



## **Protection Cluster Annual Report January to December 2012**

### **The Cluster in 2012**

Over 400 organisations are part of the Protection Cluster undertaking various protection activities throughout the country. Cluster members are not all equally active, as many operate under difficult and isolated circumstances; while others have very limited funding. The membership is divided into various working groups and protection clusters at the regional and national level. Toward the end of 2012, a working group on mental health and psycho-social support was established as part of the Cluster's efforts to set standards and improve quality of service to survivors. Additionally, the IDP Return Consortium came under the Protection Cluster umbrella, as protection touches many aspects of IDP return.

The Protection Cluster CAP 2012 strategy outlined what the protection cluster wished to undertake and focused on three key areas, namely: gender based violence (GBV), child protection, and protection mainstreaming. In parallel with the three key areas, the Protection Cluster intended to explore new initiatives and improve existing preventative mechanisms to ensure that people's rights were not violated. Though ambitious, the protection cluster was able to achieve some success in reaching IDPs with assistance and services.

### **General Protection Overview**

The conflict in parts of Somalia coupled with limited rule of law continued to have an overall negative impact on the civilian population in 2012. Protection concerns during the course of the year included: various forms of (GBV), children and youth associated with armed forces and groups, and protection risks specifically affecting children such as: child labour, child trafficking, abandoned children, and children living in the streets. Throughout the year and mostly in Mogadishu, IDP evictions took place due to public and private land/buildings being reclaimed by government or private owners.

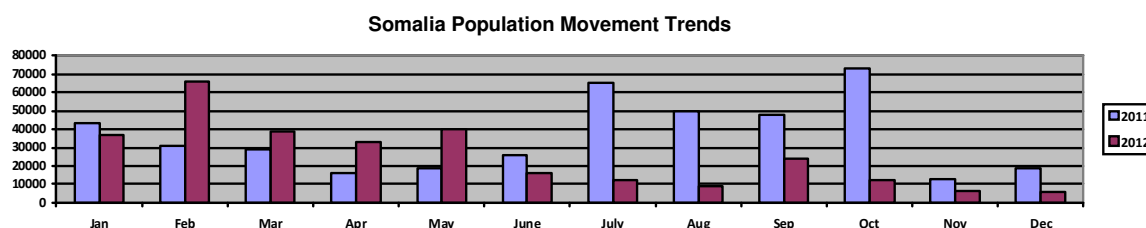
GBV, in all its variations remained one of the most preoccupying protection risks faced mostly by IDP girls, adolescents and women. Sexual violence, particularly rape, and domestic violence were among the most common forms of GBV in Somalia. While girls and women in host communities were not immune from GBV, given the stresses and strains of being displaced, GBV among IDPs and within IDP settlements seemed more prevalent. In Mogadishu and surrounding areas alone, during the last quarter of 2012, over 1100 rape cases were reported. Almost half of the recorded incidents were against minors including a few cases of sexual violence against boys. Perpetrators reportedly are from a wide range of backgrounds and include armed men in uniform; though in most cases, victims were unable or afraid to identify the perpetrator or link the perpetrator to a specific security and /or armed group. It should be noted that in regions with limited humanitarian access, very limited data on GBV is available.

Throughout the year, the Protection Cluster also received unconfirmed reports of sexual exploitation by AMISOM forces though the depth of such exploitation was difficult to establish. IDPs and more particularly IDP women and minorities suffer more than the host communities due to a lack of equal access to justice and due process in Somalia. Protection Cluster Members were able to implement programmes targeting GBV response and to a lesser degree prevention, but a lack of qualified staff on clinical management of sexual violence and psycho-social support limited any significant gains that could have been achieved.

With respect to children in conflict, the Protection Cluster received unconfirmed reports of continued arbitrary arrest and detention of children/youth allegedly associated with Al Shabaab in areas recently taken over by Somali Government military and AMISOM forces. Child recruitment, particularly by Al Shabaab remained a significant protection concern and remained most evident in South and Central Somalia.<sup>1</sup>

## Population Movement Tracking

Population Movement Tracking recorded the highest displacements in February 2012, due to evictions of IDPs from the public and private buildings in Mogadishu; fear of attacks following the military offensive in the Afgooye Corridor; and the continued advances by the Ethiopia National Defence Forces Bay and Bakool regions. The figures below are estimates and are intended to show population movement trends, rather than cumulative IDP population data.

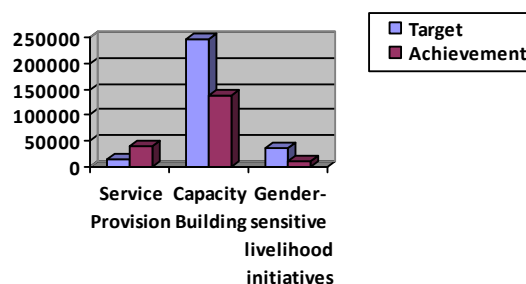


## Response Activities

In 2012, Protection Cluster focused its responses on two main themes, namely preventative and responsive interventions; while the strategy had three major activities: service delivery, capacity building, and advocacy. In 2012, funding for protection activities undertaken in Somalia amounted to slightly over USD 19 million, which represents roughly 33% of the requested funding for CAP 2012. Roughly 40% of the funding went to GBV interventions mostly in the South Central regions.

Service delivery interventions included psychosocial, medical, referrals, family tracing and reintegration interventions. The Cluster planned to reach 13,500 men, women, boys and girls who are survivors of protection violations with multi-sectoral prevention and response (including referral mechanisms) activities.<sup>2</sup> Roughly 41,000 people, of which the majority were female due the fact that most violations were GBV related Protection Clusters Members also referred 20,000 people (roughly 41% female) to various services according to their needs which included medical, nutrition, legal, psychosocial support, education and reunification with their parents or extended families. At least 131,000 children (45% girls) attended child and youth friendly spaces in Somalia.<sup>3</sup> Services offered at these centres included psychosocial support, recreation, basic literacy and numeracy classes.

Capacity-building activities aimed at improving the skills, knowledge, and better service provision. At least 137,000 people participated in various capacity building activities, in order to ensure timely and comprehensive response to the needs of survivors of violations. The GBV and Child Protection Working Groups prepared matrices of capacity building activities in 2012 in order to enhance information



<sup>1</sup> For example on 02 May 2012, Al Shabaab recruited around fifty learners from the *Ahmed Ibnu Hambal* Secondary School in Kismayo. (<http://www.bar-kulan.com/2012/05/02/al-shabaab-recruits-students-in-kismayo>)

<sup>2</sup> See Protection Cluster revised Response Plan CAP 2012 Mid Year Review.

<sup>3</sup> The children may have attended the same friendly space for multiple months, hence the possibility of double reporting.

sharing and identify gaps and overlaps. Specific GBV and child protection trainings included, for example: how to undertake GBV prevention and response in emergencies, using the GBV Information Management System, caring for survivors, providing psychosocial support, clinical management of rape, Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification, teaching on child rights, management of child friendly spaces. Towards the end of the year, the Protection Cluster began organising protection mainstreaming workshops for its members, which is run into 2013.

Advocacy sessions, which are relatively low cost activities aimed at enhancing the overall protective environment for women and girls, men and boys were undertaken throughout the year. Roughly 430,000 people benefitted from advocacy and community mobilization activities on protection issues. For example, the Mogadishu Child Protection Working Group organized radio campaigns in order to raise awareness on the appropriateness of children participating in political rallies and developed advocacy messages on specific child protection concerns. Radio messages on the GBV prevention reached roughly 50,000 people every month in Mogadishu. It is known that at least 49 girls who were at risk of FGM were rescued through advocacy efforts with their parents.

Members facilitated the release of roughly 5300 street children, orphans, and children in conflict with the law (40% girls) from police stations and were reintegrated them with their families. Unaccompanied and separated children were supported through specific assistance and family tracing interventions. Nearly 1,400 children (46% girls) with various physical and mental disabilities received disability devices and physiotherapy treatment.

With limited livelihood opportunities, IDPs remained vulnerable to environmental and conflict related shocks. Protection through livelihood interventions had a number of goals such as: strengthening resilience to various shocks, reducing exposure to GBV for women and girls, providing alternatives to recruitment/enrolment into armed groups or piracy, and to slow-down possible economic migration. At least 10,000 people including people with disabilities received various skills training in Somalia.

### **Mixed Migration**

Somaliland and Puntland continue to be major transit points for smugglers and/or traffickers. According to the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, over 107,000 migrants arrived in Yemen in 2012, a 4% increase from 2011.<sup>4</sup> In 2010, 53,382 arrived in Yemen, representing an increase of 49.6% between 2010 and 2012. In 2010 55% of the new arrivals were Ethiopians (the rest Somalis) while in 2012 over 78% were Ethiopians, while the remainder were Somalis.

A significant feature in 2012 was the decrease in the number of deaths at sea (migrants being forced off boats or murdered to lighten boats that were too full in rough seas). The number of deaths decreased from 131 in 2011 to 98 in 2012. The decrease in deaths may be attributed to smugglers and criminals kidnapping migrants for ransom when they arrive in Yemen, hence the need to ensure that they survive the trip. There were 1,603 migrant boat trips that arrived in Yemen in 2012. There were reports of females being subjected to sexual violence during the journey. A notable number of unaccompanied migrants of Somali and Ethiopian descent continued to make the dangerous journey to Yemen by sea. The reason being that their parents or guardians rely on their ability to work in the Gulf States in order to remit money for family survival.

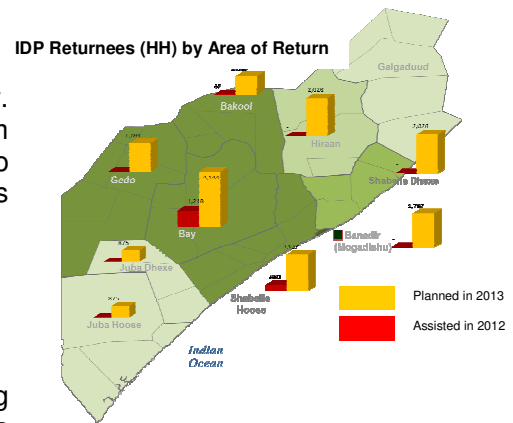
### **The Return Consortium**

Following the spontaneous return of many IDPs to South Central regions, seven organizations established the Return Consortium in 2012, which later in the year folded under the Protection Cluster. The aim of the Consortium was to set standards, creating operational synergies, fundraising, and advocacy among the organisations participating. This, in turn, was to ensure that not only where the IDPs voluntarily returning but also that it was being achieved in safety

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<sup>4</sup> Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat: [www.regionalmms.org](http://www.regionalmms.org)

and dignity, with the ultimate goal being sustainability. Among the agreed to standards what that Consortium members would provide a standard minimum package to all returning households. Return Consortium members plan to assist over 18,000 households in 2013.



## Mine Action

Over 220,000 people were reached with lifesaving awareness and avoidance messages on explosive threats in 2012. This also included targeted messaging for IDPs in Afgooye, as well as outreach to urban populations in Mogadishu and Baidoa. Rural populations particularly around Guri'el, Dhusamareeb and Doolow were also reached with lifesaving messages. Explosive hazards were removed from over 1,500 locations throughout South Central Somalia, resulting in the disposal of over 16,000 items during the year. Of these items, over 1,500 were removed from homes and public spaces in Baidoa, Mogadishu, and Doolow. Clearance in Doolow, which began in September, is the first in recent history.

Of the 60 people known to have been killed or injured by mines or Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) two thirds were children, of which 80% were boys. Casualties were reported largely in Banadir (16 injuries and 1 death), Bay (11 killed and 12 injured), Galgaduud (7 injured), Middle Shabelle (6 killed and 3 injured), and 3 injured in Lower Shabelle. Tampering remained the primary cause of the accident, resulting in 40% of the accidents. Of the items, the majority were unknown ERWs, followed by hand grenades which were armed but did not detonate on impact; only three casualties resulted from contact with landmines. Very limited verified information is available for those regions where mine action activities are not taking place; highlighting the large gap in the threat picture that still needs to be addressed.

## Family Tracing and Reunification

Over 4,500 females (including 648 girls) and over 2,200 males (including 561 boys) were registered on the refugees united platform. The names of nearly 7,200 separated family members were announced on Radio Star FM in Mogadishu, Doolow, Daadab, and Nairobi. During the year, 30 cases were positively closed when reunification occurred. For example, a father in Mogadishu and two daughters in Ethiopia were united after 24 years due to clan and Radio tracing. Twin brothers (one in Galkayo and the other in Daadab) were also in touch after hearing their names aired on Star FM radio. 315 cases were closed as the person sought had moved-on to unknown destinations and another 16 cases were closed due to the confirmation that the person sought had deceased. By the end of 2012, 214 cases remain under investigation.

## Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)

The MRM aims to hold perpetrators accountable and bring them into compliance with international child protection standards in order to halt grave violations against children in armed conflict. Reporting on the six grave violations<sup>5</sup> increased by nearly 250% in 2012 as compared to 2011 where the total number of violations reported was nearly 1,900 violations. This is, in part, attributed to increased reporting as a result of the strengthening of the MRM mechanism but is also due to the fact that in the past grave violations have been under reported. Two Action Plans were signed between Government of Somalia and the UN on 03 July and 06 August 2012 respectively. One Plan was committed to ending the recruitment and

<sup>5</sup> The six grave violations are: killing or maiming, recruitment or use, attacks against schools or hospitals, rape or other sexual violence, abduction, and denial of humanitarian access.

use of children by the Somali National Armed Forces; while the other committed to end the killing and maiming of children in armed conflict.

### **Coordination and Assessments**

The Cluster, and in particular the Working Groups, developed a number of mainstreaming and assessment tools in order to enhance information management and reporting. The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) contextualized the needs assessment tool, which was then used to conduct assessments in the newly accessible areas such as the border regions. In Mogadishu, CPWG members prepared a street children assessment tool.

Members conducted a number of assessments on various protection issues. Mogadishu Protection Cluster members conducted an assessment in a makeshift orphanage of about 200 children in Naseeb settlement Banadir region. The Cluster shared the findings on the child protection concerns with the Education Cluster and the Mogadishu Child Protection Working Group. Mogadishu Protection Cluster members conducted another assessment in Soodaal Disabled IDP settlement in Banadir region where over 100 families live with people who have mixed disabilities. Members shared the information with the Health Cluster members in Mogadishu, who facilitated a mobile clinic to assess the medical conditions of those IDPs.

The Bossaso and Mogadishu CPWG prepared Standard Operating Procedures for the GBV and CPWG interventions and signed an Information Sharing Protocol on the GBV data collected through the GBV Information Management System. The GBV Working Group conducted a functionality assessment at the end of 2012 with the objective of understanding the perception of its members as to whether the working group is fulfilling its function and how to improve its effectiveness in 2013. The survey was split into two separate questionnaires, one for the members of the working group in Nairobi, and the second for the working group members in the field.

The Hargeisa Protection Cluster conducted a number of assessments in 2012 including a survey on durable solutions for 2,555 households residing in *Mohammed Moge* settlement in Hargeisa. The findings indicated that 12% of the displaced would like to return to their homes in Somaliland. Hargeisa Protection Cluster members also conducted a joint participatory assessment between in Somaliland IDP settlements. The findings of the assessment informed Hargeisa priorities for CAP 2013.

### **The Protection Cluster in 2013**

In order to focus on the ten protection priorities developed as part of the CAP 2013 – 2015 protection response plan, the Protection Cluster developed five objectives that contain a blend of gender sensitive, immediate, reactive, and responsive activities as well as preventative and enabling activities, and durable solutions. Reaching these objectives will not be direct in that the completion of one objective will trigger the next objective; neither will one objective have a higher priority than others. Instead, in order to achieve sustainable protection by 2015, activities that require longer-term programming are intertwined with immediate responses. Furthermore, longer-term programming must begin in 2013, if such programming is to result in improvements in the overall protection environment. It is understood that addressing the protection priorities will underpin durable solutions and in particular the sustainability of IDP returns.

Structurally, the Cluster will work on improving coordination amongst the field Protection Clusters and working groups as well as among the members themselves. Efforts to keep protection training and mainstreaming as a priority will continue given the positive feed-back from the initial training sessions. Concomitant to the structural adjustments, in some locations, establishing accountability mechanisms to ensure that assistance and services provided are at an acceptable standard will be a goal the Cluster will strive towards.