

# UNICEF Somalia Monthly Review

July 2004



## Political developments

*Political developments:* The chairman of the Somaliland Council of Elders Sheikh Ibrahim Sheikh Yusuf Sheikh Madar died in London after a prolonged illness. The local administration declared seven days of national mourning following his death. After protracted discussions and mediation by traditional leaders, politicians in Puntland who had been split on the mandate of the Puntland administration and parliament extended their term by six months. Thereafter, elections to the parliament, presidency and vice-presidency will be held. The Puntland President Abdullahi Yusuf meanwhile reshuffled his cabinet. In Somaliland, the President Dahir Rayale Kahin set March 29, 2005 as the date for the next parliamentary elections. The Somaliland administration banned meetings of political nature organized by local civil society organizations. Henceforth only registered political parties will be allowed to organize such meetings.

*Peace talks:* On 8 July, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged Somali delegates attending the National Reconciliation and Peace Conference in Kenya to resolve their divergences and create an all-inclusive government. "I appeal to you to rise above your differences, and do all you can to bring your people an era of security, peace and hope," Annan told the delegates when he addressed them in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

In mid-July, the UN Security Council condemned those who are obstructing Somalia's peace process, and warned that anyone persisting on the path of confrontation and conflict will be held accountable. The Security Council also welcomed steps by the African Union to prepare for the deployment of military monitors to Somalia, and called on the Somali leaders to cooperate with that initiative. In a statement, the Security Council called on the Somali parties to respect a cessation of hostilities agreement signed between various rival groups in the Kenyan town of Eldoret in 2002. It also urged Somali factions to ensure security and to resolve their differences peacefully.

The Somali National Reconciliation and Peace Conference is now progressing towards establishment of a government. The President of the Transitional National Government (TNG) Abdiqassim Salad Hassan is attending the talks as well as other factional leaders.

## Security developments

Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland) and Northeast Somalia ('Puntland) were relatively calm. Insecurity continued to plague Central/Southern Somalia.

*Killings:* In Puntland a follow-up feud sparked off by the killing of the Bossaso mayor in June 2004, led to a shooting incident in which one person died. The shooting took place in the open market of Bossaso on 22 July.

### Contents...

Political Developments ...1

Security Developments ...2

### Programme Updates...

Health ...2

Nutrition ... 3

Water and Environmental Sanitation... 4

Education ...5

Youth ...5

HIV/AIDS ...6

Child Protection ...7

Communication for Development...8

In Central/Southern Somalia, a person was killed in Hiran region apparently in a revenge killing following the deaths of three people. A truck driver was killed along the road between Burane and China irrigation canal some 39 km north of Jowhar. In Mogadishu, some 19 military personnel allied to the Transitional National Government were killed by militia. Two men were abducted in Heliwaa district in Mogadishu. In the course of the abduction, one of the men was killed and his body taken away by the captors.

Northern Gedo and Belet Hawo remained insecure with intermittent fighting contributing to displacement of populations. In Baidoa reconciliation efforts between rival factions continued. Militia previously hostile to each other have been allowed into the town and checkpoints have been dismantled. There appears to be a determination on the part of elders and political leaders to resolve outstanding disputes and to form an administration.

Further to the south of Somalia, the number of road blocks between Kismayo and Jilib is high. Taxes are extorted at each of the road blocks resulting in high retail prices of food and non-food commodities. Some food commodities' prices have doubled.

*Looting:* A truck loaded with sugar was stolen from Elam natural seaport while in another incident, militia looted Jeliba Merka village some 45 km south of Mogadishu.

## Health programme highlights...

*Training:* UNICEF facilitated training of staff of newly-established maternal and child health centres (MCHs) in the drought-affected areas of Sanaag region. The staff were trained in antenatal care, immunization, growth monitoring and various aspects of health centre management. UNICEF and the Somaliland administration reviewed training guidelines in preparation for the training of village health committees.

The training will cover members of committees that manage 147 health posts in Somaliland. Guidelines for supervision of health facilities were also reviewed. In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF trained some 77 staff of maternal and child health centres in EPI and general health information monitoring and record keeping. The staff were drawn from Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Hiran and Galgaduud regions.

*Supplies:* UNICEF distributed drugs and medical supplies to various locations including the drought-hit Sanaag region in northern Somalia. In Puntland the supplies were distributed to health facilities supported by the Ministry of Health and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS). In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF distributed supplies for immunization in EI-Berde, Bardera and Hamar Jajab

## 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

districts. UNICEF supplied new vaccine cold storage equipment to Moqokori, Buqabale and Tieglow MCHs in Hiran and Bakool regions respectively. SRCS and World vision manage the facilities. UNICEF facilitated the repair of vaccine storage facilities in Borama, Dila and Lowyado in Somaliland.

*Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI):* UNICEF in collaboration with the local administration and the Somali Red Crescent Society carried out EPI acceleration drives in Nugal and Mudug regions.

*Malaria:* The Global Fund Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)-funded programme for Somalia, which aims to reduce malaria-related deaths and illness children under five years and among pregnant women was launched in July. The GFATM gave a \$US8.89 million grant to increase access to prevention and treatment options and increase community awareness of malaria. UNICEF is the principal recipient for the funds and will oversee the programme.

The programme involves a partnership between nine international organizations including UNICEF, World Health Organization, Africa Action Hilfe, Italian NGOs CISP and COSV, International Federation of Red Crescent/Somali Red Crescent, MERLIN, Norwegian Peoples Aid and World Vision International who will work closely with local communities and health facilities in Somalia.

*Polio eradication:* UNICEF and its partners continued routine surveillance for symptoms associated with polio paralysis as part of the polio eradication effort.

*Tetanus:* Some 6,843 women were vaccinated during a maternal neo-natal tetanus campaign in Mogadishu North.

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

*Training:* UNICEF trained 18 enumerators for a nutrition survey that is to be carried out in internally displaced persons' camps in Mogadishu. UNICEF further trained some 38 participants at an information, education and communication (IEC) materials' development workshop. The participants included representatives of media, women and youth groups, religious and community leaders. The participants were drawn from communities in Bay, Hiran, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle and Benadir. Participants developed community communication action plans and were taught how to develop messages to promote and support improved breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices.

*Strategy development:* UNICEF provided input during a workshop for the development of a strategy for the control of nutrition deficiency in Somaliland. The workshop drew participants from organizations involved in the nutrition sector.

*Drought:* Following worsening conditions among populations in riverine communities in Jelib district, UNICEF in collaboration with Somali Red Crescent Society organized for the establishment of four MCHs and supplementary feeding programmes in southern Somalia.

*Supplements distributed:* Iron/folic acid and vitamin A distribution was undertaken during immunization in Nugal and Mudug regions of Puntland. Some 810 pregnant women were provided with iron/folic acid supplementation for the treatment and prevention of anaemia and Vitamin A. Some 626 children aged between 6 and 59 months received vitamin A supplementation.

*Materials shared:* Information on breastfeeding and guidelines for infant and young child feeding were distributed to medical practitioners in Galkayo town. Preparations for the marking of World Breastfeeding Week from 1 to 7 August started in various locations in Somalia.

## Water and Environmental Sanitation update...

*Projects:* Test-pumping of the Gebiley water system in Somaliland was completed. Construction works for the Aw-badan well project and the Loyado water system in Somaliland and the Galdogob water supply system in Puntland continued. The Galdogob project comprises of two new borewells, storage tank and 3km long pipe system and public kiosks. In Bossaso, two new borewells were drilled for the town's water system. Rehabilitation of 10 wells to serve rural communities in Taleex district continues.

Some three rural water supply projects in Adale, Adan Yabal and Balad districts of Middle Shabelle in Central Somalia are nearing completion. UNICEF has trained members of beneficiary communities in safe water use, environmental sanitation, personal hygiene and community mobilization for improving water, sanitation and hygiene. Two rural water supply systems in Beled Weyne and Moqokori towns and 20 shallow wells in Beled Weyne town all in Hiran region are in various stages of rehabilitation and construction. The construction of a pilot rainwater harvesting system in Rabdhure town is in progress: earthworks have been completed and concrete and carpentry works are ongoing. The rehabilitation of a well in

Marerey village, Jowhar district was completed.

*Sanitation:* Some 50 teachers were trained in hygiene education in Burao, Somaliland. Some 30 women and 10 men were trained in community hygiene in Sarsare and Morajiddo villages in Middle Shabelle region of Central Somalia. Construction of sanitation facilities at Timirshe Primary School in Bari region of Puntland was completed. Other sanitation facilities are being constructed at Shafici and Ceel Dofar primary schools in the same region. Construction of sanitation and hand washing facilities for five primary schools in Beled Weyne, Balad, Omar Berrey and Ufurow towns in Central Somalia has been completed.

## Education highlights...

*Donation:* UNICEF donated four computers and accessories as well as 160 chairs to the Somaliland administration. The donation aims to boost the capacity of the education sector in Somaliland.

*Progress review:* UNICEF staff held an education sector meeting in Nairobi, Kenya to review achievements and plan for the remainder of the year.

*Mobilization:* UNICEF-supported teams of personnel who provided tips and guidelines to some 770 members of community education committees (CECs) in Central and Southern Somalia. The areas covered included school management, access for school-

age children and girls, fundraising and improving of the learning environment.

*Mentoring:* Trainers mentored some 24 non-formal education teachers in Central and Southern Somalia.

## Youth update...

*Supplies:* UNICEF distributed sports supplies in Somaliland and Puntland. In Somaliland the beneficiaries were the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), the Somaliland Basketball/Volleyball Federation, Somaliland Football Federation and other sports organizations. The items distributed included footballs, basketballs, T-shirts, whistles, ball pumps, stopwatches and board games. In Puntland, the items donated included books for resource centres and T-shirts for members of three umbrella groups of youth organizations.

*Leadership training:* A Leadership for Organizational Development (LOD) training workshop was held in Hargeisa for 101 youth leaders from Somaliland. An officer from the Ministry of Youth and Sport coordinated the workshop. Training on basic facts on HIV/AIDS was integrated into the training as well as at another meeting organized in Hargeisa for sports groups by the Somaliland Youth Salvation and Training Organization (SYSTO). In Puntland, UNICEF trained some 63 youth in a similar leadership initiative.

Mentoring of 12 youth groups in Bossaso and Galkayo was completed. The groups were given advice on improved organization and management. In Central/Southern Somalia UNICEF trained 186 participants from youth groups in leadership for organizational development. Participants were drawn from Lower and Middle Jubba, Lower and Middle Shabelle and Benadir regions. The training took place in Mogadishu.

*Real Madrid scholarship:* Four Somali youth left for Real Madrid Football Club of Spain to participate in a two week football summer camp for youth. The youth were selected through tournaments organized by UNICEF and UNDP. The scholarships were secured through the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

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

*Coordination meetings:* A HIV/AIDS co-ordination meeting was held in Somaliland. Those participating discussed an action plan on the community's response to HIV/AIDS. Religious, youth, community and women's leaders were among the participants. Religious and community leaders whom UNICEF had recently trained in community counselling had interesting observations with one of the leaders commenting: *"One night I was*

*called to read the Koran for a person, who was dying of AIDS, which I refused, as I was frightened of AIDS. Now (after the training) if I am called I will go and provide assistance. I am thankful to UNICEF for this initiative."*

UNICEF held discussions with youth, community, and religious leaders and other members of Hargeisa, Borama and Baki communities on implementing an action plan on Islam-based public awareness raising on HIV/AIDS in Somaliland. As part of UNICEF's policy to encourage youth participation in community mobilization activities, the Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Organization Committee (HAVOYOCO) and Awdal Band are to prepare dramas and circus shows to help raise awareness and reduce stigmatization.

In Central/Southern Somalia, UNICEF staff organized a HIV/AIDS coordination meeting in Bu'ale and facilitated the establishment of the Bu'ale HIV/AIDS working group. Another coordination meeting was held in Huddur. It brought together members of the local working group, community and youth counsellors.

In Baidoa, UNICEF helped the local community to establish regional HIV/AIDS working groups. In Jowhar, the HIV/AIDS task force has finalized arrangements to conduct awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS in the village of Congo for 200 militiamen. The awareness will be done in collaboration with the Middle Shabelle administration.

*Advocacy:* Dissemination of information and basic facts on HIV/AIDS for prevention and control continues through local radio stations in Puntland. HIV/AIDS awareness was integrated into leadership for organizational development training for youth groups held in Bossaso and Gardo districts. Copies of the youth newsletter, *Koor*, were distributed to youth groups in Gardo and Garowe. *Koor* is a newsletter produced in Somali that focuses on issues to do with HIV/AIDS. It is produced in Somaliland by youth with support from UNICEF. It is distributed to youth groups.

*Training:* A trainer of trainers workshop on HIV/AIDS advocacy and awareness was held in Merka. The workshop drew 56 participants from civil society organizations in seven regions of Central/Southern Somalia. A HIV/AIDS awareness session was integrated into the leadership training that took place in Mogadishu.

## **Child Protection update...**

*Forum launched:* Following discussions that had taken place between UNICEF and the Somaliland administration and Save the Children Alliance, the Somaliland Minister of Justice Ahmed Hassan Ali officially launched the Child Rights Forum for Somaliland on July 14.

*Translation:* Translation of two documents that are important for Child

Protection work, the summary of the Child Protection Study and the handbook for use by child protection advocates, ended in Hargeisa. The draft has been distributed to UNICEF staff in other offices in Somalia for feedback.

*Documents distributed:* UNICEF distributed the International Centre for Humanitarian Demining manual on mine risk education to the Somaliland Mine Action Centre, Handicap International and other partner agencies. The manual will also be distributed during a mine risk education meeting due to be held in Hargeisa in August.

*Meetings:* The first meeting of the Nugal Child Protection Coordination Network was held. Nugal is one of the regions of Puntland. Among those who participated were members of the local administration including staff of the judiciary, education department and law-enforcement agencies. The participants were sensitized on international conventions linked to child protection and issues of sexual exploitation and child abuse.

*Mobilization:* Child protection advocates continued community mobilization on child protection issues in Central/Southern Somalia. A child protection coordination and networking meeting was held for various organizations in Hiran region.

*Child soldiers:* The Elman Child Soldiers Rehabilitation and Reintegration programme covering some 360 former child soldiers in Mogadishu, Merka and Kismayo towns continues smoothly.

## **Communication for Development update...**

*Comic book development:* A workshop to discuss development of Sara, an animated girl character, in Somali was held in Hargeisa. UNICEF launched the Sara Communication Initiative in eastern and southern Africa in 1996. 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. The narratives contained in Sara help young women make the transition into adulthood.

*Youth broadcasting initiative:* UNICEF's office in Hargeisa produced briefing information on HIV/AIDS, female genital mutilation (FGM), child protection, immunization, youth development and participation, breastfeeding, malaria prevention and girl child education. The information will be used by youth groups

involved in the youth broadcasting initiative to produce 24 quality radio and TV/video programmes. UNICEF has trained and supplied equipment to 20 youth groups in Somalia who have been trained in the production of radio and video programmes for awareness-raising of issues concerning children and women.

In Central and Southern Somalia, UNICEF staff held discussions with eight members of youth broadcasting groups from Merka, Mogadishu and Jowhar. The discussions centred on how to better facilitate broadcasts of programmes produced by the youth. Like elsewhere in Somalia, the programmes are broadcast through radio and TV stations and video parlours. During July, Radio Quranka, based in North Mogadishu and Mogadishu Radio based in South Mogadishu aired a total of nine programmes produced by the youth. The programmes focused on mine awareness, cholera prevention, exploitative/hazardous child labour, child soldiers, youth participation, HIV/AIDS, female genital mutilation and immunization. The youth broadcasters started distribution of video programmes to eight video centres in Mogadishu and Jowhar. Similar distribution will take place in Merka, Belet Weyne and Baidoa.

*EPI training:* UNICEF trained personnel involved in immunization campaigns in Galkayo, Harfo, Ba'adweyn and Jariiban towns in Mudug region. The personnel included vaccinators, registrars and social mobilizers. The trainees were given tips on appropriate messages for mobilization.

*Cholera control and prevention:* A three-month radio series on cholera control and prevention aired in Puntland closed on 20 July. The programmes started airing in Bossaso, Galkayo and Garowe towns in April 2004. Cholera is endemic in Somalia occurring between November and June each year.

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