**Somalia Social Protection Donor Working Group (DWG)**

Terms of Reference (ToR)

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1. **Background**

Large-scale cash and voucher transfers have long formed the basis of the humanitarian response to crises in Somalia and successfully so. While sporadic small scale cash transfer projects in the past lacked coordination and coherence, this time a great deal of effort has been expended by donors and partners to better harmonize the transfers into a cohesive single programme approach, especially regarding the unrestricted multi-purpose cash primarily delivered through the mobile phone network (Mobile Money). The Somalia Social Protection Policy and its Implementation Framework are setting the foundations for a longer-term predictable and sustainable social protection system that will eventually be scalable in order to include both chronic and transitory caseloads.

The desired transition from an emergency cash transfer programme to a social protection system with predictable cash transfers and a capacity to adapt to new shocks (before or during their occurrence) needs a continuous coordination, preparation and technical assistance (see concept note for more details). The Donor Working Group will strive towards to increasing harmonization, alignment and predictability among donors and Humanitarian and Development Partners, building on the earlier efforts of the emergency cash transfer programmes and ongoing initiatives like the Baxnaano and the SAGAL programmes, which are supporting the development of a government-owned, shock-responsive social transfer system in Somalia. Effectively developing a shock-responsive social protection system in Somalia requires a collective approach and a concrete commitment from a critical number of interested donors and an open and transparent dialogue that is aligned with Government priorities and the principle of ownership.

1. **The role of the DWG**

The primary role of the DWG is to support donor harmonization/coordination and overall strategic relevance as it relates to supporting the social protection sector in Somalia. More specifically the DWG will seek to:

* Coordinate and harmonize donors’ policy, operational, technical assistance and capacity building initiatives in the SP sector.
* Support advancing the agenda of aligning donors’ support (humanitarian and development) to the national SP agenda and national SP programs (as feasible).
* Explore opportunities to support joint programming.
* Coordinate and build consensus on a donors’ policy dialogue with the Government.

The work of the DWG will be guided by joint objectives that will be developed on an annual basis in response to the identified needs and in line with Government policy and strategy. The DWG will also facilitate communication and coordination vis-à-vis the Government-Donor Working Group on Social Protection and other important coordination mechanisms in the sector.

The DWG should remain a flexible platform of interested donors for consultation, information sharing and streamlining the support to the social protection sector in Somalia.

1. **The functioning modality of the DWG**
* The DWG meets on a bi-monthly basis. Meetings will be following an established agenda and will be recorded in minutes with concrete action points. Additional ad hoc meetings are convened if so required.
* Membership of the DWG is comprised of the Humanitarian and Development Donors that are committing financial and/or technical contributions to social protection sector in Somalia. Other non-donor members may be invited to join selected meeting if the majority of the DWG members so decide (as guest participants))
* The DWG is chaired and co-chaired by two of the donors with considerable financial contribution to the social protection sector in Somalia on a rotating basis every 12 months. The official members of the DWG will decide on a simple system of nomination and selection amongst their co-members to assign the chair positions. The responsibilities of the Donor Chair (DC) and Donor Co-Chair (DCC) include the preparation, coordination, management and follow-up of the regular donor meetings. The DC and DCC will work as a team and agreement on actions should be taken on a consensus basis.
* All DWG members should seek to have at least one regular core representative in the DWG meetings with the ability to represent the organization. If the core representative is not able to attend a meeting, a substitute should be nominated. The agenda should be discussed and substitutes should be thoroughly briefed both on topics of discussion and institutional positions.