Partnering for Stability and Recovery in Somalia
Working Together to Lay Economic Foundations

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has successfully implemented a variety of post-crisis, livelihoods revitalization, and technical assistance initiatives across the globe. These projects have helped to diversify local economies, train the labour force, and in turn increase the resilience of communities, vulnerable groups, households, and individuals.

With generous funding from the Government of Japan’s Supplementary Budget (JSB), UNIDO has implemented five projects in the Federal Republic of Somalia since 2011 focused on early recovery and reconstruction efforts. The JSB funding prioritizes interventions and technical assistance responding to situations based on urgency, necessity, and unpredictability.

Decades of conflict in Somalia have had a devastating impact on socio-economic conditions. Economic activities, trade and transportation networks have been severely disrupted, with households struggling to meet basic food needs. Communities have also struggled to cope with the influx of returnees. Recurring natural disasters such as droughts and floods in parts of the country have exacerbated the situation, taking a toll on lives and livelihoods.

A lack of relevant skills in Somalia’s labour markets is regarded as a major obstacle to economic growth, with only a very small proportion of the population having had access to technical and vocational skills training.

In response, the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community have demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving tangible development priorities through the Somali Compact and its related Peace and Statebuilding Goals. With funds from the Government of Japan, UNIDO’s technical assistance aims to revitalize and expand the Somali economy with a focus on livelihood enhancement, employment generation and broad-based inclusive growth.

Skills Development for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Each of UNIDO’s projects places great emphasis on upgrading vocational and commercial skills, especially of youth and women. Youth constitute roughly 70 percent of Somalia’s population and face huge challenges in finding long-term employment and a stable income. As a result, many young people have been attracted to criminal activity and have joined armed groups as the only means of survival. Young women also face considerable gender barriers when trying to access the formal labour market.

By equipping project beneficiaries with relevant skills, UNIDO is helping target groups to integrate productively into the economy, raising incomes and contributing to food and overall security. The projects also focus on “quality growth”, or growth that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

Overall Aims of UNIDO’s Assistance to Somalia

- Provide vocational education to improve livelihoods and create jobs
- Revitalize micro-enterprises via skills training, technology transfer and infrastructure upgrades
- Restore a functional base for peace and community stabilization
- Strengthen the capacity of vocational training institutions
Overall Achievements

- **1,000,000 USD worth of training equipment**, toolkits and project assets distributed, with an emphasis on income generating activities for women
- **50 small businesses strengthened** through rehabilitation and raised technical and managerial capacity of owner-operators
- **624 technical toolkits distributed** to business start-ups
- **Small scale community infrastructure and facilities restored**, such as public walkways and mechanic yards

1,800 + people trained (around 25% women)
Overall Impact

- **Improved vocational training facilities** delivering technical skills
- **Enhanced community cohesion** through local infrastructure schemes and conflict minimization programs that facilitate socio-economic integration
- **Enhanced capacity of small businesses** to produce higher quality, more marketable goods and compete against imports
- **Improved food security** in rural households

More jobs and greater productive capacity amongst vulnerable groups, especially youth, who now have greater access to markets, local economies, and commercial sectors

Increased average income of 25 – 50% for beneficiaries, according to independent evaluations
Who we help

- **Farmers and agribusinesses**
  - UNIDO’s counterparts:
    - ARC – American Refugee Committee
    - KTI – Kismayo Technical Institute
    - IRDO – Iimaan Relief Development Organization
    - AWG – Awale Women Group
    - AYODA – Africa Youth Development Association
    - Custodial Corp. – Department responsible for Prisons with the Ministry of Justice
    - HAVOYOCO – Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee
    - SOOYAAL – Somaliland Veterans Association
    - SOYVO – Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization

- **Under-employed tradesmen**
- **At-risk youth**
- **Women**
- **Private sector**
  - Owners of micro and small businesses
- **Farmers and agribusinesses**

Relevant technical staff working at project-linked institutions
1. Market integration and progress through skills and employment in rural Somalia

**Objectives**
- Promote economic integration of vulnerable groups to enhance livelihoods and the local economy;
- Enhance community stability and resiliency.

**Approach**
- Develop training curricula and rehabilitate existing training facilities;
- Provide skills and vocational training in rural service sectors;
- Supply beneficiaries with toolkits and technical packages;
- Provide counselling on business management;
- Facilitate technology transfer.

**Dates:**
2011 – 2012

**Location:** Awdal and Woqooyi regions

**Budget:** 1,200,000 USD

**Background**
Two decades of conflict have severely damaged Somaliland’s economic and social infrastructure. In addition, frequent droughts caused livestock losses, further rural-urban migration, and severe environmental degradation.

Pressing humanitarian concerns include the continued fragility of livelihoods; issues related to internally displaced persons, returnees and the urban poor; and low human development indicators.

2. Supporting economic revitalization through income generation in Somalia

**Objectives**
- Build upon the achievements of UNIDO’s previous project in the region;
- Complement the Government’s income generation and employment creation initiatives.

**Approach**
- Strengthen market-orientated vocational skills and training programmes;
- Develop training with a particular focus on women-centred industries;
- Scale up technical knowledge and transfer interventions;
- Expand the number of micro-enterprises and agro-industrial activities.

**Dates:**
2012 – 2013

**Location:** Maroodi-Jeex, Awdal and Togdheer regions

**Budget:** 1,327,434 USD
3. **Community stabilization and reconciliation through livelihoods recovery in post-crisis areas in southern Somalia**

**Dates:** 2014 – 2015  
**Location:** Kismayo, Lower Juba  
**Budget:** 1,000,000 USD

**Objectives**
- Contribute to economic development and community reconciliation, thus promoting stability and livelihoods recovery in areas that had recently been liberated from armed groups.

**Approach**
- Practical technical skills training in construction related trades through rehabilitation of small-scale public infrastructure.

**Background**
Income and employment creation in and around Kismayo have been severely affected by civil war, international isolation, and clan-based violence. Following the return of Kismayo to the government in 2012, UNIDO saw an opportunity to provide vulnerable communities with alternative livelihoods and life skills, thereby complementing efforts by the United Nations, donors and the Government of Somalia.

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4. **Countering violence and extremism through skills training and livelihoods support for at-risk youth in Kismayo**

**Dates:** 2015 – 2016  
**Location:** Kismayo, Lower Juba  
**Budget:** 1,050,000 USD

**Objectives**
- Create job/revenue-enhancing opportunities for marginalized and at-risk youth through technical training;  
- Rebuild local infrastructure;  
- Provide youth with the life skills to minimize conflict in their communities.  
- Establish local training centres;

**Approach**
- Provide vulnerable youth with technical, vocational and livelihoods support integrated with life skills.
5. **Community stabilization through restoring livelihoods for at-risk youth along key border areas between Kenya and Somalia**

**Dates:**
April 2016 – March 2017

**Location:**
Dhobley, Lower Juba

**Budget:**
625,000 USD

**Objectives**
- Provide marketable vocational skills training to contribute to youth empowerment and re-integration into the labour market and improve income generation capacities.

**Approach**
- Technical assistance and skills upgrading activities focus on locally relevant trades such as construction and those necessary for the cross border economy, as well as skills for women operating in the informal non-trading markets.

**Background**
Dhobley is a key transit point between Somalia and Kenya for commerce, IDPs and returnees. Youth face a fragile economy and an unstable peace. Despite its liberation in 2012, Dhobley has a struggling economy and there is a serious danger of vulnerable youth becoming engaged in the conflict.