

UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review

September 2004



Security developments

The forces of Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland') and Northeast Somalia ('Puntland') clashed over the disputed Sool region which both claim. While local clans in the region are associated with those in Puntland, the region falls within the historical boundary of Somaliland.

Airport blockade: Humanitarian flights to Bossaso were suspended when militia blockaded Bossaso Airport in Puntland on September 14 following a dispute over unpaid salaries. The militia lifted the blockade after intervention by the local administration.

Intermittent clashes and violence continued in Central/Southern Somalia. The violence included extortion at roadblocks and airfields, robbery and hijacking of vehicles. In one incident, a rapid-propelled grenade was fired at a plane carrying *khat* (an amphetamine leaf, akin to the coca leaf of South America, that is widely chewed in Somalia). In another incident, a girl died in the custody of militia who had arrested her in Monopoly area.

Kismayo, the main port-town in Southern Somalia was generally quiet after militia loyal to General Mohamed Said Hersi Morgan were prevented from taking the town by the Jubba Valley Alliance. Following this, General Morgan returned to Nairobi, Kenya and at a press conference endorsed the formation of a federal parliament.

Political developments

The new Somalia parliament for the transitional federal government was inaugurated in September. Public rallies and demonstrations of support for the new parliament were held in Mogadishu.

Emergency

Learning disrupted: UNICEF is developing a plan of action to ensure that children resume schooling in areas of Sool, Sanag and Togdheer regions in northern Somalia affected by drought.

Drought: Health and nutrition activities targeting drought affected communities took place in Sool and Sanaag regions. Activities included immunization, outpatient treatment, provision of micro-nutrient supplements, nutritional screening and provision of supplementary food.



With the onset of drought in Somalia, more support is required for communities who are badly hit. File photo credit: Giacomo Pirozzi.

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In Puntland, the Jerriban borewell that serves pastoral communities from Ely and Garowe districts was repaired.

Health programme update...

Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI): Immunization was carried out in four towns in Somaliland over a five-day period in September. Some 10,257 children were vaccinated against tuberculosis, 14,187 against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, 8,135 against measles and 16,036 against polio. About 5135 women were vaccinated against tetanus toxoid. In Puntland, immunization was carried out in Garowe, Burtinle and Galkayo towns as well as Harfo and Bad Wayn settlements.

In Central/Southern Somalia, some 398 children aged less than one year and 184 pregnant women were vaccinated in Bondere district of Mogadishu in September. Another 1,359 children aged under one year and 115 pregnant women were vaccinated in Yaqshid - south of Mogadishu. In other locations about 600 infants and about 120 pregnant women were vaccinated.

Training: Forty maternal and child health (MCH) centre staff were trained in drug management in Burao town of Somaliland.

Malaria: UNICEF Somalia Representative Jesper Morch led a delegation representing the Somalia malaria programme of the Global Fund

to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) which met ministers responsible for health in Somaliland and Puntland. In June this year, the GFATM announced a \$8.9m grant for the malaria programme. UNICEF is the principal recipient and will implement the programme in close collaboration with other organizations active in the health sector in Somalia.

Nutrition programme update...

Food supplied: Supplementary food was supplied to 1790 malnourished children and their families in the drought-affected Sool plateau of northern Somalia.

Deworming: Social mobilization took place in Hargeisa to increase awareness of the importance of deworming school children.

Infant feeding: UNICEF in collaboration with the Somaliland Red Crescent Society trained 30 members of women and youth groups from Hargeisa in appropriate infant feeding practices. In Central Somalia, 80 community motivators participated in a UNICEF workshop on improved infant and child feeding practices.

Water and Environmental Sanitation update...

Projects: Rehabilitation of Darerweineh and Awa-badan water projects in Somaliland was completed.

UNICEF Operational Areas...

Northwest Zone – Hargeisa Office

Awdal
West Galbeed
Togdheer
Sahil
Sool
Sanaag

Northeast Zone – Bossaso Office

Bari
Nugal
Mudug

Central and Southern Zone – Baidoa, Jowhar, Mogadishu and Kismayo Offices

Galgaduud
Hiran
Middle Shabelle
Lower Shabelle
Benadir
Lower Juba
Middle Juba
Gedo
Bay
Bakool

Rehabilitation of other water projects in El-afweyn, Erigavo Gabiley and Shalcaw continued.

Rainwater harvesting projects were initiated in Kalabaid and Arabsio villages in Somaliland. In Puntland, UNICEF repaired two-borewells in Jerriban that supply water to pastoral communities from Eyl and Garowe districts. In Central Somalia, installation of equipment for three water projects in Addow Oul, El-burale and Isgoys villages in Middle Shabelle entered its final stages.

Training: Fifty people were trained in hand-pump repair and maintenance in Belet Weyne, Hiran region. Some 112 people in Adale, El Jalle, Mogokori and Belet Weyne in Central/Southern Somalia were trained in sanitation and hygiene. Those trained in Belet Weyne included members of community education committees for two schools.

Constraints: Insecurity in Middle Jubba and Galgadud regions of Central/Southern Somalia hampered implementation of water and sanitation projects. In Luuq, Gedo region, the functioning of the town's water supply system has been hampered by weak management structures. To redress the situation in Luuq, UNICEF will work with the water committee to build its capacity in management and operational areas.

Education update...

Workshops: A total of 46 Community Education Committee (CEC) mobilizers from different parts of Somalia

participated in workshops that reviewed mentoring of CECs.



UNICEF supports efforts to boost girls' enrolment in Somalia. Photo credit: UNICEF Somalia/SOM03-052-Taylor

During the workshops, the participants reported that they had noted increased community participation and support in school management, rehabilitation, teachers' support and student enrolment.

UNICEF donated chairs for use by staff of Dami Primary School, Somaliland. The school was rehabilitated and furnished in 2003 with support from UNICEF. The school is in one of the poorest sectors of Hargeisa.

UNICEF mission: UNICEF Somalia Representative Jesper Morch and the Somaliland Minister for Education met in Hargeisa in September to discuss issues relevant to the education sector and cooperation between UNICEF and the local administration.

Rehabilitation/construction: A new school was inaugurated in Jowhar town of Middle Shabelle. The school has 12 classrooms, offices, meeting hall,

library, laboratory, toilets, football and basketball playgrounds.

Enrolment: UNESCO organized a workshop in Jowhar to discuss how to increase access to education for all children, with special focus on a strategy for acceleration of girls' enrolment. The gross enrolment in primary schools in Somalia is currently about 18 per cent.

Youth update...

Leadership: A Leadership and Organizational Development (LOD) training was held for 105 youth leaders from Central/Somalia in Merka, Lower Shabelle region. The training focused on participation and empowerment for community development. The LOD training is the core of UNICEF's youth programme and the main objective of the project is to strengthen the country's loosely organized youth groups through training and capacity building interventions aimed at turning them into organizationally focused, effective and efficient entities.

Training: UNICEF in collaboration with the Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD) trained 50 youth in peace-building.

Rehabilitation: A basketball sports ground rehabilitated by UNICEF in Tiyeglow continues to be a hub of sports activities in the community. Youth in Tiyeglow also use it for volleyball.



UNICEF supports sports initiatives through its youth programme. Credit: Giacomo Pirozzi.

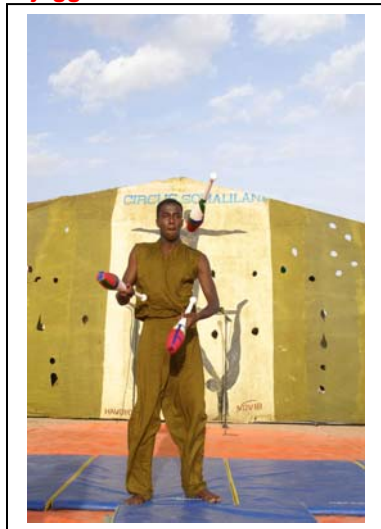
HIV/AIDS prevention and control update...

Training: Twenty-two people from all over Somalia were trained in Voluntary, Counselling and Testing (VCT) for HIV/AIDS. UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR, UNDP and the local AIDS committee in Somaliland trained 10 medical personnel (including doctors and nurses) in antiretroviral treatment.

Public forums: Awareness-raising forums were held in Burao and Borama in Somaliland to sensitize and galvanize political, religious, community, youth, women and local authority leaders to action in public efforts to help in the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Advocacy: The Awdal Band staged music and drama performances in Borama for awareness-raising while in Arabsiyo, the Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Organization Committee (HAVOYOCO) staged circus performances. Dissemination of information for HIV/AIDS prevention and control continued through local radio stations and other media channels. Video tapes on women's rights in Islam and CD-Rom on HIV/AIDS advocacy and awareness were distributed to HIV/AIDS working groups in Central/Southern Somalia. HIV/AIDS awareness sessions were held for about 270 people who included teachers, social workers and women's groups from Central Somalia.

A juggler from Circus Somaliland goes



through his paces. The circus is involved in HIV/AIDS awareness initiatives.

Credit: Giacomo Pirrozi.

Fighting stigma:

Following the death of a person living with AIDS who had been admitted to the InterSoS hospital in Jowhar, UNICEF facilitated a debate on Jowhar Radio which drew a lot of interest from the community. Issues such as home-based care, modes of transmission and prevention were discussed. In a marked change in response, the community came out to offer solace and comfort prior to the person's death.

Child Protection update...

Mobilization: Community mobilization on child protection issues was carried out in Galgadud, Mogadishu, Bay, Bakool and Middle Shabelle regions of Central Somalia. The mobilizers sought to create awareness on prevention of violence and abuse of children and to mobilize and empower youth groups to advocate for the protection of children. Children belonging to IDPs and minority populations are the most vulnerable to abuse and violence. Community mobilization initiatives focus on these groups as a priority.

The Child Protection Study carried out by UNICEF in 2003 was distributed to 105 youth leaders from Central/Southern Somalia as part of efforts to raise awareness on the need for protecting children.

The study was also distributed to 22 journalists who participated in a capacity building workshop organized by Horn-Afrik Media, one of the major media organizations in Mogadishu.

Training: Members of civil society organizations from throughout Somalia that are involved in children's and women's rights were trained to deal with psycho-social problems and trauma in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Child Rights Forum: The steering committee of the recently-constituted Child Rights Forum met the Somaliland Minister of Justice to discuss work to be undertaken by the forum. The committee also discussed the plight of child prisoners in Somaliland.

In Puntland, UNICEF organized forums for presentation of the findings of the UNICEF Child Protection Study and awareness raising on child protection issues to more than 100 officials from the Puntland administration.

Child soldiers: The Elman Child Soldiers Rehabilitation and Reintegration programme continues to train 180 former child soldiers in Mogadishu, Merka and Kismayo towns. The project provides vocational education training

including literacy and numeracy. The children are also counselled. The current phase of the programme continues for the next six months.

Communication for Development update...

Sara: Illustration has started on the Somali version of the cartoon character 'Sara'. The storyline was pre-tested in Jowhar, Central Somalia. UNICEF launched the Sara Communication Initiative in eastern and southern Africa in 1996. Cartoon stories featuring 14 year old Sara, generate discussion on key issues affecting adolescent girls. Sara stories aim to help young women make the transition into adulthood.

Youth broadcasting initiative: Three youth groups are to broadcast radio programmes through six stations in Puntland. To support the initiative UNICEF facilitated a meeting between youth producers and representatives of local communities, the local administration and media representatives. New digital video cameras and voice recorders have been procured and delivered to youth groups for use in the production of video and radio programmes.

Special events

International Day of Peace: The Day was marked on 21 September in various parts of Somalia. Activities included parades, road races, cultural performances basketball, volleyball and football tournaments, debates and advocacy meetings.



Football was one of the main activities to mark the International Day of Peace. File photo credit: Giacomo Pirozzi.

Key participants included youth groups, women's groups, religious leaders, NGOs and members of local administrations. Participating as 'Peace Ambassadors' at events in Central /Southern Somalia, were two of the youth who were sponsored by the UN under the 'Sports for Peace' initiative to attend the 2004 Real Madrid football summer camp in Spain in July this year.

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