



## Edition Highlights

**Start of the Joint Police  
Programme Phase II**

**UNSOM Police Commissioner  
Visits Jubaland & SWS**

**International Women's Day**

**New Japan-funded project for  
the NRA's**

# UNSOM Police Newsletter

*Supporting the development of  
Somalia's Police Services*

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## SOMALIA ADVANCES POLICE REFORM WITH KEY APPROVALS



Mogadishu, Somalia: In February, the Somali Police Force (SPF) and Federal Member States (FMS) Police jointly approved two landmark documents - the Somali Police Training Strategy and the Somali Community Policing Policy and Implementation Plan. Developed with UNDP and UNSOM Police support, these documents represent a major step in strengthening Somali police capacity. They establish a framework for building trust and fostering engagement with local communities. The co-chaired meeting by SPF leadership and UNSOM Police resulted in unanimous approval.



This approval signifies the Somali Police Force's commitment to enhancing public trust and service delivery. The training strategy outlines a roadmap for developing well-qualified officers with the skills and knowledge to better serve their communities. The community policing policy provides a clear direction for collaboration and building positive relationships with citizens. By implementing these strategies, the Somali Police Force is positioned to address security needs and uphold the rule of law.

## FROM DESIGN TO ACTION: JPP II PAVES THE WAY FOR ENHANCED SOMALI POLICING



Mogadishu, Somalia: The design of the second phase of the Joint Police Programme (JPP II) is well underway, reflecting a strong commitment to Somali ownership and collaboration. Through a series of workshops and meetings held in February and March, Somali government ministries, Federal and State Police Institutions, and other stakeholders actively participated in shaping the future of JPP II, supported by UNDP and UNSOM Police.



These joint efforts have yielded significant progress in laying the groundwork for the programme. Key areas of discussion focused on program governance, key outputs to enhance service delivery through community policing, strengthening accountability and gender equality, and overall police capacities, ultimately progressing the federated policing system.



UNSOM Police underscores the importance of technical committees at the FMS level. Led by Somali officials and police leadership, alongside community representatives, these committees will play a crucial role in identifying local needs and designing annual work plans tailored to each police service. JPP II represents a collaborative effort towards a more secure and stable Somalia, with Somali ownership at its core, to be implemented by UNDP.

## PUNTLAND POLICE COMMANDERS EQUIPPED FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Garowe, Puntland: In a collaborative effort, the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and UNSOM Police equipped 18 regional police commanders with the knowledge and tools to implement Puntland's Gender Equality Strategy. Through a 3-day workshop, participants crafted action plans and explored collaboration with key stakeholders like the Ministry of Women's Development and Family Affairs (MOWDAFA). This initiative strengthens efforts towards gender balance within the Puntland Police.





## UN POLICE COMMISSIONER VISITS JUBALAND & SWS



Kismayo, Jubaland State / Baidoa, Southwest State (SWS): In February 2024, the UNSOM Police Commissioner, Ralf Schröder, visited Kismayo and Baidoa to strengthen ties and communication with Jubaland and Southwest State Police Services. Fruitful discussions with counterparts from the Ministry of Internal Security and the police focused on the importance of visible and accountable police institutions.

The visit also provided a platform to discuss the states' security situation, challenges, and promising prospects. The UNSOM Police Commissioner reaffirmed UNSOM's commitment to supporting state police services, particularly regarding the upcoming JPP II programme. There was an emphasis on continued collaboration for a smooth implementation of the New Policing Model.

### Ghana FPU Honored

During his visit to Southwest State, the UNSOM Police Commissioner attended a medal parade honoring the Ghana Formed Police Unit (FPU) for serving in the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). The ceremony recognized the Ghanaian officers' unwavering commitment, which is vital in fostering a more secure Somalia. This recognition underlines the importance of international partnerships in ensuring the country's safety and stability.

## MOGADISHU STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY POLICING



Mogadishu, Somalia: UNSOM Police is working closely with the Somali Police Force (SPF) to strengthen community engagement. This collaboration builds upon the momentum of recently endorsed policies like the Somali Police Training Strategy and Somali Community Policing Policy and Implementation Plan.



Specifically, this initiative focuses on strengthening the Community Policing Directorate and Gender Office. By assisting in drafting Terms of Reference (ToRs) for both departments, the collaboration aims to clarify their roles and responsibilities within the framework of the endorsed policies.

Plans are underway to support community policing initiatives in four selected districts of Mogadishu. This initiative aims to build trust and strengthen the relationship between the SPF and the Somali community.



## UNSOM POLICE MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Happy International Women's Day! UNSOM Police extends its warmest greetings to all the incredible women around the world, especially those playing vital roles in peacebuilding efforts. This year's theme, "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress," resonated deeply with UNSOM, who partnered with the Somali community to organize a series of impactful activities on the occasion of the celebrations of 08th March. Vibrant gatherings, welcome parades, cultural displays, and a sports tournament all underscored the importance of females' active role in the communities, political process, and security sector, fostering progress and sustaining peace.

## SOMALI WOMEN: POLICE CAREERS ON AIR

A recent radio broadcast in Somalia discussed opportunities for women in the policing services. The broadcast aired across 13 stations and featured the Gender Focal Officer of Hirshabelle and UNSOM Police. The nationwide broadcast aimed to empower women and inspire Somali female youths to pursue job opportunities in Federal and State police services. This initiative highlights ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and advocates for increased female participation within the Somali police.

## SWS WOMEN IN UNIFORM NETWORK



Baidoa, SWS: UNSOM Police held a workshop in March to strengthen the "Women in Uniform Network" for female SWS officers. Participants discussed challenges in investigating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases and explored capacity building opportunities in Human Rights, Community Policing, and SGBV response. Additionally, they discussed ways to amplify female voices through media and awareness campaigns.





## DHOBLEY: BUILDING TRUST & ADDRESSING GBV



Dhobley, Jubaland State: UNSOM Police organized a successful two-day workshop for the Jubaland State Police in Dhobley. The workshop focused on equipping officers with essential skills in community policing and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness.

Through interactive sessions and practical exercises, 20 dedicated participants learned how to build trust with communities and respond to GBV cases. This marked the first workshop for the Dhobley Police, a significant step in their professional development. Aligned with the New Policing Model, the program underscores UNSOM Police's commitment to strengthening the Somali Police and fostering community trust.

## SWS POLICE & UNSOM CONTINUED COOPERATION



Baidoa, SWS: In March, UNSOM Police met with the Southwest State (SWS) Minister of Internal Security and police leadership. The discussions focused on upcoming UNSOM support for the SWS Police.

The Minister appreciated past UNSOM support and stressed the importance of maintaining a collaborative partnership. The Minister and Deputy Police Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to initiatives promoting increased female police participation within the SWS force.

The meeting concluded with a special recognition for outgoing UNSOM Police Adviser Petteri Hyytiäinen. The Ministry of Internal Security awarded him a certificate of appreciation for his dedication to security sector reform in SWS during his tour of duty.

## COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BOLSTERS POLICE IN NRA'S



Mogadishu, Somalia: In March, a key meeting brought together stakeholders for the "Support to the Somali Police to Ensure Service Delivery in Fragile and Newly Recovered Areas" project. Funded by a \$1.7 million USD donation from Japan, this initiative aims to strengthen police capacity and security in newly recovered areas of Galmudug and Hirshabelle States.



Representatives from the Federal Government, Galmudug and Hirshabelle states, UNDP, UNSOM, and ATMIS Police participated in the meeting. They approved a 12-month work plan focusing on:

- Strengthening mobile police training teams
- Enhancing police mobility
- Developing essential infrastructure
- Fostering community engagement through dialogue

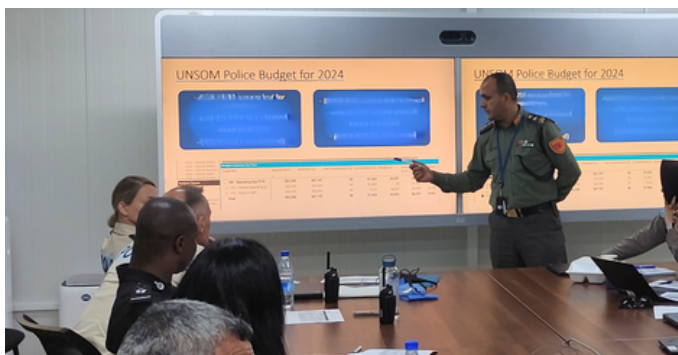
This community-centered project, adhering to Human Rights principles, targets six specific districts. This collaboration signifies a major step towards improving security and stability in these recovered regions.

## SOMALILAND LAUNCHES POLICE BOARD

Hargeisa, Somaliland: A landmark Police Board launch in January marks a significant step for regional security. The first meeting, which brought together key stakeholders, laid the groundwork for collaborative efforts to enhance police capacity. Somaliland Police outlined their 2024 needs, while partners presented collaborative efforts. Monthly meetings will ensure ongoing coordination.



## UNSOM POLICE REFINE STRATEGY FOR 2024



Mogadishu, Somalia: UNSOM Police balanced strategic planning with recognizing officer contributions during a two-day February workshop, solidifying their focus for the year ahead. Collaborative discussions with other UNSOM sections fostered a shared understanding of the mission's goals and a unified approach.



The focus was on refining the 2024 work plan to ensure activities align with the mission's goals. Through discussions, the team reviewed past efforts, learned lessons, and assessed progress, allowing for strategic planning and prioritization. In a separate ceremony, officers were awarded the UN Special Service Medal for their work supporting Somalia's peacebuilding efforts.

## EID MUBARAK!

As the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, we join the Somali people in celebrating Eid al-Fitr. This joyous occasion marks the end of fasting and is a time for families and communities to come together in prayer, feasting, and celebration.

We extend our warmest wishes to all Somalis for a peaceful and joyful Eid. May this holiday be filled with blessings, laughter, and renewed hope for the future.

**Ralf Schröder**, UNSOM Police Commissioner