

UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review

October 2003



Security update and Political developments

In stark contrast to the relative security previously enjoyed in Northwest Somalia, three expatriate humanitarian personnel were murdered in October for reasons yet unknown. Annalena Tonelli, a 60-year-old Italian woman who spent more than three decades working with Somalis was killed on 5 October and on 21 October, an expatriate couple, Richard Eyeington and his wife Enid were shot in their home in Sheikh town where they were managing the SOS Secondary School. The Somaliland local administration has committed to apprehend those responsible.

The security situation in Northeast Somalia ('Puntland') remained stable.

In Central and Southern Somalia, at least 20 people were killed in renewed fighting between rival clans in the area of Harale. The fighting was reportedly sparked by a dispute over land. Three people were also killed and several others wounded in inter-clan fighting in El-Bur town, El-Bur district. Freelance militia set illegal roadblocks along the main road through Hiran to other regions of Central and Southern Somalia resulting in an increase in attacks against road transport vehicles.

Passenger and goods transporters appealed to the Islamic Court in Hiran region to improve security.



The late Annalena Tonelli at the hospital she ran in Borama, Somaliland. Credit: Jesper Strudsholm.

Fighting between militia in Shibis district of Mogadishu North resulted in the deaths of at least six people including militia leader, Miineey Nur-Bilaaajo. In other incidents, four people were killed and three others wounded during various banditry incidents. Among the victims was a moneychanger and a 13-year-old boy. A woman from the Diaspora was also reported to have been kidnapped.

In Baidoa, Bay region, intermittent clashes between rival militia continued. Some 10 people were reported killed in early October in retaliatory killings. Fourteen militia were also killed and seven others injured in intense fighting that broke out between the two rival

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Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) sides. The RRA is the main political organization in Bay and Bakool regions. On 17 October in further escalation of the conflict, a man and two women were killed and a woman injured after militia from a rival clan attacked Hareri-jife village about 25km from Baidoa along the road to Wajid. Later, militia from the victims' clan attacked a village dominated by a rival clan and killed seven women. Following the escalation in violence, delegations from the main clans and religious groups are expected in Baidoa to find a resolution to the violence.

In Kismayo, Southern Somalia, a person suspected to have killed one man and wounded seven others was captured by the police.

Update on the peace talks

The Somali National Reconciliation and Peace talks continue in Nairobi, Kenya. In an effort to bolster the peace process, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) a grouping that brings together Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti and Uganda agreed to host a meeting of all Somali political leaders in Nairobi on 20 November 2003.

It is expected that leaders from these countries will participate in the talks. Meanwhile, a group of Somalia leaders dissatisfied with the ongoing Somali National Reconciliation and Peace Conference have formed the Somali Salvation Alliance at a meeting in Balad town. They elected Muse Sudi Yalahow as their chairman.

Drought in the northeast

On 16 October, a UNDP delegation led by the UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Max Gaylard, visited Bossaso, which is the commercial capital of the Northeast Zone, Puntland. Later, the delegation traveled to Garowe the administrative capital of Puntland where they discussed the drought situation in parts of northern Somalia among other issues. Following delays in the onset of rains in Puntland and parts of Sool plateau, which straddles northern Somalia, nomadic and pastoral communities have been especially hard hit by lack of rains. The Puntland administration has appealed to the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the drought. According to the administration, some 10,000 nomads are at risk.

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

Health programme highlights

UNICEF continued to supply partners in Somalia with essential drugs and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) supplies.

A workshop was held in Berbera in Somaliland to raise awareness on the importance of vaccination and to dispel myths and misconceptions about it. At least 30 people including religious leaders, representatives of youth and women's groups, health workers, community leaders and local administration officials participated.

Vaccination activities were carried out in Berbera town from 21-25 October. During the five-day exercise, 1845 children aged under five years of age were immunized. In Puntland, UNICEF collaborated with local authorities to carry out vaccination activities in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe, Burtline and Galkayo towns. In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF also collaborated with local partner organizations to carry out immunization activities in Afmadow district during which some 1742 children were vaccinated. UNICEF carried out a survey to ascertain the extent of EPI coverage in Waberi and Kismayo districts.

UNICEF and local authorities organized a training workshop in Garowe, Puntland, for 27 EPI managers from local authority groups and local NGOs. The workshop focussed on assessing coverage and identify and solving problems associated with the programme. UNICEF also trained some 160 vaccination team members to undertake EPI activities in Mogadishu. The EPI activities took place from 19-26 October in Mogadishu.

UNICEF, in collaboration with Puntland local authorities, conducted an EPI coverage survey for the three regions of Puntland - Bari, Nugal and Mudug. The objective of the survey was to assess the percentage of children aged between one and two years who have been vaccinated against the six childhood killer diseases - measles, tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Registration of children who have not received oral polio vaccine or who have received less than the required dose continued in all districts of Puntland.

Smugglers arrested

Police in Bossaso have arrested five suspected smugglers together with people they were apparently planning to smuggle into Yemen through the Gulf of Aden.

Three boats were also impounded by the Police.

Somalis continue to take high risks during attempts to leave the country, often opting for dangerous sea travel.

In another recent incident, reports indicate that about 70 Somalis attempting to illegally migrate may have died after their boat capsized between Libya and Italy. Italian authorities are reported to have rescued some 170 others.

Nutrition programme update

In Somaliland, UNICEF took part in an interagency assessment of the malnutrition situation in the Sool plateau of Sanaag, which has been adversely affected by drought. The locations assessed included: Shimbirale, Cawsame, Bali Busleh, Eil Buh, Kala dhac, Sherbi, Baraagta Qol, Sarmaanyo, Awr Boqays, Hiingalool, Calool and Ceel Wein.

In Puntland, UNICEF in collaboration with local authorities supported breastfeeding counseling training for 12 doctors and midwives from Bossaso, Garowe and Galkayo hospitals, four MCH centres and three private clinics.

In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF assisted local partners in carrying out a nutrition survey in Tieglow district of Bakool Region. UNICEF introduced nutrition education and cookery sessions at Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres in Halgan, Bulo Burte and Jalalaqsi in Hiran region. Similar sessions were introduced in Lower Juba and Baidoa regions. In total, about 202 people women/mothers and caretakers were trained. UNICEF also undertook screening of 1,239 children for supplementary feeding and supervised

food distribution in Bay, Bakool, Gedo and Hiran Regions.

Water and Environmental Sanitation update

Work on various projects in Somaliland continued during the reporting period. The Borama Water Project was completed and is now operational, managed by the Borama Utility Company. It is the first water system to be managed by a private company in Somaliland and it is expected to serve as a model for future projects. To further enhance water management skills in Somaliland, UNICEF organized a training workshop for 20 water managers and operators in Hargeisa and Burao.

Construction of the Gabiley Water Project continues. Pipes have been laid and testing for pressure undertaken. Another project in Geedbaladh has had its elevated water tank completed and 600 metres of pipeline laid. Construction of two water kiosks and three water troughs has taken place. Construction of associated works and digging of seven wells for rural water supply commenced in three locations in Somaliland.

In Puntland, testing of the 15km pipeline that will serve the Garowe Water Project was completed and will. Once the pipeline is finalized some 45,000 people will have access to clean water. Already, construction of 15 public water kiosks has been completed and the project management office supplied with equipment and locally manufactured office furniture. Currently, local authorities are in the process of identifying and selecting a suitable location for drilling of a new borewell for the Garowe Water Project. The rural water supply projects are at various stages of construction. These include the Godob Jiran Water Project and the Libaaxo borewell. UNICEF has also entered into an agreement with Horn Relief Development Organization for the installation of six hand-pumps for wells in Duri Duri.

In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF conducted 18 days of training for Trainers of Trainers on advanced maintenance and repair of generators, engines and pumps. The training was held in Jowhar with participants drawn from international NGOs and local water management committees including members of the Farjano Water Company that manages the Jowhar Water System.

Sanitation and Hygiene

UNICEF has donated three garbage collection carts to Boon community in

Somaliland for promotion of sanitation and hygiene.

In Puntland, UNICEF partners, including NGOs based in Bossaso, Garowe and Galkayo, completed hygiene promotion activities in 13 villages where UNICEF has rehabilitated water supply systems. Construction of sanitation facilities for seven schools in Puntland is ongoing. The projects are due for completion by end-November 2003.

UNICEF trained 25 staff of the Hargeisa Municipality on issues related to public health. The training focussed on public health compliance guidelines and by-laws.

UNICEF signed agreements with 20 community education committees in Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Bakool region regions for improvement of school sanitation facilities - construction of latrines and hand washing facilities.

Education highlights

A Trainers of Trainers workshop for 19 school mentors education staff was held in Hargeisa from 4-16 October 2003. The mentors are to collaborate with head-teachers to enhance their roles as school managers. The mentors will visit selected schools at least once every

two months in the period November to March 2004.

A similar workshop was held in Merka, Southern Somalia, beginning on 20 October. Some 45 teacher mentors participated and were drawn from UNICEF partner organizations, local and international NGOs. The objectives of the teacher mentor workshops are: to explain the concept of mentoring, familiarize mentors with the new curriculum and teaching methodology and to develop tools to teach the new curriculum.

Another mentoring workshop was held in Central and Southern Somalia for 29 participants who are meant to guide Community Education Committees (CECs). The participants were drawn from NGOs and other local partners. The training sought to enhance the capacity of education managers, supervisors and trainers so that they can impart skills and enhance the effectiveness of CECs.

UNICEF held a Non-Formal Education (NFE) review and training workshop in Merka for 27 participants, including UNICEF staff. The aim of the workshop was to refine the content of textbooks, teacher's guides and syllabus.

UNICEF concluded in-service training of 98 teachers from new schools in Puntland. The 20-day training took place in Omer Samatar Secondary

School in Galkayo. The teachers were trained in the use of new lower primary textbooks and syllabus, education management information systems and gender issues. UNICEF also organized an education policy review workshop for Puntland in Garowe. Some 36 participants from local authorities and partner organizations took part. UNICEF also trained some 51 new Community Education Committees in Puntland in aspects of management and ownership.

UNICEF will rehabilitate and construct additional classrooms for O. B. Khadab and Weirah Primary Schools in Berbera and Sheikh respectively in Somaliland. GAVO Youth Centre in Berbera will benefit from construction of two counseling rooms and rehabilitation of an existing warehouse. Both schools are in Sahil region that has the lowest enrolment in Somaliland.

In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF has completed rehabilitation of Yowkoyow, Wardhujiley and Abaqbedey schools of Bakool region. The rehabilitation of Sakow and Sallagle schools is nearing completion.

Youth development and participation

Follow-up meetings on the implementation of the Youth Radio and TV/video production project in Somaliland continue. UNICEF has trained eight youth groups in Somaliland in the production of radio and TV/video programmes. Two youth groups, Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Organization Committee (HAVOYOCO) and Somaliland Culture and Sports Association (SOCSA) will each produce two radio programmes while six organizations will each produce two TV/video programmes.

UNICEF staff in Puntland also reviewed the radio/video broadcasting training with Bossaso Youth groups. Three youth groups in Puntland are already active in radio programme production and have made productions covering HIV/AIDS, FGM, girl's education, hygiene and sanitation, community participation in education, malaria, child immunization, street children and youth leadership. The programmes have been aired through local radio stations - Somalia Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), Radio Midnimo in Bossaso and Radio Galkayo.

In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF donated three digital cameras with accessories and three cassette recorders to nine youth groups.

UNICEF is supporting one group in Jowhar, three groups in Merka and five groups in Mogadishu to produce radio and video programmes that will be broadcast in nine radio stations and about 50 video centres in Central and Southern Somalia.

UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of a football playground in Jowhar town of Middle Shabelle region for use by youth and the community. The playground now has two changing rooms for teams and more spectator sitting space. UNICEF also signed an agreement for the rehabilitation of a basketball court in Tiye glow district and volleyball ground in Bakool region.

As part of Leadership for Organizational Development (LOD) initiatives for youth, UNICEF has started the translation into Somali of a revised guide for LOD trainers.

HIV/AIDS prevention and control

UNICEF supported a two-day workshop in Hargeisa to finalize and validate an action plan on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in Somaliland.

During the reporting period a two-person UNAIDS mission visited

Somaliland to get a first-hand assessment of the HIV/AIDS situation with special focus on prevention and control measures. The UNAIDS staff held discussions with members of the local administration, UN agencies, international NGOs and representatives of youth and women's organizations.

Preparations for a Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practices (KABP) survey on HIV/AIDS and STIs began in the Somaliland during the month. The survey will be carried out throughout Somalia.

The Somaliland Council of Elders declared its support for the fight against HIV/AIDS. Some of the council members addressed Hargeisa residents in October at the Khayria Square to sensitize them about the impact of the disease on society and appropriate preventive measures that should be taken.

UNICEF distributed the HIV/AIDS Action Plan for Puntland to its partners and also integrated the teaching of basic facts on HIV/AIDS and FGM issues into the training of Non-Formal Education teachers in the three regions of Puntland. UNICEF in collaboration with international NGO Africa Action Hilfe (AAH) briefed nine community health workers from nomadic communities in Iskushuban on HIV/AIDS and FGM issues. UNICEF

also organized a consultative workshop on FGM with 30 religious leaders.

In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF organized a religious consultative meeting to discuss FGM and HIV/AIDS issues. Some 30 religious leaders and representatives of local media organizations attended. The religious leaders indicated their interest in engaging in HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities as well as supporting FGM eradication initiatives.

UNICEF staff met the chairman of the Somali Medical Association during a HIV/AIDS coordination meeting in Merka town to discuss the development of an HIV/AIDS Action Plan and formation of a HIV/AIDS task force. During another meeting between UNICEF and local partners in Jowhar on 21 October, a 17-person HIV/AIDS regional taskforce was selected to spearhead prevention and control activities.

Child Protection

UNICEF organized a one-day workshop to discuss various issues related to Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Somaliland. Representatives of local and international organizations attended the workshop.

UNICEF facilitated discussions with a visiting mission examining mine risk in Puntland. The consultant visited different locations to collect information on land-mines and areas contaminated with unexploded ordinance (UXO) and to get a better idea of victims and most at-risk groups. The mission met staff of the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC), UNDP staff in Garowe, medical staff, police officers and media groups in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe, Burtinle, Ba'adweyn and Galkayo.

A workshop to strengthen the skills of LOD trainers in community mobilization for child protection was held in Merka from September 27 to October 15, 2003. Some 23 people from Northwest, Northeast and Central and Southern Somalia attended the training. The participants were trainers of trainers of youth organizations. The trainees familiarised themselves with the findings of a child protection study conducted in Somalia earlier in the year and undertook field visits in Merka town during which they disseminated information and mobilized communities on issues related to child protection.

If you have questions about the UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review please contact:

Robert Kihara, Assistant Communication Officer
e-mail: rkihara@unicef.org

OR

Julia Spry-Leverton, Communication Officer

Tel: 254-2-623958/ 623950/ 623862/ 623959/ 350410
Fax: 254-2-520640/ 623965