



**Wasaaradda Caafimaadka iyo Daryeelka Bulshada ee Dawlada Federalka ah ee
Soomaaliya**

Ministry of Health and Human Services -Federal Government of Somalia

Report

Somali Health Sector Coordination Meeting 12th 13th -2022

Mogadishu- Somalia



ACRONYM

- Health Sector Coordination (HSC)
- Universal Health Coverage UHC)
- Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Essential Health Package Service (EPHS)
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Population Service International (PSI)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Bank (WB)
- Global Financing Facility (GFF)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- RECURRENT COST AND REFORM FINANCING (RCRF)
- Covid-19 Response management (CRM-19)
- Global Fund (GF)
- Somalia Crisis Recovery Project (SCRCP)
- Global Alliance Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)
- World Health organization (WHO)
- Project Coordination Implementation Unit (PCIU)
- Public Financial Management (PFM)

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1. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Health and Human Services of the Federal Government of Somalia has been working hard to strengthen the health sector. The Ministry has made structural reforms and developed several national health policies and strategies. Furthermore, with the support of international donors and development partners, the Ministry has secured several health sector development projects. These include, the World Bank supported projects such as the Damal Caafimaad, RCRF, SCRP, CRM-19 and the Somalia Emergency COVID-19 Vaccine Project. There are also other projects such as the Global Fund, GAVI, CHASP and the upcoming Better Lives Program and other programs that support the delivery of essential health services in the country.

The implementation of these projects is expected to strengthen the health sector by increasing the availability of health services with higher quality and well-coordinated delivery mechanism, by rebuilding the health infrastructure of the country and strengthening the governance of the health system in-line with the six building blocks of health systems.

Despite these efforts, there is a greater need for better coordination of the health sector. Improved coordination of all health sector activities will enable the government to make sure resources are used for rebuilding the foundations of a health system that is responsive and resilient. The Ministry of Health & Human Services is going to establish a quarterly-based health sector coordination meeting. The objective of this meeting is to bring all health sector partners (both INGO and LNGO), donors and the government. In this meeting, the government is going to closely collaborate and coordinate the health sector activities carried by these organizations in the country.

All health sector partners are expected to participate in this meeting and contribute to its establishment and the successful implementation of the meeting as well as the action points. This will be a coordination platform for the government to oversee the work that is done by all partners in the health sector. The partners attending this meeting are expected to present their work, especially where they work and how they align with the government priorities and policies. Therefore, the specific objectives of this meeting are as follows:

2. OBJECTIVES:

- **Ownership:** Establish and Strengthen government-led health sector coordination forum that is attended by all health sector partners
- **Alignment:** Making sure that all health sector partners including Donors, UN Organizations, implementing partners (both INGOs and NGOs) align to the MoH workplans and support the in-country coordination mechanism.
- **Harmonization:** Making sure that all health sector partners harmonize their programmes/projects with national policies/strategies and Ministry of Health plans (e.g., EPHS-2020, HSSP III and the Investment Case for the Somalia Health Sector).
- **Collaboration:** Government and partners to collaborate towards achieving the UHC goals and contribute to social and economic development agenda of the country – both at State and Federal levels.
- **Technical leadership:** provide a platform for the government to provide guidance and technical assistance to the national technical working groups, health, nutrition, and WASH cluster.
- **Accountability:** Build a platform for agreed indicators and processes for data collection, joint M&E and definitions of success.

3. VENUE

The meeting was held in Mogadishu 12th 13th of December 2022. The venue of the meeting was the SNA Hanger.

4. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was a high-level event which was opened by H.E Hamza Abdi Bare, the Prime Minister of the Federal Government Somalia and H.E Dr. Ali Haji Adam, the Minister of Health. The Meeting was also attended by several other Ministers, members of the upper and lower chambers of the parliament, DGs from Federal and State-level MoH, donors, partners and members from the private sector. Additionally, the meeting was attended by representatives from the civil society and academia.

Meeting Agenda

Day1: 12 th December 2022		
Time	Agenda	Speaker
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	All
09:00-9:15	Welcome, Prayers, Recognition	Moderator: MoH
09:15-09:30	Meeting Agenda and Objectives Introduction of the UHC Day Celebration	Dr. Abdinasir Mukhtar Ibrahim Director General FMOH
09:30 – 12:30	Session 1 - UHC Day Celebration	
	Official opening of the UHC Day celebration	H. E Dr. Maryan Mohamed
	Universal Health Coverage in Somalia. Where we are Universal Health Coverage in Somalia. The way forward to <i>Build the world we want: a healthy future for all.</i>	H.E Deputy M. Dr Mohamed
	Joint Statement by the UN Organizations	UN RC office
	Statement by the World Health Organization	WHO Office
	Brief Statements by Government, national actors, partners, donors. (Detailed agenda to be defined according to willingness and availability to contribute)	Other Ministries, Civil Society, national stakeholders, Partners
	Keynote address by the Ministry of Health and Human Services	H.E Dr. Ali Haji Abukar
	Key note address by the Federal Government of Somalia	Prime Minister's Office
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break		

13:30 – 16:30	Session 2 – Health Sector Coordination – briefings and discussion	
	The Health Sector Strategic Plan III and the Somalia Investment Case for the Health Sector - Operational plans	Director of Policy and Planning
	- The Essential Package of Health Services – Somalia EPHS 2020 - The implementing strategy – explaining the sub-set of prioritized intervention in line with Damal Caafimaad Project. - Service improvement – quality of care –	Dr. Abdulkadir Wehliye

	Service expansion – new geographical scope	
	Health System components: - Health Information System (e.g., key milestones, data collection, analysis and data use). - Health Financing	Hassan Sheikh Khalid/Said
	Human Resources for Health	Dr. Alasow
	Public Financial Management (Key achievements, challenges and the way forward).	Director Abdullahi / Hussein PFM
	Proposed Health Sector Coordination calendar and Agenda for 2023	Khadar Hussein
End of Day 1		

Day 2 – 13th December 2022		
08:30 – 12:30	Session 3 – Health Sector Coordination – situation and actions	
	Current emergency situation – Health emergency and health sector response	Director Ali Abdirahman
	Humanitarian response – synergies for health sector development	
	(Focus on RMNACH or emergency care)	Dr. Ubah
	Progress on the implementation of the WB Supported Projects Programmes and new opportunities	Dr. Nur Ali Mohamud
	Going forward what the Donors have for the sector 2023 onwards	Awa
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break		
13:30 – 16:30	Session 4 – Health Sector Coordination – the way forward	
	- key priorities- for 2023- Improving Alignment of External Funds supporting Somalia's Health Sector - Harmonization and alignment, joint Monitoring, and accountability	Abdifatah Ahmed Mohamed
	Health Sector Coordination calendar and Agenda for 2023 – Decision	Khadar Hussein
	Action points from the meeting Closing remarks	Director General FMoH
End of the meeting		

5. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Commemoration of the UHC-Day

The first session of the Day-1 started with the commemoration of the Universal Health Coverage Day. This was a very high-level event which was attended by H.E Hamza Abdi Bare, the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E, Dr. Ali Haji Adam, the Minister of Health, H.E Ahmed Madobe Nunow, the Minister for Agriculture, H.E Dr. Mohamed Hassan Bulale, the Deputy Minister of Health, H.E Dr. Maryan Mohamed Hassan, the State Minister for Health, members of the upper and lower houses of the parliament, the Director Generals of the Federal and State-level Ministry of Health. The event was also attended by high-level guests from the donors and partners. These include, FCDO, Finland Embassy, the World Bank/GFF, USAID, Italian Embassy, the WHO country office, UNICEF, Save the Children, PSI and UNFPA. Additionally, the private health sector, civil society organizations and the academia were represented in the meeting.

5.2. The message of HE Hamza Abdi Bare, The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia

H.E Hamza Abdi Bare who made a historic speech in the opening session of the meeting. In his speech, the Prime Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to wards to achieving Universal Health Coverage and the strengthening of the health sector coordination.

The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia spoke on a number of important topics, including, "We want to stop and reduce the reduction of Somali mothers, to overcome and ensure the care of unborn children." We must overcome the inability of our elderly to receive necessary health care; we must also overcome and prevent our people from dying from small and preventable diseases; and we must overcome the inability of our people to travel abroad for medical tests that can be performed in the country. Furthermore, the Prime Minister said that "it is time to recognize the rights of our people to access of high-quality health care"

On the other hand, H.E Dr. Ali Haji Adam, the Minister of Health said that "the Ministry is committed to working towards the achievement of UHC". The Minister of Health, also said "with the assistance of international partners, is working to improve the Somali community's access to comprehensive health services delivered to remote areas and areas liberated from insurgent groups".

The Ministry of Health created a health strategy plan 2022-2026. Which can be reviewed every two years, the Minister emphasized the importance of unifying and focusing on the country's health service. Also, the State Minister of Health Dr. Marian Mohamed Hussein said "To insure we reach better Universal Health Care we need to scale up investment in health care"



Figure 1: H.E Hamza Abdi Bare, Prime Minister – Federal Government of Somalia



Figure 2: H.E Dr. Ali Haji Adam, Minister of Health – Federal Government of Somalia



Figure 3: H.E Dr. Maryan Mohamed Hassan, State Minister of Health -FGS



Figure 4: H.E Dr. Mohamed Hassan M. Bulale: Deputy Minister of Health -FGS
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Figure 5: Dr. Abdinasir Mukhtar Ibrahim, DG, Federal Ministry of Health -FGS



Figure 6: Group photo with H.E Hamza Abdi Bare, the Prime Minister -FGS

6. DAY 1 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Health Sector Strategic Plan III & Somalia Investment Case for the Health Sector

After the UHC Day session, the meeting continued with the opening of the other sessions in the agenda. The first session with the theme of health sector coordination – briefings and discussion started with a presentation on the Health Strategic Plan III and the Somalia Investment Case for the Health Sector. The objective of this presentation was to shed a light on the operationalization efforts of these two important documents. The Director of Policy & Planning, Abdifatah Mohamed who presented this, mentioned how the ministry is working on the operationalization of these documents. He specifically, mentioned how all the upcoming work plans of the Ministry for 2023 are expected to align to the strategic priorities of the country. Additionally, he requested the donors and the partners to also assist the alignment efforts by making sure that funds prioritize government priorities.

6.2 Update on the Implementation of the EPHs and the way forward

The presentation on the EPHS-2020 was presented by Dr. Abdulkadir Weheliye, this presentation was on the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS-2020). The objective of the presentation was to open a discussion on the way forward for the implementation of the EPHS-2020 and how the government and the partners can work to gather in making sure that the prioritized list of interventions in the EPHS -2020 are implemented across all the regions in the country. At the end of this presentation, the floor was opened for a discussion. The discussion which was mainly on alignment of interventions with national policies and priorities. However, a very important discussion on the way forward for the implementation of the EPHS-2020 has suggested that the government in collaboration with donors and partners develops a comprehensive EPHS implementation framework.

The objective of this suggestion was based on the need for having a common understanding and strategy for the implementation of the EPHS-2020. As result, the third action point in this report has been agreed up on. Therefore, a follow up meeting will be conducted with the aim of making sure that this action point is achieved before the upcoming health sector coordination meeting (March-2023).

6.3 Presentation on the progress of the development of the Health Information System

The third presentation in the session was on the achievements of the health information system. This was presented by the Head of Health Information Unit at the Federal Ministry of Health, Mr. Hassan Sheikh Ahmed. The presentation has depicted the improvements that were made on the system such as the upgrading of the DHIS2, training and capacity building for the HMIS staff at national and state levels, the progress of the health facility assessment and the on-going development of the national health information strategy.



Figure 7: Hassan Sheikh Ahmed, Head of HMIS-FMoH

6.4 Presentation on Health Financing

The Federal Ministry of Health has recently established a Health Financing Unit. H.E Dr. Ali Haji Adam, nominated the new Head of the Health Financing Unit Mr. Said Warie while a Health Financing Specialist was hired with the support of the World Bank/GFF. The presentation on this new unit was aimed at introducing the unit and its staff. Furthermore, it provided the way forward for the unit and the expected activities for the 2023 onwards.

6.5 Presentation on Human Resource for Health

The Director of the Human Resources for Health, Dr. Mohamed Hussein Alasow has presented the latest updates on HRH. The presentation covered the latest achievement such as the development of the HRH TWG and other important milestones. Furthermore, the director mentioned some of the main challenges facing the department. The link below provides the full presentation of the Director.

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6.6 Public Financial Management (Key achievements, challenges, and the way forward).

The objective of this presentation was to provide an overview of the key reforms and achievements of the public financial management system at the Ministry. Mr. Hussein Mohamed who presented this has talked about the how the PFM reforms that was introduced at the Ministry has improved transparency in resource management. Hussein has also mentioned some of the main challenges facing the department of finance. He mentioned that the off-budget funds are a major obstacle that requires immediate solution. He also asked the donors and the partners to support the Ministry in making sure that all off-budget resources are reduced to minimum level.

7. DAY 2 PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Current emergency – Health emergency and health sector response

The first presentation of the day-2 was on the current emergencies in the country. Somalia is experiencing one of the worst droughts it has seen since 2011. On top of this, the on-going conflict in the country has also increased the number of victims of gunshot and suicide attacks in main cities such as Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baledweyne. The presentation provided an overview of the current situation and the interventions that were carried so far by the health sector.

7.2 RMNACH Presentation

The presentation on RMNACH was presented by Dr. Ubah Farah, the Director of the Family Health Department. The Director provided a quick overview of the latest achievements in the sector and the progress towards the implementation of the RMNACH Strategy. She also mentioned some of the key challenges facing the realization of the key milestones in the sector.

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Figure 8: Dr. Ubah Farah, Director of Family Health Department -FMoH

7.3 Progress on the implementation of the WB Supported Projects Programs and new opportunities

The World Bank is supporting a number of significant health projects in Somalia. These include the Damal Caafimaad Project and the Somalia Emergency COVID-19 Project. Additionally, there are other development projects which have health components. The first presentation which was about the Damal Caafimaad Project was presented by Dr. Nur Ali Mohamud, the Senior Project Coordinator of the Damal Caafimaad Project. Dr. Nur provided an overview of the journey of the project activities. He also provided background information on what has been achieved so far, the status of the project and the main challenges. The full presentation which provides a complete overview of the project can be found in the dropbox provided in this report.



Figure 9: Dr. Nur Ali Mohamud, Senior Project Coordinator for Damal Caafimaad Project - FMoH

7.4 Going forward what the Donors have for the sector 2023 on- wards

Donors have presented an overview of the support from different governments and organizations for the Somalia health sector. The presentation which was presented by Awa Ahmed from the Finland Embassy. Awa provided a quick overview of the different donors and their contributions. The presentation was followed by a quick Q&A discussion. However, since some of the donors were not present in the meeting, questions that were addressed to them could not be fully answered.



Figure 10: Awa Ahmed from the Finland Embassy presenting during the second day of the HSC meeting

7.6 Improving Alignment of External Funds supporting Somalia's Health Sector

The presentation on improving alignment which was presented by the Director of Policies and Planning of Federal Ministry of Health was aimed at increasing awareness about the on-going efforts to better align external and internal funds with the government priorities. The Ministry of Health and Human Services with the support of donors and partners is working to make sure that external funds are used in an efficient manner. The World Bank/GFF has carried out an exercise to bring all donors and partners together in funding the health sector.

7.7 Action points from the meeting/HSC Calendar for 20

Towards the end of the meeting, participants have discussed the draft action points and a calendar for the HSC meeting for 2023. A number of action points have been agreed up on and a 4 times calendar was approved for HSC meeting in 2023. Additionally, it was agreed that all the 4 meetings will take place in the country. The first meeting in 2023 will be held in Mogadishu while the venue of the other 3 meetings will be decided after the first meeting in March-2023. Below you can find the action points of the meeting. The expectation is that these actions points will be achieved before the next meeting in March-2023.

6. Action points Health Sector Coordination Meeting – 12-13th December-2022

- I. Agree on the 2023 Calendar for Health Sector Coordination Conduct a quarterly health sector coordination meeting (4 X each year).
- II. Set the agenda, including all important topic along the year with comprehensive technical discussion.
- III. Agree up on a comprehensive EPHS implementation strategy, building on the documents (available from the Investment Case and developing the service delivery operations), and creation of EPHS technical working group
- IV. Activate the different TWGs that will report back to the health sector coordination meeting (to define their role and what they are).
- V. Partners to support the Ministry to reduce the off-budget support.
- VI. Strengthening private sector engagement, related to service delivery and to health financing (conducting technical discussions).
- VII. FMOH and partners to support the development of the M&E System at Federal and State level.
- VIII. Having a strong health sector coordination secretariate (to be created before the upcoming HSC meeting in March-2023).
- IX. Reviewing the list of participating partners and donors (making sure that all emails are updated).
- X. Increasing alignment efforts (concrete steps are taken towards toalignment).

7. CONCLUSION

This was the first health sector coordination meeting that was conducted in 2022. The meeting which was a high-level event opened by the Prime Minister of Somalia and other cabinet members from the Government of Somalia. This high-level participation shows how the Government is committed to strengthening health sector coordination. Additionally, it provides a new opportunity for the donors and health sector partners to renew their commitment in building a sustainable health system for Somalia. Therefore, the Ministry of Health and Human Services will continue to use this (HSC) meeting as a platform for collaboration between the Government, the donors and all health sector partners. We also expect the same level of commitment from our donors and partners in the upcoming HSC meetings.

Next Health Sector Coordination Meeting 13th -14th March 2023 In Mogadishu, Somalia **Annex- 2: Annual Health Sector Coordination meeting calendar 2023**

Date	Venue	Time	Participants	Expected Source of Support
13th -14th March 2023	Mogadishu	8:30- 4:00PM	All Health & Nutrition Sector Partners, government at Federal and State level and the private sector (academia and health care providers	1) Government commitments from WB/GFF funded Projects (RCRF-Damal Caafimaad Project) 2) WHO as key partiers
14th-15th June- 2023	In Somalia	8:30- 4:00PM	All Health & Nutrition Sector Partners, government at Federal and State level and the private sector (academia and health care providers	1) Government commitments from WB/GFF funded Projects (RCRF-Damal Caafimaad Project) 2) WHO as key partiers
13TH -14TH September 2023	In Somalia	8:30- 4:00PM	All Health & Nutrition Sector Partners, government at Federal and State level and the private sector (academia and health care providers	1) Government commitments from WB/GFF funded Projects (RCRF-Damal Caafimaad Project) 2) WHO as key partiers
22nd -23rd November - 2023	In Somalia	8:30- 4:00PM	All Health & Nutrition Sector Partners, government at Federal and State level and the private sector (academia and health care providers	1) Government commitments from WB/GFF funded Projects (RCRF-Damal Caafimaad Project) 2) WHO as key partiers

7. Shared Folder (Drop-box link)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1zmuaec3xz3hbe8/AABbaaKvIXgsFZlulfl4dk1a?dl=0>

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