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**وزارة التخطيط والاستثمار والتنمية الاقتصادية**

**MINISTRY OF PLANNING, INVESTMENT AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

# **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

## March 2024 Highlights







## Executive Summary: March 2024 Newsletter

In March 2024, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of Somalia engaged in a series of productive meetings and initiatives aimed at addressing critical development challenges and fostering sustainable progress.

Key highlights include:

- **Collaboration with International Partners:** Minister H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene) engaged with the African Development Bank to review progress on Somalia's Country Strategy Paper. At the same time, Zahra Abdi Mohamed met with the Norwegian Refugee Council to devise an action plan for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- **Enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation:** Meetings with parliamentary subcommittees, partnerships with FAO Somalia and World Vision for impact assessment, and discussions with the UNHCR on addressing displacement challenges underscored efforts to strengthen Somalia's monitoring and evaluation system.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The inauguration of a state-of-the-art conference hall marked a milestone in infrastructure development, highlighting the government's commitment to enhancing facilities for strategic planning and collaboration.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Various meetings and forums, including the Development Coordination Forum and discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships in aligning development initiatives with national priorities and promoting economic growth.
- **Commitment to Accountability:** The endorsement of Monitoring and Evaluation policies and an NGO Bill by the Council of Ministers demonstrates a commitment to promoting accountability and effectiveness in development programs and NGO operations.

These activities and milestones reflect the Ministry's dedication to fostering sustainable development and prosperity in Somalia through collaboration, accountability, and strategic planning as the country continues its journey towards progress and resilience.



## MADASHA ISKUDUWIDDA ARRIMAHA HORUMARINTA



### Development Coordination Forum (DCF) in Mogadishu

The Prime Minister of Somalia, H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre officially opened the Development Coordination Forum (DCF) of the Aid Architecture, a crucial step in the country's development agenda. The forum convened various stakeholders, including officials from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS), donors, the United Nations (UN), Civil Society Organizations, and others. Its objective is not only to discuss strategies for achieving national priorities, explicitly focusing on harmonizing the National Development Plan (NDP-9) programs, but also to facilitate dialogue and foster genuine exchanges aimed at recalibrating partnerships for meaningful national transformation.

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Bare emphasized the significance of the forum, stating, "We stand at a pivotal moment. Today's forum is not merely a gathering for discussion but a beacon for honest dialogue and exchange. It represents our collective endeavor to navigate towards a renewed partnership, one that propels Somalia towards substantial transformation."

Throughout the forum, participants engaged in discussions focused on five thematic pillars, including gender and human rights, with the government presenting their priorities under each pillar. Donors emphasized the importance of increased domestic revenue mobilization to ensure sufficient finance for Somalia's development. Both donors and the government reiterated the importance of an inclusive constitutional review process that also upholds Somalia's international obligations.

The Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene), emphasized the importance of the DCF in aligning development initiatives with the NDP-9 and government agenda. "The DCF is a critical platform for us to discuss and coordinate our efforts towards achieving our development objectives," he remarked. "We must collaborate closely to ensure that our resources are aligned and our efforts are complementary to maximize our impact."

The UN Resident Coordinator in Somalia, George Conway, underscored the importance of the DCF in promoting a unified and coordinated approach to development initiatives in Somalia. "The UN is committed to working with the government and other partners to support Somalia's development agenda," he affirmed. "The DCF presents an opportunity for us to align our strategies and coordinate our efforts towards achieving our shared goals."



The Somalia Donor Group reiterated their dedication and commitment to supporting Somalia's development agenda via the DCF. "We are honored to be part of this forum and to support Somalia's development agenda. We recognize the importance of aligning our resources and efforts with national plans and priorities" said Alena Kern, Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Germany and co-chair of the Somalia Donor Group.

The Development Coordination Forum is expected to establish a unified and coordinated approach to development initiatives in Somalia, with meticulous alignment of development programs and strategies with the NDP-9 and the Somali government's priorities. The collaborative and strategic partnership forged between the international community and the Somali government will be measured by demonstrable progress on the NDP-9 and government priorities.



## **Council of Ministers Endorses Policies to Promote Accountability and Effectiveness in Development Programs and Operations of NGOs**

The Council of Ministers has officially given its endorsement to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy presented by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development. The policy represents a significant milestone towards establishing a robust framework to showcase the quality of performance in development programs implemented by the government, donors, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the country.

The endorsement of this M&E policy is expected to provide a platform for the government, donors, the UN, and NGOs to better understand the effectiveness of development programs. It will facilitate the identification of areas of improvement and the implementation of corrective measures to ensure better performance in achieving the set goals and objectives.

In another development, the Council of Ministers has unanimously approved the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Bill presented by the ministry. This bill aims to regulate, monitor, and coordinate the operations of NGOs in the country.

The NGO Bill is a positive step towards ensuring the effectiveness and accountability of NGOs' operations. It aims to streamline the operations of NGOs, ensuring that they align with the government's development priorities, and that they operate within the legal framework while being accountable for their actions.





## Innauguration of Ministry's brand-new conference hall which boasts state-of-the-art facilities

The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre, undertook a working visit to the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development where he inaugurated the Ministry's brand-new conference hall which boasts state-of-the-art facilities.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the upcoming buildings of the Investment Promotion Agency and the Institute of Statistics, Planning, and Economic Development.

A noteworthy highlight was the naming of the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics building in honor of Mr. Noor Wehliye, who dedicated over 50 years of service to the Ministry of Planning, particularly in the field of Statistics.

The Prime Minister commended the Ministry for its efforts, describing it as a model institution that sets a standard for other government bodies to emulate.







## Meeting with Parliamentary Sub-Committees to Enhance National Monitoring and Evaluation System

The Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene), and the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Mohamud Said Nur, recently held an important meeting with the sub-committee on Budgetary Planning and Accountability of the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, as well as the sub-committee on Foreign Affairs, Investment, and Planning of the Upper House of the Federal Parliament of Somalia. The meeting was highly productive, and the primary focus was on enhancing the country's monitoring and evaluation system for various projects and programs.

During the meeting, the Monitoring and Evaluation team presented the National Integrated M&E Information Management System, which is a comprehensive system that will help to monitor the progress of various projects and programs across the country. This system is a significant step forward in ensuring the success of these projects and programs and positively impacting the lives of the Somali people.

The National Integrated M&E Information Management System is designed to provide real-time data and information on the status of various projects and programs, which will help to identify potential issues and challenges that need to be addressed. The system will also help to track the utilization of resources and ensure that the projects are implemented within the allocated budget, thus enhancing transparency and accountability.





## Ministry of Planning Meets With African Development Bank Delegation to Discuss Country Strategy Paper Progress

A delegation from the Federal Government of Somalia's Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development, led by H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene), met today with a visiting delegation from the African Development Bank in Mogadishu. The discussions mainly focused on Somalia's interim Country Strategy Paper 2022-2024 Completion Report. Both parties comprehensively reviewed the report's findings, which included an analysis of the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the implementation of the strategy paper.

The meeting also provided a platform to develop the New Country Strategy Paper 2025-2029, which aims to align with Somalia's national priorities for sustainable progress and prosperity. The strategy paper covered various aspects such as economic development, stability, and sustainable growth.

During the meeting, the Minister expressed gratitude for the bank's unwavering partnership with the Somali government. He also acknowledged the bank's efforts to promote economic growth, which is essential for Somalia's long-term development. The meeting was insightful and productive, and both parties shared the same vision for Somalia's future.







## Annual Reports on Programs and Initiatives in Somalia Unveiled by the Monitoring & Evaluation Department

The Monitoring and Evaluation Department, under the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia, has recently released several annual reports on various programs and initiatives in the country. These reports provide an in-depth analysis of the progress made in each sector, highlighting the areas where significant achievements have been made and where more attention is required.

One of the reports published is the 2023 Annual Joint Resilience Measurement report for programs implemented by the Somalia Resilience Program (SOMREP) consortium. The report offers valuable insights into the achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and the positive impact on the community. This report serves as a roadmap for strategic decision-making and policy development, showcasing the collaborative efforts of government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in achieving national priorities.

In addition, the annual monitoring report on programs and projects run by the World Food Programme (WFP) was also launched. This report provides comprehensive information on the implementation period and offers recommendations for overcoming challenges.

Another significant report released is the National Development Plan (NDP-9) Annual Progress Report for 2023. The report evaluates Somalia's development in 2023 and assesses the achievements, challenges, and prospects within each pillar of the NDP-9. It serves as a valuable tool for strategic planning and decision-making while highlighting the collaborative efforts of government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in achieving national priorities.



Moreover, the Annual Monitoring Report of UNICEF programs in Somalia was also released. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the progress and impact of various UNICEF programs and initiatives in Somalia. It covers a range of social development sectors, including education, health, child protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene. The report aims to assess the effectiveness of these programs, measure community participation, and analyze their positive community impacts.

These reports are essential in identifying the gaps and challenges in various sectors and offering recommendations for improvement







## **"Solutions Pathways Workshop" Identifies Viable Pathways for Removing 1 Million IDPs from Displacement in Somalia by 2025**

The Poverty Reduction and Durable Solutions Department, which operates under the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, organized an important event to address the displacement crisis in Somalia. The "Solutions Pathways Workshop" was held to identify practical and effective pathways for removing 1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from displacement by 2025.

During the workshop, various stakeholders from the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS), Banadir Regional Administration (BRA), and partner organizations collaborated on this vital initiative. The primary objective was to explore and develop sustainable solutions for the displacement issues that have affected Somalia for many years.

After extensive discussions and analysis, six pathways were identified for long-term solutions planning for 1 million IDPs in Somalia. These pathways are expected to provide a framework for addressing the root causes of displacement and creating effective, efficient, and sustainable solutions.

The workshop created a platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among key stakeholders, paving the way for a more coordinated and effective response to this critical issue.





## The minister of planning meets with the head of SSF to discuss streamlined development efforts

The Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development for Somalia, Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah, recently met with Bianca Jinga, Head of SSF phase 3, to discuss the development of Somalia's national planning and aid architecture. The meeting focused specifically on ways to strengthen the country's existing strategic partnership for the implementation of NDP-9 (the Ninth National Development Plan), the preparation of NTP (the National Transformation Plan), and the Aid Architecture. These initiatives aim to promote economic and social well-being in Somalia by streamlining development efforts and optimizing available resources. By working closely together and utilizing effective strategies, the parties seek to create a more efficient and effective system for aid architecture, which will ultimately benefit the people of Somalia.





## **Somalia's Ministers of Planning and Finance held productive discussions with an IMF team during the 1st Extended Credit Facility (ECF) review meeting of the new IMF Program in Nairobi, Kenya**

H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene), Somalia's Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, along with H.E. Bihi Egeh, Minister of Finance, and other senior government officials discussed the progress of Somalia's Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9) during the meeting. Minister Beenebeene provided detailed updates on the achievements and challenges of NDP-9 and also discussed the preparations for the successor National Transformation Plan (NTP) aimed at taking Somalia's economic growth and development to the next level.

In addition, the Minister shared valuable insights on the government's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change on the country's economy and people. He highlighted the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, an initiative aimed at strengthening the resilience of the Somali people in the face of climate-related challenges.

The meeting was a success and helped the government and the IMF team to exchange ideas and find ways to work together to achieve Somalia's economic development goals.





## National Durable Solutions Technical Working Group Meeting Held to Discuss Lasting Solutions for IDPs

The Department of Poverty Reduction and Durable Solutions recently organized the National Durable Solutions Technical Working Group Meeting.

The meeting focused on finding lasting solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The discussions revolved around the current status of ongoing projects, progress made so far, and ways to accelerate the projects aligned with the National Durable Solutions Strategy.

The meeting aimed to bring together experts and stakeholders from different sectors to share their experiences and knowledge and identify key challenges and opportunities to find the best possible solutions for IDPs. The meeting was a great success, and participants left with a better understanding of the issues and potential solutions.





## M&E Department Hosts Meeting on USAID Projects in Somalia

The M&E department recently convened a crucial meeting that brought together various Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) institutions. The meeting aimed to discuss the diverse projects the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been carrying out in Somalia. The projects focused on various sectors such as health, education, governance, water, and resilience. The meeting emphasized the importance of aligning these projects with the recent M&E policy that the Council of Ministers endorsed.

This meeting was pivotal as it provided a platform for stakeholders in the relevant sectors to share insights and experiences. These discussions will ultimately lead to better coordination and implementation of these projects. The meeting highlighted the significance of aligning projects with the recent M&E policy the Council of Ministers endorsed.





## Meeting Between the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation and NIS Foundation to Review MOU Progress and Project Alignment with M&E Policy

The Department of Monitoring and Evaluation, led by Director Mohamud S. Nur, recently held a meeting with the NIS Foundation to discuss and expedite the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed earlier. The primary objectives of the meeting were to review the progress made towards achieving the goals outlined in the MOU and assess the completion status of ongoing projects.

During the meeting, both parties evaluated the projects to ensure their alignment with the country's M&E policy. The Department of Monitoring and Evaluation scrutinized the performance of each project and analyzed the collected data to determine its impact on the community. The NIS Foundation provided updates on their ongoing projects, including their completion status and any challenges they have encountered, and sought input from the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation on overcoming those challenges.

Both parties agreed to continue working together to achieve their shared goals and objectives and maintain open communication to ensure that the projects progress smoothly.





## Meeting with the incoming country representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Somalia

The Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Mohamud A. Sheikh Farah (Beenebeene), recently met with Mr Charles Leonard Mballa, the incoming country representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Somalia.

The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss and enhance collaboration between the two parties to find durable solutions for the internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and returnees in the country. Additionally, both parties discussed the possibility of working together to develop a concrete plan to remove one million IDPs from displacement by 2025.

It is worth noting that the situation for refugees, returnees, and IDPs in Somalia is complex and challenging, requiring the concerted efforts of all stakeholders.





## Monitoring and Evaluation Department Collaborates with FAO and WorldVision to Strengthen Impact Assessment

The Monitoring and Evaluation Department has been actively engaged in enhancing collaborations and partnerships with various organizations to achieve practical impact assessment. The department recently held two crucial meetings with key representatives from different organizations to further this objective.

The first meeting, led by the Director of the M&E department, aimed to discuss project evaluation and strengthen partnerships with Mr Yara Wakweya, Head of M&E for the FAO Somalia office, in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation policy. The discussions focused on identifying areas of mutual interest and exploring ways to enhance collaboration to improve project impact assessments.

In the second meeting, the M&E Department, again led by its Director, met with Mr Kevin Mackey, the country representative of WorldVision. The primary objective of this meeting was to explore ways to promote collaborations and partnerships to achieve practical impact assessment. The discussions centered around identifying areas of common interest and the potential for partnerships to improve project impact assessments.

These meetings demonstrate the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen collaborations and partnerships to achieve its objectives in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The department remains committed to working with partners and international organizations to enhance its impact assessment capabilities and ensure the effective implementation of the National Policy on Monitoring and Evaluation.



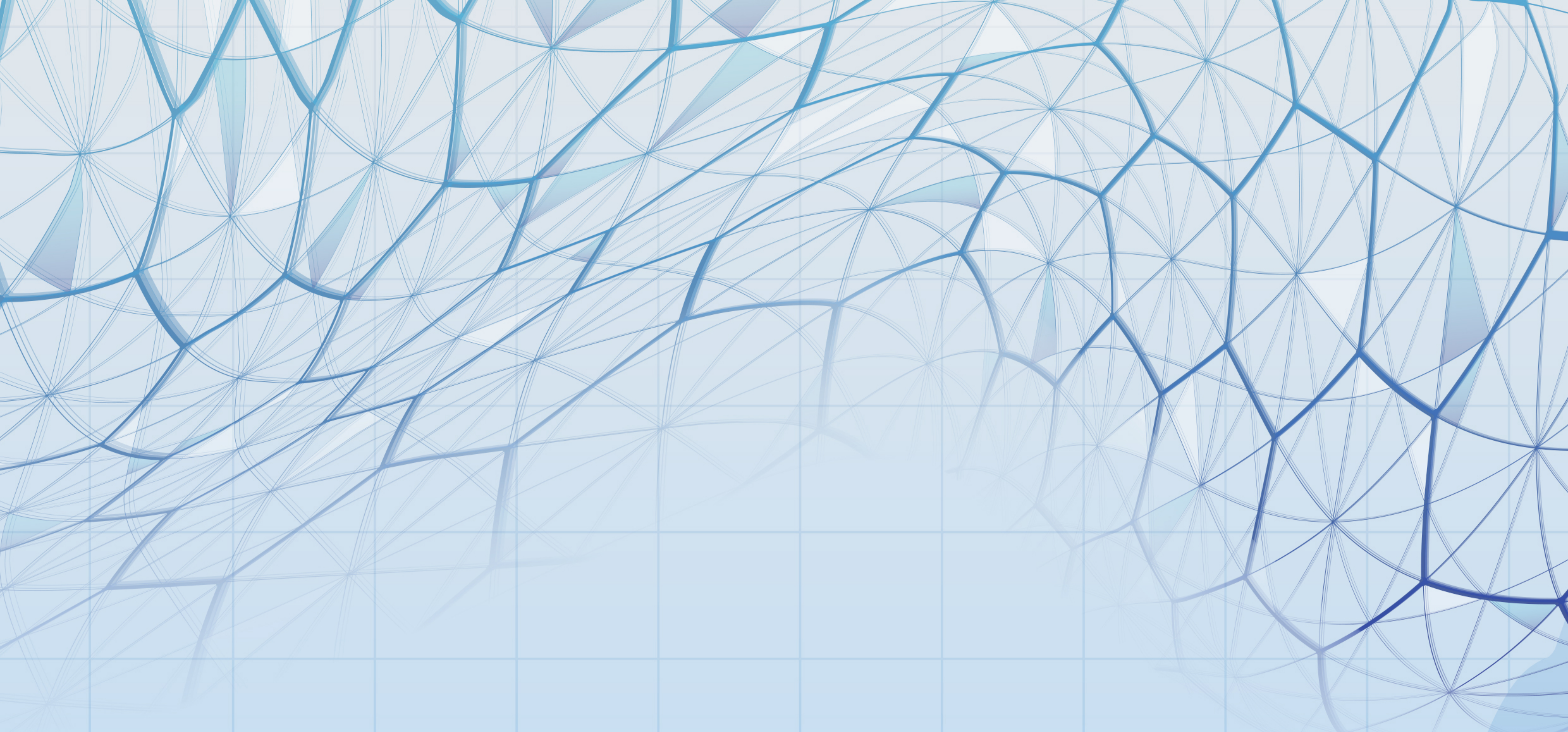




## Director of Poverty Reduction and Durable Solutions Department and Norwegian Refugee Council's Regional Adviser Discuss Action Plan for IDP Solution Pathways

Zahra Abdi Mohamed, the Director of Poverty Reduction and Durable Solutions department of the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development of Somalia, held a productive meeting with Jason Bell, who is the Regional Durable Solutions Adviser for the East and Southern Africa Region for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and his colleagues. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and develop an action plan for IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) solution pathways, which is a critical issue for Somalia. During the meeting, both parties exchanged their views on the challenges and opportunities in the region and identified possible areas for mutual collaboration. They discussed multiple strategies and approaches to promote durable solutions for the IDPs, including enhancing access to basic services, improving livelihoods, and strengthening social cohesion.





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