



**OFFICE OF
THE AUDITOR GENERAL**
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO INMATES IN HAMAR CENTRAL PRISON

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The Speaker of the House of the People, FPS
The Speaker of the Upper House, FPS

Mogadishu, Somalia

PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED TO INMATES IN HAMAR CENTRAL PRISON

Honorable Speaker(s),

In accordance with Article 5(17) of Law No. 14, 10th September 2023 and article 11 of the Somalia PFM law, I have conducted a performance audit on the Services Provided to Inmates in Hamar Central Prison (HCP), and I am pleased to submit this report. This performance audit primarily focused on assessing the services provided by the Somali Custodial Corps (SCC) to inmates in HCP to ensure humane living conditions in the facilities in accordance with the principles of effectiveness, economy, and efficiency.

This audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions for Performance Auditing (ISSAI 3000). These standards require the audit to be planned and executed to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence, providing a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives. I believe that the evidence obtained meets these requirements and supports our findings and conclusions. The audit findings in this report are limited to the defined audit scope and the specific areas examined; therefore, additional findings or issues may exist that were not identified during this audit.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated members of my audit team for their outstanding commitment, professionalism, and diligence throughout the planning and execution of this performance audit. Their collective expertise, analytical rigor, and attention to detail were instrumental in ensuring that the audit was conducted in accordance with the highest standards of quality and integrity.

I also wish to extend my deep appreciation to the management and staff of the Somali Custodial Corps (SCC) and the Ministry of Justice for their invaluable cooperation and assistance during the audit process. Their willingness to provide access to information, participate in interviews, and facilitate field visits significantly contributed to the successful completion of this audit. Such collaboration between oversight institutions and implementation agencies is essential in strengthening transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in public service delivery.

H.E. Ahmed Isse Gutale
Auditor General of the FRS
30 December 2025



INTRODUCTION

Somalia is currently focused on rebuilding its governance structures and strengthening the delivery of basic justice and correctional services. The Somali Custodial Corps (SCC), a division of the Armed Forces under the oversight of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA), is responsible for the secure and humane operation of federal prison facilities. Although Somalia is a party to international treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and is committed to the UN Mandela Rules, prison conditions have remained notoriously harsh.

This report marks a significant milestone as the first performance audit ever conducted on Hamar Central Prison (HCP). Conducted by the Office of the Auditor General of the Federal Republic of Somalia (OAGS), the audit provides a baseline assessment of whether resources allocated to the prison are managed effectively to meet minimum standards for inmate treatment. With a 2024 budget of USD 11.4 million, 75.68% of which is heavily spent by salaries, the prison system faces severe pressure on resources for upkeep and service delivery.

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the services provided to inmates by the SCC at Hamar Central Prison to ensure humane living conditions. Specific objectives included:

- Evaluating whether the SCC provides humane living quarters for inmates.
- Assessing the efficiency and nutritional value of meals provided.
- Examining inmate access to adequate medical care and on-site health services.

AUDIT SCOPE

The audit focused on the SCC's management of prison operations at the Hamar Central Prison (HCP) and the Mogadishu Prison Court Complex (MPCC). It evaluated the provision of living quarters, meals, hygiene, and healthcare. The audit covered the financial years 2022, 2023, and 2024, with field studies conducted between May and August 2025.

METHODS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Document Reviews: Analysis of the 1971 Prison Law, 1984 Prison Regulations, Mandela Rules, SCC Strategic Plans, and national budget files.

Stakeholder Interviews & FGDs: Interviews with SCC commanders, logistics and health officers, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with sampled male and female inmates across multiple prison sections.

Site Visits: Physical inspections of forty (40) sampled dormitories, kitchens, and infirmaries at both the HCP and MPCC facilities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The audit concluded that the services provided by the Somali Custodial Corps are inadequate to ensure humane living conditions for inmates, violating both national laws and international standards. Despite legal protections against harsh treatment, the facilities are characterized by systemic infrastructure failures and resource shortages.

Key findings from the audit are:

Significant Overcrowding in Living Quarters: Sampled dormitories across HCP and MPCC revealed a total inmate count of 1,499 against a designated capacity of 728. This reflects an overcapacity rate of 105.88%, with some sections like Qam (HCP) operating at 187% overcapacity.

- **Insufficient Bedding and Substandard Sleeping Conditions:** Inmates are not provided with individual beds and must sleep on the floor. The audit found a 52.23% mattress shortage, forcing multiple inmates to share single, worn-out mattresses. HCP rooms additionally lack adequate ventilation.
- **Poor Hygiene and Sanitation:** Facilities suffer from unreliable water supplies, salty drinking water for women, and irregular distribution of soap and cleaning materials. Physical inspections revealed uncollected garbage, bed bug infestations, and an overflowing septic tank at the MPCC perimeter.
- **Inadequate Nutrition in Daily Meals:** Inmate meals are nutritionally deficient and lack necessary protein. Lunches often consist only of rice, and portions are too small to sustain health, forcing inmates to rely on expensive food supplements or family support. Kitchens were found to be unsanitary with poor food safety practices.
- **Inadequate On-Site Health Services:** Health facilities are severely under-equipped; the HCP infirmary has only one bed, and the MPCC clinic is largely non-operational. Inmates are often required to pay for their own medications and diagnostic tests, leading to untreated chronic conditions and the spread of infectious skin diseases.

In conclusion, the SCC has failed to implement effective measures to manage the growing inmate population or maintain facilities in a state that upholds human dignity. While the SCC Command acknowledges these challenges and has initiated plans for new construction and infrastructure rehabilitation, current conditions pose a severe risk to the health and safety of both inmates and staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit recommends that the SCC should:

- Develop strategies to manage overcrowding, including alternative sentencing, parole programs, and the operationalization of unused prison facilities.
- Provide individual beds (utilizing bunk beds to save space), repair leaking roofs, and ensure cells are properly ventilated with access to sunlight.
- Restore reliable running water to all toilets and dormitories and implement a regular maintenance schedule for waste disposal and sanitation systems.
- Establish a dietary scale that ensures nutritionally balanced meals containing adequate protein and vitamins, while training kitchen staff in food safety.
- Fully equip on-site health facilities, hire qualified medical personnel, and provide essential medications to inmates at public expense.



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