

UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review

April 2004



Security Update

During April, the UN raised the security classification in Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland') to Phase IV. The new classification requires that staff be accompanied by armed escorts while travelling. According to an article in Somaliland's Jamhuriya newspaper of 15 April, militia alleged to be from Northeast Somalia ('Puntland') killed unarmed civilians and injured others in Las Anod on 13 April. Las Anod is the regional capital of the Sool region which is claimed by both Somaliland and Puntland. In other developments, General Ade Muse from Puntland visited Las Anod to mediate between rival factions that were involved in fighting there.

The director of the Puntland Office of the President was arrested upon his arrival at Galkayo airport on Thursday, April 22. The reasons behind the arrest are not yet known.

In Central and Southern Somalia, inter-clan clashes continued in Middle Jubba, Hiran and Galgaduud regions. Fighting between rival militia was also reported in Mogadishu and Kismayo. However, Jowhar, some 90 km north of Mogadishu remained stable. Jowhar is the location of the main UNICEF office in Central and Southern Somalia.

Introduction of locally-recruited neighbourhood security guards in most of the districts in Mogadishu in-collaboration with the Islamic courts has

improved security. In Merka, a new administration has also made strides in improving security.

In Baidoa, Central Somalia, the security situation improved despite the political differences between rival leaders allied to the Rahanweyne Resistance Army (RRA) the predominant political faction in Baidoa.

Due to rising insecurity in the southern port-town of Kismayo, UNICEF relocated some of its staff to Baidoa and Mogadishu.

Political developments

The 10th session of the Puntland Parliament, meeting in the administrative capital Garowe, closed on 20 April. The session deferred key decisions on the extension of the government and parliament mandate that was to expire in April 2004. It is expected that a decision will be taken with the return of Puntland President Abdullahi who had traveled to Dubai and the United Kingdom during the month.

Passport ban: The Puntland administration has banned the use of Kenyan passports in Puntland apparently in retaliation for the Kenya government ban on Somali passports.

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Health programme highlights...

Immunization: UNICEF undertook the immunization of 5070 children under the age of five years in Togdheer region of Somaliland and a total of 2174 women were immunized against tetanus. Immunization campaigns combined with treatment for various ailments were initiated in four districts of Awdal region and Hargeisa in Somaliland. In Central and Southern Somalia, a total of 39,796 women of child-bearing age were immunized. UNICEF staff also supervised health service provision at the Adado and Dusamareb maternal and child health centres (MCH) run by the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and provided on-the-job training in the use of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) monitoring charts.

Information materials: UNICEF produced information materials for Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and life saving skills training in Somaliland. In Puntland, charts with information for treatment of diarrhoea-related dehydration were distributed to MCH centres.

Supplies: In Puntland, UNICEF distributed EPI supplies to MCH centres in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe and Galkayo.

Training: Some 12 traditional birth attendants were trained in safe motherhood at the Bossaso MCH centre. In Central Somalia, UNICEF

staff visited seven MCHs run by various NGOs to assess the provision of services. During the visits they trained staff in the use of EPI monitoring charts.

Cholera: UNICEF participated in a meeting on cholera control and prevention organized by the Puntland administration. Oral Rehydration Salts and other health supplies were distributed to IDP camps. Some 14 volunteers from IDP camps were trained in management and control of diarrhoeal diseases. In Mogadishu some 1845 cases of diarrhoea were reported between 23 March and 23 April. About two thirds of the cases were of children under the age of five years. In response, the Cholera Task Force comprising UNICEF, local health authorities, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Spain and WHO initiated monitoring, control and prevention measures. Similar measures were initiated in Jowhar, Baidoa and Belet Weyne in Central Somalia.

Polio Eradication: Polio immunization was conducted from 19-21 April 2004 in Bari region of Puntland. Polio surveillance meanwhile continued in Bari, Nugal and Mudug regions of Puntland.

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

Nutrition programme update...

Out of some 5300 children who were screened for malnutrition in Togdheer region, some 898 were found to be suffering from moderate to severe malnutrition.

Education: UNICEF staff participated in nutrition education cooking demonstration sessions on using locally available nutritious food at health facilities in Baidoa and Hamarjajab in Mogadishu. UNICEF trained staff of 27 MCHs in Central Somalia in maternal care, infant and young child feeding in Mogadishu from 1-4 April. The training also covered nutrition education.

Supplementation: UNICEF provided vitamin A to 250 and 300 pregnant mothers in Bay and Bakool regions respectively. Some 170 pregnant women in the two regions also received iron-cum-folic acid supplementation. During immunization campaigns in the Bari region of Puntland, Vitamin A was distributed to children under five years of age.

Supplementary feeding: Supplementary feeding support was given to 1320 and 775 children in Bakool and Bay regions respectively.

Survey: UNICEF, in collaboration with the Puntland administration and the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU), conducted nutrition surveys in

Galkayo and Galdogob districts. Data from the survey is being analysed.

Water and Environmental Sanitation update...

Water projects: In Somaliland, construction of the Gebiley, AdAd and Ayaha IDP water projects continued. UNICEF undertook an inventory of equipment in stock for new projects. The equipment included pumps and generators. Construction of five water kiosks and drilling of a new borewell to serve the Garowe water project in Puntland was completed. In Puntland, UNICEF signed two agreements with the local administration for rehabilitation of projects in Iskushuban and Bandar Beyla towns. In Kismayo, UNICEF supplied 10 hand-pumps to the NGO World Concern. UNICEF undertook an evaluation of Isgoyska and Elmug village borewells in Middle Shabelle with a view to assessing whether they needed rehabilitation. In Bufow, Southern Somalia, UNICEF handed over two borewells to the local community.

Survey: A baseline survey for hygiene promotion and sanitation for 12 selected towns/communities in Puntland was completed. The locations have benefited from UNICEF water and environmental sanitation projects in the past. UNICEF started collection of data on IDPs in Bossaso in order to gain a better understanding of the locations, numbers and needs of the most vulnerable households including those

Emergency

In Central Somalia, UNICEF, WFP and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) participated in a five-day assessment mission to parts of Galgaduud region which was affected by inter-clan fighting. The mission visited Dusamareb, Adado and Guriel areas where people had been displaced due to conflict and fear of landmines. Following the visit, UNICEF initiated discussions with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) with a view to providing health services to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In Bossaso, Puntland, an interagency meeting was held to discuss the response to drought in northern Somalia. UNICEF and the Puntland administration participated in the meeting and outlined their responses to the drought. UNICEF has funded rehabilitation of wells through Horn-relief, an NGO. During the reporting period, UNICEF supervised rehabilitation of 26 shallow wells. All the wells are in drought-affected areas of eastern Sanaag.

without access to traditional social support systems and/or local economic, political or clan ties.

Alternative water sources: UNICEF staff held discussions with Diakonia, a Swedish NGO on future exploitation of alternative water sources in Puntland. The potential of tapping water supplies from coastal areas using solar power and development of dams on riverbeds was discussed. Other discussions were held with COOPI, an Italian NGO, on the possibility of rehabilitating borewells in Gardo with funds from the NGO.

Hygiene and sanitation: Toward greater cholera prevention, UNICEF and WHO initiated measures to empty pit latrines at Boqolka Bush IDP camp in Puntland. UNICEF funded the construction of the latrines in 1996 to improve hygiene and sanitation for more than 4000 people living in the IDP camp. In Jowhar, Central Somalia, UNICEF trained some 80 people in community hygiene and sanitation. In Mogadishu, UNICEF in collaboration with Action Contre La Faim and MSF-Spain is identifying water sources that are regularly chlorinated prior to initiating chlorination of other water sources not previously covered.

Education highlights...

Studies: A baseline study is being carried out in Somaliland to measure the impact of textbooks developed for primary school children in Grades 1 to 4 as well as the training for primary school

teachers. Data entry for the Annual Primary School Survey for 2003/2004 conducted in Somaliland and Puntland is continuing in Nairobi, Kenya. The survey covers the whole of Somalia. In addition, the forms used for routine data collection (Education, Management Information System - EMIS) are being revised based on a review conducted in January/February this year. Preparations are also underway for an analysis of the primary education system from a gender perspective.

School mentoring: School mentors trained by UNICEF continued to guide and advise some 433 teachers from 52 pilot schools in Somaliland. The feedback from heads of schools has been positive. School mentors encourage teachers to try new teaching techniques and textbooks and to use more child-centred approaches.

Supplies: UNICEF delivered furniture for distribution to schools in Puntland and signed an agreement for its onward distribution and movement of other education supplies to distribution centres in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe and Galkayo. In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF distributed textbooks and school, class and pupil registers to 57 primary schools in Gedo, Hiran and Middle Shabelle regions. The schools have a total of 9,240 pupils. School furniture (420 chairs, 140 student tables and teachers' chairs and tables) was distributed to four primary schools in Bakool. The schools have a total of 614 pupils. UNICEF identified some 10

Rains

The 'Gu' (long-rain) season started in different parts of the country. Floods destroyed cropland on 32 farms in Dayaxa and Buq, 26 km south of Erigavo the capital of Sanaag region in northern Somalia.

Following the onset of rains, nomadic communities from Puntland which had at the end of 2003 moved to the Indian Ocean coastal plains of Bayla and Eyl districts, started returning to highland areas. In Middle Shabelle, Central Somalia, UNICEF distributed 5000 sandbags for flood control. Following increased rainfall in Central and Southern Somalia, river levels rose considerably.

new schools in Luuq in Central Somalia, which are being supported by members of the Somali Diaspora. UNICEF is exploring possibilities of providing additional support to the schools.

Training: UNICEF trained enumerators and coordinators to carry out the primary school survey in North Gedo and Buale districts in Middle Juba.

Youth update...

Networking: A three-day youth networking workshop started in Hargeisa at the end of April for 33 members of the Somaliland National Youth Organisation (SONYO). The participants were drawn from all the six regions of Somaliland. The workshop sought to promote sharing of experiences among the participants and enhance collaboration and networking between them. During the meeting, five youth were selected to attend a workshop in Mogadishu on youth peace-building and conflict resolution. SONYO members agreed to produce a newsletter to inform the youth networks on key issues and activities. In Central Somalia, UNICEF sponsored a three-day networking meeting for 35 youth groups in Benadir region. UNICEF also held a two-week training of trainers workshop on peace-building and conflict resolution for 25 youth from throughout Somalia in Mogadishu. The training was held in collaboration with the Centre for Research and Dialogue. The trainees are expected to train 300 members of

youth groups after completing their training.

In Puntland and Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF staff and youth mentors and Leadership for Organizational Development (LOD) trainers developed plans for implementation of guidance and advice (mentoring) activities that will be integrated into community mobilization activities. The UNICEF-trained youth mentors have trained nine youth groups in Garowe town. The mentoring seeks to improve the structure, organizational capacity and management of youth groups.

Tournaments: UNICEF assisted UNDP, the Somaliland Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Somaliland Football Federation in conducting an under-16 football peace tournament. In Puntland UNICEF supported a football tournament played between teams from different regions by supplying sports uniforms, footballs, whistles and stopwatches. The uniforms were for 96 players participating in the tournament. Plans were finalized for a similar inter-regional football tournament in Central Somalia.

Video: One of the youth groups trained by UNICEF in the Youth Broadcasting Initiative produced a video programme comprising of interviews with members of four sports teams on their perspective of the role of sports in moulding the youth. The information from the video was submitted to UNICEF New York and will be

considered for inclusion in a publication about Sports and Peace to be developed by UNICEF.

HIV/AIDS prevention and control update...

Strategic framework: The translation into Somali of the summary of the book: *Strategic Framework for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS within Somali Populations* has been completed. The book was developed in 2003 through a participatory process involving Somali community members, authorities, civil society, international and local NGOs and UN agencies, including UNICEF. As a joint vision the Strategic Framework establishes agreed action plans for HIV/AIDS response measures, to be implemented by communities with the support of international partners. UNICEF distributed other HIV/AIDS information, education and communication materials to staff in Central and Southern Somalia. The Somaliland technical committee on HIV/AIDS held meetings in April to among others discuss feedback on the draft policy for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Somalia.

Magazine: The latest issue of *Koor*, a youth magazine published in Somaliland which seeks to create awareness on HIV/AIDS control and prevention, has been finalized. The magazine is distributed to youth groups throughout Somalia. 'Koor' is the Somali word for camel bell.

Drama: UNICEF staff provided input during a Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)/International Federation of Red Crescent (IFRC) workshop for development of a participatory drama for HIV/AIDS education.

School awareness: A total of 300 children from seven schools in Jowhar participated in HIV/AIDS awareness sessions in Jowhar as part of a UNICEF life skills initiative.

Child Protection update...

FGM/Gender: UNICEF staff participated in a campaign for the eradication of female genital mutilation organized by the Galkayo Education, Peace and Development Organization for youth and women groups in Bossaso. UNICEF also distributed video cassettes and a book it published recently, *Women's Rights in Islam*, to partners in Bossaso.

Community mobilization: The Handbook for Child Protection Community Mobilization, which presents tools and approaches for working in this field and in Somalia, has been finalized. The translation of the Handbook in Somali is underway. Some 23 child protection advocates are active throughout Somalia in disseminating the findings of the UNICEF Child Protection Study and facilitating dialogue at the community level to encourage community leadership to adopt specific measures

for the protection of children against violence, exploitation and discrimination. Additional materials are being developed to support community based work on child protection, including posters to be used in initiating dialogue on sensitive issues, such as sexual abuse, economic exploitation and discrimination against minorities, as well as booklets containing Quranic and Hadith verses encouraging the protection of children by families and communities.

Networking: UNICEF facilitated the conduct of two child protection networking meetings in Mogadishu and Belet Weyne and disseminated information on the situation of child protection in Somalia. The participants focused on the design of a comprehensive initiative to provide protection to street children living in these towns and agreed on how to strengthen local partnerships in implementing the initiative.

Child soldiers: The rehabilitation and reintegration programme for 180 child soldiers in Mogadishu, Merka and Kismayo towns continued smoothly during the month. Training in enhancing community mobilization and participation, as well as data collection, has been provided to the staff of the partner NGOs implementing this initiative and who are involved in vocational education and outreach activities.

Communication for Development update...

Youth broadcasting: A two-day refresher training workshop on the Youth Broadcasting Initiative was held in Somaliland in April. Some 32 youth from eight groups participated in the training that focussed on fine-tuning broadcasting skills. The workshop participants also drew up a production schedules for their programmes. Similar refresher training was held in Mogadishu for 26 youth from Central and Southern Somalia. Participants included media representatives.

In Puntland, UNICEF staff started production of briefing sheets on 15 topics. The sheets are for use by radio producers in the Youth Broadcasting Initiative. Following discussions between UNICEF staff, youth groups and radio stations in Galkayo, Garowe and Bossaso, broadcasters in these locations accepted to collaborate with youth groups in the editing and broadcast of programmes.

Cholera control: UNICEF staff met the heads of four radio and television stations in Mogadishu and discussed delivery of radio/TV messages on cholera prevention and control.

UNICEF conducted a two-day training session on community awareness and social mobilization on cholera control and prevention for 30 community mobilizers from UNICEF supported health organizations in Mogadishu.

Sara Initiative: A meeting to discuss adapting the Sara Communication Initiative into the Somali context was held in Somaliland and a core group of storyline writers selected. UNICEF has identified Health Unlimited and the Academy of Peace and Development as partners in Somaliland to work on adapting Sara. Both of the organizations have research capacity and are involved in media for public awareness on a variety of rights issues. The Sara Communication Initiative was launched in eastern and southern Africa in 1996. It helps young women make the transition into adulthood. Sara is an animated cartoon character, around 14 years old, who makes important life decisions, such as whether to stay in school or how to deal with difficult adults. The episodes generate discussions on key issues affecting adolescent girls, including HIV/AIDS, the unequal workloads of boys and girls, teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse and early marriage. They also demonstrate essential life skills, including effective communication, negotiation and problem solving.

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