



National strategy for migration in Somalia



May 2024



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Federal Republic of Somalia



National strategy for migration in Somalia



May 2024



Acknowledgements

This strategy would have not been possible without the active engagement of a range of stakeholders. We want to express gratitude to the government officials who spearheaded the development of the strategy, including ministers and policymakers who made comments on the draft and participated in the validation workshop. We also acknowledge the contributions of experts and consultants who provided valuable insights, research and guidance in crafting the strategy. The input and feedback received from various stakeholders, including migrant communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, and advocacy groups was also invaluable. The validation workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation; Office of the Special Envoy for Migrants' and Children's Rights; Immigration and Citizenship Agency; Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Ministry of Internal Security; National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons; Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism; Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education; Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development; Vosoco Youth and Sport Academy NGO; and the International Organization for Migration. The range of stakeholders involved helps to ensure that the strategy is informed by a truly whole-of-society approach. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in offering their technical assistance in developing and enriching the strategy.



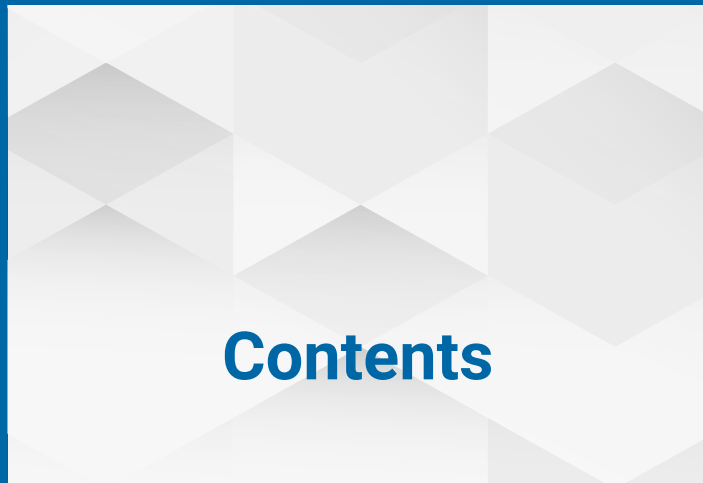
Foreword

In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, migration stands as both a challenge and an opportunity. Migration is not merely a matter of policy but also a deeply human experience. It is driven by many different factors, ranging from economic opportunity and political instability to climate change.

In crafting a national migration strategy, we recognize the complexity and sensitivity of the issues at hand. Our approach to migration management is people-centred, focusing on protecting the rights and dignity of migrants, regardless of their status, while safeguarding the interests and security of Somali citizens. We recognize the nuances of the Somali context and thereby focus on returnees, emigrants and diaspora in addition to immigrants. This strategy recognizes the contributions

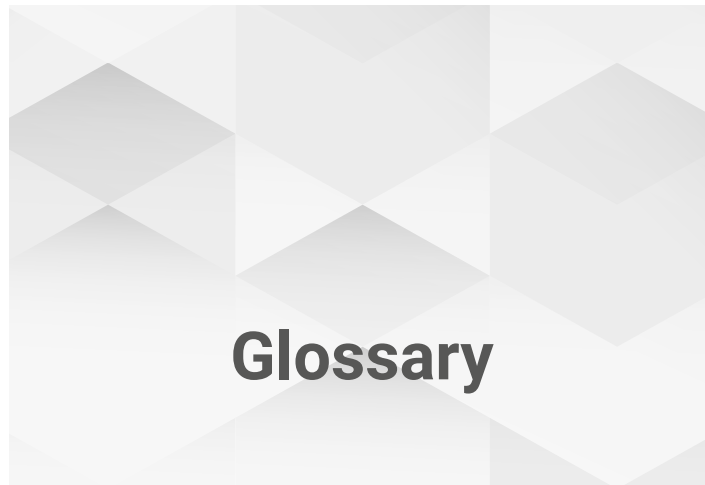
that all these migrant groups make while also addressing the challenges they face. As we embark on the implementation of this national migration strategy, we are committed to building a future where migration is regular, safe and orderly.

A comprehensive national migration strategy integrates policies and initiatives across various sectors and levels of governance. It demands engagement from the whole-of-government and whole-of-society to be truly transformative. It requires evidence-based policy direction but also a willingness to adapt to changing circumstances. In this spirit, we call upon all stakeholders to work together towards a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable approach to migration. Together, we can harness the transformative potential of migration.



Acknowledgements	2
Foreword	3
Glossary	6
Introduction	7
1. Situation analysis of migration in Somalia	9
<hr/>	
A. Migrant groups under consideration	9
B. Existing migration laws and policy frameworks	10
C. Existing institutional setup	11
D. Strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis	12
2. Vision, mission and guiding principles	16
<hr/>	
A. Vision	16
B. Mission	16
C. Guiding principles	16

3. Policy goals and objectives	19
GOAL 1: Promote safe and voluntary return and reintegration for Somali migrants	20
GOAL 2: Regularize migration pathways for emigrants and immigrants	21
GOAL 3: Combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons	24
GOAL 4: Engage the diaspora in sustainable development and reduce remittance costs	25
4. Framework for implementation	28
Bibliography	29
Endnotes	30



Diaspora: Refers to the movement of any population sharing common ethnic identity who were either forced to leave or voluntarily left their settled territory, and became residents in areas often far removed from the former.¹

Emigrant: From the perspective of the country of departure, a person who moves from his or her country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.²

Immigrant: From the perspective of the country of arrival, a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.³

Internally displaced persons (IDPs): Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.⁴

Reintegration: A process which enables individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationships needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity, and inclusion in civic life.⁵

Remittances: Private international monetary transfers that migrants make, individually or collectively.⁶

Returnee: A person going from a host country back to a country of origin, country of nationality or habitual residence usually after spending a significant period of time in the host country whether voluntary or forced, assisted or spontaneous.⁷

Introduction

Somalia is a sending, host and transit country for international migrants. If well managed, migration can contribute to economic and social development. In this pursuit, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has paid increased attention to international migration governance in recent years. It has adopted a number of policies related to migration; however, there is a need for a comprehensive policy that harmonizes the efforts across the different areas. The present strategy is evidence-based and aims to better govern migration in Somalia. It is developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and with the support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The present migration strategy provides clarity on vision, principles and goals of migration in Somalia. It establishes

national priorities to facilitate coordinated action at the national level. It aims to organize the governance framework and facilitate greater policy coherence across the already existing policies and structures in place. It will ultimately maximize the gains and minimize the costs associated with migration to and from Somalia.

In the spirit of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, developing this policy was conducted in an inclusive and comprehensive manner. It is also based on evidence compiled through desk research of available documents and reports, a review of national legal documents, and national, regional and international frameworks, as well as field research that included in-depth interviews with governmental representatives. The findings of this research were synthesized in a report titled "Situation Report on Migration in Somalia".⁸

The draft national migration strategy was validated in a national workshop held in Mogadishu on 7 March 2024, with the participation of governmental and non-governmental representatives.⁹

This strategy offers a vision and mission for improved migration governance and is guided by five principles that ensure the alignment of the strategy with Somalia's commitment to international frameworks and migrants rights. It identifies the following four strategic goals:

- **Promote** safe and voluntary return and reintegration for Somali migrants.
- **Regularize** migration pathways for emigrants and immigrants.
- **Combat** migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.
- **Engage** the diaspora in sustainable development and reduce remittance costs.

Each goal details specific objectives and recommended actions that take into consideration the national context and the available resources.



1

Situation analysis of migration in Somalia

To support contextualization of this strategy, this section will present the highlights of the Situation Analysis of International Migration in Somalia (March

2023). To contextualize the numbers below, the total population in Somalia in 2022 stood at 17.6 million, with 8.82 million men and 8.78 million women.¹⁰

A. Migrant groups under consideration

1. International migrants in Somalia (immigrants)

As of 2020, there were 58,590 migrants and refugees in the country, with more than half of those being from Ethiopia (21,764) and Yemen (13,285).¹¹ Looking at forced

displacement, as of 2023, Somalia hosted 16,172 refugees and 18,700 asylum-seekers, 67 per cent of which are from Ethiopia and 29 per cent from Yemen.¹²

2. Migrants and refugees from Somalia (emigrants)

The latest migrant stock data show that there were more than two million Somalis who left the country. Over half of them

went to the following three countries: Kenya (425,284), Ethiopia (411,152) and Yemen (280,940).¹³ Given the insecurity

and climate shocks in the country, it is perhaps unsurprising that almost half of them have been forcibly displaced, with 836,300 Somali refugees and asylum-

seekers at the end of 2021. Again, most of them are living in neighbouring countries, with 279,200 in Kenya and 250,719 in Ethiopia.¹⁴

3. Returnees

Somalia has witnessed increased numbers of migrants and refugees returning home. According to the Government, more than 4,000 migrants returned from Saudi Arabia

in 2019.¹⁵ This process has been facilitated by relatively more stable and secure conditions in Somalia and instability in countries of destination such as Yemen.

B. Existing migration laws and policy frameworks

1. National framework

Despite the absence of a migration strategy, there are several laws and policy frameworks in place to partially support

migration management. The below table summarizes these.

Laws and policy frameworks supporting migration management		
Law/Policy	Year(s)	Summary
National Policy on Refugee Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	2019	Outlines rights for refugee returnees and IDPs, stating that they should enjoy the same rights as all citizens.
National Development Plan	2020–2024	References migration in terms of the contributions of the diaspora to development, mainly through remittances. Also includes a human capital development strategy that references brain gain from highly skilled Somalis among the diaspora who choose to return.
National Durable Solutions Strategy	2020–2024	Creates an enabling environment for IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers, refugee returnees, and even vulnerable host communities to access durable solutions.
Foreign Employment Act	2015	Defines the rights of foreign workers in Somalia as well as outlines governmental responsibilities.
Somali National Diaspora Policy	2022	Facilitates the Somali diaspora's contribution to sustainable development of the country.
Somalia Refugee Act	2019	Reflects an attempt to enshrine new global developments and agreements such as the Global Compact for Refugees and the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development region.

2. International and regional frameworks

At the regional and international level, Somalia is involved with several processes, including the following:

▶ **Global Compact for Safe, Order and Regular Migration (GCM) (2018)**

In March 2021, the United Nations Network on Migration was launched in Somalia with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the Secretariat. This Network aims to monitor and support implementation of the 23 GCM objectives. For example, GCM objective 19 focuses on a topic of particular relevance to the Somali context, creating conditions for migrants and diaspora to fully contribute to sustainable development.

▶ **Khartoum Process (EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative) (November 2014)**

Somalia is a member of the Khartoum Process, which focuses on addressing human trafficking and smuggling networks along the EU-Horn of Africa route.

▶ **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Nairobi Declaration on Somali Refugees (March 2017)**

Its main objective is to create an enabling environment for safe, sustainable and voluntary return and reintegration of Somali refugees.

▶ **Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018–2030)**

It offers a broad range of recommendations on various migration issues and allows stakeholders to use whatever elements are in line with their specific priorities and circumstances.

C. Existing institutional setup

The below institutions take a leading role for migration management in Somalia.

- **The National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI)** is mandated to support refugees, including returning refugees and IDPs.
- **The Office of the Special Envoy for Children's and Migrants' Rights (OSE)**, Office of the President, is tasked with leading efforts to facilitate regular, safe and orderly migration.
- **The National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM)** coordinates migration-related issues through a whole-of-government approach.
- **The Department of Diaspora Affairs (DODA)** in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is mandated to work with the diaspora.
- **The Immigration and Citizenship Agency (ICA)** is mandated to combat human trafficking and in charge of regulating immigration.

Apart from the above structure created to address migration issues, other governmental ministries support migration governance, as follows:

- The Department of Legal and Labour Relations at the **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs** has the mandate to recruit foreign employees, provide work permits and handle the general procedures and services to oversee Somali workers traveling abroad for employment. Moreover, they are involved in providing pre-departure guidance for Somalia migrant workers to support them understand their position, rights and responsibilities and the general context of the country which they are traveling to.
- The **Ministry of Women and Human Rights** has been collaborating with women in the diaspora to support delivery of services and encouraging them to invest in the country. Moreover,
- the ministry engaged with youth to raise their awareness and create opportunities for them by collaborating with local universities, religious leaders and businesses in order to dissuade them from taking the risky migration journey.
- The **Ministry of Education** has been working to break the negative stereotype of migrants through a revamping of the primary and secondary educational curricula in 2018.
- The health promotion unit of the **Ministry of Health** has a programme that is aimed at increasing health service seeking behaviour among migrants and IDPs.
- The **Somali National Bureau of Statistics** is planning to conduct new population surveys in 2025 that will cover migrants and to establish a migrant data unit.

D. Strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis

A strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis was conducted to inform this strategy with the aim of building on the strengths and opportunities while being mindful of the weaknesses and

threats. It is a channel to facilitate a better understanding of the key persisting challenges the country needs to address in addition to the areas it can leverage for migration management.

1. Strengths

Despite the challenging context and external factors, the Somali migration ecosystem has strengths to build on. **First**, institutional structure and mechanisms needed for migration

management systems are already in place. Although the existing systems do not always function as desired, at least they exist. The Government has established specialized bodies to support the diaspora

(Department of Diaspora Affairs), migrants (OSE) and refugees (NCRI). Moreover, to facilitate coordination, it has set up task forces on migration management, human trafficking and smuggling as well as return and readmission. Given the lack of traction of the task forces, it is now considering replacing these with a mixed migration task force. Such institutions provide a foundation from which to build from and demonstrate the political will of the Government to take migration governance seriously. Furthermore, there are several policies that have already been developed (although not all have been adopted) to address the needs of specific migrant groups.

Second, the durable solutions programme for displaced persons is comprehensive. Although this programme is mainly geared towards the almost three million IDPs, it also reaches refugees, returnees and vulnerable host communities. This can be seen as an area of strength, signaling capacity and willingness of stakeholders to address migration issues.

2. Weaknesses

There are significant shortcomings in the migration governance framework that need to be considered. **First**, the migration governance framework suffers from a lack of data. At the country level, there is no common database on immigrants and refugees or on emigrants and the Somali diaspora. Moreover, there is little disaggregation of the data that exist, such as that on remittances or on the socioeconomic profile of migrants, emigrants and returnees.

Third, the country benefits from substantial flows of remittances. The World Bank reported that, in 2023, migrant remittance inflows totaled \$1.735 billion, amounting to 15.1 per cent of the gross domestic product of Somalia.¹⁶ These remittances are critical for sustaining livelihoods, with poverty five percentage points lower in households receiving remittances.¹⁷ The National Diaspora Policy of 2022 aims to facilitate positive interactions between the diaspora and national development efforts.

Finally, there is significant international and regional support for migration governance in Somalia. This is evidenced by the numerous international programmes in the country as well as agreements such as the Nairobi Declaration and the Khartoum Process.¹⁸ Another example is the large number of Somalis coming back from Kenya, which has been facilitated by the tripartite agreement between the Governments of Somalia and Kenya and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Such external commitments and partnerships can be critical in supporting a more comprehensive migration management system in Somalia.

Second, there is a lack of programmes to support outward labour emigrants and incoming immigrants. The country lacks pre-departure trainings for Somali migrant workers. Such programmes can be critical in informing emigrants of their rights and offering them support in the case of exploitation. Similarly, on-arrival training for immigrant workers coming to Somalia can help them ease the transition and integration.

Third, resource constraints limit the capacity of staff working on migration management. They require capacity-building training. Additionally, there is a shortage of funding for migration management.

3. Opportunities

Given the dynamic nature of migration to and from Somalia, there are multiple opportunities that can be explored to improve migration management.

First, there are several diaspora organizations that are already working to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus through their combined short-term provision of relief and longer-term community-based support. Building on existing connections and developing new ones with such organizations can enable the Government to maximize the potential for the sizeable diaspora to support development back home. Policies such as Migration for Development in Africa operate based on this understanding. They work with the highly qualified Somalia diaspora to bring them home on a short-term basis to develop institutional capacity.

Second, with a larger number of voluntary returnees, the country can benefit from the skills and experience that they bring with them. This requires strategic support programmes that maximize the contributions of returnees

4. Threats

Several threats have affected and may continue to affect migration governance in Somalia. **First**, conflict and instability in the

Finally, despite the creation of task forces, there is limited coordination between the stakeholders involved in migration management. This complicates efforts to develop harmonized and coherent national policies that involve multiple stakeholders.

to the communities they return to. It also necessitates help for returnees to transition to life in Somalia and ensure that their relations with host communities are cooperative. Moreover, returnees can help provide aspiring emigrants with details of their own lived experiences. The 'Telling the Real Story' campaign is such an example that has been implemented in Somalia as part of a global UNHCR campaign involving consultations with civil society, academics and youth associations.

Finally, the range of stakeholders addressing migration issues is truly wide. This creates opportunities for mainstreaming migration across the board to ensure a truly whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to migration management. For example, the next National Development Plan can further integrate migration. Moreover, sectoral policies such as education and health policies can adopt a more migrant-sensitive lens. This will help ensure that migrants are not left behind and empower them to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of the country.

country as well in neighbouring countries have significant implications for migration to and from Somalia. They cause humanitarian

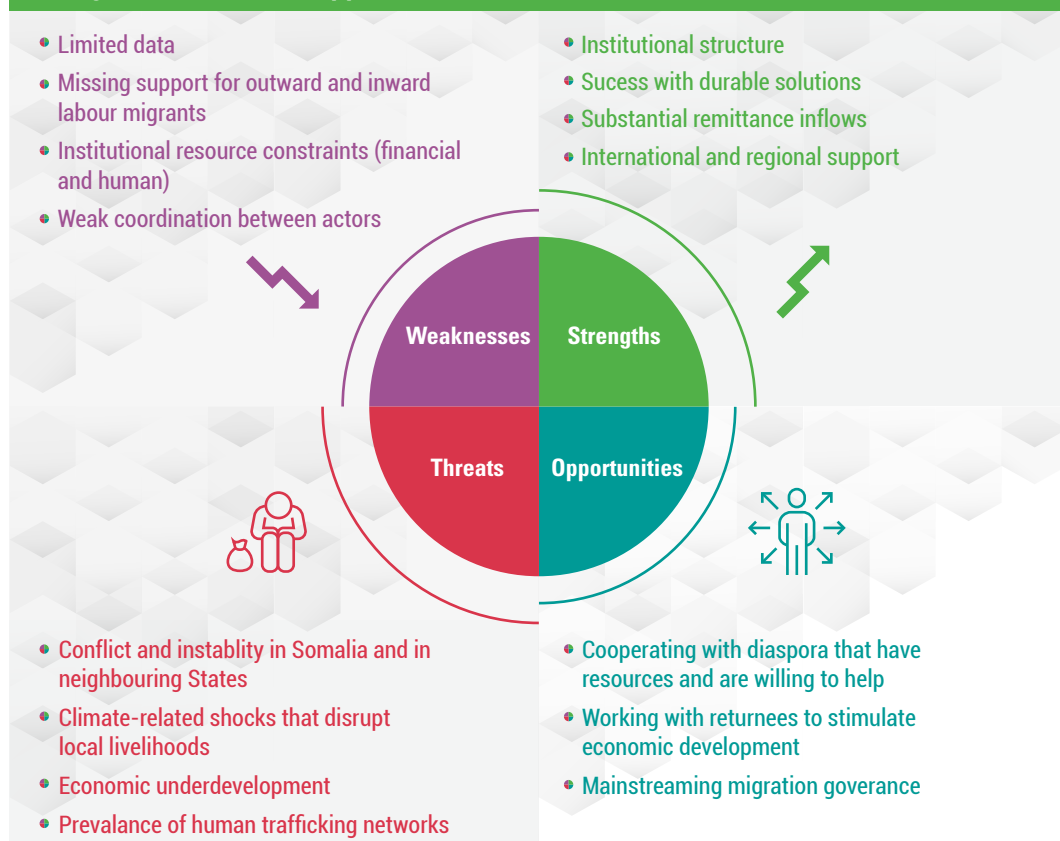
crises and massive uprooting of populations and make it hard to settle permanently.

Second, climate change and unpredictable weather patterns may disrupt livelihoods and drive further outward migration from the country. Early warning mechanisms can be used to improve mitigation and adaptation yet are underdeveloped in Somalia.

Third, economic underdevelopment may continue to threaten already precarious food and water security, thereby driving further outward migration, especially irregular migration. With continued challenges, there is less incentive for emigrants and refugees to return and more incentive for Somalis to move abroad in search of better opportunities.

Finally, the prevalence of human trafficking networks may be hard to counter given influence. Without action, they will continue to take advantage of desperate migrants, smuggling them from and through Somalia. The creation of the Technical Task Force on Human Trafficking and Smuggling signaled the importance of this topic for the FGS. The work of the Better Migration Management Programme together with the Ministry of Internal Security has helped to develop capacity to address the issue. FGS involvement in the Khartoum Process is also important as it involves cooperation on human trafficking and smuggling networks along the route connecting the European Union with the Horn of Africa. Nevertheless, the threat of human trafficking and migrant smuggling stills looms large in Somalia.

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in a nutshell



2

Vision, mission and guiding principles

A. Vision

Creating a conducive and enabling environment for effective governance and management of migration constitutes the vision behind the National Strategy for Migration in Somalia.

B. Mission

The strategy's mission is to strengthen migration management for the socioeconomic benefit of Somalia while upholding the rights of migrants.

C. Guiding principles

The national migration strategy in Somalia is guided by the following principles which are all reflected in the GCM.



1. National sovereignty

The strategy is guided by Somalia's commitments outlined in international frameworks, yet it upholds the national sovereignty of Somalia. Ultimately, it is driven by national realities, policies and priorities.



2. Sustainable development

Based on the understanding that each country has its own unique developmental priorities, this strategy capitalizes on the positive outcomes of migration and attempts to limit potential negative outcomes. It recognizes and supports the role of migration for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



3. People-centred, human rights based

The strategy prioritizes the human rights and well-being of migrants, in addition to those most affected by migration. This positive approach puts people at the heart of a gender- and child-sensitive strategy.



4. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

The objectives and actions proposed in this strategy encourage and rely on a whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach that engages all stakeholders in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration.



5. International cooperation

This strategy acknowledges the limited funds and resources available and recognizes that, for its implementation to be successful, it will be critical to cooperate with international partners. This will require advocacy, transparency and clear budgeting. It may also require technical capacity-building for those working on migration management.

3

Policy goals and objectives

Goals and objectives	
Goal	Objective
1. Promote safe and voluntary return and reintegration for Somali migrants.	1.1. Increase employment opportunities for Somali returnees.
	1.2 Strengthen reintegration programmes to support Somali returnees and their host communities.
	1.3 Enhance bilateral agreements with major destination countries to better manage return and repatriation.
2. Regularize migration pathways for emigrants and immigrants.	2.1 Sign new and strengthen existing regional and bilateral labour migration agreements (BLMAs) to regulate labour migration.
	2.2 Raise awareness on regular pathways for emigrants.
	2.3 Support immigrants to transition to life in Somalia.
	2.4 Support emigrants to prepare for life in their new communities.
3. Combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.	3.1 Prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
	3.2 Provide care and support for vulnerable persons and victims of human trafficking to improve their well-being.
	3.3 Prosecute perpetrators to end impunity and provide justice for victims.
	3.4 Partner with neighbouring countries to address human trafficking.
4. Engage the diaspora in sustainable development and reduce remittance costs.	4.1 Incentivize returns, even short-term ones, to transfer knowledge.
	4.2 Reduce costs of receiving remittances in Somalia.
	4.3 Leverage diaspora investments for development in Somalia.

GOAL 1: Promote safe and voluntary return and reintegration for Somali migrants

With an increasing number of voluntary returnees, Somalia stands to benefit from the skills and experience returnees bring with them. This requires careful planning to maximize the contributions of returnees to the communities they return to. It also necessitates comprehensive programmes to support returnees to transition to life back home and ensure smooth relations with host communities. This involves both economic and social integration. It entails adopting a holistic approach to reintegration that is mindful of the sustainability of settling returnees back into the country. Indeed, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration are critical components of a comprehensive approach to migration management.

Sustainable reintegration involves livelihood provision. This is of primary importance given the extreme uncertainty that returnees face. Adequate job opportunities need to be available. Yet, job opportunities are already limited. This creates an imperative to focus on job creation and promotion of entrepreneurship in host communities. While temporary support may be needed in the short-term,

it is only when returnees are engaged in gainful employment that they can feel truly reintegrated into society. The skills returnees bring back are often not realized or accepted, which further complicates reintegration. At the same time, reintegration programmes go beyond economic reintegration to also include social reintegration efforts that focus on fostering community acceptance. Moreover, they entail offering psychosocial support and peer support networks to help returnees cope with the emotional stress of reintegration. In all these reintegration efforts, it is also important to include the host community. Given their knowledge of the contextual nuances, host communities are best placed to develop reintegration programmes that benefit both the returnees and the host communities.

Finally, having agreements with major countries of destination for Somali migrants and refugees is important for managing repatriation and return. Agreements can help to phase the return process and ensure that reintegration efforts are manageable and contextually appropriate.

Objective 1.1 – Increase employment opportunities for Somali returnees

Action 1.1.1 – Integrate employability into reintegration programmes, including creation of skills training centres, job market analysis and creation of a repository of available vacancies.

Action 1.1.2 – Recognize and certify skills, qualifications and diplomas to ensure that those acquired outside the country are accepted within Somalia.

Action 1.1.3 – Introduce temporary subsidized employment schemes that offer cash-for-work for short-term labour-intensive jobs that support community development.

Action 1.1.4 – Focus on job creation in high-return communities.

Action 1.1.5 – Provide vocational training for returnees to develop skills for the job market.

Objective 1.2 – Strengthen reintegration programmes to support Somali returnees and their host communities

Action 1.2.1 – Initiate community-level initiatives that foster dialogue, social cohesion and de-stigmatization.

communities and support the human rights of returnees.

Action 1.2.2 – Link reintegration programmes with national, State and local development plans.

Action 1.2.4 – Offer psychosocial support to returnees on how to deal with the mental burden of reintegration.

Action 1.2.3 – Ensure access to basic services in high-return communities to mitigate any pressure on host

Action 1.2.5 – Establish peer-support mechanisms between returnees and host community members to foster social cohesion.

Objective 1.3 – Enhance bilateral agreements with major destination countries to better manage return and repatriation

Action 1.3.1 – Sign comprehensive repatriation and return agreements with major destination countries for Somali migrants and refugees.

Action 1.3.3 – Implement advocacy programmes with local central statistical offices to engage them in reintegration programmes.

Action 1.3.2 – Develop partnerships with the international community to support reintegration of returnees.

GOAL 2: Regularize migration pathways for emigrants and immigrants

The dangers of irregular migration and the global attention on facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration make it

imperative that this policy considers ways in which to regularize migration pathways. Migration has enormous

potential to support development, yet this potential is much more likely to be realized if the process is regular. Having regular status allows migrants and their families better access to labour, economic and social opportunities. Regularization also allows host and origin countries to govern migration in a more coherent and comprehensive manner.

Somalia can benefit from being integrated into regional labour agreements, such as that of IGAD in Eastern Africa and the East African Community (EAC). Developing bilateral labour migration agreements is another way to regulate and facilitate labour migration. They can help develop tailored responses to specific migration corridors. BLMAs can help establish regular migration pathways that protect the rights of migrants, while ensuring that the country of destination can tailor the migration process to their capacities and needs.

Awareness-raising campaigns can clarify the risks of irregular migration and provide information on regular migration pathways that potential emigrants can consider. Ensuring that they are well-informed about their options is critical so that they can make decisions for their future that are grounded in reality. Once they have made the decision to emigrate, support services for emigrants before they leave the country are equally important. Experience has shown that a lack of information pre-departure can lead to misguided or wrong expectations. Moreover, having a clear support system in place for emigrants can help them settle better in their destination country.

Having programmes to welcome immigrants can help with their transition to life in Somalia and to educate them about their rights and obligations. This involves a wide range of activities that aim to support them to adjust to life in Somalia and make the most of their stay in the country.

Objective 2.1 – Sign new and strengthen existing regional and bilateral labour migration agreements to regulate labour migration

Action 2.1.1 – Involve employers' and workers' organizations and civil society organizations in the development and implementation of bilateral labour agreements.

Action 2.1.2 – Cover the entire labour migration cycle in the BLMAs, from pre-departure to travel to post-arrival to potential return to the country of origin.

Action 2.1.3 – Focus on implementation modalities in relevant agreements while adhering to international human and labour rights principles.

Action 2.1.4 – Negotiate to include Somalia in multilateral agreements for free movement of persons such as those made under IGAD and EAC.

Objective 2.2 – Raise awareness on regular pathways for emigrants

Action 2.2.1 – Conduct outreach campaigns, especially for women and youth, to disseminate information on regular pathways and the perils of irregular migration, especially the dangers of smugglers and traffickers. Involve returnees in these campaigns to share their lived experiences on

the benefits and challenges of the migratory journey.

Action 2.2.2 – Create an online migration resource centre that provides outgoing, intending and potential migrants with information on a broad range of migration-related challenges and opportunities.

Objective 2.3 – Support immigrants to transition to life in Somalia

Action 2.3.1 – Offer dialogues to introduce immigrants to their basic rights and responsibilities.

Action 2.3.4 – Establish support networks for immigrants to be able to connect with one another.

Action 2.3.2 – Assist immigrants in overcoming barriers specific to the Somali context (language, culture and others).

Action 2.3.5 – Facilitate the access of immigrants with irregular status to individual assessments that allow regularization with clear and transparent criteria.

Action 2.3.3 – Ensure immigrants are aware of and have access to basic public services such as health and education.

Objective 2.4 – Support emigrants to prepare for life in their new communities

Action 2.4.1 – Conduct trainings on self-sufficiency and resourcefulness skills to help facilitate integration, including financial literacy, money management, and navigating new systems such as transport.

Action 2.4.3 – Offer basic language and cultural sensitivity training.

Action 2.4.2 – Ensure that emigrants are aware of their rights and obligations in the country of destination as well as support services that are available to them, including the Somali consulate where it exists.

Action 2.4.4 – Establish support networks for emigrants to be able to connect with one another.

Action 2.4.5 – Regularize recruitment agencies operating in Somalia to ensure that they respect clients' rights.

GOAL 3: Combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons

More efforts are needed to overcome the significant influence of trafficking and smuggling networks in and around Somalia. The first call of action is to confront the main propagators of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This requires identification of human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks and disruption of their operations. It also entails strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officers. Awareness-raising can also help protect potential victims by making them aware of human traffickers and their tactics.

It is critical to offer immediate support to victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This requires the establishment of protection services and responsive procedures for reporting and support. It also involves longer term rehabilitation support to help them overcome the trauma and abuse they have endured. The system needs to be both comprehensive, gender-sensitive, child-sensitive, and swift to ensure that support is delivered in a timely and effective manner.

Objective 3.1 – Prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling

Action 3.1.1 – Conduct capacity-building for border management personnel on intelligence gathering and formulation of risk profiles.

Those found guilty of human trafficking and migrant smuggling need to be held accountable. A strong and fair legal system that prosecutes human traffickers and migrant smugglers can help address impunity. Delivering justice to victims is also critical as it acknowledges their suffering and can provide them with a sense of closure and security.

Finally, fighting human trafficking is an inherent cross-boundary issue that requires international cooperation. Partnerships are also necessary for facilitating repatriation of victims of cross-border trafficking. Collaborative efforts between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international bodies are crucial in establishing comprehensive prevention strategies, improving victim identification, and ensuring effective law enforcement. Moreover, sharing intelligence and best practices can significantly enhance the capacity to dismantle trafficking networks.

Action 3.1.2 – Strengthen ability to gather information on smuggling networks and factors that shape the smuggling industry, including its root causes.

Objective 3.2 – Provide care and support for vulnerable persons and victims of human trafficking to improve their well-being

Action 3.2.1 – Increase the number of safe shelters at borders and ensure that they are gender and child-sensitive.

Action 3.2.2 – Work with local civil society organizations to offer psychosocial support to victims.

Action 3.2.3 – Improve the ability of stakeholders to detect victims of trafficking, including labour inspectors, immigration officials and police.

Objective 3.3 – Prosecute perpetrators to end impunity and provide justice for victims

Action 3.3.1 – Set up anti-human-trafficking units that are constituted of a group of trained police officials, relevant governmental entities, and local NGOs who are tasked with preventing and combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Action 3.3.2 – Conduct gender-sensitive and child sensitive training for law enforcement and border security officials.

Action 3.3.3 – Criminalize trafficking in persons, participating as an accomplice, and directing others to commit trafficking.

Objective 3.4 – Partner with neighbouring countries to address human trafficking

Action 3.4.1 – Establish extraterritorial jurisdiction that extends the legal ability of Somalia and its neighbouring countries to exercise authority beyond their normal boundaries in relation to trafficking and related offences.

Action 3.4.2 – Enact extradition and mutual legal assistance laws to enhance cooperation between Somalia and neighbouring countries.

GOAL 4: Engage the diaspora in sustainable development and reduce remittance costs

The enormous size of the Somali diaspora means that they can make a truly transformational contribution to

their homeland. This strategy seeks to complement the National Diaspora Policy by offering broader level policy

directives geared towards both engaging the diaspora in sustainable development as well as working to reduce the costs of receiving remittances. While remittances are critical, the human capital contributions of Somali emigrants have the potential to be even more significant.

- ▶ **SDG 10.c commits, by 2030, to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances.**
- ▶ **GCM objective 20 commits to promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.**

The Somali National Development Plan (2020–2024) recognizes the important role of remittances and commits to establishing a regulatory framework to better facilitate remittances. In this pursuit, “the Central Bank of Somalia amended mobile money regulations in 2020, providing guidelines for new entrants, which included licencing, operations, and reporting”.¹⁹ Yet, more still needs to be done given that the average transaction cost of sending \$200 to Somalia was 8.5 per cent.²⁰ One issue identified by the United Nations Capital Development Fund is low levels of financial and digital literacy, which limit

migrants’ ability to use digital payments and compare alternative remittance services that are available to them. Another challenge is the lack of adequate regulatory framework for non-bank remittance service providers (RSPs).

Innovative and forward-looking policies can help to leverage diaspora funds for development. A possible solution is to establish diaspora mutual funds that allow the federal and local governments to raise much needed funds to address development priorities. Investors in diaspora mutual funds are exclusively diaspora. They are structured to meet the interests and needs of the diaspora, and marketing activities are targeted at existing and new diaspora investors. These will require building trust and establishing credibility on the government’s ability to efficiently use funds to spur development. Moreover, another policy direction can be to create an enticing environment for returning diaspora entrepreneurs. This will help create a more sustainable and symbiotic relationship between the diaspora and the Somali homeland. It will also have potential spillover effects in terms of lessening the push factors for migration by creating viable and secure jobs in Somalia.

Objective 4.1 – Incentivize returns, even short-term ones, to transfer knowledge

Action 4.1.1 – Facilitate knowledge transfers from diaspora back to Somalia via well-managed temporary return programmes.

Action 4.1.2 – Scale up already existing programmes such as Migration for Development in Africa to transfer skills and build institutional capacity.

Objective 4.2 – Reduce costs of receiving remittances in Somalia

Action 4.2.1 – Conduct financial and digital literacy workshops to cover steps involved across the migration cycle, including sending remittances and pre-departure opening of a bank account and/or mobile wallet to be used by the receiver of the remittances.

Action 4.2.2 – Work with the Central Bank and Ministry of Finance to introduce

further regulations to create an enabling remittance environment, including for non-bank RSPs.

Action 4.2.3 – Develop best-practice guidelines for RSPs.

Action 4.2.4 – Develop a platform to inform diaspora on their options so they can choose the most convenient for them.

Objective 4.3 – Leverage diaspora investments for development in Somalia

Action 4.3.1 – Encourage national and subnational governments to develop diaspora bonds as a source of external financing.

Action 4.3.2 – Incentivize diaspora entrepreneurs to return to launch businesses and create jobs.

4

Framework for implementation

The implementation of this strategy will require four main elements. **First**, a detailed action plan with indicators, timelines, responsible stakeholders, and targets can support operationalization of this strategy. Such an action plan can help guide and coordinate implementation. **Second**, establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework is critical to facilitate review and adaptation of the strategy over time. **Third**, partnerships are essential to leverage resources,

expertise and support from a broad range of stakeholders, including international organizations, NGOs, private sector entities, and migrant communities. **Finally**, capacity-building for key stakeholders can support them to effectively and efficiently implement the recommended actions outlined in the strategy. These elements together will create a solid foundation for the successful implementation and sustainability of the national migration strategy.

A decorative graphic for the 'Bibliography' section. It features a background of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of gray, creating a textured, layered effect. The word 'Bibliography' is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Bibliography

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2022). Situation Report on International Migration 2021: Building forward better for migrants and refugees in the Arab region.

_____ (2023). Situation Analysis of International Migration in Somalia.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2021). IOM strategic plan for Somalia (2022–2025).

KNOMAD (n.d.). Remittances Data. Available at <https://www.knomad.org/data/remittances>.

Somali Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (2020). Somalia National Development Plan (2020–2024). Available at <https://andp.unescwa.org/plans/1245>.

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), n.d. Migrant Money Monitor for Somalia. Available at <https://migrantmoney.uncdf.org/resources/insights/migrant-money-monitor-somalia/>.

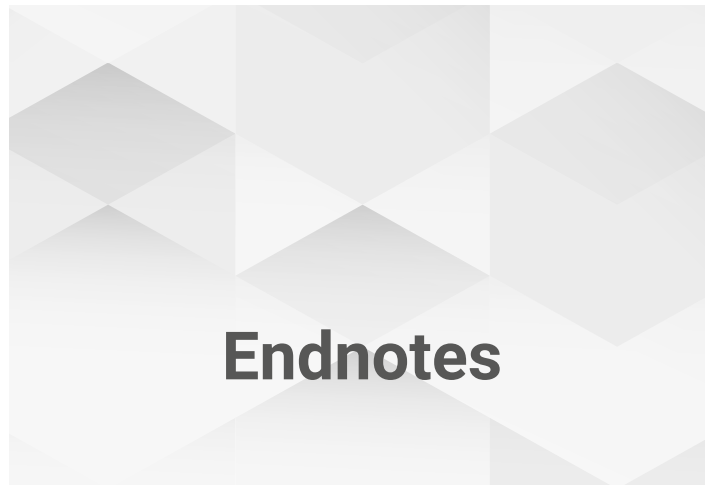
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (2020). Migrant Stock Data. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock>.

_____ (2022). 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2022). Somalia Refugee Crisis Explained. Available at <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/somalia-refugee-crisis-explained/>.

_____ (2023). Refugees and Asylum Seekers (31 January 2023).

World Bank (2020). Remittance Prices Worldwide. Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.RMT.COST.IB.ZS?locations=SO>.



- 1 <https://unterm.un.org/unterm2/en>.
- 2 <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/returnee_en.
- 8 https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/Somalia%20situation%20report%20on%20migration_Finalization.pdf.
- 9 <https://www.unescwa.org/events/validating-national-migration-strategy-somalia>.
- 10 DESA, 2022.
- 11 ESCWA and others, 2022.
- 12 UNHCR, 2023.
- 13 DESA, 2020.
- 14 UNHCR, 2022.
- 15 IOM, 2021.
- 16 KNOMAD, n.d.
- 17 Somali Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (2020). Somalia National Development Plan (2020–2024). Available at <https://andp.unescwa.org/plans/1245>.]
- 18 The Khartoum Process, established in 2014, is geared towards addressing migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the migration routes between the Horn of Africa and the European Union.
- 19 UNCDF, n.d.
- 20 World Bank, 2020.

The National Strategy for Migration in Somalia was prepared through a participatory approach under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which involved multiple stakeholders concerned with migration issues and technical assistance from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. This strategy offers a vision and mission for improved migration governance and is guided by five principles that ensure the alignment of the strategy with Somalia's commitment to international frameworks and migrants' rights. It identifies the following four strategic goals: (1) promote safe and voluntary return and reintegration for Somali migrants; (2) regularize migration pathways for emigrants and immigrants; (3) combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons; and (4) engage the diaspora in sustainable development and reduce remittance costs.

