

# Resilience Systems Analysis

## Somalia

### *Somalia - from fragility to resilience*

Twenty-four years after the start of Somalia's civil war and just three years since parts of Southern Somalia faced famine, the country continues to face inter-connected and complex challenges that **constrain development progress**. Around 3 million Somalis continue to face food insecurity; suspected cases of measles have tripled since 2013; and an estimated 40 per cent of the Somali population still depend on money that friends and family send from abroad to meet their needs for food, clothing, medicine and education (*Humanitarian Bulletin for Somalia*, UNOCHA, February 2015).

In the face of these continuing challenges, the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP) and the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortia convened a **Resilience Systems Analysis**, in February 2015, with assistance from the OECD and support from the European Union, FAO, WFP and UNICEF.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders and experts on Somalia's human, natural, physical, political, social and economic systems. This included around a dozen key Ministers and officials from the Government of Somalia, whose participation was crucial to the success of the meeting. The involvement of the Government in the Resilience Systems Analysis was one of their first engagements since the approval of a new Somali Cabinet on 9 February, 2015.

The analysis focused on building a shared understanding of the Somali context and the need for a **'roadmap for resilience'** to transcend the country's chronic challenges.

This roadmap addresses both the underlying stresses affecting communities' key assets, as well as the inter-connections between risks and assets. It provides a way forward, moving beyond the usual sectoral approaches, to identify the resources and capacities that are needed at different layers of society to absorb, adapt and transform in the face of a broad range of risks, stresses and uncertainty – a **'systems approach.'**

*"This is the map we will now follow"*

*Government of Somalia*

### *Moving beyond 'silos' – a systems approach*

The OECD's Resilience Systems Analysis helps participants to move beyond the usual 'siloed' approaches; to better understand the interaction between the different risks and stresses that impact on communities' key assets; and to identify programme linkages, thereby better targeting different layers of society. This approach allows programmers and policy makers to identify innovative solutions to translate resilience into **concrete actions** on the ground and help people to better absorb, adapt or transform in the face of a broad range of risks, stresses and uncertainty.

## *Innovative approaches*

That emerged from the analysis include:

- The need to address the connections between traditional and formal governance systems – from decision-making, to land tenure and management and justice; and the importance of strengthening individual responsibility and accountability across both systems
- Innovative approaches to strengthen value chains across Somalia, particularly the rehabilitation of Somalia’s fishing industry - including the transformation and utilization of the skills, assets and capacities of illicit piracy
- The development of a ‘solidarity fund’ to help transform the impact of remittances and ensure that they contribute to public funding, infrastructure, development and social justice
- The development of media laws at a national and regional level to protect freedom of expression
- Investment in gender-sensitive labour unions, including womens’ farming associations

## *Optimism for the future*

The resilience systems analysis allowed participants to analyse fragility in Somalia through a new lense and will make an important contribution to planning concrete actions to strengthen the country’s resilience. It is important that the resilience roadmap agreed by participants helps to inform up-coming planning processes, including the high-level mission by the OECD-DAC at the end of March 2015 and the Donor Group meeting, scheduled for April 2015.

Now is a critical time for Somalia. With a new government in place, a draft constitution being discussed and renewed efforts to address the cycle of fragility and disasters, there is a real sense of optimism for the future. Strengthening resilience across different layers of society will allow Somalia to better manage both the existing risks and emerging uncertainties that have limited its growth and stability in recent decades.

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*“The analysis highlighted the importance of addressing resilience throughout the system, ensuring complementary actions are taken at different layers of society, if we are to achieve success”*

*NGO participant*

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For further information on the OECD’s work on risk and resilience, please visit <http://www.oecd.org/dac/risk-resilience.htm>

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