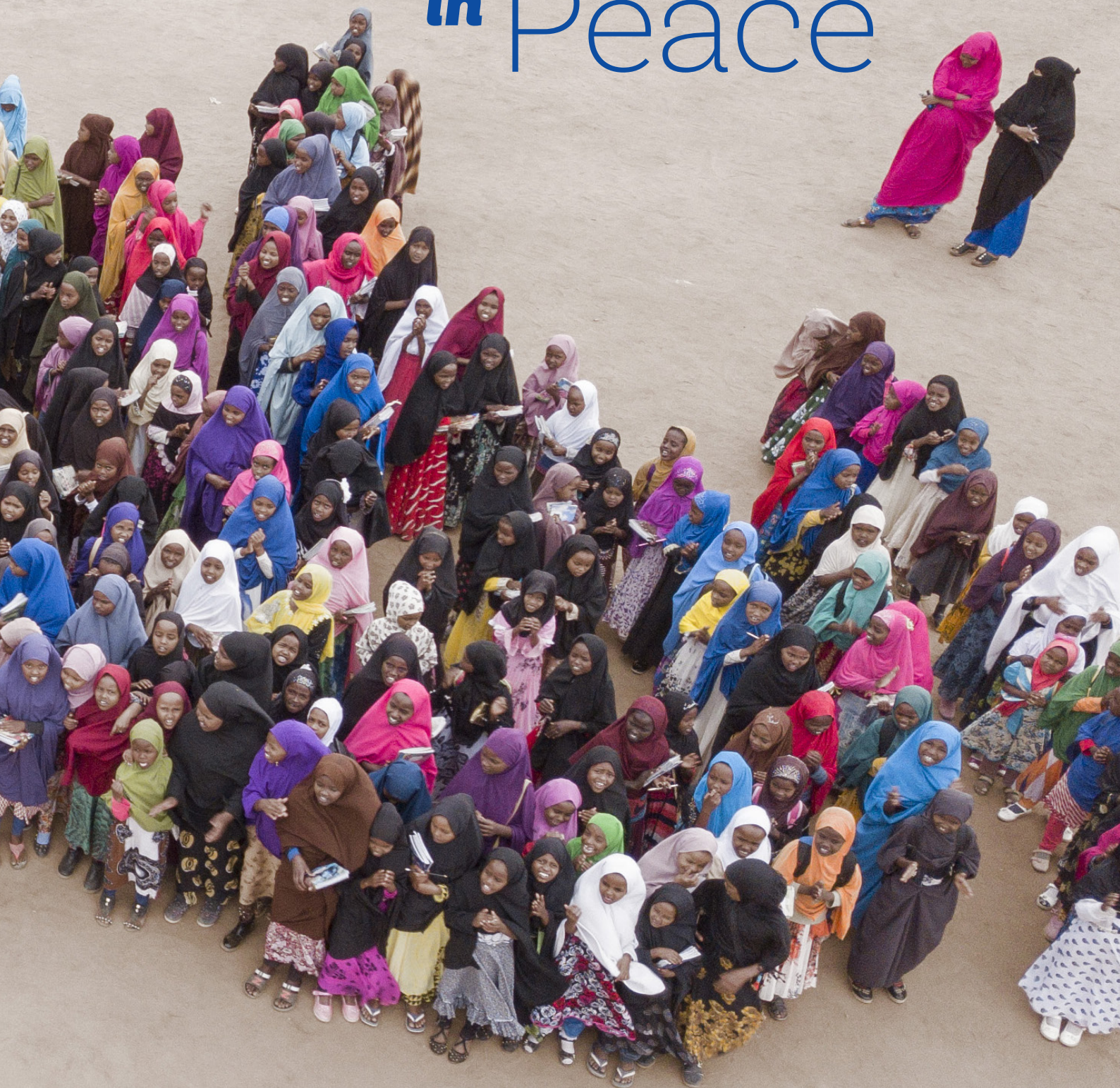


Partners *in* Peace



The European Union in Somalia

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Partners
in Peace

The European Union in Somalia



Introduction

If there is a word that defines Somalia it is hope.

After decades of conflict and state failure, its people continue to strive towards creating a stable and peaceful country. There is hope, always, for a better future.

The EU is helping the Somali government and other development actors to bring this vision to life. Together, we have implemented, and continue to implement, programmes and interventions that are designed to have a tangible and measurable impact on the lives of ordinary Somalis.

What follows is a glimpse of this work.



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Our work in Somalia

The EU has been working in Somalia since 2008. Throughout this time, we have focused on several interconnected priorities that feed into, inform and influence one another. These priorities have evolved over time in line with the country's changing circumstances and needs.

We engage in Somalia through a comprehensive approach that supports sustainable development, the political process, stabilisation, and security (which includes three Common Security and Defence Policy missions). Humanitarian assistance is also provided according to the needs we identify and in line with various humanitarian principles.

More specifically, we have primarily worked towards:

- **Rebuilding the Somali state** by developing state legitimacy and responsiveness, democratic governance and the rule of law
- **Improving security and stability** by building effective and sustainable responses to the country's security-related challenges
- **Reducing poverty** by creating economic opportunities to foster inclusive and sustainable growth



Photo by the EU in Somalia

As our work in the country continues, we introduced a new multi-year programme in 2021 that will run until 2027.



Photo by the EU in Somalia

This programme will focus on the nexus between development, humanitarianism and peace and will prioritise:

- **Governance and peacebuilding** through inclusive governance, reconciliation and justice, and security
- **Inclusive and green economic growth** through economic and financial governance, education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and economic development
- **Resilience building and social inclusion** through climate change adaptation and mitigation, addressing migration, displacement, and improving access to basic services

Across all of these areas, we intend to focus on promoting gender equality, providing for people with disabilities, catering for minority groups, and prioritising maternal and child nutrition.



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Striving for peace

Our work in Somalia is defined by our slogan: Partners in Peace. It embodies how we work with the government, the private sector, civil society, and ordinary citizens to create a peaceful Somalia.

Governance and stability

A cornerstone of our work involves supporting local efforts to increase the legitimacy and capacity of the federal state, promote the federal project, and create the conditions for inclusive growth.

To this end, we are supporting Somalia's debt reform process, consolidating its federal fiscal system, and improving service delivery to the Somali people. We are doing this by helping to improve cash management and public financial management processes, and modernising some of the country's customs and tax administration systems.

While gains have been made in shifting Somalia from fragility to stability, threats from insurgents, inter-communal conflicts, climate change, poverty and weak government institutions remain.



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Various Somali stakeholders, however, are helping to make the presence of the state more prominent. Conflict-sensitive projects have also been delivered, peace settlements consolidated, a number of legitimate local authorities established, and economic activity restored where it has lapsed.

This work has also involved strengthening well-established and grassroots civil society organisations, building a free and independent media, and implementing initiatives that strive to protect human rights.

Supporting governance and stability





Photo by the EU in Somalia

Justice and Security

The absence of justice and security still poses the biggest challenge to increasing Somalia's stability in the short term and ensuring its development in the long term.

The Joint Justice Programme was established with the aim of creating the foundations of a formal justice system that offers professional and standardised justice services. The programme strives to increase the presence of an effective federal and state-level police capable of delivering policing services, improving security, and enhancing access to justice.

The Common Security and Defence Policy has also been put in place with several missions beneath it:

- **Operation Atalanta**, which aims to deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy off the Somali coast and to monitor fishing activities. As a result of Atalanta's efforts, there have been no successful hijackings since May 2012.
- **The EU Training Mission in Somalia**, which helps to train Somali National Army forces to fight alongside the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia.
- **EUCAP Somalia**, which is a civilian capacity-building mission that contributes to the establishment of sustainable maritime security systems. The mission provides advice, mentoring and training on a variety of issues.

Ongoing efforts are endeavouring to respond to violent extremism in Somalia, including research and analysis, the mainstreaming of government policies, and running activities to enhance community-led projects that prevent and counter violent extremism.



Photo by Said Musse

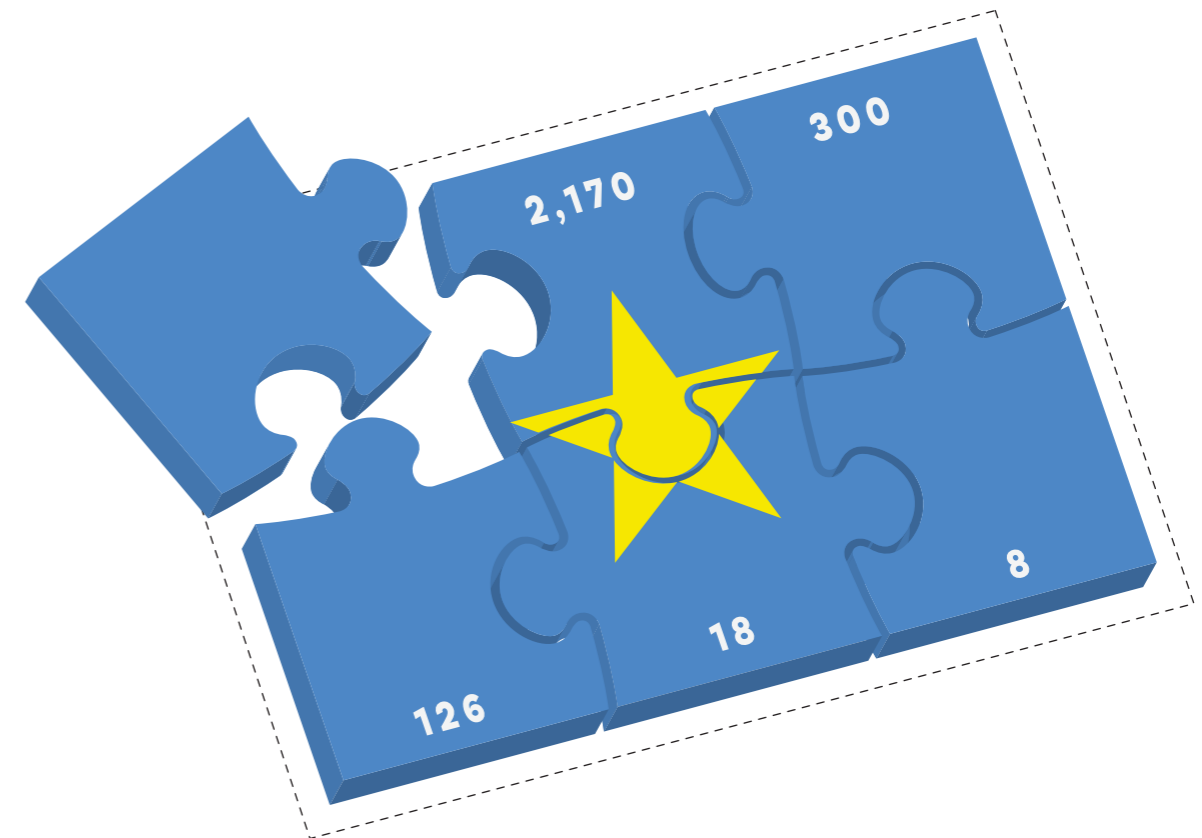


Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Promoting the Joint Justice Programme



Increased access to justice through legal aid, dispute resolution centres and mobile courts



2,170 people supported



300 cases registered and resolved



126 student recipients of legal scholarship programme



18 laws and policies updated



8 mobile court teams established

Supporting Somalia's people

Every aspect of the EU's work in Somalia comes down to making the lives of Somalis better. Whether we're trying to enhance governance processes, improve security responses, or promote economic development, Somalia's people are the ultimate beneficiaries of our efforts.

Resilience-building and social inclusion

Resilience-building efforts in Somalia largely focus on revitalising and expanding the Somali economy through livelihood enhancement, employment generation, and broad-based inclusive growth. In addition, ensuring greater security, driving gender equity, focusing on human development, providing stronger infrastructure, improving access to basic services, and enhancing climate change interventions remain abiding priorities.

These efforts have a long-term view, however, and can sometimes be sidelined in favour of more immediate priorities, such as the need for humanitarian aid and crisis management.

In an effort to make resilience an integrated and consistent priority, the Recovery of Resilience Framework was established through national consultations to align resilience to existing development frameworks.

To date, the EU has contributed 23 different amounts to resilience-building efforts, and has provided significant investments as the sole and highest donor to agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and the sole contributor to disaster risk reduction and transportation. We have worked together with other organisations to contribute to a variety of other sectors.



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

The EU also funds over 35% of all humanitarian aid in Somalia. These funds are primarily channelled towards life-saving programmes designed to help internally displaced and severely food insecure people. We also strive to strengthen the public and private sectors' ability to respond to new crises, both practically and financially.

Through a number of programmes and mechanisms, we are promoting human rights in Somalia, with a particular emphasis on the rights of the country's most vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women, the youth, people with disabilities, and minority groups.

We have several projects in place that strive to protect girls and women, strengthen community capacity to prevent female genital mutilation and sexual and gender-based violence, and increase the availability of response services. These activities are run through community dialogues and awareness-raising initiatives, and also involve working with boys and men to change gender norms.

More broadly, we aim to equip women with the capacity to claim their rights and be able to participate in decision-making processes at local and national levels. The same applies to people with disabilities and minority groups, who are often excluded from the decisions that affect them.



Photo by the EU in Somalia

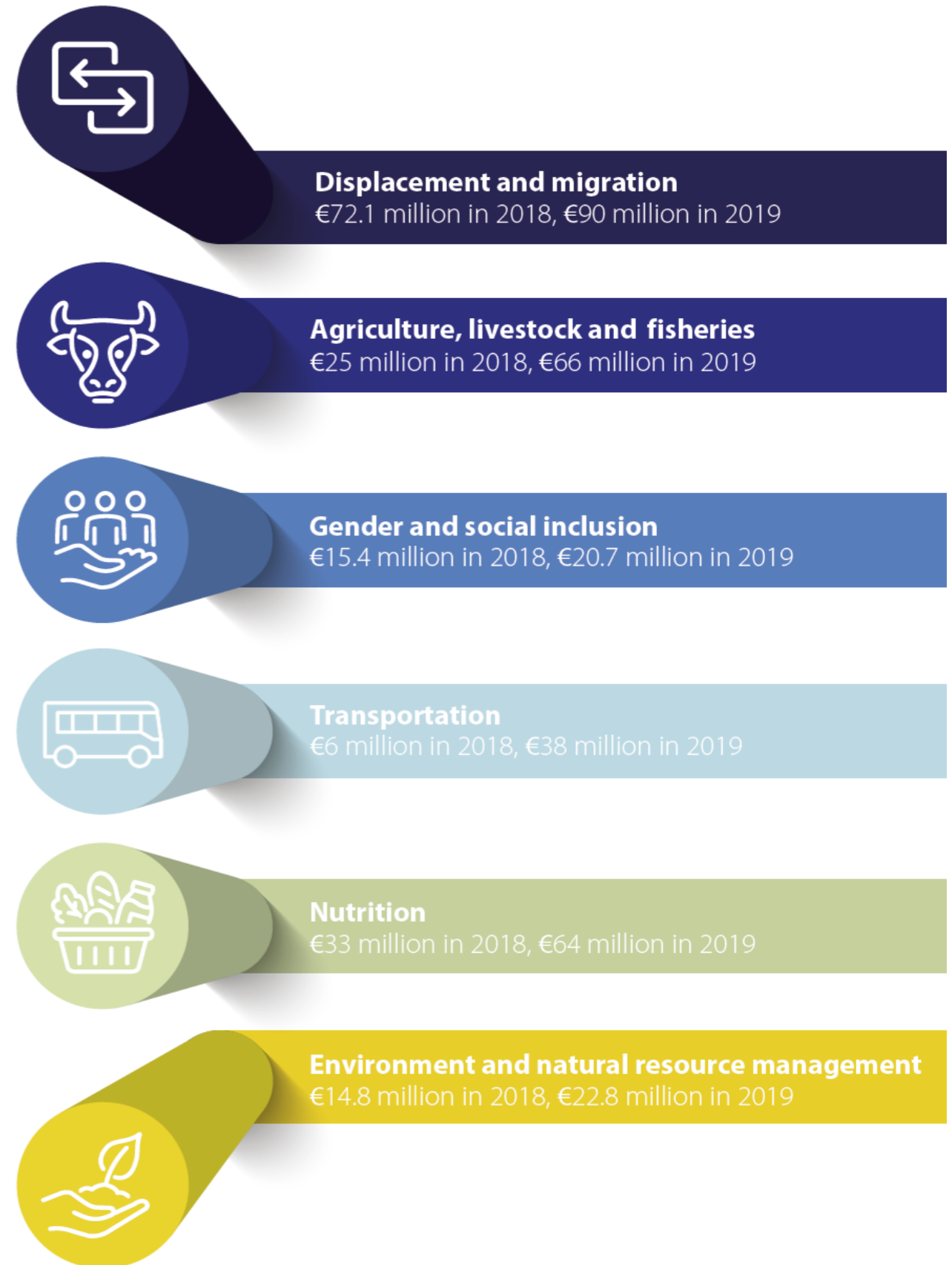


Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Building Resilience



Migration and displacement

For many years, Somalia has been a major country of origin for refugees, who go on to live primarily in Somalia's neighbouring countries. There are currently some 870,000 registered Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Others have fled to Italy, the UK and the USA. There are also almost 3 million internally displaced people within Somalia, 500,000 of whom are in Mogadishu alone.

A key component of the work we do to support stability and nurture peace in Somalia is to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations, including displacement-affected communities. We strive to create economic opportunities in an effort to reduce the need for people to migrate. In the case of refugee-returnees, we try to establish environments that are conducive to their return by creating work opportunities, strengthening social cohesion, and building the capacity of local governments.

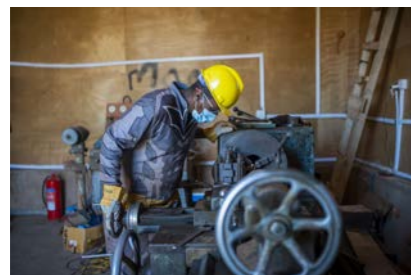


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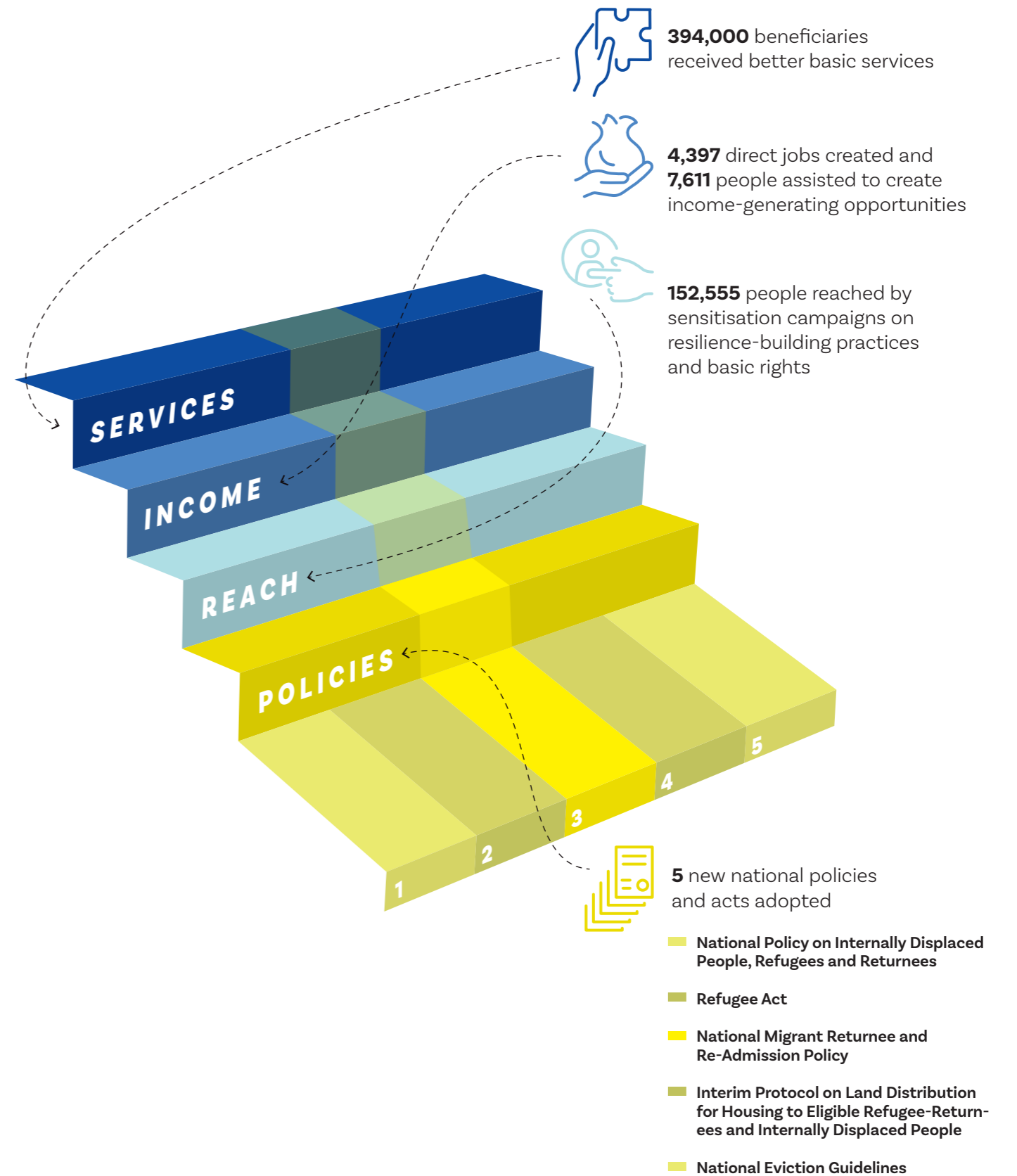


Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Helping internally displaced people and refugees



Education

Somalia has one of the lowest school enrolment rates in the world. Less than 40% of school-aged children currently attend school, less than half of those who start primary school complete it, and learning outcomes tend to be poor.

For the EU, education is at the core of us achieving many of our human development and fundamental rights objectives. We are a well-regarded donor in Somalia's education sector, and are also the coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education.

Our sector-wide education programmes are designed to help all of Somalia's children, youth and adults, including those who are most vulnerable, receive access to quality education. Through EU funding, Somalia's TVET sector is also developing short and long-term vocational training in high-demand skills, modernising its training facilities, and developing a national TVET policy and strategy.

In the EU's new multi-year programme, education and TVET is the single largest sector and accounts for 15% of the funding allocated. As part of this, the Education Access and Quality Improvement Programme has been developed to increase access to equitable and inclusive education.



Photo by the EU in Somalia

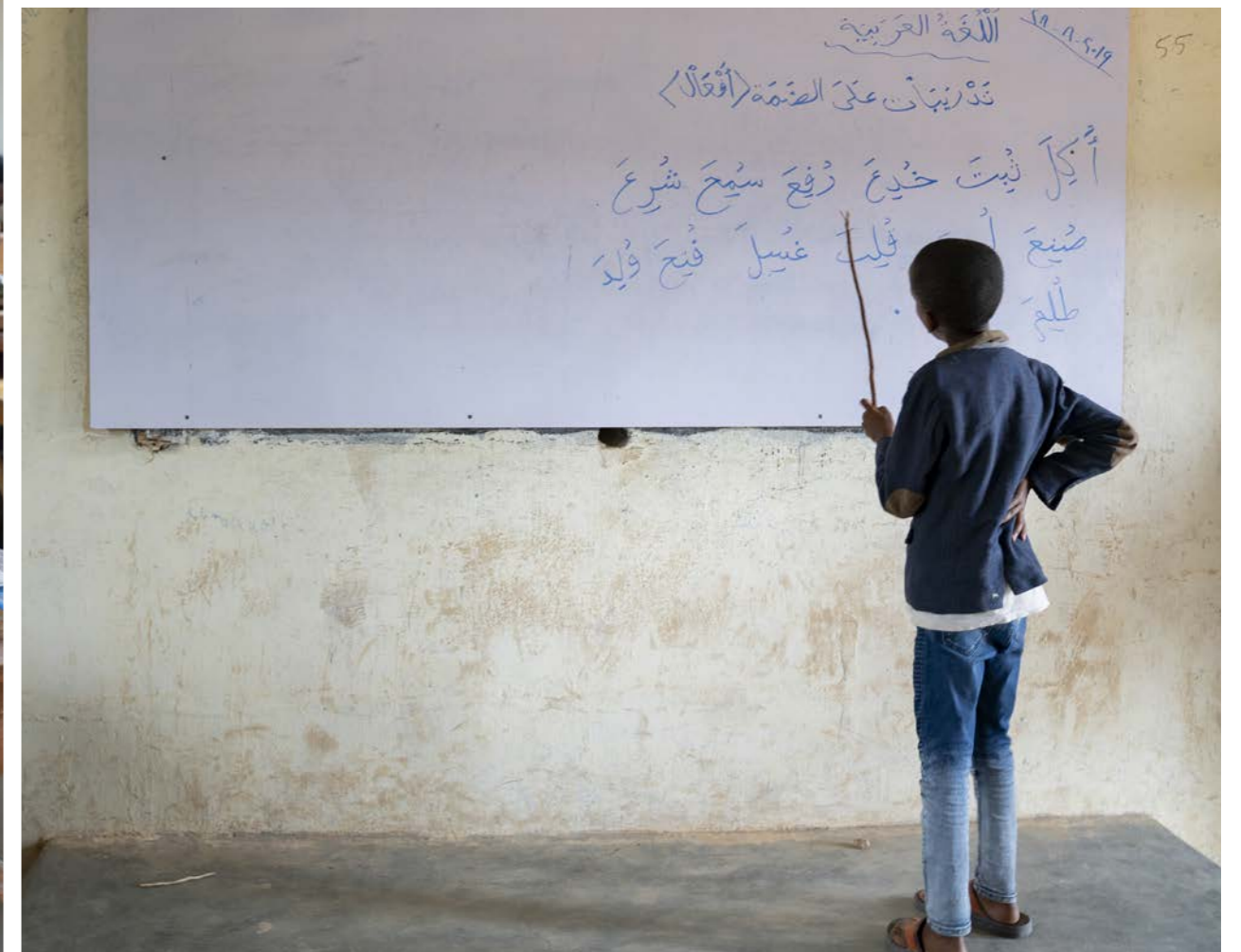


Photo by the EU in Somalia

Improving access to education

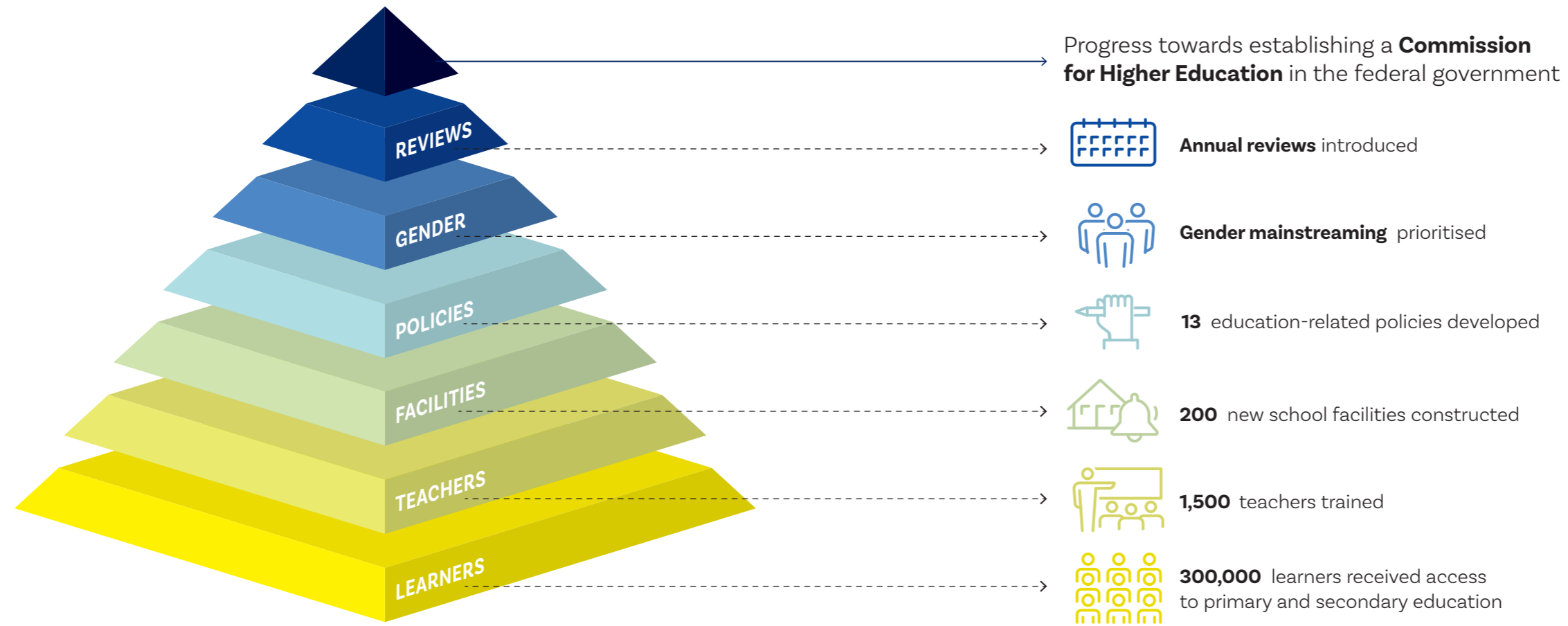


Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Building the economy

We are one of the main donors to Somalia's agriculture and livestock sectors and, more recently, fisheries, too.

Inclusive Local Economic Development

A critical component of creating a stable and peaceful Somalia is the establishment and long-term viability of a well-functioning economy. Somalia's economy depends primarily on agriculture, livestock and fisheries, of which agriculture accounts for between 60 and 70% of the country's GDP, 80% of its employment, and 90% of its exports.

The EU's Inclusive Local Economic Development Programme is designed to contribute to stability in Somalia by:

- **Increasing the reach and legitimacy of local and municipal authorities**, and nurturing their capacity to provide services while promoting reconciliation and peacebuilding
- **Revitalising and expanding the local economy** with a focus on livelihood enhancement, job creation, and broad-based inclusive growth, focusing on women and the youth
- **Providing social protection** to vulnerable people to improve recovery and resilience



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Its projects aim to:

- **Strengthen government capacities** and enhance social, economic and human capital among poor and extremely poor households in Somalia through regular cash transfers
- **Improve incomes and livelihoods** through new jobs, inclusive opportunities and infrastructure rehabilitation in the livestock and fisheries sectors
- **Improve access to income-generating opportunities** by supporting youth-led initiatives and key youth infrastructure, and increasing youth political participation
- **Contribute to the Nordic Horn of Africa Opportunities Fund** to provide access to finance to small and medium enterprises across Somalia
- **Revitalise and expand the local economy** by facilitating access to finance and providing access to business development services focusing on women and young people
- **Support business incubators** for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Driving inclusive local economic development

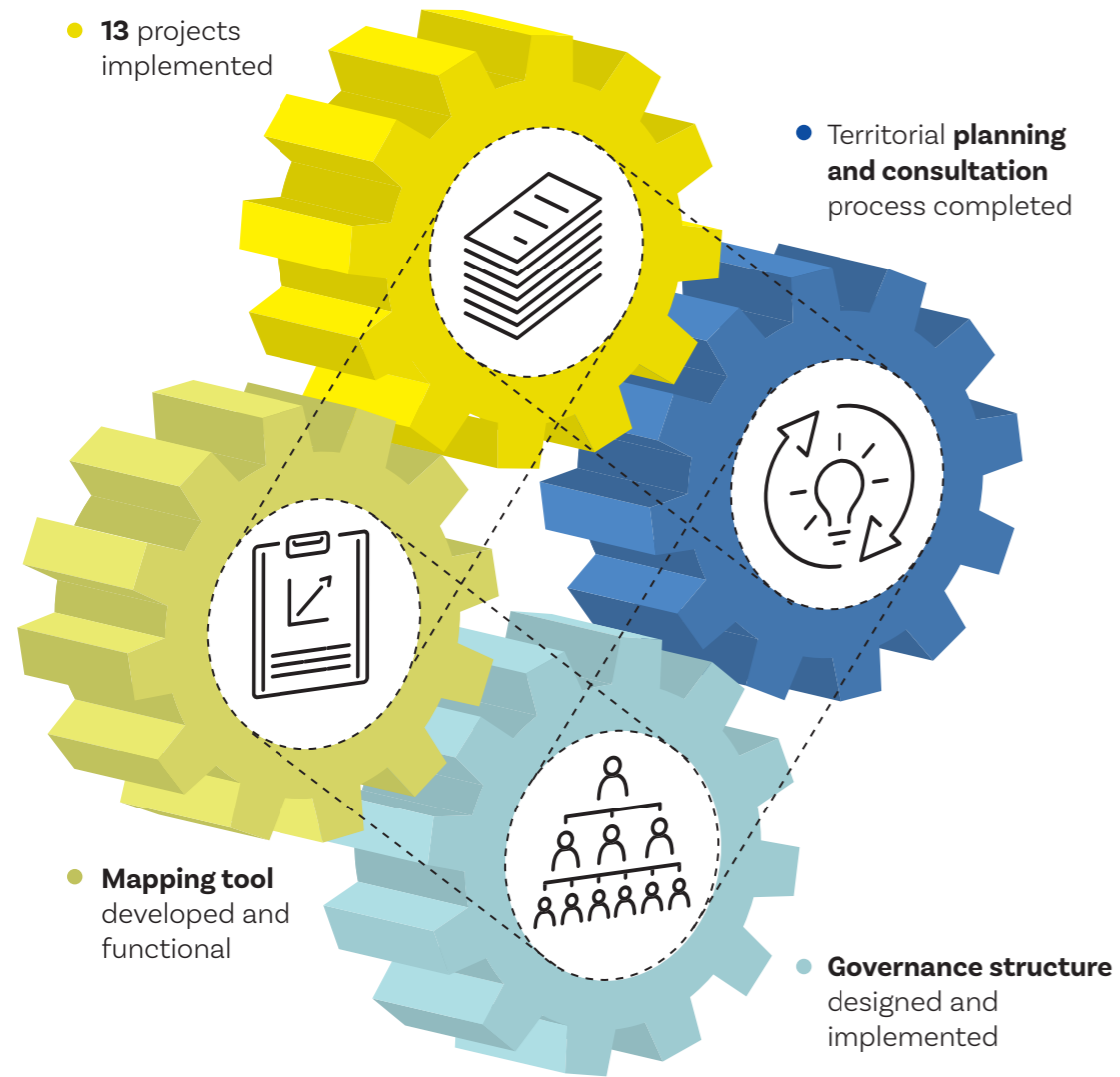


Photo by the EU in Somalia

Economic and financial governance

The EU has been helping Somalia to reach Decision Point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief process, with a clear road map to Completion Point in place. We are also providing direct budgetary support to the federal government, and technical assistance to strengthen the way public expenditure is managed.

We support a donor delegate to the Financial Governance Committee, a specially designed mechanism established by Somali authorities and development partners to provide a forum for dialogue on strategic financial governance issues.



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Economic development

Somalia has a vibrant private sector. The use of mobile money is accelerating fast and the cost of telecommunication is among the lowest in the world. To promote the development of this sector, the EU is facilitating access to finance through the Danish Development Finance Bank and the African Enterprise Challenge Fund.

We also support the development of policy dialogue on the investment climate together with DAI and, indirectly, via the International Finance Corporation.



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Protecting the natural world

In a country as heavily dependent on agriculture as Somalia, the impact of climate change poses severe economic, health and security risks.

Climate change in the country is currently being felt primarily through an increase in severity and frequency of both droughts and floods, as well as cyclones and locusts. These events affect crops and exports and have a negative effect on the cost of water, which increases the risk of conflicts occurring over water.

Although the government has put forward policies and plans to try to mitigate the effects of climate change, these efforts have been hindered by limited resources. This presents major challenges to resilience efforts in Somalia.

The EU has a firm stance on climate change interventions and intends to implement these initiatives in Somalia.



Photo by the EU in Somalia

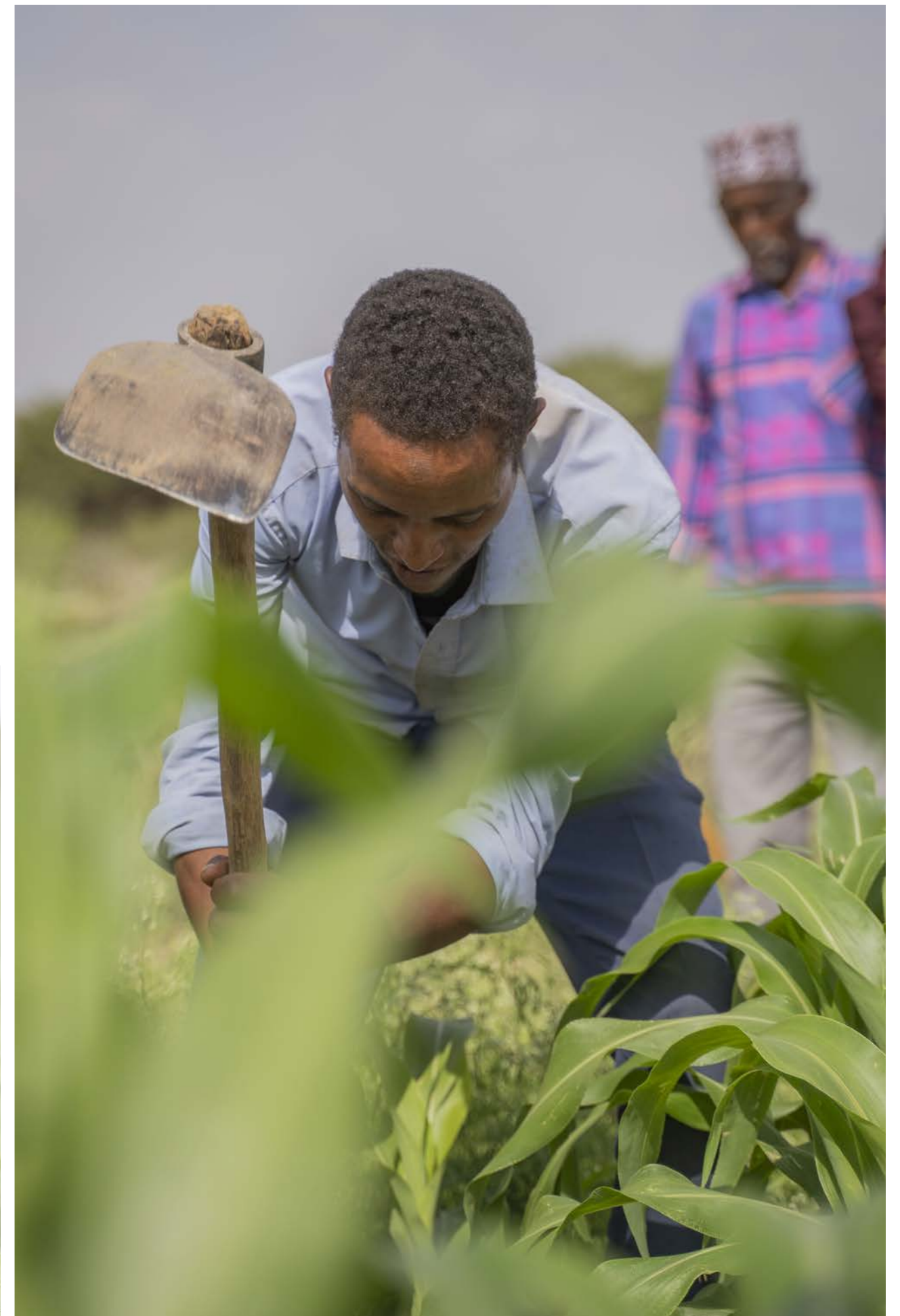


Photo by the EU in Somalia

Addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation

A total of €79 million has been contributed to a green deal that seeks to ensure climate action through clean energy initiatives and build a climate-resilient economy. This initiative aims to increase access to clean energy across Somalia and to strengthen Somalia's climate adaptation and resilience systems.

Some of the programme's key areas include:

- **Strengthening institutional frameworks** with coherent policies, regulations and strategies
- **Strengthening energy systems** to provide affordable, clean and reliable energy for all
- **Enhancing climate change adaptation** and climate resilience

Through these environmental efforts, we hope to support climate change adaptation and mitigation, and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities, particularly those who have been displaced.



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

Looking ahead

The EU's work in Somalia is far from over, and we remain committed to working with the government, our local and regional partners, and the Somali people to achieve our shared goals.

In the next phase of our work, we will implement the European Global Gateway Strategy, which aims to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport, and strengthen health, education and research systems in the country.

This recently launched European strategy stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet. The Global Gateway is about increasing investments, promoting democratic values and high standards, ensuring good governance and transparency, encouraging equal partnerships, building green, clean and secure infrastructure, and catalysing private sector investment.

Through a Team Europe approach, the strategy will bring together the EU, its Member States and their financial and development institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB). Together, we will seek to mobilise various actors, including the private sector, to leverage investments that will have a transformational impact worldwide, and in Somalia specifically.



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia



Photo by the EU in Somalia

For the period until 2027, our focus will be on three priority areas:

Governance and peacebuilding

This work will focus on strengthening inclusive governance, promoting reconciliation and justice, and advancing security through a rights-based approach that is gender-responsive.

Our objectives are to promote inclusive and institutionalised decision-making processes and strengthen the responsiveness of the state, including protecting human rights. We also intend to promote reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of conflict by expanding access to justice and by strengthening the capacities, accountability and effectiveness of the security sector.

Inclusive and green economic growth

This area aims to improve financial and economic governance, enhance access to quality education and TVET, and address the issues constraining economic development.

Our primary objectives involve strengthening state capacity to deliver core functions, improving education and training systems so that they are of a high standard and inclusive, and promoting green, low-carbon, climate-resilient economic development initiatives.

Resilience building and social inclusion

This area aims to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to improving the country's ability to respond to the wide range of complex and interconnected implications of climate change. It will focus primarily on vulnerable communities.

Our objectives are to contribute to climate-resilient and low-carbon development in these communities; to provide durable solutions to displacement; improve migration management; promote inclusive, disaster-resilient and sustainable urban development; and expand access to basic services and social protection.

As we implement our programme, we are developing two Team Europe Initiatives in Somalia. These initiatives are European interventions that will be jointly implemented by the EU Delegation and European Member States, with ongoing development activity in the country.

The first initiative is called, “Green Deal: Climate Action through Clean Energy Initiatives and Climate-resilient Economy”, and the second, “Governance, Peace and Security – Reconciling Somalia”. Both initiatives will help us to achieve our priority areas in Somalia.

This work, we know, can only be done through concerted effort, open communication and steadfast partnerships. Fortunately, we have these criteria in place with our partners in Somalia – our partners in peace.

Partners
in Peace

The European Union in Somalia



The European Union in Somalia