



Protection Cluster Annual Report, 2014

Protection Cluster in 2014

In 2014, following calls by the Emergency Directors, the Humanitarian Coordinator as well as UNHCR as Global Lead Agency for Protection, the Cluster's then Technical Committee agreed to migrate the Protection Cluster to Somalia. The Technical Committee was subsequently reconstituted as the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) in Mogadishu and its terms of reference endorsed in November 2014. The SAG provides the policy and strategic guidance to the Protection Clusters country-wide and is composed of key UN agencies and international and local NGOs working on protection. A Protection Information Platform will be retained in Nairobi, while the Protection Cluster will focus on strengthening the field clusters and working groups in Somalia for improved and more strategic protection responses.

Traditionally, there are four key areas of responsibility (AOR) under the Protection Cluster. While two of them – child protection and GBV – had been activated, Mine Action and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) proved to be two critical AORs to enhance the protection of IDPs and other civilians. Upon request by UNMAS, the activation of the Explosive Hazard AOR will be a key priority of the Cluster in 2015, alongside the activation of the HLP AOR. This broadened scope will allow the Cluster a more holistic protection response in the future.

2014 concluded the second year of the three year CAP. Protection Cluster members implemented activities in line with the applicable strategic/humanitarian response plan. The GBV and Child Protection Working Groups led by the respective global lead agencies, UNFPA and UNICEF, also continued to implement their multi-year strategies. GBV and child protection service delivery interventions include psychosocial support and counseling, post rape treatment, legal assistance and family tracing and reunification, community based child protection and capacity building of protection actors and service providers. The targeting of services was based on the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), Protection Monitoring and Return Network data, needs assessments, monthly reports and analysis of 4Ws. Cluster members implemented preparedness, prevention and response interventions with a focus on South Central Somalia where 81% of Somalia's IDPs reside and most of the protection violations were recorded. Additional focus in 2014 was protection/GBV mainstreaming so that protection sensitive projects are developed and implemented in other humanitarian sectors. 676 males and 275 females participated in protection/ GBV mainstreaming, HLP and other trainings.¹

The absence of protection baseline data remains a critical gap for the protection response. The Child Protection WG therefore implemented a wide-ranging child protection rapid assessment in South Central Somalia. The final results are subject to validation in early 2015. In 2014, the Protection Cluster through its respective profiling task forces in Hargeisa and Mogadishu and supported by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), advanced in the preparation and planning for the roll out of collaborative profiling of IDP settlements in these two locations as part of UNHCR's seeds for solution initiative. The exercise will provide better information on the numbers, locations and needs of IDPs. The data will serve as a baseline towards a comprehensive approach to improving the living conditions and durable solutions of IDPs.

¹ This report has been compiled based on the inputs received from the Protection Cluster and the Child Protection and GBV Working Group members, based on data received. 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 reported were implemented with Humanitarian Response (HRP) and non-HRP funding.

General Protection Overview

The main protection concerns in 2014 relate to GBV, protection violations occurring during the two SNAF/AMISOM offensives, child protection violations, arbitrary arrest of children/youth; killing of civilians including children; child recruitment; separation of children; and forced eviction and migrants that risked their lives by crossing the Arabian Sea and Red Sea due to various reasons. Children associated with armed forces and groups, family separation due to conflict and displacement and child protection violations remain as significant protection concern in the newly accessible areas. Sexual violence remained the most common form of GBV in all areas of Somalia; and as a consequence, priority activities remain emergency response to survivors. These violations are often aggravated as a consequence of weak rule of law and non-functional governance structures.

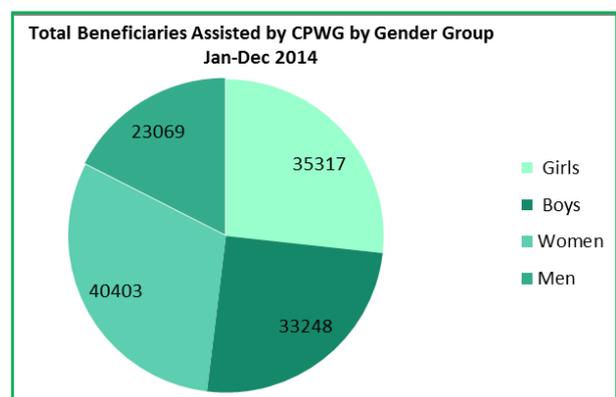
According to UNHCR, 72,698 people were displaced during first phase of the military offensive of March/ April affecting primarily Bakool, Bay, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle and Gedo regions. Additional 7,465 were displaced in during the second phase of August - October in Bakool, Lower Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba. The impact of the military offensives combined with clan fighting, seasonal flooding in six regions of Somalia with different levels of severity as well as the drought in the first half of the year, raised the risk of rights violations of IDPs and other civilians. Monitoring, preparedness, preventive interventions and emergency response to the immediate needs of civilians exposed to protection violations were prioritized by the Cluster.

The Ministry of Interior and Federalism spearheaded the development of the Federal Government's Policy Framework on Internal Displacement in Somalia and announced its adoption 2014. In December 2014, the Ministry formally established the Agency on Refugees and IDPs (ARI). In Somaliland, the Protection Cluster and Child Protection Working Group members supported Somaliland Government in developing the Policy Framework on Internal Displacement in Somaliland, which remains subject to adoption for 2015. While in Puntland, Protection Cluster members were active in disseminating the IDP policy guidelines adopted in 2012.

Child Protection

- The Child Protection Rapid Assessment (CPRA) confirms that child protection needs remain high, especially in the newly accessible areas. 64% of over 368 respondents stated that child recruitment in schools and religious gatherings remains a reality, particularly affecting boys above the age of 14. Increase in family separation due to conflict, displacement or death of parents, unaccompanied minors remain a protection challenge, as does underage marriage (below 18 years of age) of girls. Gender-based violence against children was primarily reported in the context of firewood or water collection and girls under 14 years of age are mostly targeted.

- In 2014, the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) reached 132,037 people with child protection response services (40,036 girls, 39,467 boys, 44,564 women, and 31,433 men) including material assistance and awareness raising. Around 2,000 child protection actors, CPWG members, service providers and local authorities have been trained on child protection, child rights, CPIMS, coordination, case management, CPRA and other child protection standards.



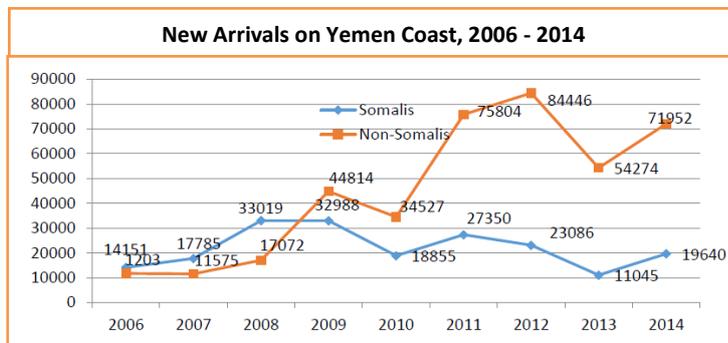
Community-based child protection was promoted and more than 311 Child Protection Committees assisted the needs of around 30,000 children.

- In 2014, the MRM recorded 1,709 grave violations affecting 1,338 boys and 239 girls and 1,100 Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG) received reintegration support through UNICEF supported programs.

Gender-based Violence

- GBV remains one of the most significant concerns, especially for women and girls. IDP women and girls, as well as women and girls from minority clans, suffer disproportionately due to a lack of access to justice, due process, and clan protection. Members reported an increase in the number of GBV cases in the Afgooye and Marka areas. In Marka, there were incidences where rape was reportedly used as a weapon of war in the context of clan conflicts. GBV survivors throughout Somalia often decline legal assistance due to lack of confidentiality within the police force and judiciary system, as well as fear of reprisals and stigma.
- The Federal Government of Somalia led by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, with the support of UNFPA, UNDP and Legal Action Worldwide, drafted a Sexual Offences Bill. The third draft of the Bill was reviewed in December 2014. This is a step forward to strengthen availability of legal frameworks that will largely support efforts to end impunity on sexual violence cases.
- The GBV Working Group supported the field testing of the revised IASC GBV Mainstreaming Global guidelines. In addition, the Working Group together with the UN Gender Theme Group planned for the 16 days of activism against gender violence.

Mixed Migration



The coastal areas of Puntland and Somaliland continuously serve as major hubs for smugglers and human traffickers across the Gulf of Aden. Of the estimated 91,592 migrants/refugees who arrived in Yemen in 2014, 19,640 were from Somalia, a 79% increase compared to 2013. Most Somalis arriving in Yemen are from South Central parts of Somalia. Motivations for

migrating are diverse. Somalis inter alia reported economic reasons, lack of freedom of movement, arbitrary detentions and accusations from authorities of supporting or belonging to Al Shabaab.²

Although, in 2014, the Yemeni coast has seen a 14.8% overall decrease of migrant/refugee arrivals compared to 2012, the figures present a 40% increase regarding the figures of 2013. This suggests that irregular flows to Yemen (and onwards to Saudi Arabia) have now largely recovered despite the Saudi crackdown on irregular migration and deportations in late 2013. According to RMMS, an estimated number of 246 persons were reported to have drowned or been lost in 11 separate incidents in the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden when their overcrowded and unseaworthy smuggling boats capsized in high waters.³ This is an alarmingly sharp increase of deaths at sea in the Gulf of Aden/Red Sea compared with similar data of the last three years (5 in 2013; 43 in 2012; and 131 in 2011) and represents 5.4% of the total number of known deaths that occurred along irregular migration routes worldwide.⁴

² Source: RMMS Monthly Summary, December 2014.

³ See IOM's Missing Migrants Project even reports 265 missing/dead persons in <http://mmp.iom.int/incidents>.

⁴ Source: RMMS Monthly Summary, December 2014.

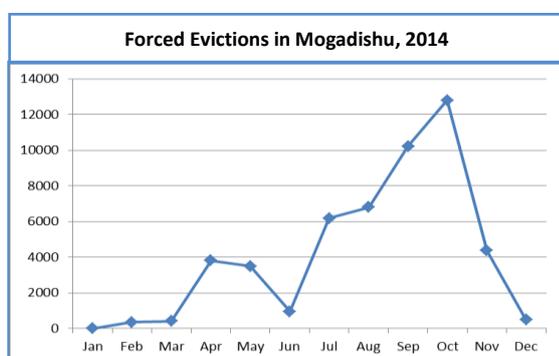
Mine Action

Resulting from the conflict with Ethiopia and the ongoing civil war, Somalia remains heavily contaminated with landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), stockpiles of weapons and ammunition. UNMAS and partners continuously strive to defuse explosive hazards in order to create a safer environment for everyone. UNMAS and implementing partners destroyed 6,032 devices in South-Central Zone including 9 land mines, 3,402 Unexploded Ordnances (UXO), 973 Small Arm Ammunition (SAA) and conducted 9,169 Mine Risk Education sessions (MRE) for 188,142 beneficiaries in the same zone.⁵

Devices destroyed by month and device categories, 2014

Month	Land Mines		ERW			Total
	AP	AT	FFE	SAA	UXO	
January			143	797	454	1,394
February			583	18	212	813
March			330	2	172	504
April	4		376	27	230	637
May			118	16	244	378
June	3		69	22	275	369
July	1			13	437	451
August				5	115	120
September				9	209	218
October				1	142	143
November				58	776	834
December		1	29	5	136	171
Grand Total	8	1	1,648	973	3,402	6,032

Evictions



Forced evictions remain a major Protection concern in Mogadishu and other urban areas with large numbers of IDPs. 49,926 were evicted from public and private land and buildings in Mogadishu in 2014.⁶ The vast majority of the evictees moved to the outskirts of Mogadishu where living conditions are deplorable, services are limited and insecurity and human rights violations are commonly reported. Reports of forced evictions were highest in Hodan district given its prime

location. Besides the advocacy with the government and other stakeholders and support to IDPs affected by the evictions, Protection and Shelter Clusters strengthened are in the course of strengthening the capacity for the eviction monitoring system as developed by UNHCR with the support of the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs. In October, UNHCR assessed the needs of 152 households that were facing imminent eviction from the Ministry of Health building in Shangani District. This pre-eviction assessment tool was standardized by the Protection and Shelter clusters and members trained in the use of the mobile technology and the survey.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

In 2014, the Cluster's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Group worked with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) and the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MoWDFAFA), including initiating collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to develop minimum standards of care, and agree upon different levels of care. Focusing on South Central Zone, the MHPSS WG together with the MoWHRD agreed upon the structure of the level and standards of care, through the development of MoWHRD's 'Terminology and Minimum Standard of Service Providers in Somalia'. As part of this, 'Social Worker Job Description' and 'Case Manager Job Description' were agreed upon as well'. MoWDFAFA is adapting a similar structure, and work is ongoing in Puntland to reach agreement. The Working Group finalised the agreed package of training for case managers, including field testing and training roll out in Puntland.

⁵ Source: UNMAS Somalia, IMSMA Report, December 2014.

⁶ Source: UNHCR Somalia.

Challenges

- The Protection Cluster continues to face funding shortages for both coordination, which is essential for improved and more strategic humanitarian protection responses, as well as for partners in different field locations. The GBV working group has identified a funding gap of 9.5 million for the implementation of its three year strategy.
- The absence of a protection data as baseline as well as lack of consistent reporting from partners implementing protection projects hampers coordination.
- Humanitarian access notably in newly recovered areas or where active conflict is ongoing continues to provide a key obstacle to preventive interventions and timely protection responses, including the provision of protection services in those areas.
- Protection risks emanate largely from the absence or insufficient governance, notably with regard to the security and rule of law sectors. While efforts to establish and build institutions are ongoing, this remains the single largest root cause of the Somalia's protection crisis.
- The GBV Working Group members reported challenges in supporting the recovery of GBV survivors in a holistic way. Access to safe shelter options, poor links with livelihoods and vocational trainings and legal redress remain critical gaps. Survivors also report pressure from within families and clans to withdraw their cases. For service delivery and referral mechanisms, the high staff turnover, notably in medical facilities, is a challenge to efficient referral mechanisms and medical responses.