

Empowering SMEs through Group Financing in Puntland:

A Transformative Initiative by the State Bank of Puntland (SBP)

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking initiative by the State Bank of Puntland (SBP) aimed at supporting **group-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** across key regions in Puntland. This initiative focuses on empowering business collectives and community-based groups in **Mudug, Karkaar, Raas Casayr, and Sanaag**.

The program prioritizes support for **women and youth-led groups**, fostering economic growth, financial inclusion, and sustainable development in high-potential sectors such as crop and livestock farming, dairy trade, services, and fisheries. Through **fee-free group financing**, comprehensive financial training, and mentorship, we aim to unlock opportunities for collective enterprises—driving job creation and long-term economic resilience.

Our Vision

At the heart of this initiative is a commitment to creating opportunities for marginalized communities, **promoting group entrepreneurship**, and strengthening Puntland's economy. By leveraging SBP's financial expertise, we strive to build a thriving ecosystem where **group enterprises** can succeed—especially in the diverse and resource-rich areas of **Mudug, Karkaar, Raas Casayr, and Sanaag**.

Key Objectives

Through this initiative, we will:

✔ Create Decent Employment Opportunities

Empower women and youth by providing tools and resources to start or grow their businesses, generating sustainable jobs in **Mudug, Karkaar, RaasCasayr and Sanaag**.

✔ Foster Entrepreneurship & Savings Culture

Encourage innovation and foster a culture of saving among entrepreneurs, ensuring long-term financial stability and resilience.

✔ Showcase Model Businesses

Highlight successful enterprises as role models to inspire others and demonstrate the potential of SMEs in driving economic growth.

✔ Strengthen Puntland's Economy

Promote best practices and innovative solutions across priority sectors, contributing to a robust and inclusive economy in **Mudug, Karkaar, RaasCasayr and Sanaag**.

Priority Sectors

This program targets four critical sectors with strong growth potential:

- Crop and Livestock Farming
- Dairy Trade
- Fisheries
- SMEs and Services

By channeling **group financing** into these sectors, we aim to unlock economic opportunities and position **Mudug, Karkaar, Raas Casayr, and Sanaag** as regional leaders in agri-business and coastal industries. Whether it's collective livestock farming in **Mudug**, group-based dairy processing in **Karkaar**, or cooperative fishing ventures in **Sanaag and Raas Casayr**, this program empowers local enterprises to scale and succeed.

Support Offered

Participants will benefit from a comprehensive range of services tailored for **group enterprises**:

✔ Fee-Free Group Financing with Flexible Repayment

Access affordable, interest-free funding designed to empower business groups across all four regions.

✔ Virtual Business Training & Mentorship

Gain critical skills through interactive online workshops and one-on-one mentorship, tailored to the unique needs of group-run enterprises.

✔ Group Savings & Entrepreneurship Programs

Build financial literacy, encourage collaborative saving, and nurture entrepreneurship through structured, region-specific programs.