
1. Child Protection

In March, the Child Protection sub-cluster members reached 2,114 girls, 2,057 boys, 605 women and 412 men. The main activities are protection and other service delivery to vulnerable, conflict and other emergency affected children and families including through IDTR, psychosocial support, material assistance, interim care, capacity development, monitoring and referral services. 2,737 separated and unaccompanied children were identified and 566 received tracing and reunification. The increase in UASC cases is attributed to clan and armed conflict, evictions and other displacement.

The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) documented 229 grave violations against children in March, a slight increase from the 220 cases (188 boys, 32 girls) reported in February. Most violations were reported in Gedo region and involved abduction and illegal detention of children by parties to conflict. 52 boys and 9 girls have been enrolled in the UNICEF-supported reintegration centers for children associated with armed groups/forces since February. Recruitment of children, however, remains a serious protection concern that was also reported in Guriceel town and surrounding villages during the recent violence.

The Country Task Force on MRM also continued with dialogue, advocacy and provision of technical support for the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to facilitate the implementation of the signed Action Plans and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The Ministry of Defense nominated focal persons for the Child Protection Unit at the sector levels in Mogadishu, Beletweyne, Jowhar, Kismayo, Dhusamareeb and Baidoa to coordinate activities developed within the framework of the Action Plans, and mainstream child protection in policies and activities of the Somali National Army (SNA) and FGS institutions. The Children and Armed Conflict Working Group which is the forum to engage the Government on implementation of the Action Plans held its first meeting this year on 26 March. The meeting deliberated the progress made in implementation of signed Action Plans and SOPs on reception and handover of children separated from armed groups.

In Somaliland, MOLSA and UNICEF held a one day consultation workshop on alternative care policy development on March 29 for 20 participants from the civil society organizations in Hargeisa. The purpose of the workshop was to present the findings from the assessment of alternative care and discuss the development of the Somaliland alternative care policy.

2. Gender-based Violence

The GBV sub cluster members reached 1,344 girls, 925 boys, 3,896 women and 1,895 men during in March. The GBV sub cluster partners also commemorated International Women's Day on March 8 with various activities.

The Nagaad Network, with the technical support of Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) submitted the Sexual Offences Bill (SOB) to the Somaliland Parliament. The SOB in South Central Zone is on its fourth draft and regional consultations will be held on the Bill in three regions. A Simplified version of the SOB is being prepared and will be disseminated widely after the final Bill is presented to Parliament for debate. A Memorandum of Understanding is in the process of being signed between LAW and the Puntland Ministry of Justice regarding the SOB. This process is supported by UNFPA, UNDP and UNHCR.

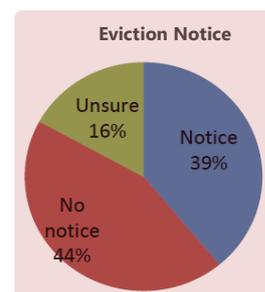
UNHCR together with LAW held a high-level panel on sexual violence with AMISOM, the UN, the Somali government and international donors on 3 March, in Mogadishu. Panelists included Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Nicholas Kay and the Special Representative of the AU Commission Chairperson, Maman S. Sidikou and EU Ambassador, Michele Cervone. The leaders of the represented groups committed to address GBV

perpetrated by the security forces. The high-level panel resulted in a joint AU/UN statement.¹ A documentary on sexual violence in Somalia was also launched as part of advocacy effort for the Sexual Offences Bill. LAW drafted an accountability policy for the Somali police that is being finalized. A comprehensive brief on the legal frameworks applicable to all security bodies in Somalia in relation to sexual violence is also being finalized. Information sheets on accountability and responsibility were shared with the Somali National Army and the Somali Police.

The Somali delegation, led by Minister for Women and Human Rights Development, participated in the 59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, organized at UN HQ. During one of the side events on “New Partnerships for Addressing and Preventing GBV” organized by UNDP and the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Minister made a statement and expressed the government’s commitment towards zero tolerance to GBV and to ratify CEDAW.

3. Housing, Land and Property

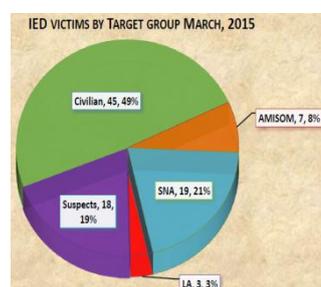
Thousands of IDPs were forcefully evicted from Maslah and Aslubta area of Dharkenley/Khaxda district of Mogadishu from 3 - 5 March. 44% of the households said they did not receive notice prior to the eviction and only 39% received a two-day notice. Protection Cluster members piloted a multi-partner post-evictions rapid needs assessment between 15-17 March among the evicted populations in K11-K20. The key findings were:



- 35% reported violence during the forced evictions; 9% sustained injuries during the eviction process.
- 37% reported destruction of their personal belongings during the eviction.
- Security of land tenure is an immediate protection need of the evicted IDPs as most of the respondents reported that they are at risk of forced evictions due to the lack of land titles or rent agreements to occupy the land despite paying a fee of \$3000 per community.
- 51% of the households are female headed while 49% are male headed. The majority of female-headed HHS had more than three minors under their care. Their disrupted livelihoods increase their vulnerability.
- Women and girls experienced violence and abuse during eviction. 3% of the respondents reported rape.
- 9% of the respondents are reported to have lost touch with their children; however, 60% of those who had previously lost touch with their children were re-united at the new location.

As part of the Cluster’s efforts to strengthen the protection of IDPs and other civilians on housing, land and property (HLP) rights, the Cluster is activating its HLP area of responsibility.

4. Mine Action



In the month of March, Explosive Hazard sub-cluster members destroyed 1,695 ERW and cleared 3,313,125 square meters. Of the ERW, 395 were unexploded ordnances and 131 were small arm ammunition. Five landmine and ERW casualties resulted in the death of three boys and two men and the injury of two boys, one man and one woman. 5,217 boys, 4,382 girls, 3,389 men and 3,413 women attended 931 mine risk education sessions in Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions. 14 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) explosions resulted in the death of 43 people and injury of additional 49, mostly civilians.²

¹ See <http://amisom-au.org/2015/03/joint-press-statement-au-and-un-envoys-call-for-increased-measures-to-combat-sexual-violence-in-somalia>.

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

5. Other Updates

Amnesty International published a report titled *Somalia: People with disabilities exploited, raped and abused* on March 12. The report reveals how lack of protection, underpinned by discrimination by families, the public and the state, exposes people with disabilities to further attack and exploitation.³

CISP and International Alert presented and discussed the findings of their research - *Understanding SGBV in Somalia: A case study of 3 districts in Mogadishu on March 30*. The study examines the linkages between GBV and conflict in Somalia and analyses some of the traditions, behavioral and social norms towards SGBV.

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.*

³ See <https://www.amnesty.nl/nieuwsportaal/rapport/somalia-prioritise-protection-people-disabilities>.