



REPORT

Evaluation of the EU Cooperation with Somalia
International Partnerships Infopoint
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Speakers:

- **Johanna Cress**, Programme Officer, DG INTPA - Eastern and Central Africa
- **David Domes**, Evaluation Officer, DG INTPA - Performance, Results and Evaluation
- **Volker Hauck**, Lead Evaluator, Senior Executive - European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
- **Elena Ruiz Roman**, Programme Officer, DG INTPA - Eastern and Central Africa
- **Charles Andrew Stuart**, Political Officer - Somalia, European External Action Service (EEAS)



This conference gave the opportunity to identify the contributing or hindering factors affecting results in EU cooperation with Somalia, in terms of funds as well as policy dialogue. The study carried out by ECDPM and Partecip means to assess the position of EU's development cooperation in Somalia in 2014-2020 as far as the design, implementation, impact and responsiveness to Somalia's security and humanitarian challenges.



The criteria taken into consideration in the study are the following:

- Relevance: does it address real problems?
- Coordination and coherence: how compatible are these with other interventions and how good is the EU at coordinating internally and externally?
- Efficiency: how well are inputs transformed into outputs?
- Effectiveness: do the outputs provide real benefits?
- Impact: what difference does the EU's intervention make in the end?
- Sustainability: will the benefits continue even after the EU's support has ended?

The methodology for data collection and analysis includes e-survey, maxQDA analysis, political economy analysis, analysis on spending, document study, inception field mission, interviews & FDG (HQ, field), and main field mission. In this way, they have assessed EU assistance in **governance** (rule of law, democratisation, peacebuilding, education, budget support), **resilience and economic development**, and **multisector assistance** as well as all funding tools (EDF, EUTF and EU thematic instruments such as CSO-LA) and implementation modalities.

The study has shown that between 2014 and 2020, the EU has spent 1.6€ billion on Somalia while EU member states have spent €2.7 billion, the UK € 1.744 (15%) and the USA €2.7 billion. In the cooperation legal framework, worthy of notice before 2014 is the Somali Compact in 2013, in which the EU played a strong role in the Somalia Conference in Brussels to focus attention on Somalia. The Somali Compact has paved the way for the NIP 2014-2020. The EU established a new partnership with Somalia in 2017 after the EU Council Conclusions in 2016 which saw the innovative move of budget support from the EU, since Somalia holds a strategic position. Due to the electoral crisis in Somalia and the Covid-19 pandemic EU-Somalia cooperation has encountered various challenges from 2020 until early 2022, but the drought and famine in the country worsened by the war in Ukraine urges the EU to act.

The study outlines four key periods in EU-Somalia cooperation:

- 2016-2017: learn by doing phase
- 2017-2018: more strategic engagement from the EU until today (next to the US, World Bank, UN)
- Interruptions also due to Covid-19
- New funding circles (2020 to 2027): new government in place committed to reforms

These are the key conclusions:

- **C1:** EU programming has been responsive to Somalia but EU overall priorities need to be updated for new contextual realities (military cooperation guidance can be updated too)
- **C2:** EU deployed an appropriate set of instruments and modalities including budget support (to enhance the EU's role as a strategic partner for government's policy reforms): this has led to an appreciation for the EU
- **C3:** the EU prompted and implemented an integrated approach with different EU services working closely together. Collaboration with CSDP missions is improving.



- **C4:** response to the political crisis but this has taken too long (with the member states, staffing etc): learning process but several dilemmas persist (stress on implementation process). Somalia needs to be approached in a flexible way as possible given the situation.
- **C5:** synergies with other forms of cooperation (Team Europe approach offers support to enhance collaboration with member states)
- **C6:** EU has been overall effective in supporting civil society and cross-cutting issues like gender, youth, human rights, and vulnerability with some variations (like in human rights). Conflict sensitivity and the do-no-harm principle are integrated in a less implicit way.
- **C7:** positive results in development cooperation sectors, but development progress has been very slow and insufficient for systematic change.
- **C8:** the EU's engagement has become more strategic but more strategic involvement and EU-targeted support are needed.

→ **Positive overall result** of the EU's presence in Somalia: it has helped prevent Somalia from going from bad to worse. It has achieved positive results in macro areas of governance (P&S; governance; PFM; education) and mixed results in multisectoral assistance.

→ in the period 2014-2021 even though there have been high investments (€1.6 billion), the impact of EU assistance is **considerably less than ambitious** in the NIP, but this is not surprising considering the extremely difficult country situation.

The study highlights a series of recommendations:

- **R1:** Clarify the role of the EU's international development cooperation within the overall strategic EU approach to Somalia through updated EU Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions.
- **R2:** Formulate country-specific HDP nexus guidance and promote an updated UN-OCHA civil-military guidance for Somalia.
- **R3:** Promotion of innovative EU instruments and modalities.
- **R4:** Reinforcement of the EU's integrated approach in Somalia.
- **R5:** Improve the human resources situation (staff, recruitment, working condition) and assess the effects of a split EUD between Nairobi and Mogadishu in 2025/2026.
- **R6:** Foster the overall flexible cooperation approach and improve EU visibility and outreach to the Somali public.
- **R7:** Continue successful cooperation with international partners (WB, USA, UK, UN) and use opportunities from Team Europe initiatives to strengthen exchanges within EU member states in Somalia.
- **R8:** Enhance support for bottom-up development and the "localisation agenda" by funding more local NGOs and CSOs.
- **R9:** More opportunities to promote cross-cutting issues (gender, youth, conflict sensitivity, human rights)
- **R10:** Keep peacebuilding and state-building goals central to cooperation efforts.
- **R11:** Work towards improved EU support to resilience and productive sectors
- **R12:** Efforts to mobilize resources beyond international cooperation funding by leveraging development finance and risk-sharing mechanisms (e.g. EFSD+) in close coordination with EU member states.



DG INTPA (Eastern and Central Africa Unit) has allocated 13.5 million for Somalia and works towards challenges and opportunities, especially for private sector development. The priority of the Somali government is stabilization (police, justice, local governance, food security in liberated areas) and ongoing programs (economic governance, climate change etc). DG INTPA aims to secure links with digital education and health in Somalia with the aim to increase trade and investments by also focusing on key value chains in Somalia (e.g. fishery). Since a priority area for the Somali government is the **blue economy**, DG INTPA will support Somalia through the Team Europe approach (including financial development institutions, member states, and the mobilization of the private sector) as well as a flexible approach to deal with a complex national context.

You can find more about the strategic assessment of EU-Somalia cooperation [here](#).