



Support to the creation of a secure environment needed to back the political peace process in Somalia

“The effort to assist fellow Africans in Somalia is bearing fruit and provides much reason to celebrate. It is a pointer to what we as Africans can accomplish when we work together and proves that we are best placed to provide solutions to the problems on our continent.”

*Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif,
Special Representative of the
Chairperson of the African Union
Commission for Somalia*

Support to AMISOM - the African Union Mission in Somalia



© AU-UN IST Photo/Stuart Price

Facts and figures

Partners: African Union

EU contribution: € 595.2 million since 2007

Dates: 2007 - ongoing

Location: Somalia

More info: <http://amisom-au.org/>

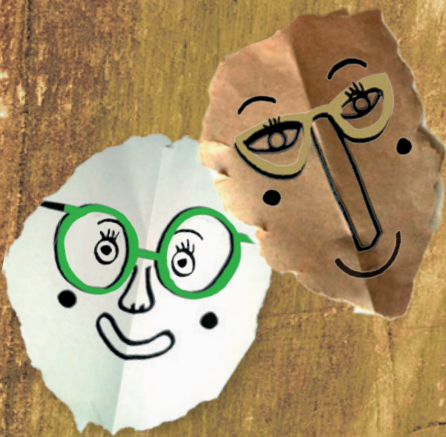
Context

Somalia experienced years of grave instability following the overthrow of President Siad Barre in 1991. After eight years under a transitional government, an internationally-backed federal government was installed in 2012. A Provisional Constitution now paves the way for rebuilding and consolidating new, representative institutions by 2016, when popular elections are due.

Security is improving, but remains fragile. Waves of violence, caused by inter-clan rivalry and terrorism, have devastated Mogadishu and other parts of the country. In the autonomous regions of Somaliland and Puntland in particular, progress has been made, but development challenges persist: low life expectancy, poor access to sanitation, and around one million internally displaced persons.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), mandated by the United Nations Security Council, plays a crucial role in ensuring secure conditions for effective state-building. Created in 2007, AMISOM consists of three main components (military, police and civilian), marking a departure from previous, military-only





On the ground: AMISOM's Police component

In 2011, the African Union Mission in Somalia's Police Component deployed two Formed Police Units (FPUs) to Mogadishu, the first of their kind sent out by the African Union. The 280 officers, from Uganda and Nigeria, are deployed to assist the Somali Police Force in securing urban centres already under the Federal Government's control.

Unlike the AMISOM military force, the FPUs are involved maintaining law and order within the city. They have played a crucial role in supporting the Somali Police Force's day and night patrols and the stop-and-search operations that have tightened security in much of the capital.

Their presence has allowed local businesses to stay open at night; it is common these days to see residents sipping coffee, eating at restaurants or strolling amongst stands selling sweets and ice cream late into the evening.

AU missions. With this combination, AMISOM aims to support the Government in its efforts to stabilise the country and foster political dialogue and reconciliation. The mission is also mandated to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and to create the conditions needed for the reconstruction and long-term sustainable development of Somalia.

Objectives

The EU supports AMISOM through the African Peace Facility (APF). This funding aims to help AMISOM fulfil its UN mandate, thus promoting long-term peace, security and effective governance in Somalia.

Support to AMISOM is integral to the EU's long-term comprehensive approach to assisting Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region, which encompasses diplomacy, security support, development assistance and humanitarian aid.

Impact

The EU has been a major funder of AMISOM since its initial deployment in 2007, both through the APF and through bilateral contributions of EU Member States.

In September 2013, the EU committed an additional € 124million, bringing its total funding since 2007 to more than €580 million.

Funds provided via the APF cover troop allowances for all AMISOM troops (enabling an increase in troops on the ground from 7,650 in 2007 to over 17,000 in 2012); costs for the police component of the mission; international and local staff salaries; and operational costs of the mission's offices in Nairobi.

AMISOM support to the peace process has led to improvement of the overall security situation: in the last two years, AMISOM and Somali forces have pushed Al Qaeda affiliated Al Shabaab terrorists from much of south-central Somalia. The mission has helped establish institutions of the Federal government in all regions; and begun a programme of disarmament of armed groups. As a result, economic activity has picked up again in Somalia.

The African Union is still building up the necessary capacities to plan, implement and monitor peacekeeping operations. EU assistance therefore plays an important role in longer-term institutional capacity-building, in line with the widely-supported principle of African ownership.

EU-funded technical assistance to improve the AU's financial management capability in the field of Peace and Security, has not only had a positive effect on AMISOM but also on other missions such as the APF supported AFISMA mission in Mali

APF funding for AMISOM is complemented by EU-funded capacity-building in the security, police and rule of law sectors. The European Union Training Mission has, for example, trained 3,000 Somali soldiers.

