



Somalia Protection Cluster

FACTSHEET

April 2015



Key Facts

1. Grave violations against children affect 128 boys and 35 girls including 48 boys and 2 girls that were abducted and 43 boys and 5 girls recruited by the militia groups.
2. 865 separated and unaccompanied children (485 boys and 380 girls) identified of which 430 (270 boys and 160 girls) received IDTR services.
3. Housing, Land and Property AoR is activated in Somalia.
4. Explosive Hazard sub-cluster members destroy 786 explosive remnants of war in Banadir, Bay, Galgaduud and Lower Juba regions and clear 3,930,500 square meters of land.

The Yemen Crisis Task Force was established on 1 April in order to coordinate the humanitarian response for the arrivals from Yemen. Puntland and Somaliland GBV and Child Protection sub-cluster members responded and undertook service mappings and established referral pathways for GBV and child protection cases at the reception centers. UNHCR reported that 3,504 Somalis including two unaccompanied minors and one person with disabilities had arrived in Puntland and Somaliland as of 1 May.

Following the conflict in Xudur in Bakool region between the government and allied forces and the Al Shabab, an interagency mission was conducted on 29 April highlighted protection concerns including unaccompanied children in the settlements, recruitment of children by the militia groups, and limited access to livelihoods due to restricted movement especially for women and female-headed households. UNMAS and partners also conducted a mission to Ceel Berde in Bakool region on 8 April to determine the presence of minefields in this newly accessible area. The team found suspected minefields along the Somali-Ethiopia border and in pasturelands.

The Protection Cluster highlighted limitations to freedom of movement and exposure to protection risks like rape and child recruitment in areas surrounding the newly accessible areas during the joint AU-UN mission on the benchmarks for a UN Peacekeeping Operation. The Cluster also prepared a note that was shared with other Clusters on the process of channeling protection incidents related to AMISOM and SNA/SPA.

The four areas of responsibility (AoR) of the Protection Cluster now active in Somalia are: Child Protection; Explosive Hazards; Gender-based Violence; and Housing, Land and Property (HLP). Led by the respective global lead agencies – UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Habitat and UNMAS – the AoRs are exploring the best ways of maximizing efforts and working strategically.

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Somalia



Protection Facts

Core group in need of protection

1.1 million IDPs

+ urban poor, mixed migrants, vulnerable members of community, refugees and returnees.

Total # of people reached in April

26,692

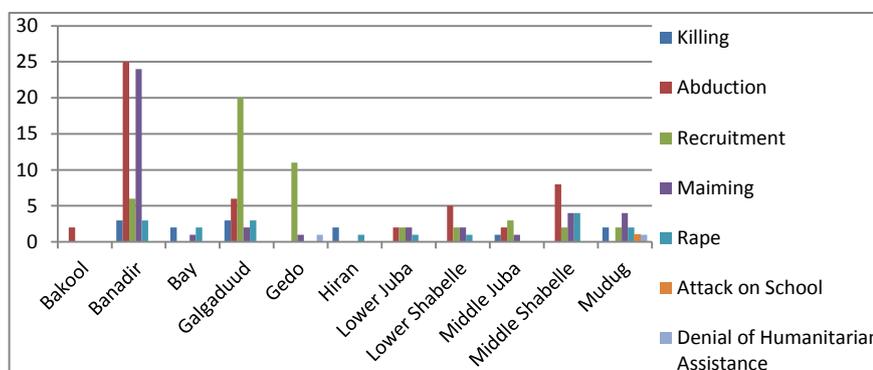
Services and corresponding number of beneficiaries reached in April 2015:

Psychosocial Support and Counseling	2,805
Post-Rape Treatment	137
Former Child Soldier Rehabilitation	61
Protection Capacity Building for Stakeholders	862
Prevention and Mitigation	3,739

1. Child Protection

Armed conflict, displacement, and family separations continue to expose children to violence, abuse and exploitation in Somalia. Unverified reports from Child Protection sub-cluster member organizations in Gedo indicate that "Al-Shabab and fighting clans are abducting children and are using them to fight against the rival clan and some of the abducted children were found killed". In April, the CPWG members assisted 2,754 girls, 2,398 boys, 1,972 women, and 1,362 men through various activities. The main activities were service delivery to vulnerable, conflict and other emergency-affected children and families including through family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support, material assistance, interim care, capacity development, and monitoring and referral for services. Out of the total beneficiaries reached, 60% were children. This includes 492 boys and 373 girls that were identified as separated and unaccompanied of which 160 girls and 270 boys have received tracing and reunification. The increase in unaccompanied and separated children is attributed to clan and armed conflict, evictions and displacement. In Gedo, one of the CPWG partner organizations identified boys 7 and 9 girl child survivors of gender-based and other types of violence in IDP settlement. The survivors were referred for medical services and psychosocial support.

Analysis by Region



The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting documented 172 grave violations against children in April, a decrease from the 229 cases reported in March. The majority of the violations were abductions (50) followed by recruitment and use of children (48). An analysis by region shows that Banadir recorded most of the violations. In the reporting period, 128 boys and 35 girls were affected. There

are currently 52 boys and 9 girls enrolled into UNICEF supported community-based reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces/groups. It needs to be noted that for the second quarter of 2015 a drop in child protection activities and services may occur due to a funding gaps. Despite the high needs, funds have not been disbursed for the approved CHF projects for the first standard allocations. A very limited carry over from 2014 had sustained some of the response activities for the first quarter of 2015.

2. Gender-based Violence

The GBV sub-cluster members reached 429 girls, 134 boys, 2,159 women and 455 men in April with various services. The Arab States Regional Emergency GBV Advisor, Anne Marie Serrano, visited Somalia in April as per the joint request of UNFPA and UNICEF to continue her mission in the South Central Zone and to engage government and stakeholders on actions needed towards the development of the Clinical Management of Rape protocol. Ms Serrano had visited Puntland and Somaliland in November and December 2014.

The Sexual Offences Bill (SOB) was submitted to the Somaliland Parliament on 8 April and in Mogadishu, the fourth draft of the SOB was submitted to the Minister of Women and Human Rights Development of the Federal Government of Somalia. The GBV sub-cluster and the FGM Task Force are working on the harmonization of advocacy messages and development of common material. The rollout of these messages is in progress.

GBV Working Group is actively engaged in the inter-agency efforts to respond to returnees/refugees from Yemen in Puntland and Somaliland. In both locations, UNFPA made dignity kits available to meet specific hygiene needs of women and girls. UNFPA has also positioned post-rape treatment kits for potential GBV cases. In collaboration with GBV WG members, UNFPA is consulting with GBV service providers on the implementation of a safety audit to determine the support needed in mitigating GBV incidents and to provide needed services for possible GBV cases.

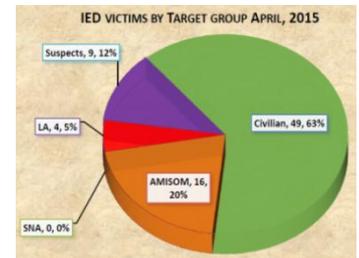
3. Housing, Land and Property

Forced eviction of IDPs and urban poor from public and private land and buildings in major towns of Somalia continues to be a key Protection concern in South Central Somalia. Forced evictions increase the risks of those affected to fall victims to other violations such as gender-based violence; family separation; and destruction of personal belongings and livelihood. This also further increases their overall vulnerability to further violations. Evictions regularly result in new, arbitrary displacements and hence undermine durable solution processes. IDPs are being pushed further into the outskirts of Mogadishu along the road to Afgoye where access to basic services is limited. Challenges to response activities include the presence of gate keepers, access constraints and the limited capacity of partners to respond due to the increased needs yet funding is limited. Over 39,000 persons were forcefully evicted from public and private land and buildings in Mogadishu during the first quarter of 2015 while significant numbers remain at risk of forced eviction.¹ As part of the Cluster's efforts to strengthen the protection of IDPs and other civilians through HLP rights, the Cluster has taken the following steps:

- i) Activated the HLP area of responsibility to address evictions and other related concerns.
- ii) Developed pre and post-evictions rapid needs assessment tools and monitored evictions.
- iii) Trained 50 partners on the pre-eviction assessment tool using mobile technology. This capacity is available in Mogadishu and will be used in pre-eviction assessment of settlements at risk of forced eviction.
- iv) Held an operational meeting with gate keepers on April 26 in Mogadishu. While agreeing on the need to engage with the gatekeepers, cluster members are mindful that such engagement should not result in legitimizing this system or result in further harm to the IDP communities.
- v) Developing advocacy messages on evictions with the Humanitarian Coordinator and the NGO Consortium; the key message is the need for adherence to the human rights and international humanitarian law.
- vi) Explosive Hazards sub-cluster members are conducting a survey and clearing part of the Afgoye corridor where the majority of the evictees moved to.
- vii) Scaling up multi-sectoral response capacity for future forced evictions.

4. Explosive Hazard

In April, Explosive Hazard sub-cluster members destroyed 786 explosive remnants of war and cleared 3,930,500 square meters of land. 5,046 boys, 3,866 girls, 2,625 men and 2,770 women attended 827 mine risk education sessions in various regions. 14 Improvised Explosive Device explosions resulted in the death of 27 and injury of 51 people, most of whom were civilians.² Members commemorated the International Mine Awareness and Assistance day on 4 April using various platforms including a press release and the distribution of videos/pictures in the local media.



UNMAS, the lead agency of the Explosive Hazard sub-cluster is leading the distribution of provisions of information and is providing training sessions on mine risk education. Sub-cluster member Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted a land release handover ceremony in their compound in Mogadishu on 21 April. It celebrated the land release of the Dugsi Shanaad area in the Daynile district of Mogadishu after the conclusion of clearing operations that began in December 2014. NPA tasked two multi task teams to conduct a survey and systematic Battle Area Clearance (BAC) in which they cleared 2,672,500 square meters and removed 208 UXOs, such as projectiles, mortars and rockets. In addition, the teams removed 117 units Small Army Ammunition (SAA), 2,501 fuzes (with explosives), 4,648 Free From Explosive (FFE) UXOs with no explosive filling and cleaned up 2,793 pieces of scrap metal as summarized in the table below:

Clearance type	Area (m ²)	UXO	Fuzes	SAA	FEE	Scrap
Surface	2,672,500	135	2,217	19	2,620	2,763
Sub-surface	8,500 (overlap)	73	284	98	2,028	30
	2,672,500	208	2,501	117	4,648	2,793

¹ Source: UNHCR Somalia, 2015.

² Source: UNMAS Somalia IMSMA Monthly Report, April 2015.

In attendance were participants from NPA, members from the District of Daynile Administration, UNMAS, and the Somali Explosive Management Agency (SEMA). NPA's Quality Officer, Abdullahi Mohamed Mohamed opened the event alongside Hashi Hassan Warsame, the Deputy Director of Security Section of SEMA who talked about the importance of explosive risk education for vulnerable neighborhoods. The clearance of the Dugsi Shanaad area is part of a community based pilot project that is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The area is already home to 5,600 inhabitants and is expected to receive a further 800 internally displaced people. Mahad Mohamed, the Daynile District Secretary, on behalf of the District Commissioner, offered his full support on the continuation of the operations to survey and clear contaminated areas remaining in the Daynile district.

Note: *This report has been compiled based on unverified inputs received from Protection Cluster and sub-cluster members. The figures reported may not represent the actual number of beneficiaries reached during the reporting period due to reporting gaps. Some beneficiaries may have been counted multiple times as they may have received different services. The activities were implemented with Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and non-HRP funding.*