analysis;
- 5.2.2 Map existing dispute resolution capacity and gaps;
- 5.2.3 Engage with and build capacity of local civic networks;
- 5.2.4 Implement reconciliation and dialogue initiatives;
- 5.2.5 Implement community cohesion activities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹.

6.1.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieving the objectives and results as presented in sections 4 and 5.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted are non-governmental and not for profit organisations.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because **the action entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 195(a) and as defined in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision.

6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 4 500 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

Indicative budget breakdown

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Component 1: Support to rapid local stabilisation in newly recovered areas in Somalia		
6.1.1 – Direct grant (direct management)	4 500 000	N.A.
Total	4 500 000	N.A.

6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under direct management. It will be devolved and sub-delegated to the **European Union Delegation in Somalia**, with the support of the Commission for the conclusion of the contracts implementing the action.

¹ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final report. Each report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

6.5 EVALUATION

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

6.6 AUDIT

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

The 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for external actions" reference document shall be used to establish the appropriate contractual obligations.

7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP

This measure forms part of the broader EU effort to support the relief and stabilisation efforts in Somalia , and in particular in newly recovered areas. It has been closely coordinated with the EU Delegation, building on the previously agreed approach to EU stabilisation support in the country. This programme will act as an essential first response, foreseeing close engagement with both authorities and local communities and initiating flexible and quick impact projects in priority areas as defined above. The measure complements ongoing interventions in Somalia, notably support to rapid stabilisation by IOM funded through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) as well as NDICI rapid response funding. It also complements support through the European Development Fund to strengthen local governance structures for more accountable and inclusive Federal Member States and the support through the EU Trust Fund to the delivery of tangible peace dividends. In addition, the measure also complements EU humanitarian aid actions implemented by IOM in Somalia, whereby a clear separation between the EU-funded stabilisation measures and the provision of humanitarian aid will be ensured, in order to safeguard humanitarian principles. Complementarity will be ensured through close coordination at the level of the EU Delegation and with relevant services. Through the EU Delegation in Somalia and the FPI Regional Team in Nairobi, coordination will also be ensured with EU Member States' representations and other key stabilisation actors in Somalia.