

UNHCR Somalia Operational Highlights

8-14 April 2013

1) Political and Security

South-central:

The week's activities were overshadowed by two terror incidents in Mogadishu (14 April), targeted at the Court house as well as a Turkish convoy moving between the Peace Hotel and Km4. Approximately 30 people were killed in the incidents as the Al Shabaab militants have reportedly vowed to continue similar attacks against the government, which they call a 'Western Stooge'. Nonetheless, planning for the office migration to Mogadishu is still on course with the Architect, Quantity Surveyor and Security Advisor travelling to Mogadishu to finalize construction and security plans. The Kismayo conference was suspended for a week following disputes between the main presidential candidates. This comes when the two main candidates (Ahmed Madobe and Professor Gandhi) urged on the current number of delegates in conference eligible to vote representing the three regions (Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba).

Puntland:

On 8 April, the Puntland police conducted a security operation in Garsor, North Galkayo, primarily targeted at local/clan militias. Additionally, the senior security coordinator for the Puntland Ministry of Internal Security Colonel Ahmed Dhageweyne was shot and killed in Garsor neighborhood. On 12 April, a medical doctor, Dr. Ahmed Sheikh Farah Sirad, operating a medical center in Abudwak for the last four years was killed by a gun man. Reportedly, the deceased was kidnapped, and killed when he tried to escape.

In Bosasso, armed confrontation has been reported between Al-Shabaab militants in the Golis Mountains and Puntland Intelligence Agency (PIA) at Dhaadhabo area. Reports indicate that the intelligence agency was tipped off Al Shabaab movement in the area which prompted an offence from the PIA. Details of casualties are still unclear.

The Puntland President met with a South African delegation in Garowe (14 April) and discussed piracy issues as well as illegal fishing and toxic dumping on the Puntland territorial waters. Both sides have agreed that illegal fishing and toxic dumping may increase the chances of piracy re-emergence and the need to increase Somali based efforts to drastically improve Somalia's maritime security. The South African delegation also discussed coastal issues with representatives of the Somali federal government in Mogadishu before arriving in Puntland. The Puntland cabinet in their ministerial meeting on 8 April announced the formation of a new region (Guardafu in the eastern pole of Bari region) and Baargaal, Xaafun and Gunbax as few districts of pre-election reform in Puntland,

2) Population Movement

IDP Returns

1,198 people were displaced within Somalia mainly due to eviction in Mogadishu (450), flood, IDP return, insecurity and lack of livelihood. The IDPs moved/returned to Awdal, Banadir, Bari, Juba Hoose, Mudug, Nugaal, Shabelle Dhexe and Woqooyi Galbeed regions with priority needs being shelter, food and livelihood support. 63% were female.

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Refugee Returns:

From Kenya to Somalia: 671 people returned from Ifo 2 (453) and Ifo 1 (206) and Nairobi (12) to Somalia through Dhobley (368), Afmadow (131), Dif (75) Waajid (45), Kismayo (40) and Mogadishu (12). These people are heading to their place of habitual residence in Juba Hoose, Juba Dhexe, Galgaduud and Banadir regions. Their main reasons for moving include the improving security situation in Somalia. Some are stranded at Dhobley and could not proceed to their final destinations due to the rainy season (bad roads). Food, livelihood support, shelter, protection from conflict and equal access to aid is the main urgent needs. 64% were female.

From Ethiopia to Somalia: Five (5) people returned from Ethiopia to Borama, Awdal region and reported protection from conflict as their urgent need.

3) Protection and assistance activities:

Puntland:

Forty and 34 IDP families returned to Bay and Lower Shabelle areas respectively on 12 April. Likewise, preparations for other convoys are taking place to most probably next depart Galkayo in the coming week. As a part of 2013 sub-project to provide NFI for those IDPs families who have not received same for the past three years, distribution has started from settlements.

A total of 209 NFI kits were distributed in Burbisharo settlement, to IDP families not targeted with a similar distribution in the past three years. Before the distribution, beneficiary's selection and registration had taken place. Similar distributions are set to take place in other settlements after completion of beneficiary's selection and registration process.

UNHCR, together with other agencies working in Galkayo (UNICEF, OCHA, WFP and DRC), are planning a joint mission to distribute NFI items to flood affected families in Abudwak, Central Somalia. UNHCR (Public Information Unit) has contracted a cameraman to film the distribution; given this is the first mission to the area since it was cleared by DSS for humanitarian operations. The Deputy Representative is currently in Galkayo on a support mission to Galkayo, to guide the field office on the implementation of the revised 2013 operations framework.

Post-distribution monitoring of the livelihood project beneficiaries is underway for the first instalment of the seeds money distributed by the partners. Although the immediate findings were found promising, project staff have been advised to keep a close eye on the book-keeping component by each beneficiary.

In Bosasso, UNHCR and OCHA discussed the way forward for the relocation of Ajuran-A IDP settlement, and shared the relevant road map with other stakeholders to ensure coordination and resource mobilization by concerned partners.

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The financial verification of implementing partners' financial reports was completed for partners in Bossaso and Garowe, based on which the release of their next instalments would be processed.

Procurement of solar lights to be installed in various IDP settlements is yet to be completed. This will play a great role in enhancing the protection of families there, particularly women and girls who are most vulnerable to different acts of GBV.

4) RO Somalia

Returns Consortium:

During the week under review, IDP return movements took place from Mogadishu and Galkayo to Baidoa, Afgooye, Wanla Weyne, Balad and Jowhar Districts in South Somalia. Return Consortium members and partners (DRC, Mercy Corps and INTERSOS) provided return support to various groups for an approximate 700 families- above 3,000 individuals.

IDP Returnees from Galkayo have been medically screened by UNHCR in cooperation with GMC. IDP Returnees from Mogadishu have been supported with Mine Risk Education and Awareness sessions implemented by UNMAS prior departure. Return movement from the above mentioned locations will be completed in the next ten days.

Out of 400 households, only 51 and 37 have expressed interest to return to Bay Region and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions respectively. A request to process the travel documentation for 88 IDP families interested to return has been submitted to the MRRR for their actions. Departures are scheduled as soon as the documentation will be cleared. Support to travel arrangement and fitness to travel test will be provided by IOM.

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