

UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review

May 2004



Security Update

Fighting: During the month, clashes between rival militia in Middle Juba, Hiran, Mogadishu and Galgaduud regions in central and southern Somalia resulted in many dead and wounded. Heavy fighting occurred in Mogadishu North between supporters of Mohamed Dhere and Muse Sude. More than 40 people were reported killed and more than 200 injured. The fighting interrupted implementation of UNICEF activities in the Mogadishu IDP camps. Implementation of UNICEF programmes in Lower and Middle Juba was also severely restricted due to insecurity. In Kismayo, a port-town in southern Somalia, killings and counter-killings occurred between members of rival clans.

Also during May, a secondary school student, Hassan Moallim Mohamud, was shot dead while two others were wounded when the security guards of Al-fajri Secondary School in Mogadishu opened fire on students who were protesting against payment of school fees during holiday months. The school is located near the Ramadan Hotel.

In Mogadishu, the emergence of neighbourhood security guards recruited by local communities, and who are working in collaboration with

the Islamic Courts, has helped improve the security situation in some localities. The guards have dismantled several militia road blocks and check points.

Heavy fighting was reported in Beled Hawo between rival clans. In another incident, militia reportedly harassed a Kenyan aircraft pilot in Baidoa. Though the security situation in Baidoa showed marked improvement, tension still continued due to political differences between rival leaders of the predominant political organization, the Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA).

A landmine, which had been planted in Dinsor Airstrip, was detected during the reporting period. Following its discovery, the UN limited UN Common Air Services (UNCAS) flights to Wajid, Jowhar and Daynile as a temporary precautionary measure until more rigorous safety and control systems were put place.

Hospital siege: The Obstetrics Emergency Wing of the SOS Hospital in Mogadishu, the only facility providing public services in the area, was closed down following a siege by relatives of a woman whose uterus was removed during a life-saving operation.

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Football deaths: Three people were killed following a shooting that occurred during a football match in Bossaso, the commercial capital of northeast Somalia ('Puntland'). The three were killed when a security guard attempted to disperse a hostile crowd that was threatening a referee. Local police said they had started investigations into the incident.

Land feud: Meanwhile two people died and nine others were injured in a conflict over land in Bossaso. All the victims were local police who were trying to stop a clash between two rival groups over land ownership.

Political developments

Passport ban lifted: The Puntland administration lifted the ban on use of Kenyan passports in Puntland. The ban came into effect after Kenya banned the use of Somali passports.

The President of 'Somaliland' (Northwest Somalia), Dahir Rayale Kahin, dismissed the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Engineer Mohamed Hash Elmi, on 3 May 2004. The Minister had earlier pointed out a discrepancy in the 2003/2004 Somaliland budget and following his dismissal a group of women staged a demonstration against corruption. The police broke up the demonstration and in the process injured some of the women. Two women demonstrators who had been arrested were released

following an expression of public outrage and criticism.

On 18 May, Somaliland celebrated the 13th anniversary since it declared sovereignty and broke way from the rest of Somalia. The highlight of the celebrations was a speech by the President at the Khayriya grounds. The celebrations were marred, however, by protests from some youth as the President delivered his speech. Following the protests, some 153 people, mostly youth were detained. On 23 May, 55 of the youth were pardoned by President Rayale and released from detention at the Manderla Jail. The rest are still in jail pending verification as to whether they are students or street children.

At the end of April, the Somaliland President met a delegation from the Somali Aid Coordination Body (SACB). The SACB is a coordinating body for UN, NGO and donor groups providing assistance to Somalia and provides a framework for the development of common approaches, notably with a view to improving the cohesion and efficiency of resources allocated.

Official tours: Somaliland Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior, Ms. Edna Aden Ismail, paid a weeklong visit to Germany in May as a follow-up to the Somaliland President's earlier visit to the United Kingdom and Belgium. As well, a three-man delegation led by the Mayor of Hargeisa, Hussein Mohamed Ji'ir,

left on a familiarization visit to the United States on 13 May. The purpose of the visit was to enable the delegation learn from municipal management in the United States.

Health programme highlights...

Hospital expands: On 24 May, the Somaliland Vice President Ahmed Yusuf Yasin opened a newly-rehabilitated maternity wing at Hargeisa Hospital. CARE, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and some local entrepreneurs rehabilitated the wing.

Cholera: UNICEF provided chlorine for treatment of drinking water in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Bossaso as part of its cholera prevention measures. UNICEF and the World Health Organization undertook a joint mission and provided chlorine and medical supplies following a diarrhoea outbreak in Goldogob in Puntland. In response to the outbreak, UNICEF trained 30 health workers in chlorination, sanitation and appropriate hygiene.

In central and southern Somalia, UNICEF staff participated in cholera task force meetings in Jowhar, Mogadishu and Baidoa. The heads of UNICEF and WHO offices for Somalia and the UNDP Somalia Country Director visited Mogadishu on 12 and 13 May. During their visit, they toured

the Action Contre La Faim (ACF) Cholera Treatment Centre and participated a meeting to discuss the cholera situation.

Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI): Immunization campaigns were carried out through maternal and child health (MCH) centres in Awdal, Galbeed and Sahil regions of Somaliland. In Awdal, a total of 11,110 children under the age of five were vaccinated against the six killer childhood diseases: tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertusis, tetanus, polio and measles. Vitamin A was provided during the campaigns. Some 1,800 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus and iron-cum-folic acid supplementation provided to them for the treatment and prevention of anaemia.

Polio: Polio immunization and surveillance measures continued during the reporting period. In Nugal and Mudug regions of Puntland, immunization took place between 10 and 12 May. In central and southern Somalia, UNICEF carried out a polio immunization campaign in Benadir, Mogadishu, and Middle Shabelle regions. Some 91,183 children under five years of age were vaccinated in seven districts of Middle Shabelle Region and another 273,386 were vaccinated in the Benadir region. During the immunization activities in Benadir, some 215,483 people received Vitamin A supplementation.

Emergency

Supplies: UNICEF pre-positioned 65 metric tons of supplies in Jowhar, central Somalia for flood preparedness and prevention.

Some 7000 sandbags were also supplied to the local administration for use during flooding which occurred in May with surplus left over for future use.

Mobilization: In light of low immunization coverage in Burao, Somaliland, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and local authorities held a social mobilization and awareness workshop in Burao town. Participants included religious leaders, youth groups and women's organizations. The workshop discussed the importance of vaccination and the reasons for the low coverage in the town.

Training: UNICEF trained 162 vaccinators in Somaliland in vaccine management and vaccination techniques. The vaccinators are involved in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in regional capitals and Maternal and Child Health (MCH). Also in Somaliland, 12 senior health staff from hospitals were trained in the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI). UNICEF and the local authorities in Puntland organized a training and planning workshop for EPI activities from 12 to 14 May 2004. The workshop took place in Garowe. A total of 22 participants from the local administration and organizations active in the health sector participated. UNICEF completed production of an Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses training package in Somali which will be used to train health workers.

Supplies: UNICEF distributed vaccines and other supplies for health and nutrition interventions in drought-affected areas of Togdheer, Sanag and Sool regions in northern Somalia.

Some 40 cartons of oral rehydration salts (ORS) were delivered to Hargeisa, Somaliland, while in central and southern Somalia, materials for food demonstrations were supplied to the Madina MCH run by Muslim Aid UK. UNICEF also distributed medical supplies to the International Medical Corps (IMC) and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) in Beled Weyne and Dhusamareb. Essential drugs and EPI supplies were supplied to the Puntland administration as well as the SRCS in Mudug, Puntland. In central Somalia, UNICEF installed two vaccine storage facilities at MCHs run by the SRCS in Qansadhere and Berdale.

Meetings: UNICEF participated in a health sector meeting in Hargeisa attended by 53 health staff from Galbeed region to review their roles and responsibilities. Among the resolutions of the meeting was to increase the working hours of MCHs in the region. Four MCHs in Hargeisa were selected to pilot the new system. UNICEF staff and local administrations in central and southern Somalia held planning meetings for Maternal Neonatal Tetanus (MTN) campaigns. An MNT campaign was carried out in Mogadishu South.

A total of 52,439 women in Benadir region, which covers Mogadishu, received vaccination against tetanus.

Nutrition programme update...

Training: In an effort to alleviate the effects of malnutrition in the drought affected areas of Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer, northern Somalia, UNICEF and local authorities conducted a week-long training in the management of severe malnutrition for 19 health workers from the regions. UNICEF staff participated in nutrition education and food cookery sessions using locally available food. Some 65 mothers also attended the sessions.

Safe motherhood: In Puntland, UNICEF facilitated a training in safe motherhood for 54 health workers including nurses and traditional birth attendants from Bossaso, Gardho, Garowe, Burtinle and Galkayo districts.

Malnutrition screening: In Togdheer region, UNICEF, Save the Children-US and the local Somaliland administration screened 5,740 children. Of these, 964 were found to be moderately malnourished and were provided with one month's supplementary food rations. Similar interventions are taking place in Sool and Sanaag regions.

Breastfeeding: UNICEF and the Somaliland administration provided support for breastfeeding and complementary feeding/ counselling training for 22 health workers from all the regions of Somaliland. The trainees are expected to conduct similar training

for hospital and health centre staff in their regions. A counselling workshop was also held in Bossaso for 13 health workers from health facilities in Galkayo, Gardho, Bossaso, Bander Bayla, Iskushuban and Allula in Puntland.

Water and Environmental Sanitation update...

Projects: Construction work for the Gebiley water project in Somaliland continued during May. Connections to the pipe system are nearing completion. In Puntland, rehabilitation of the Iskushuban and Bandar Beyla water supply projects is continuing. UNICEF has provided supplies and components needed to complete the rehabilitation, as well as eight hand-pumps for IDP camps in Puntland.

UNICEF carried out an assessment survey in preparation for a project that will result in 10 shallow wells dug in Taleex district of Puntland. UNICEF and the Puntland administration will install pumps for borewells in Rako village and Gardo town respectively as well as carry out rehabilitation of shallow wells in rural areas of Garowe district. Following discussions between UNICEF and the local community, UNICEF will fund the rehabilitation of a solar-driven mini-water system at Baq Baq village of Nugal region.

Sanitation and hygiene: UNICEF conducted an assessment of water connections to six schools in Boroma, Somaliland. In Puntland, UNICEF is to construct hygiene and sanitation facilities for four schools in Bari and Mudug regions following discussion with Community Education Committees. UNICEF undertook community mobilization for the improvement of sanitation and hygiene in Jowhar town and 10 outlying villages in central Somalia.

Supplies: UNICEF supplied 20 drums of chlorine for treatment of drinking water in Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag Regions.

Training: UNICEF trained 80 people in sanitation and hygiene education. The trainees were drawn from partner organizations involved in cholera control and prevention activities in Mogadishu. A sanitation and hygiene promotion workshop was conducted in Jowhar. The workshop discussed the development of communication strategies for hygiene promotion.

Education highlights...

Draft Education Policy documents reviewed: UNICEF and the local administrations in Somaliland and Puntland respectively held workshops to review draft education policies for the two zones.

Learning Achievements Study: UNICEF and local education authorities in

Somaliland conducted a baseline study on the learning achievements of lower primary school children. The study covered 10 primary schools - five urban and five rural. UNICEF trained mentors that have provided the five urban schools with guidance on issues such as teaching methodology and use of textbooks. The five rural schools, which are serving as controls, have not benefited from mentoring. A similar study for Puntland was completed and results have been sent to Nairobi for preparation of a final report for the whole of Somalia. In central and southern Somalia, the Learning Achievement Study started in four schools in Jowhar and Bulo Burde and was completed in some 20 schools in Hiran, Bakool, Middle Shabelle and Benadir regions.

School mentoring: UNICEF-trained school mentors continue to guide teachers throughout Somalia. In Somaliland, 433 teachers in 53 pilot schools in Borama, Hargeisa, Berbera, Burao and Erigavo towns benefited from this mentoring support. Feedback on the benefits of mentoring from teachers remains positive.

Community Education Committees (CECs): UNICEF supported the training of CEC members in Hargeisa, Sahil Awdal and Sanaag regions as well as Bali-Dhiiq and Odweine districts, all in Somaliland. The CECs were trained in school management and administration, human resources and financial issues.

Non-formal education (NFE): Non-Formal Education (NFE) mentors continued to provide on-site guidance and support to NFE teachers in NFE centres during the reporting period. UNICEF staff also supervised activities in three NFE centres in Hargeisa town during the period under review.

Supplies: UNICEF and the Puntland administration completed distribution of supplies to schools. In the central and southern areas, UNICEF distributed some 14,569 textbooks, 2159 teachers guides and other education supplies including school and class registers to 177 primary schools in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Hiran, Galgadud, Benadir and Middle Juba regions.

Youth update...

Coordination meeting: A two-day coordination meeting was held in Burao for youth groups in Togdheer region. The workshop was organized by the Somaliland Ministry of Youth and Sports to enhance cooperation between it and youth in the region. The workshop also aimed at improving information sharing between agencies working with youth groups in the area as well as developing a workplan for them.

Following the April youth networking workshop for 33 members of the Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO), a follow-up meeting was held in May to discuss implementation of various issues that

were agreed upon earlier. UNICEF staff visited Togdheer and Sahil regions to assess the status of the existing youth groups. The assessment will be used to prepare for Leadership and Organizational Development (LOD) training and distribution of sports and resource centre supplies. UNICEF staff visited Hiran, Galgadud, Lower Shabelle and Benadir regions of central and southern Somalia to identify new youth groups that will participate in the youth development programme.

Mentoring: Mentoring of 11 youth groups in Bossaso, Garowe and Galkayo towns was undertaken in May. UNICEF trained the mentors who provide advice and guidance on improving the structure, management and capacity of the groups.

Mediation: UNICEF mediated between three youth groups that had been in a conflict that had paralyzed their operations. The mediation led to reforming and restructuring of the three groups based in Bossaso, Puntland.

Resource centres: Following difficulties encountered by the Puntland administration in identifying an adequate location for the proposed Youth Development Multipurpose Resource Centre in Bossaso town, UNICEF and the local administration agreed to relocate the centre to Garowe. In Bossaso, UNICEF is scheduled to hand over two offices that it rehabilitated to the WADYO Youth Network based in Bossaso. The offices

Somali Youth to Real Madrid

Four Somali youth were selected to participate in a summer football camp organized by the Real Madrid Football Club of Spain. The youth were selected following tournaments organized by UNICEF and UNDP in collaboration with United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

The tournaments were part of the 2004 UN initiative on sports-for-peace in Somalia. The scholarships will enable the Somali youths to be trained in Madrid and then return to Somalia to speak about their experience. It is hoped that the youth will also become messengers for peace in their respective communities.

The selection process for the four scholarships took place during the first football Peace Cup Tournament organized by the United Nations in close cooperation with local authorities in the northwest and central and southern regions of Somalia.

are located at the premises of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Training: UNICEF conducted a one-week training of trainers in peace-building and conflict resolution for 25 youth from throughout Somalia. The training took place in Mogadishu and was undertaken in collaboration with the Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD). The trainees will train some 300 youth in Somalia on participation in peace initiatives.

Sports: UNICEF organized a two-week inter-regional football tournament for eight teams from four regions in central Somalia. Teams from Barawe, Merka, Daynile, Abdi-Aziz, Balad, Jowhar, Bulo-Burte and Mahas districts participated in the tournament. Following the tournament, two youth were selected to participate in a Summer Football Camp organized by Real Madrid Football Club of Spain (see textbox on previous page). In Puntland, the Community Education Committee for the Bur Salah Community School has completed construction of the Bur Salah basketball playground.

HIV/AIDS prevention and control update...

Koor magazine: The first issue in 2004 of *Koor*, a youth magazine, came out in May. Some 4000 copies were printed of which 1500 and 1000 were distributed in central and southern Somalia and northeast Somalia respectively. *Koor* means cowbell in Somali and is a magazine that aims to

give Somali youth a chance to discuss issues affecting them with special focus on HIV/AIDS. The issue was the third since the magazine started production last year. *Koor* aims to help Somali youth reduce HIV infection, participate in community responses to the epidemic and to claim, protect and promote their rights in order for them to be strong future leaders. The Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Organization Committee (HAVOYOCO) based in Hargeisa is responsible for the production and distribution of the magazine. UNICEF funds the magazine's production.

Although still in its early stages, the magazine has some young and eager journalists to run it. Some of the youth involved in its production were trained through UNICEF's Youth Broadcasting Initiative. The initiative trained youth groups in Somalia on radio and video production techniques. The youth have also benefited from training in media skills by the British Broadcasting Corporation. One of the unique aspects of the publication is the leading role played by women. The manager, editor and reporters are all young women.

Training: A 10-day training session in counselling was held in Hargeisa for 20 community and religious leaders from Hargeisa, Awdal and Sahil. The training sought to enhance the capacity of religious and community leaders in HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

UNICEF in collaboration with a local organization, Pastoral Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa, trained 120 youth in Qoyta, Kabodheere and Yirowe villages in Togdheer region. The training focussed on the provision of basic facts on HIV/AIDS, prevention, and control and care of people living with AIDS. In each of these three villages, 40 youth were trained. Some 170 youth have been trained in Togdheer this year.

UNICEF facilitated the participation of seven people from Somaliland and 12 from central and southern Somalia in a training of trainers workshop held in Uganda on community mobilization for HIV/AIDS. UNICEF also facilitated the participation of three youth from central and southern Somalia at a training of trainers workshop on HIV/AIDS in Nairobi.

Meetings: UNICEF and the Puntland administration organized a meeting of the Puntland HIV/AIDS Technical committee in Garowe and sensitization sessions on HIV/AIDS for political and religious leaders. UNICEF staff also participated in workshops on HIV/AIDS for senior Puntland administration staff, women and youth groups.

Information distribution: UNICEF distributed video cassettes and books on women's rights in Islam to partners in Garowe and in Galkayo. UNICEF and the Puntland administration also developed advocacy messages and information on HIV/AIDS for dissemination through local media.

Study: UNICEF reviewed the first draft of the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Attitude Behaviour and Practices (KABP) study for Somalia for comments and feedback. The study will be finalized and distributed to partners and other interested parties.

UNICEF staff held discussions with the Beled Weyne youth peer educator on how to improve and support youth groups in Beled Weyne district. Special focus was placed on HIV/AIDS awareness and life-skills training for school students. UNICEF staff also held discussions with executive members of the HIV/AIDS working group in Jowhar in order to strengthen and improve awareness activities in the town. HIV/AIDS coordination meetings were conducted in Dhusamareb and a regional working group established in Galgadud. The Hiran HIV/AIDS regional working group held its monthly meeting in Beled Weyne. UNICEF continued to advocate on the need to break the silence on HIV/AIDS and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Child Protection update...

Child protection and Islam: An advocacy booklet to be used by religious leaders in Somalia is being finalized and is intended to support the leaders' efforts in the field of the protection of children against violence, abuse and exploitation. The booklet contains a summary of the situation of child protection in Somalia with a

selection of the most appropriate Quranic and Hadith verses emphasizing Islam's view with regard to child protection under each theme (such as economic exploitation, FGM, street children, gender-based and sexual violence, internally displaced and minority children, etc). UNICEF is identifying a core group of Islamic scholars to review the document.

Network: UNICEF has supported the establishment of a child protection network in Dhusamareb, central and southern Somalia. The network has members representing 13 organizations and groups that include local and international NGOs. UNICEF also disseminated findings of the Child Protection Study undertaken in 2003 to representatives of local authorities, traditional and religious leaders, women and youth groups in Dhusamareb. UNICEF staff participated in coordination and networking meetings for organizations involved in child protection activities in Mogadishu, Merka and Belet-Weyne towns.

Street children: UNICEF has worked with two organisations in central and southern Somalia - Somali Advocate Child Rights Organisation in Mogadishu, and Hiiran Information and Research Centre in Belet Weyne - to develop partnerships in working on behalf of street children in these two towns. Similar initiatives are starting in Puntland and Somaliland in order to

address the protection needs of children living on the streets.

Prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation: UNICEF has recruited a consultant to support efforts in creating a working environment where there is a zero tolerance in appropriate sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment, and where appropriate reporting mechanisms are put in place to address instances of abuse. Consultations have also taken place with the three women's rights networks in Somalia (NAGAD in Somaliland, WAWA in Puntland and COGWO in Central/Southern Somalia) in order to identify the support they would need from UNICEF in the field of community-based advocacy and action to prevent sexual abuse and violence.

Child soldiers: The UNICEF Child Protection Team in central and southern Somalia has conducted an extensive review of the child soldiers rehabilitation and reintegration programme, which is being implemented by the ELMAN Peace Centre in Mogadishu, Merka and Kismayo. The results have been presented to the UNICEF National Committee for Canada, in Toronto, which is supporting this project together with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency). The project is being implemented with success in the three cities, despite challenges faced by the partner organization's staff in the field of access and security.

Communication for Development update...

Somali version of Sara Initiative: A core group that is developing the storyline for the Somali version of the Sara Initiative continued to meet during the month. The group is composed of artists, storywriters and editors from the Academy of Peace and Development.

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.

Donation: On 23 May UNICEF handed over a donation of studio equipment to the Somaliland local authorities to help in capacity building for Radio Hargeisa. This equipment included a state of the art digital mixer and ultra modern tape and CD player/recorders. The equipment will contribute to the production of a quality youth radio programme by the youth groups

implementing the Youth Broadcasting Initiative.

Youth Broadcasting: UNICEF held a two-day workshop in Somaliland to train local resource persons and members of youth groups in using computer software for digital editing. As part of the UNICEF-supported Youth Broadcasting Initiative, six youth groups in Somaliland this year intend to produce 18 video programmes. In Puntland, UNICEF drew up an outline of a proposed schedule for programmes under the Youth Broadcasting Initiative. The information was shared with youth groups and broadcasters.

In central and southern Somalia, UNICEF reproduced 360 copies of video programmes on hygiene and sanitation for cholera prevention produced last year by the different youth groups in partnership with UNICEF. The videos were distributed for airing through video centres in Merka and Jowhar. Among the videos that are being distributed are those that cover malaria prevention, utilization of impregnated mosquito nets and girl education. A resource person from Horn Afrik radio/television based in Mogadishu held discussions with members of youth broadcasting groups and an action plan was developed for production and release of the next youth video programme.

EPI mobilization: UNICEF reviewed the EPI social mobilization strategies that have been in use in Puntland in the last two years. The review was undertaken during the training of trainers/planning workshop held in Garowe in May 2004. The participants were staff of UN organizations, NGOs and MCH centres in Puntland.

Cholera: Discussions on cholera prevention and control were carried out through four local radio stations in Mogadishu as part of social mobilization for cholera prevention and control.

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