Joint Police Program roll-out

The Executive Board of the Joint Police Program met for the first time and approved projects to implement Somalia’s NEW POLICING MODEL.

Somalia – On 3rd September, the Joint Police Program (JPP) Executive Board met in Mogadishu. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Internal Security, H.E. Mohamed Abukar Islow Duale, and UNSOM’s Deputy SRSG Raisedon Zenenga and participants included representatives from the Ministry of Internal Security of the Federal Government of Somalia and all Federal Member States, contributing donors, United Nations and AMISOM. The board approved a range of work requests that will now enable the commencement of implementation of prioritized projects identified within the first draft of the Federal Police Plan or one of the already endorsed State Police Plans.

Following the program document, which was signed on 11th June 2018 by the FGS Minister of MoIS and both Deputy SRSGs of UNSOM (see picture), the Executive Board will convene at least quarterly or whenever necessary, provides strategic direction and oversight and has decision-making authority. Implementing partners, each having their own programmatic, financial and reporting responsibilities, will report through the JPP Secretariat to the Executive Board. Decisions will be taken by consensus. Projects seeking funding support through the JPP must emerge from the strategic police development plans and match one of the following five outputs: (1) Policing presence and visibility increased in targeted locations (which includes the procurement of non-lethal equipment, the rehabilitation or construction of police facilities and the provision of electronic stipends); (2) Provision of basic and specialized training and development support; (3) Provision of support to legal framework and policy development; (4) Support to effective civilian oversight and governance of policing; (5) Institutional coordination addresses police development and reform in Somalia.
South West State MoS occupied

Baidoa – While the Somali Police and the respective line ministries are in general extremely busy in these days, it struck the MoS in South West State even harder working in parallel on the implementation of Somalia’s NEW POLICING MODEL through the Joint Police Program (JPP), finalizing the operational readiness assessment of reginal forces, organizing the police deployment to the District Police Station Baraaowe, preparing for election security and last but not least planning on the police activities connected to the security transfer at the road from Baidoa to Mogadishu. Consequently, a whole series of planning meetings dragged on through the entire month of September. The recruitment of 400 officers to be deployed to the four District Police Stations along the Baidoa-Mogadishu road will start as soon the erection of the make-shift infrastructure at the South West State Police Training Center Al-Salamey will commence. UNSOM Police offered assistance to the MoS regarding the elaboration of a deployment plan which will support the coordination of the intended local recruitment activities. Recruitment, training and deployment will be supported by the JPP.

Elaboration of Work Requests is an enduring task for JPP beneficiaries

Somalia/Galmudug – While the first set of project requests was approved by the Executive Board of the Joint Police Program (JPP), the work for the six Somali Police services as beneficiaries is continuing. In September, the first tranche of projects was presented as stand-alone requests. Nevertheless, future tranches will be embedded in one overall Work Request per beneficiary explaining donors the strategy of the respective service on extending police authority and fostering the professionalisation of the service. Those requests will cover the entire lifespan of the current JPP from 2018 to 2021 and will correspond fully with the planning periods of the State Police Plans. On 19th September, Galmudug’s Minister for Security, H.E. Abdulahi Ahmed Alasow, led one delegation meeting representatives of UNOPS and UNSOM Police to discuss in detail the possible inclusion of various subjects into the Galmudug Work Request under the JPP. Since UNSOM Police is not present in Galmudug yet, it was agreed that UNSOM Police will continue to support the Galmudug Ministry representatives on request by the group of officers based in Mogadishu. The first, finalised Galmudug Work Request will be presented at the next meeting of the JPP Executive Board for approval.
Police Training Center in Jowhar to be operational soon

Early September, AMISOM Military Engineers started to erect a HESCO bastion around the make-shift HirShabelle State Police Training Center in Jowhar. AMISOM Police will soon support HirShabelle’s MoS on the recruitment and vetting of 800 officers, 20% of which should be females. UNSOM Police is supporting the MoS in developing a deployment plan which will also be a guiding document for the recruitment campaign. The project is supported by the Joint Police Program.

On the Transition Implementation Plan

In September, SNA and AMISOM Military jointly briefed the AMISOM Deputy Force Commander, the SNA CDF, EUTM and U.S. Military leadership on possible military activities related to the security transfer at the road from Baidoa to Mogadishu. The meetings were conducted on weekly basis, representatives from the Mogadishu-based police services and stabilization community were also included to familiarize themselves with the military sequencing. In parallel, the MoS of South West State prepared itself to start the recruitment campaign of 400 officers to be then trained and equipped in Baidoa before being deployed to the four District Police Stations along the road. This project, which is in line with the Transition Plan as well as the South West State Police Plan, will be financed and organized through the Joint Police Program.

Discussion on leadership training restarted

UNSOM Police met the Upper House

Mogadishu – On 9th September, UNSOM Police joined a delegation of the UN Anti-Corruption Platform visiting the Upper House on the anti-corruption bill. The meeting gave representatives of the UN initiative the chance to present their comments on the draft bill. The host of the meeting, the Speaker of the Upper House Senator Abdi Hashi Abdullahi, welcomed the UN Anti-Corruption Platform initiative and invited for more in-depth and technical sessions with the committee in charge of the revision of the draft bill. The chairperson of the Justice, Religious Affairs and Human Rights Committee briefed the UN on the status of the review process of the draft bill and suggested the technical collaboration to start as soon as possible. The review process of the bill went through a first reading by the committee and through a public hearing and is at a final stage of completion. The fight against corruption is a cross-cutting issue in which police services will play an important role when it comes to designing the enforcement strategy parallel to the endeavour to arm the own service against the risk of corruption.

Mogadishu – UNSOM Police discussed with the SPF Commissioner, General Bashir, and his senior staff the reactivation of plans regarding one leadership training at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana, which failed to take place last year. UNSOM Police explained that the endorsement of the Joint Police Program offers new possibilities to conduct this or a similar training during 2019. Capacity building for senior and mid-level leadership is a crucial factor while implementing Somalia’s NEW POLICING MODEL and therefore such trainings are required explicitly by the State Police Plans. At the same time, a discussion on how to possibly pave the way for experienced SPF officers to join a State Police service might be held once within the Somali Police coordination bodies.
Ministries met on Galkayo Peace Process

Somalia – On 4th September, the FGS Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) convened a meeting on the situation in Galkayo which was attended by national and international shareholders interested and involved in the Galkayo peace process. The meeting was opened by the FGS Minister and his counterparts from Puntland and Galmudug. Main objective was to update participants on the ongoing and upcoming projects and to enhance coordination. The positive role of the Joint Police Patrol Unit was mentioned by several speakers. UNSOM Police informed the meeting that the stipend payments for the police officers serving in this unit will continue for another twelve months following a decision by the Joint Police Program Executive Board on 3rd September. The importance of defining the roles of the State and Federal Police in line with the NEW POLICING MODEL was stressed out by various participants. UNSOM Police explained that this discussion should take place within the Somali Police coordination structure and will be leading to draft police bills for the respective police services. In regard to follow-up meetings there was agreement on the need to include local authorities.

Operational Readiness Assessment is moving towards final stage

Garowe – The Operational Readiness Assessment of regional forces, the so-called “ORA II”, is ongoing. After finalizing the exercise already in Galmudug, Jubaland and on 10th September as well in South West State, the month of September saw a sequence of coordination meetings for the execution of the exercise in Puntland. The Puntland MoS is seeking for a two-track approach: (1) Registration of regional forces and (2) updating the biometric data of State Police officers to enable the Puntland State Police Human Resource Department to deliver ID-cards. This understanding was verified during a two-days meeting of the Technical Team with Puntland authorities in Garowe. The update of the Human Resources Database and the delivery of ID-cards will be rolled-out with support from the Joint Police Program. In a meeting with the Mayor of Garowe he assured full support of his administration for the ORA II. The results of all the assessments will enable the FGS and FMS to discuss in depth the options on the integration of regional forces into either the Somali National Army or the State Police services as foreseen in the National Security Architecture.