

Somaliland Social Protection Diagnostic Study

March 2024

Outline

- Objectives
- The Process
- Analytical Framework
- Key Findings and Recommendations
- Next steps

Objectives of the Review

To conduct a **diagnostic review of Somaliland's current social protections systems and programmes**, including:

- A brief socio-economic context analysis relevant for the social protection programming.
- A detailed inventory of the status of social protection and safety net programmes;
- Gaps and constraints in policy and programme design and implementation;
- Recommendations for improvements at policy level, programme design and implementation that can set the basis for the development of a coherent, flexible and comprehensive social protection system suitable for the socioeconomic context of Somaliland.
- Strategic level recommendations for the evolution of the social protection system in Somaliland with a clear roadmap for the Social Protection policy implementation.
- Considerations for developing an implementation plan for the medium-term development of social protection systems in Somaliland.

Process

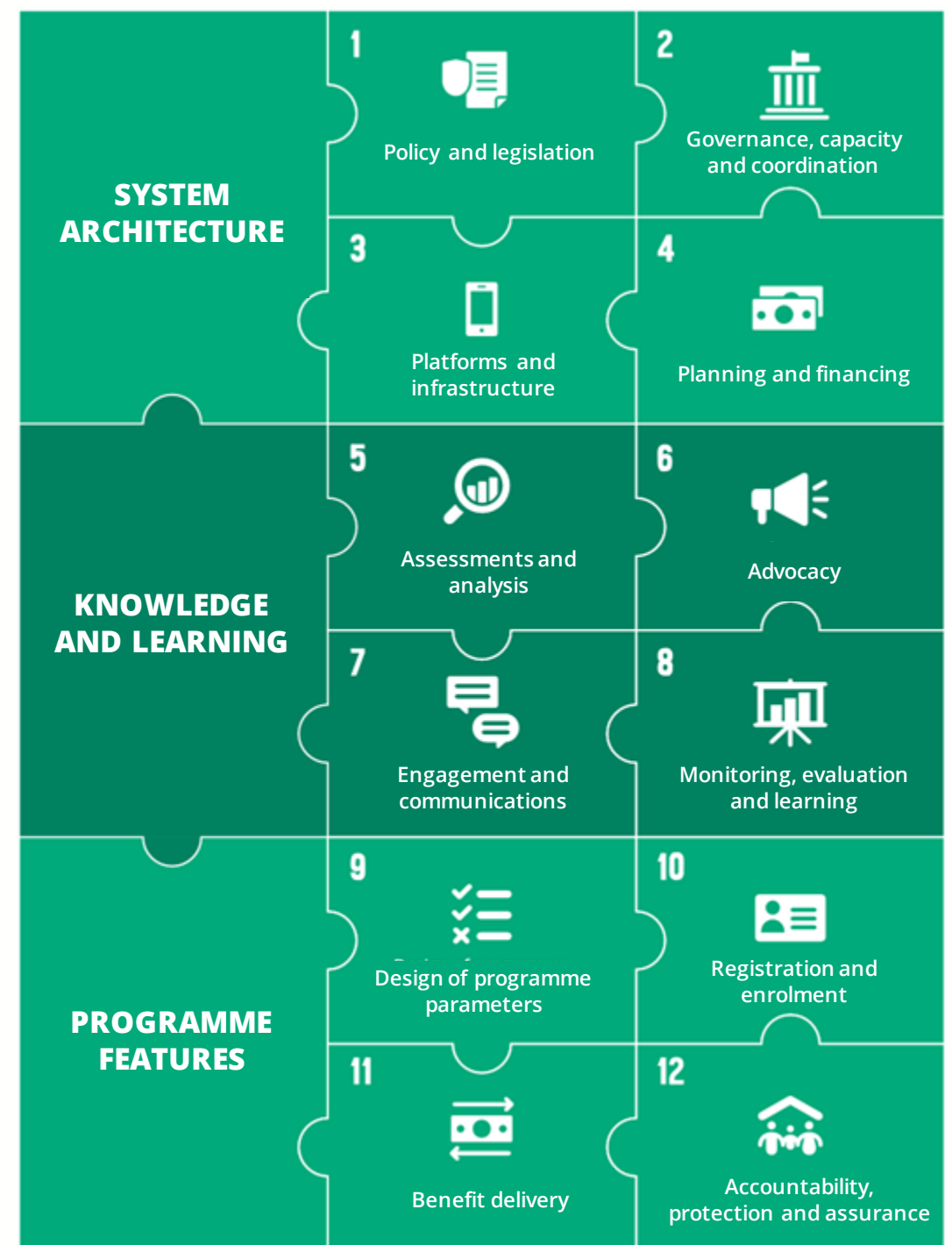
- Joint (**MESAF, WFP, STAAR**) development of ToR for the review
- **Desk research** (reviewing existing literature documentation including programme documents and evaluations)
- **Stakeholder consultations:**
 - key informant interviews with national and local government institutions, development partners, UN and other relevant stakeholders as well as
 - field visit for focus group discussions with selected community members
- **A validation process:** with key stakeholders to review and agree on the key findings and recommendations.
- This diagnostic will serve as a starting point for the **development of a policy implementation strategy/plan**

Key Deliverables

- Inception report for MESAF
- Diagnostic report for all stakeholders- Including recommendations:
 - To be categorized by timeframe –short term 1-2 years, medium 2-4 years, long term over 4 years, and type: strategic versus operational as inputs into the implementation plan
- Policy briefs on selected thematic areas (coordination, digitisation, shock-responsive social protection, financing for social protection, G2P payments, etc.)
- Official slide deck

Framework for Analysis – Social protection building blocks

The review was guided by these key building blocks that constitute a comprehensive social protection system for the government.



Socio – Economic Context

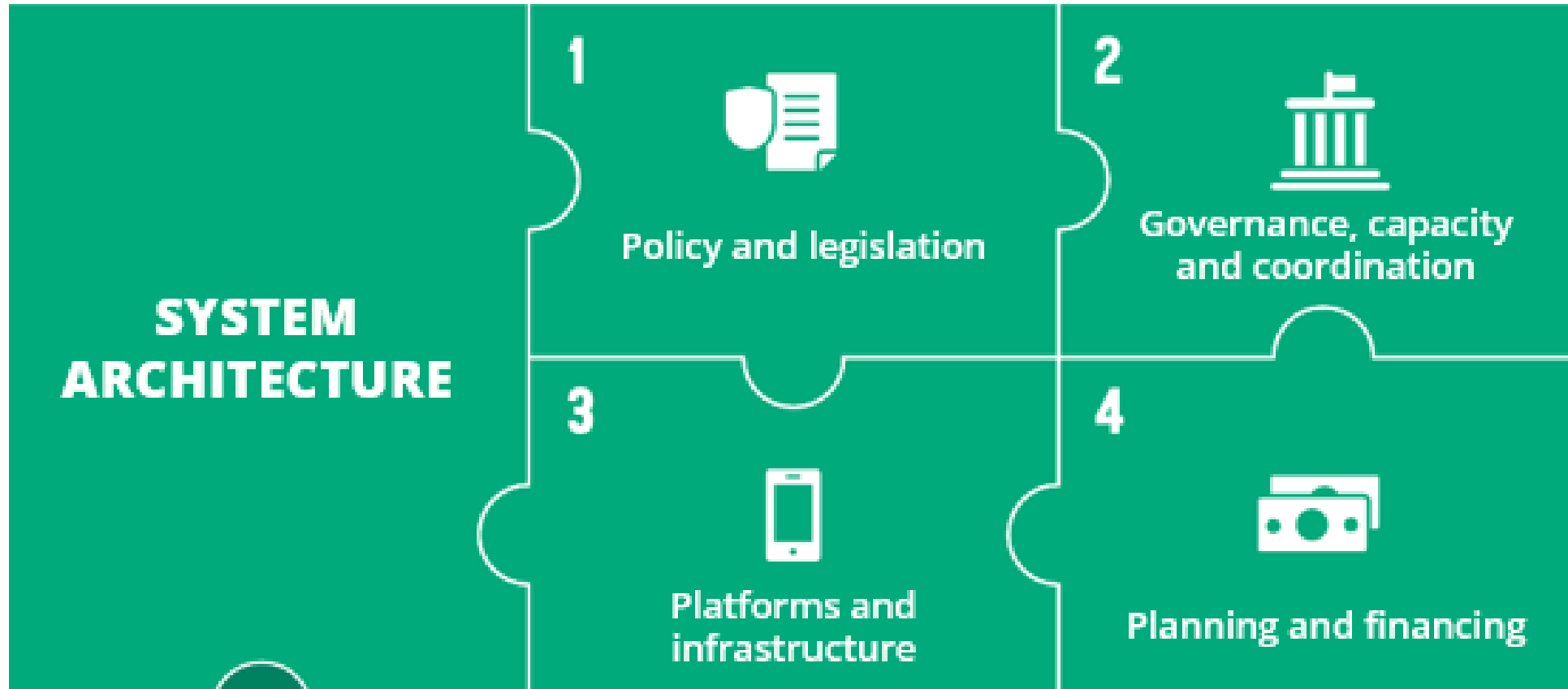
- **Poverty** - estimated at (78%) based on the international poverty line of US\$1.90 PPP per day in 2017
- **High risk of forced displacement and insecurity** - exacerbated by climate shocks (drought, floods) and inter-communal conflicts
- **Economic growth and diversification** - reliance on primary production (rain fed agriculture/livestock) which is highly susceptible to climatic shocks (recurrent drought)
- **Access to and provision of Social Services**- linked to rapid urbanisation , availability and quality
 - **Out of School Children**- A large proportion of children in Somaliland are out of school.
 - **Enrolment rate** - 35%
 - Rural vs Urban inequality
- **Food Insecurity and Malnutrition**- Food security 108,750 HHs in IPC Phase 4 (Oct-Dec23); 21% stunting rate.
- **Humanitarian Assistance** - Heavy reliance of humanitarian assistance, largely funded by partners given the recurrent shocks.

Social Protection Programmes and Safety Nets

Scheme name	Funding source	Responsible agency	Duration of programme	Target group	Number of registered recipients	Transfer value per month
Child Sensitive Social Protection + Shock-Responsive Social Protection Pilot	Government of Finland	Government agencies: MESAF, NADFOR, NDRA	Continuous support to CSSP households	Households with two or more children below the age of five years living in poor households.	450 households receiving CSSP.	US\$20
	Somali Cash Consortium (EU – ECHO)	Partners: Save the Children, HAVOYOCO	Shock-affected households receive support for three months.	Identification through community-based targeting. Universal registration of Mohamed Mooge A camp to facilitate horizontal expansion when a shock is triggered.	Horizontal expansion through registration of people affected by shocks.	US\$70 for shock-affected households (top up of US\$ 50)
Social Transfer Project (ILED): Enhance human capital through the first 1,000 days and improved access to health and nutrition with behavioural nudges	Somali Cash Consortium (EU - ECHO)	Government agencies: MESAF, MOH, NDRA Partners: Concern Worldwide, Save the Children	24 months (2 years)	Pregnant women in their third trimester. Identification and registration through MCH centres.	4,924 households.	US\$20
Social Transfer Project (ILED): income support for youth and older people	Somali Cash Consortium (EU - ECHO)	Government agencies: MESAF, MOH, NDRA Partners: Concern Worldwide, Save the Children	12 months (1 year)	Older people (aged 55+) living in poor households. Identification through community-based targeting.	6,008 households, including approximately 3,000 older people and 3,000 youth identified.	US\$20
Safety Net for Human Capital Project	World Bank	Government agencies: MESAF	24 months (2 years) ⁶⁴	Households with children below the age of five years and members with a chronic illness.	11,000 households.	US\$20
		Partners: WFP, UNICEF, World Vision	Shock-affected households receive support for three months.	Identification through community-based targeting.	Horizontal expansion of 589 households.	US\$60 for shock-affected households (top up of US\$ 40)

Sources: Consultations with Concern Worldwide, Somali Cash Consortium, WFP, World Vision International; (Humanitarian Outcomes, 2021; Save the Children, n.d.; WFP, 2019).

Key findings and recommendations



System Architecture

System Architecture – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Policy and Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection- a stand-alone sector in the National Development Plan (NDP 3) • National social protection policy approved and launched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment between the policy and vulnerability context (shock responsiveness, forced displacement, access to basic services, resilience) • Policy coherence and links to other sectoral policies and plans • Legislative framework • Governance structure for the sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use development of Implementation strategy to enhance alignment and coherence across the sectors. • Identify overlaps and coherence with other policies (e.g. education, health, disaster relief) • Plan for mid-term review of the policy and annual sector progress review • Agree, develop and put in place required legislation to ensure resource availability and institutionalisation of SP • Articulate detailed institutional governance architecture for the social protection sector as part of the implementation plan process

System Architecture – Findings and Recommendations

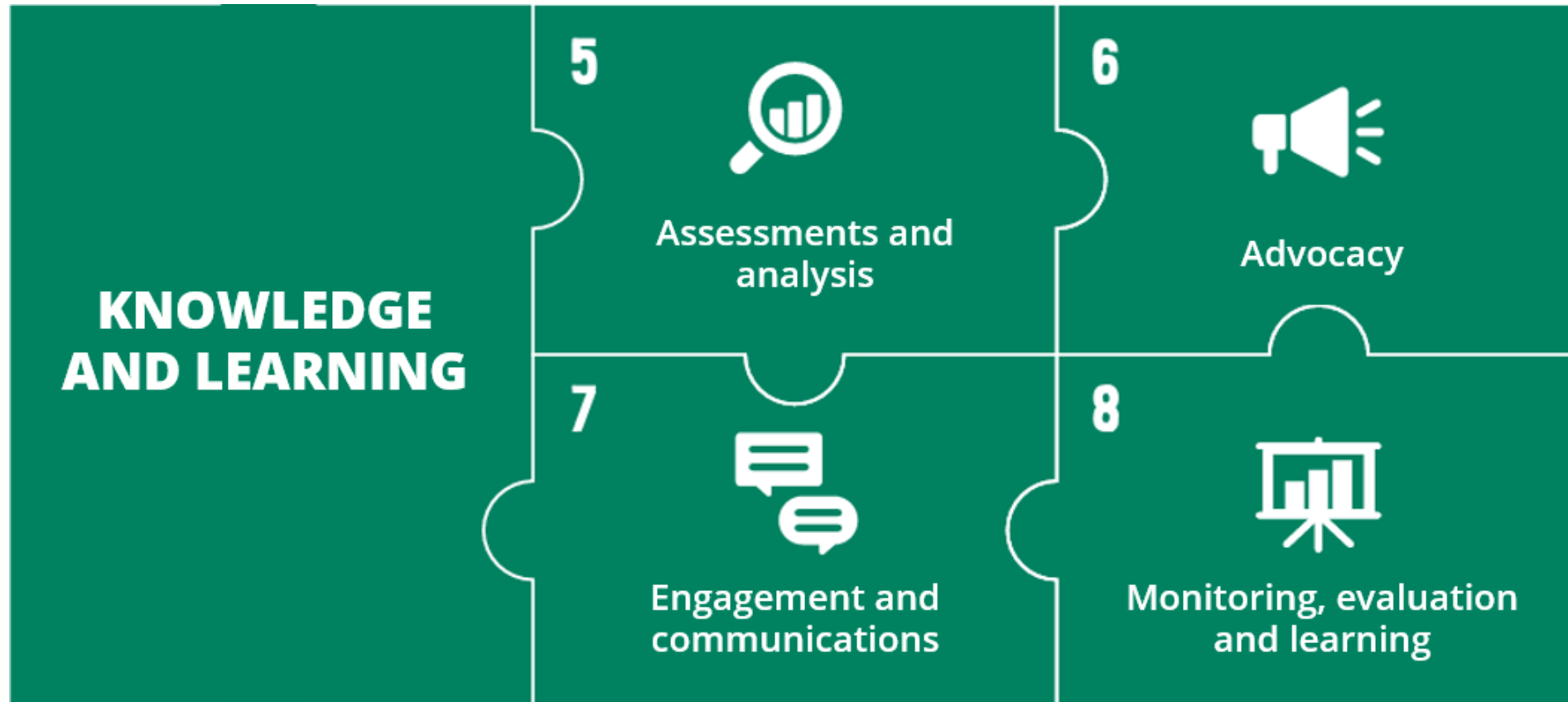
Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Governance Capacity and Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong MESAF leadership Social Protection Sector Coordination Stakeholders Decentralized structures for implementation of programmes (including MESAF focal points at district level) Social protection training and south –south learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive coordination mechanisms Common SP coordination platform for development partners Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of SP especially across other sectors, particularly practical and operational aspects of SP Expertise and staffing to support policy implementation and systems strengthening Retention of knowledge and experience on SP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify roles and responsibilities of central and local government authorities Develop and operationalise coordination and governance structure that facilitate effective vertical (local govt-MESAF) and horizontal (across key line ministries and partners) Set up mechanism to coordinate SP support to government from partners (options: incorporate development partners in the set up mechanisms, government-DP platform) Undertake functional review or comprehensive institutional capacity assessment for MESAF and local government structures inform staffing requirements for SP coordination and implementation Develop and roll out capacity strengthening plan including core training programmes on social protection for key staff involved in the sector and Institutionalise SP training as part of civil service induction Set up SP community of practice, to include engagement such as annual SP forum/week

System Architecture – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Platforms and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitised, bio-metric IDs with 1M people registered Ongoing development of E-government system, IFMIS Internet and high mobile network penetration Well established mobile money platforms Draft data protection bill in place GRM for GBV and Child Protection Existing early warning system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive social protection specific digital platforms and systems (e.g. Social/Single registry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a dedicated systems design process to define the requirements, costs, design, specifications for operationalizing an integrated management information system (MIS), which includes identity management, programme delivery systems (GRM, M&E, payments, etc), beneficiary database and social registry, and interoperability with existing government registries. Both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District level approach (building on the existing systems); and Ministry approach (starting from scratch) Progress data protection act approval to inform the social protection data protection guideline needed Use the draft data protection act to produce a data protection guideline for social protection

System Architecture – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Planning and Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP sector included in the NDP3 • Sources of sector funding identified in the approved policy • Fiscal decentralisation and funding availability at local levels • Agreement on developing strategy and implementation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date social protection specific poverty and population data • Limited fiscal space • Financing strategy for policy implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake wide stakeholder consultative process (broad reflection) as part of the implementation plan development including comprehensive participation of and collaboration with local governments • Ensure social protection data is included within common planning data estimates (population, poverty by District) • Develop a resourcing plan/financing strategy and milestones for the policy and planned programmes including at decentralised levels



Knowledge and Learning

Knowledge and Learning – Findings and Recommendations

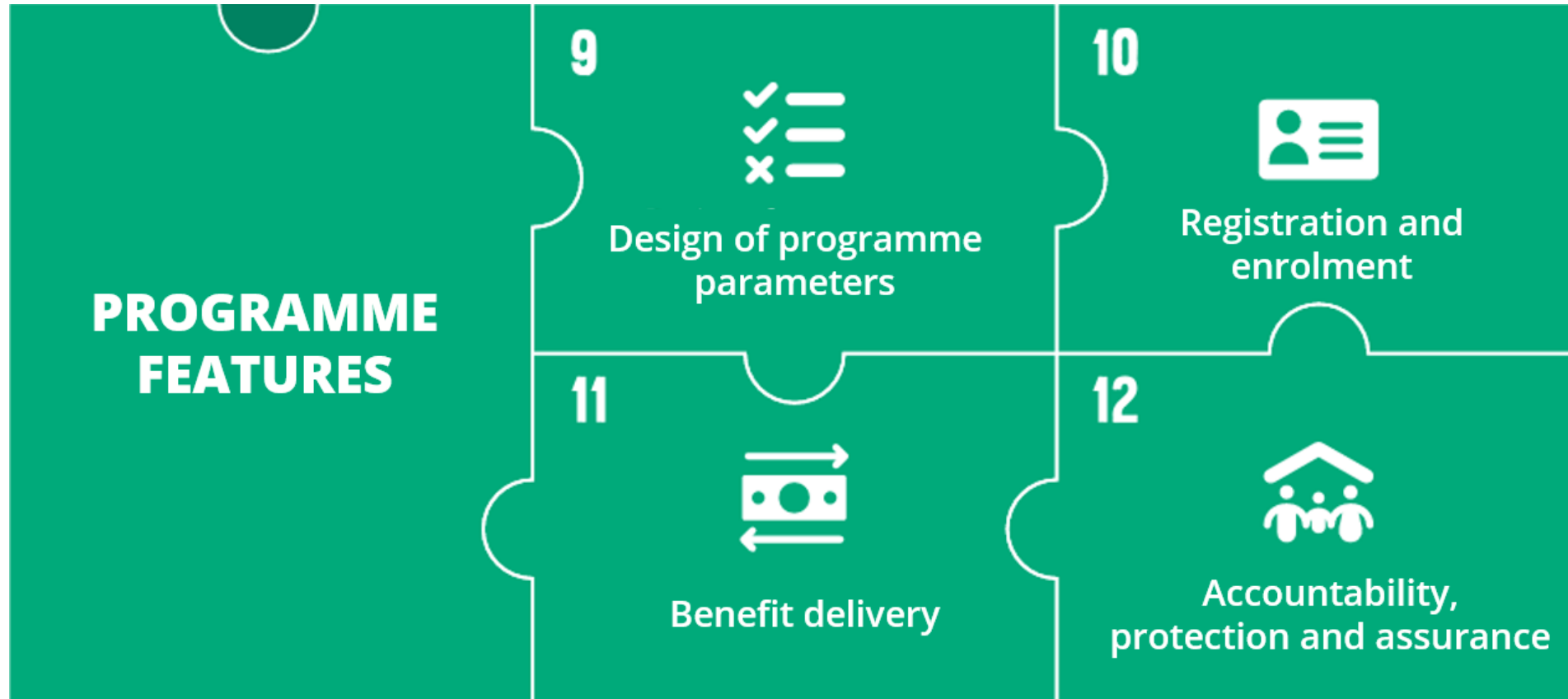
Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Assessments and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children’s child sensitive SP scoping study • Joint food security and nutrition assessment • Lessons and best practices available from existing SP scheme’s • Data on disasters (drought and flash floods) and their impact on food insecurity, informed National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority Strategic Plan (2023-2027) • Study on “Designing Social Protection Frameworks for Somaliland’ in 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear SP sector research and learning agenda • Data on conflict dynamics and implications for programme • Key assessments to inform programme design and system development (targeting, MIS, SR, Institutional capacity Financing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key information gaps to support programme design and implementation: part of the implementation planning dialogue process • Develop a common sector wide research and learning agenda; establish capacity to analyse sector-wide data collected • Conduct key thematic assessments to inform programme design and system development (targeting, MIS, social registry, institutional capacity, financing, social insurance, social security, social care) • Collaborate with NADFOR, NDRA to jointly conduct research on DRM and social protection linkages • Support/leverage on evaluation of the ongoing schemes to inform the design of the proposed SP schemes.

Knowledge and Learning – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social protection- a stand-alone sector in the National Development Plan (NDP 3)• Approval of SP policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financing for policy implementation including funding donors and partners• Local government engagement and ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement a comprehensive knowledge management strategy to accompany policy implementation.• Leverage existing structures to facilitate high-level inter-ministerial engagement for social protection.

Knowledge and Learning – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Engagement and Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong community engagement and community-led approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic and operational communication guidance and key/core messages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a communication strategy to accompany policy implementation Establish communication strategies for different schemes and systems including stakeholder engagement and community outreach plans
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MESAF M&E framework M&E framework/logframe in the SP policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen knowledge management and learning dissemination from existing initiatives Policy includes an M&E framework/logframe but it is structured more as an implementation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulate Theory of Change (ToC) between planned programmes and desired outcomes such as impact of shock response safety nets' ability to reduce the dependence of humanitarian relief. Use the exiting logframe in the policy document as a starting point to develop an outcome-based M&E framework for the policy



Programme Features

Programme Features – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Design of Programme Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details and elaboration of proposed schemes in the policy document (with costing, timeline and scale-up plans) Agreement on universal and categorical targeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age group coverage within the life cycle approach (youth, working age, etc.) Linkage between the proposed schemes and context-based thematic approaches (shock responsiveness, access to basic services, gender and inclusion) Foundational systems to facilitate effective and integrated programme delivery (targeting, grievance redressal, payments and case management) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake mapping/assessment to inform the design and development of key features and delivery systems for the proposed SP schemes (i.e. targeting, enrolment, registration, payments, MIS, M&E, GRM etc.) Facilitate dialogue with key stakeholders at national and sub-national level to build consensus on the delivery mechanisms and implementation arrangements of the proposed schemes Use development of the Implementation Plan to enhance alignment and coherence across the sectors

Programme Features – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Registration and Enrolment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National digitized ID system with unique and reliable ID Local government and community structures in place (Village Development Committees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on coverage of the national ID and ability to mobilize registration teams especially in rural areas for vulnerable and marginalized groups Consolidated registry of beneficiary data for the different existing programmes Social registry to support targeting System to facilitate continuous registration and enrolment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Ministry of Interior to support expansion of National ID coverage, in rural areas and to vulnerable and marginalized groups, as part of social protection scale up Leverage the beneficiary registration process of the proposed schemes to support data collection for social/single registry Develop a dynamic automated system to identify, verify and enrol eligible beneficiaries Standardize collection of data to pay people in terms of process and data collected

Programme Features – Findings and Recommendations

Building Block	Milestone	Gaps	Recommendations
Benefit Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-developed payment ecosystem, especially for mobile money payments Use of light Know-Your-Customer (KYC) requirements for people without a national ID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated G2P payment operational systems for SP schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with development partners and FSPs to document and share lessons and best practices from the ongoing schemes to inform collaborative design of G2P payment systems and payment ecosystem. Promote inclusive payments through digital financial inclusion while considering people's preference. Establish controls for assured payments (e.g. segregation of duties, data assurance, transfer reconciliation) to minimize human errors and other divergence of benefits.
Accountability, Protection and Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBV and child protection hotlines Trained Social Welfare Officers deployed at local level Implementation of international payment standards and procedures on due diligence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive GRM system for SP programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake mapping to inform development of a comprehensive GRM system Based on existing GRM mechanisms, design and operationalise a comprehensive a digitised GRM mechanism to cater for the needs of the proposed SP programmes (supporting referrals and feedback) Ensure effective community engagement in programme delivery Develop data protection and financial control procedures for assurance and programme accountability

Next steps

1. Share revised inception report with MESAF (Completed)
2. Debrief session with MESAF (Completed)
3. Debrief session with humanitarian and development partners (date to be determined)
4. Stakeholder validation workshop (21-25 April)