

# UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review

June 2004



## Political developments

Children who had been detained at Manderla Jail in Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland') following protests during the 18 May celebrations of Somaliland's declaration of sovereignty were released on June 16, the Day of the African Child. The release followed a pardon by Somaliland President Dahir Rayale Kahin. Various organizations including UNICEF had petitioned the President to release the children. UNICEF staff also visited the jail to ascertain the conditions under which the children were being held. Meanwhile, Somaliland continues to lobby for international recognition. Reports appearing in the *Somaliland Times* said that the Somaliland Foreign Minister, Ms Edna Ismail, who was recently in Geneva, Switzerland, appealed to donor governments to give Somaliland US\$64 million for development and humanitarian initiatives.

On June 26, Somaliland celebrated 44 years of independence from Britain. The Vice President Yusuf Ahmed Yasin along with other high level dignitaries gave a speech at the Khayriya Square marking the Independence Day. Somaliland was known as British Somaliland during colonial times. After being granted independence in 1960, it delayed its own so that it could merge with the then Italian Somaliland to form Somalia. After collapse of the central government of Somalia in 1991, Somaliland declared sovereignty on

May 18 1991 and broke away from the rest of Somalia.

In Northeast Somalia ('Puntland') parliament held an extraordinary meeting on June 19 in Garowe to discuss administrative and governance issues. The following day, on June 20, the parliament dismissed the cabinet and ordered the President to nominate a new one within 21 days. The President of Puntland Abdullahi Yusuf returned to the autonomous state on 26 June following these developments. Though Puntland has declared autonomy, it still seeks to be part of a future Somali state.

## Security developments

Somaliland authorities released the pictures and names of people suspected to have been behind the killing of a Kenyan employee of the German agency for technical cooperation (GTZ) in March this year. The Kenyan and a Somali employee were killed on 19 March in an ambush along the Hargeisa-Berbera road.

Puntland was calm during the reporting period save for an incident on 28 June in which unknown armed men shot dead the mayor of Bossaso and another official from the local municipal administration in the middle of Bossaso town. The secretary of the municipality was also injured in the incident. Bossaso, a port-town along the Gulf of Aden coast is the commercial capital of Puntland.

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Central/Southern Somalia continued to experience intermittent insecurity and ineffective administration. Fighting between rival groups and militia in Mogadishu in Benadir region, Dinsor in Bay region and Beledhawo in Gedo region claimed lives. Jowhar town some 90 km north of Mogadishu remained stable. Jowhar is the location of the main UNICEF office in Central/Southern Somalia. In Hiran region, a peace agreement was signed between rival clans west of Belet Weyne. People who had been displaced earlier in fighting around Belet Weyne started flocking back.

## Day of the African Child

The Day of the African Child (DAC) was celebrated on 16 June. In 1990 the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) declared 16 June as the Day of the African Child to commemorate the 700 children killed in the 1976 Soweto riots as they protested against the introduction of Afrikaans as the language of instruction. The day serves to rededicate African governments to enhancing the rights and needs of children. In Somaliland, the DAC focussed on children in conflict with the law as well as children with disabilities who participated in the celebrations.

In Puntland, festivities to mark the Day were held at Puntland Community College in Garowe the administrative capital. The Vice President of Puntland

and other senior administration officials attended the ceremonies. Participants included traditional leaders, representatives of local media, UN agencies, NGOs, women's groups, youth groups, school children and other community members. UNICEF staff delivered speeches on the Day. The theme for the celebrations was "Education for Our Children". According to the most recent survey, there are 210 schools in Puntland with 33,600 students, which means less than 20% of the children have access of education. The local administration called for more education opportunities for Somali children and urged the international community to give more support to the education sector. During the celebrations, children performed role-plays that demonstrated the situation of education and children in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Somalia. The BBC Somali service, Somalia Broadcasting Corporation radio, Radio Midnimo Bossaso, Radio Garowe and Radio Galkayo covered the celebrations which were also reported by local newspapers. The gathering observed one-minute's silence for children who had died or had been killed due to various natural and man-made calamities in Africa. An eight-year-old girl, Umalkhayr Abdilahi Isse, so impressed the Puntland Vice-President with her performance in the event that she and her teacher were presented with the equivalent US \$270. This presentation took place on 17 June before children and staff from UNICEF and Guardian, a local NGO.

## 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

In Central Southern/Somalia, UNICEF in collaboration with partners organized activities to mark the DAC in Mogadishu. The theme for the Mogadishu celebrations was "Education for All" with special focus on children in IDP camps. UNICEF supported awareness-raising initiatives on the importance of the Day and education in the community. UNICEF also facilitated a symposium that discussed obstacles to schooling for children and included a child-to-child census, radio debates, classroom discussions, sports tournaments and the development of messages for banners and murals. Three messages in Somali language were displayed alongside murals at five sites in Mogadishu. The messages sought to impress upon the public, the right of every child to go to school. As part of the child-to-child census, 20 children from four schools in Mogadishu - Waberi, Elman, Burtelo and Galbeed interviewed out-of-school children from neighbourhood families. A total of 100 children from IDP camps were interviewed. The exercise sought to involve children in understanding why their peers do not go to school and to help raise discussion on the issues that affect enrolment at household and community level.

As part of advocacy initiatives to highlight the importance of child protection initiatives during the DAC, UNICEF and partner organizations issued a statement emphasizing the importance of education and the need for the business community, religious leaders, schools, donor organizations

and parents to revitalise primary education. A focus group discussion brought together representatives of some of the main education stakeholders including school networks, NGOs supporting education, women and youth groups, religious and community leaders and journalists. The discussion emphasized the need to strengthen information sharing and understanding of the obstacles to children's enrolment and identified new alliances that could strengthen education initiatives. Local radio stations broadcast discussions and call-in programmes for listeners.

## Health programme highlights...

*Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI):* In Somaliland, immunization activities were conducted through maternal and child health (MCH) centres in Hargeisa, Bur Gubadle, Gebilay and Sheikh districts. 38 villages and rural settlements in the four districts were covered. Some 2,618 children aged under five years and 460 women were vaccinated. Similar immunization activities were carried out in Berbera district, which covered 12 villages. Final figures of coverage in Berbera are yet to be tallied.

*Training:* UNICEF in collaboration with the Somaliland administration trained a total of 162 vaccinators at regional centres. The training focussed on vaccine management, immunization

## Emergency

Rehabilitation of 10 wells to help alleviate the effect of drought is in progress in Taleex district in northern Somalia. The rehabilitation of Rako water project has been completed as part of emergency interventions in Bari region. Rako borewell is the deepest bore well in Somalia at 448m. A Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) field mission reported an outbreak of diarrhoea and measles in El Buh, Dangorayo district, northern Somalia. No rains were reported during the reporting period. The *Xagaa* (summer) winds became predominant in coastal and inland areas of northern Somalia. The winds mark the end of *Gu'* (long rains) season. The impact of the *Gu'* rains on pasture and water availability was below normal this year, dampening the hopes of pastoral communities for adequate pasture for their herds.

techniques, dropout reduction strategies and injection safety procedures. Issues related to prevention and treatment of Iron Deficiency Anaemia and Vitamin A deficiency were also covered.

In Puntland, UNICEF trained 25 vaccinators and a vaccine storage facility manager prior to the first round of EPI acceleration in Gardho town from 30 May. Some 670 children aged under one year and 330 pregnant women were vaccinated. EPI acceleration is undertaken by organizing EPI immunization activities in selected towns. There, teams of vaccinators visit identified locations where children can be vaccinated. A social mobilizer alerts the community about the presence of the teams and encourages mothers/guardians take their children to be immunized. The exercise takes place in each town for five days in a month, over a period of three months.

*Cholera:* UNICEF supplied 11 drums of chlorine for treatment of drinking water to Action Contre La Faim (ACF) in Mogadishu and Hayat Hospital. UNICEF staff continued to participate in cholera task force meetings in Mogadishu and Jowhar. There was a decrease in diarrhoea diseases from 169 to 38 this month.

During the last week of June, the cholera outbreak was declared ended, following a decrease in cholera cases admitted to cholera treatment centres and the results of laboratory analysis of stool samples. The total case fatality rate for the 2004 outbreak in Mogadishu

has remained well below 1%. This is an important improvement over previous years.

*Tetanus:* The second round of maternal neo-natal tetanus (MNT) vaccination covered 57 IDP camps located in Abdiiaziz, Shangani, Shibis and Karan districts of Mogadishu. A total of 7,502 pregnant women and 25,088 non-pregnant women were immunized in June.

*Polio:* In 15 districts of Puntland routine monitoring continued for children with acute paralysis symptoms to ascertain whether they were linked to polio. Similar surveillance was conducted in Central/Southern Somalia. The surveillance also seeks to identify children who may not have been vaccinated against polio. Meanwhile, immunization campaigns were carried out in Nugal and Mudug regions of Puntland. UNICEF conducted training for staff of polio surveillance sites and members of communities to sensitize them on the disease, eradication and control efforts.

*Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI):* The International Federation of Red Crescent (IFRC) trained 14 health workers from six MCHs supported by UNICEF. The training took place in Hargeisa. Trainees received IMCI guidelines and treatment protocols in Somali.

*Mapping:* Demarcation and defining of catchment populations for nine health centres was completed in Hargeisa

town of Somaliland. To ensure better access to health facilities for communities in eastern Sanaag in northern Somalia three health posts, Hingalool, Hadaftimo and Garadag, were upgraded. UNICEF trained the staff and provided basic equipment and drugs to the facilities.

*Traditional birth attendants:* Production of training materials for 30 traditional birth attendants from Sanaag region was completed and a six-day refresher orientation training for them conducted in Erigavo northern Somalia.

## **Nutrition programme update...**

*Survey:* UNICEF, in collaboration with the local administration and the Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU), carried out a nutrition survey in Sool plateau of Sool and Sanaag regions. Among other issues, the survey focused on food security, prevalence of major diseases and nutritional status of children aged between 6 and 59 months.

*Training:* Some 26 health workers were trained in Vitamin A and Iron-cum-Folic Acid administration protocols prior to the immunization campaign in Gardo town of Puntland. A total of 7,439 children between 6 and 59 months received Vitamin A supplementation during immunization activities in Nugal and Mudug regions. During the EPI

acceleration in Gardo town, 208 children between 6 and 59 months were provided with Vitamin A while 330 pregnant women were provided with Iron-cum-Folic Acid supplementation.

In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF held food demonstration sessions in Bondere and Berdale MCHs run by International Islamic Relief Organization and International Medical Corps (IMC) respectively. A total of 95 mothers and guardians attended. The sessions used locally available nutritious foods. In Bakool region, UNICEF provided supplementary food to 1,189 beneficiaries. Another 852 beneficiaries received supplementary food in Qansadhere, Berdale and Dinsor. In Baidoa town, UNICEF provided Vitamin A supplementation to 170 pregnant women.

*Anaemia:* In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF trained staff from 37 MCHs and provided them with equipment and supplies to enable them to test for anaemia in children and pregnant women as part of the efforts to prevent and control micronutrient deficiencies.

## **Water and Environmental Sanitation update...**

*Policy development:* A UNICEF consultant has started working with the local administration on the

development of a regulatory framework for the water sector in Somaliland.

*Projects:* Installation was completed of equipment including a pump and generator for the Gebiley borewell and connections made to tanks and distribution systems. To prepare for management of the water project, UNICEF supported the ministry of water to organize a symposium on public private partnerships for water management for 28 participants drawn from the community in Gebiley. Rehabilitation of the Loyado water system started and a booster pump and generator were provided to the Hargeisa Water Agency (HWA) for supply of water to the Ayaha IDP camp water project.

In Puntland, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of the Iskushuban and Bandar Beyla water supply projects. Rehabilitation and protection of four rural shallow wells was completed with community support in Kuboh, Mooremooge, Dharoor and Dhuur. Installation of equipment and accessories for the Gardho borewell for supply of water to livestock was completed. Eight hand-pumps supplied through UNICEF were installed at water wells serving internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements in Garowe, Bossaso, Margaaga and Washington village. Caretakers for the pumps in each location were trained in operation, maintenance and repair.

The Golden Utilities Management Company (GUMCO), with technical assistance from UNICEF, has completed drilling of two new borewells for Bossaso Water Supply System. The Bossaso Water Project in Puntland was implemented by UNICEF and completed in 2000 initially to serve 60,000 people. With an increase in population, it has become necessary to increase supplies. The firm that manages it includes members of the local business community.

**Sanitation and hygiene:** UNICEF trained 40 teachers and school inspectors from eight schools in Borama in hygiene education. Connection and construction of handwashing facilities for six schools in Borama was completed. UNICEF supported construction of the facilities. Hygiene awareness promotion campaigns were held for 10 days for 1000 women from Gebiley and the Dami internally displaced persons' camp in Somaliland. In Puntland, the construction of sanitary facilities at three primary schools in Gardho - Ceel Dofar, Timirshe and Shafici - was completed with UNICEF support to the local community education committees.

UNICEF carried out sanitation and hygiene education training in Mogadishu for cholera control and prevention. 80 participants from different partner organizations attended the training. In Jowhar a sanitation and hygiene workshop was held to develop communication strategies for hygiene promotion. UNICEF also undertook

community mobilization for improvement of sanitation and hygiene in Jowhar town and 10 outlying villages. In Rabdhure, Bakool region, UNICEF trained community members in soap production and latrine slab manufacture.

## Education highlights...

*Gender Study:* A situation assessment of primary education in Somalia from a gender perspective has been conducted, covering both rural and urban areas. The study specifically sought to identify the barriers to girls' education and also to propose strategies to overcome these problems. The study methodology included interviews and focus group discussions with community members and a broad range of stakeholders including school heads, pupils, community education committees and education authorities. The consultants are currently preparing the study report.

*Project Evaluation:* UNICEF supported the evaluation of the Strengthening Quality of Somali Education System (SQOSES) project throughout the country. The evaluation included discussions with local education authorities, school heads and school mentors in all three regions. The evaluator also met representatives of the local administration in charge of the education sector. This report is now being finalized.

*Textbook study:* A study on a textbook provision policy was conducted

throughout the country. Data was collected from parents, school heads, local education authorities, booksellers and printers. The study, focusing on the supply of textbooks and other educational materials to primary schools, sought to find out if the communities are willing to contribute to, or share in, the cost of textbook provision in schools. Analysis of data has been completed and the consultant has made two presentations to stakeholders during which various provision options, including rentals, were discussed.

*Partnerships:* UNICEF staff met with staff of both Diakonia, (a Swedish NGO) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Garowe Puntland, to discuss possible areas of collaboration and streamlining of non-formal education activities that target out-of-school youth.

*Rehabilitation:* With funding from UNICEF, the rehabilitation of the Bossaso Education Development Centre (EDC) was completed.

*Non-Formal Education:* UNICEF supervised and evaluated learning initiatives undertaken through centres in Huddur, Rabdhure, Elberde and Tieglow in Central/Southern Somalia. The evaluation sought to ascertain enrolment and dropout rates. Meanwhile, mentors trained by UNICEF continued to guide and advise teachers in 17 centres in Central/Southern Somalia.

*Supplies:* 149 schools in Lower Shabelle, Benadir, Bakool, Bay and Bardhere district of Gedo region, in Central/Southern Somalia, have received UNICEF supplies including textbooks, teachers' guides and record-keeping registers.

## Youth update...

*Support:* UNICEF donated a minibus to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Hargeisa, Somaliland. UNICEF staff assessed activities of 33 youth groups in Hargeisa region and facilitated the guidance and advice (mentoring) of 10 youth groups in Hargeisa, Berbera and Ainabo. The assessment will help in Leadership for Organizational Development (LOD) training and the distribution of sports supplies. In Puntland, mentoring was carried out for 12 youth groups in Bossaso, Garowe and Galkayo towns. The mentors provided advice and guidance on improved management and organization. UNICEF staff participated in a two-day co-ordination meeting for youth groups from Hargeisa and Sahil and Awdal regions. The Ministry of Youth and Sports organized the meeting with a view to enhancing collaboration with the groups.

*Supplies:* UNICEF distributed cultural, recreational, sports and various indoor and outdoor games' items, books and office furniture to 12 youth groups in Bossaso. Similar supplies will be distributed to youth groups in Gardo, Nugal and Mudug.

*Training:* UNICEF trained 64 participants from 23 youth groups in Bossaso in leadership for organizational development. The training took place between 30 May and 10 June. The training included sensitization of participants on basic facts for HIV/AIDS prevention and control. In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF trained 96 youth in leadership for organizational development. The participants were drawn from Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle.

## HIV/AIDS prevention and control update...

*Youth mobilization:* UNICEF facilitated a one-day meeting for youth on mobilization for HIV prevention and control. Somaliland Youth Salvation and Training Organization (SYSTO) organized the meeting, which took place in Hargeisa. Participants included representatives of sports groups based in Hargeisa. A two-day meeting on youth networking for effective prevention and control of HIV/AIDS was also held in Hargeisa. The participants were from the Somaliland Anti-HIV/AIDS Network, an umbrella body that was recently formed by 70 youth groups involved in HIV/AIDS

awareness and prevention activities. 30 youth groups from all over Somaliland participated in the meeting which sought to help the groups build their capacity for better planning, management and monitoring of HIV/AIDS prevention and control initiatives.

*Awareness initiatives:* As part of the strategy of integrating HIV/AIDS awareness initiatives into various UNICEF programmes, UNICEF facilitated a three-hour discussion among 120 community and religious leaders, intellectuals and local authority representatives at a meeting in Burao, Somaliland. The discussion session was integrated into a meeting called to discuss advocacy and mobilization to increase EPI coverage in Togdheer region.

Following the signing of an agreement between UNICEF and the Puntland administration, UNICEF started the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS through local radio. 11 security guards and three other staff of the UNICEF Bossaso office benefited from UNICEF-conducted awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS prevention and control. UNICEF staff also participated in a HIV/AIDS awareness workshop held in Bossaso for 50 health workers from facilities in Bari region of Puntland.

In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF has developed a directory of working groups active in HIV/AIDS prevention, awareness and control efforts. This should help in coordination and sharing of information. UNICEF staff participated in meetings with the Jowhar HIV/AIDS working group. Members of the Hiran HIV/AIDS working group attended a briefing session to share learning experiences from a participant that UNICEF sponsored to attend a HIV/AIDS training of trainers workshop in Kampala Uganda recently. UNICEF staff visited Bu'ale and Hudur districts as part of efforts to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and establish coordination structures. As a result of the meeting in Bu'ale, a HIV/AIDS working group was established. In Hudur, UNICEF facilitated a HIV/AIDS coordination meeting, which included members of the Hudur Working group, community and peer counsellors.

## Child Protection update...

*Booklet reviewed:* UNICEF staff assisted in the review of a booklet for religious leaders on Child Protection issues. In addition, UNICEF gave input for the translation from Somali to English, of material for the child protection handbook. Child Protection advocates initially prepared the content from Central/Southern Somalia. UNICEF staff in Hargeisa received training in various aspects of the UN policy against sexual harassment and sexual violence. The trainer for these issues held meetings with members of the NAGAD Women's Umbrella group in Hargeisa and Save the Children Alliance.

*Mobilization:* Child protection advocates undertook sensitization activities in three communities in Puntland. UNICEF staff met child protection advocates in Bossaso and Galkayo and reviewed their activities. UNICEF distributed copies of the Child Protection Study undertaken in 2003 to 25 members of five youth groups in Galkayo. Each of the five groups received copies of the study findings summary for their library and reference. The first Child Protection coordination network meeting was conducted in Mudug region of Puntland. In Mogadishu, UNICEF facilitated a meeting of the Mogadishu Child Protection network and developed a briefing sheet on exploitative and hazardous labour. UNICEF trained its staff in Central/Southern Somalia on

key issues related to sexual abuse and exploitation.

## Communication for Development update...

*Deworming:* UNICEF is to embark on an advocacy initiative for de-worming of school children in Somaliland. The initiative will involve public awareness activities using radio, television, the print media, theatre and public forums, and will involve school authorities and parents.

*Youth Broadcasting Initiative:* UNICEF signed agreements with three youth groups in Bossaso and Galkayo for production of radio programmes focussing on topics that cover areas of UNICEF's mandate.

In Central/Southern Somalia, 12 members of youth groups from Mogadishu and Jowhar undertook a four-day training programme in hygiene and sanitation to enhance their knowledge for the production of video programmes. The participants were members of youth groups that UNICEF had previously trained as part of the Youth Broadcasting Initiative. The Initiative has reached youth groups throughout Somalia. UNICEF provides specialist information to assist in the development of appropriate messages.

*Mobilization for EPI:* UNICEF facilitated the training of vaccinators to carry out immunization in Gardho. The

training took place between 30 May and 1 June. The vaccinators were trained in dissemination of appropriate messages to mothers and caretakers so as to ensure they supported immunization. Social mobilizers who accompany vaccinators normally carry out mobilization for EPI acceleration in towns. With loudspeakers mounted on trucks, the mobilizers convey messages to create awareness on the need for children 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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