



Somalia Protection Cluster

FACTSHEET

January 2015



Key Facts

1. Somalia ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. The GBV Working Group holds the donor round table on the multi-year strategy.
3. UNMAS and partners destroy 1,252 explosive remnants of war and clear 885,500 square meters.
4. 130 male and 42 female Somalis cross the Red Sea and reach the Yemeni coasts.

Protection concerns during the reporting period include gender-based violence (GBV), children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, separation of children, forced evictions in urban areas, and displacement due to clan fighting. The majority of separated/unaccompanied children continue to be boys, while women and girls remain most vulnerable to GBV, particularly those living in IDP settlements or on the move. Partners continue to report among the perpetrators of GBV are predominantly armed men in uniform. GBV survivors continue to decline legal redress as they lack trust that perpetrator will be held accountable.

There was significant reduction in the number of irregular migrants/refugees crossing the Red Sea compared to previous months. This may be due to the fact that the Puntland Government arrested and prosecuted 19 smugglers. Additionally, due to insecurity in Yemen, the patrol teams were unable to offer consolidated figures of new arrivals of smuggled migrants in Yemen departing from Puntland.

Protection Cluster concluded the Cluster Review Committee process and allocated USD 2 million to partner projects on GBV, child protection and Housing, Land and Property (HLP). The Protection Cluster has concluded the settlement mapping exercises and continues with the methodological planning for enumeration and IDP profilings in Hargeisa and Mogadishu with the technical support of the Joint IDP Profiling Service.

Note: This section has been compiled based on the inputs received from the Protection Cluster and the Child Protection and GBV Working Group members. The figures reported may not represent the actual number of beneficiaries reached during the reporting period since some key members implementing protection activities did not report. Protection Cluster is unable to verify the information reported by the members. 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.

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Somalia

Protection Facts

Core group in need of protection

1.1 million IDPs

+ other civilians affected by armed conflict, disaster generalized violence and insecurity, and human rights violations

Total # of people reached in January

12,799

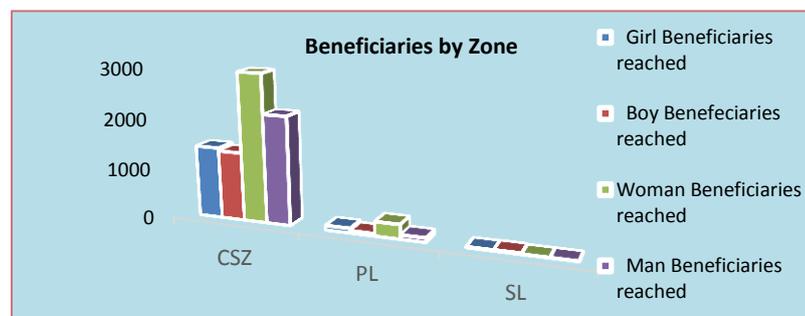
Top-five services and corresponding number of beneficiaries reached in January 2015:

Psychosocial Support and Counseling	1,698
Post-Rape Treatment	32
Former Child Soldier Rehabilitation	8
Protection Capacity Building for Stakeholders	650
Prevention and Mitigation	9,102

Photo Credit: INTERSOS Som/ C. Hingley

1. Child Protection

Following advocacy and technical support provided by UNICEF and other organisations, Somalia became the 195th State party to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 20 January 2015. The President of Somalia signed the Convention after the Somali Parliament voted in favor of it in December by 140 votes with one abstention. The ratification implies that Somali children now hold legally binding rights with the CRC providing a framework for the Federal Government to promote and protect those rights.



The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Task Force documented 197 grave violations against children in January 2015, a slight increase from the 194 violations reported in December 2014. 164 boys and 18 girls were affected. In January, the Child Protection Working Group members reached 1,521 girls, 1,422 boys, 3,230 women and 2,244 men with various activities.

2. Gender-based Violence

The Gender-based Violence Working Group held the donor round table on 23 January on the 2014-2016 strategy and the operational plan. The objective of the strategy is to reduce GBV through preventive measures and provision of quality and timely multi-sectoral services to survivors. The strategy responds to the Humanitarian Response Plan, aligns with the New Deal and corresponds to the Joint Communiqué of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the United Nations on the Prevention of Sexual Violence of 7 May 2013. This is the first comprehensive GBV Strategy for Somalia and it is estimated that USD15.5 million is required for the strategy's implementation. In 2014, USD6 million was mobilized, and during the meeting, DSRSG/RC/HC Philippe Lazzarini, together with GBV WG chair and co-chair pledged for the remaining USD9.5 million.

The Federal Government of Somalia, the Government of Somaliland and the Government of the semi-autonomous region of Puntland have prioritized the drafting and passing of legislation addressing sexual violence. This process is supported by UNFPA, UNDP and UNHCR as well as other GBV partners, notably Legal Action Worldwide. The Bill introduces new culpabilities of sexual offences that are not provided for in the current Penal Code and redefines and expands the scope of existing crimes. The Bill imposes a duty on public officers to investigate and prosecute sexual offences and makes it an offence to obstruct or interfere with the investigation and prosecution process. In January, public consultations on the Bill were held in Hargeisa and Mogadishu and will continue to be held in rural areas of the three zones. Feedback from the reviews and the consultations will be incorporated into the final draft that will be presented in the Parliament of the three zones and enacted in 2015. In January 2015, the GBV Working members reached 982 girls, 769 boys, 1,829 women and 802 men with clinical management of rape, legal assistance, psychosocial support, livelihood, prevention and capacity building activities.

3. Housing, Land and Property

Internally Displaced Persons and urban poor in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Bosasso as well as in other urban areas continue to face forced eviction and eviction threats, by authorities, private land owners or gatekeepers. The Protection Cluster, together with the Shelter Cluster, has standardized the pre-eviction assessment tool and trained 50 enumerators on the use of the tool and mobile technology. This assessment allows to assess the situation of persons at risk of eviction to better plan the response and possible refer families indicating their willingness to voluntarily return to the Somalia Return Consortium for follow up. In addition, the Protection Cluster is in the course of beefing up the eviction monitoring capacity through multiple partners initially in Mogadishu in order to generate improved data for advocacy and response.

4. Mine Action

Somalia remains heavily littered with landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), stockpiles of weapons and ammunition. In the month of January 2015, UNMAS and partners destroyed 1,252 ERWs and cleared 885,500 square metres. Of these devices, 845 were unexploded ordnances (UXO). In Banadir region, 845 devices were dismantled. One accident was recorded that resulted in the death of two girls and injury of another girl. 4,262 boys (37%), 3,418 girls (30%), 1,746 men (15%) and 2,024 women (18%) attended 612 mine risk education sessions in Bakool, Banadir, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions.¹

Region	Land Mines		ERW			Total
	AP	AT	FFE	SAA	UXO	
Banadir			404	1	175	580
Bay					22	22
Galgaduud				2	53	55
Gedo					1	1
Hiraan					1	1
Lower Jubba					593	593
Grand Total	0	0	404	3	845	1,252

5. Mixed Migration

130 male and 42 female Somalis crossed the Red Sea and reached the Yemeni coasts. Most Somalis reportedly intend to seek asylum in Yemen, although a few cross the Red Sea and Arabian Sea looking for better living conditions and job opportunities in Saudi Arabia.²

CARE released a report in January that highlights hopelessness among the youth that is driving many to irregularly migrate through Ethiopia and Sudan to Libya. The report explains, young people's frustrations of being excluded from government and community decision-making processes. Hopelessness about unemployment, notably after completing secondary school or university, youth feel they have little choice but to migrate often lured by false promises of opportunities and a better life.

DRC held a dissemination forum of a recent study on human trafficking in Somaliland on 29 January 2015. The study titled *Fight or Flight: the challenge of building sustainable livelihoods for youth in Somaliland amidst the explosion in human trafficking* provides insights in and documents the specific causes, trends and patterns of human trafficking in Somaliland. Economic drivers are seen as the major cause underlying the prevalence of human trafficking.

IIDA Report on Somalia's Minority Women

On 30 January 2015, IIDA launched its report on *Looma Ooyaan – No One Cries for Them: The Predicament Facing Somalia's Minority Women*. The report documents the plights of women from minority groups in Somalia. Minority women in Somalia often face double discrimination in the country's male dominated, patriarchal and hierarchical clan system. They are also vulnerable to abuses such as sexual assault, gang rape and other forms of exploitation due to their secondary social status and the ineffectiveness of both formal and customary justice mechanisms. Given the role that clan divisions and gender inequality have played in driving violence and human rights abuses, ensuring the protection and integration of minority women and other disadvantaged groups should be a priority for everyone.

The report is available in http://www.minorityrights.org/13017/reports/mrg_report_somalia_jan2015.pdf.

¹ Source: UNMAS Somalia IMSMA Monthly Report, January 2015.

² Source: Regional Mixed Migration Monthly Summary, January 2015.