UN in Somalia marks the Annual Global 16-Day Campaign against Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Mogadishu - At the start of the annual global 16-day campaign against sexual and gender-based violence, the United Nations in Somalia highlighted the importance of progress in this area. “Gender-based violence and sexual violence are means to suppress full political, social, and economic participation of women and girls. Without the participation of more than half the population, sustainable peace and development will not be attained,” the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, said. “Preventing and ending sexual and gender-based violence is essential for Somalia,” he added. The “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign ran from 25 November to 10 December and started on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ended on the Human Rights Day. The motto of this year’s campaign is “Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape.” Somalia’s Provisional Constitution of 2012 commits the country to ending discrimination on all grounds, including gender, and reafirms the right of every person to their inviolable physical integrity. The prevention and investigation of cases of sexual violence are both clearly though not exclusively responsibilities of police services. Therefore and in aligned with ongoing efforts to implement Somalia’s New Policing Model, the subject will be embedded in Standard Operational Procedures as well as in the respective training curricula for Somali Police services.
Baidoa - In November, the recently appointed Director General of the Ministry of Security of the SWS Government, Ismael Mustafa Mohamed, discussed several issues related to the coordination and collaboration with international stakeholders and he initiated various activities. The proposed creation of a stand-alone database for human resource management and the implementation of the SWS Police Human Rights Strategy were two of them. Also, the updating of the South West State Police Plan was discussed which is the blue print for the implementation of the New Policing Model in SWS. Due to activities carried out by the Joint Police Programme and under the Somalia Transition Plan, the situation in SWS changed during the last two years which must be reflected in the update of the strategic police plan while the articulated vision for 2027 remains.

Puntland State Police Commissioner convenes strategic meeting

Garowe - On 26 November, the Puntland State Police Commissioner convened a strategic meeting within the State Police MHQ in Garowe. The requirements of the comprehensive work request for the Joint Police Programme were discussed with UNSOM Police and the current state of development was analysed. The Commissioner indicated the need to invest into capacity building of the individual police officers as well as into infrastructural development and equipment provision such as the refurbishment of police stations and the procurement of patrol cars and IT. The Commissioner stressed that he will take action to motivate individual police officers as this is the basis for achieving the much-needed policing results. The Commissioner also welcomed the support from the international community and stressed the importance of having regular meeting with the international stakeholders such as UNSOM Police and EUCAP as this will enable the respective organizations to exchange information and to update each other on the progress made while implementing the New Policing Model. UNSOM Police and EUCAP are both represented with Police Advisers in Garowe. In addition, UNODC as implementing partner of the Criminal Investigation Program funded by the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is Collocated with UNSOM Police in Puntland’s state capital.
Hirshabelle - On 27 November, Hirshabelle State Police conducted a meeting with UNSOM Police and representatives of Berghof Foundation, a Germany based NGO which supports communities in their efforts to solve local conflicts. Berghof Foundation intends to carry out a new project in Hirshabelle State on “community-police relations”. As the Hirshabelle State Police has increased its presence in various communities, the meeting on the basis of these experiences various discussed issues which have to be included into a “community-police relation” program. Community Policing is also on the top of the agenda of the Police Professional Development Board (PPDB). The Somali Police Force Training Department and UNSOM Police as co-chairs of the PPDB will copile a new working group in January 2020 including all national and relevant international stakeholders to develop a common understanding of community policing within the Somali context and to align the numerous activities with this vision. Hirshabelle State Police and Berghof Foundation will be participating in this working group to assist with the experiences made.

PPDB develops Darwish Training Curriculum

Mogadishu - On 13 November, the SPF Training Directorate and UNSOM Police as co-chairs of the Police Professional Development Board (PPDB) discussed the ongoing process of developing a unified Darwish Training Curriculum aligned especially with the Italian Darwish concept delivered in Djibouti. A working group under the PPDB will be established to harmonize the curricula, recruitment guidelines and a Training-of-Trainers Course. The meeting discussed also the progress of the SPF Comprehensive Training Plan 2020 and the status of the refurbishment project for the offices of the SPF Training Directorate offering the possibility for UNSOM Police Advisors to work collocated with the SPF Training Directorate.

UN Somerset SRSG met SPF Commissioner

Mogadishu: On 13 November, UNSOM SRSG James Swan accompanied by UNSOM Police Commissioner Meinolf Schlotmann met SPF Commissioner General Abdi Hassan Mohammed and his deputy, General Zakia Hussen. Various issues were discussed between the officials, one of those was election security. The SPF Police Commissioner in his function as chair of the National Election Security Task Force (NESTF) briefed about the upcoming start of the taskforce’s work including the development of scenario-based plans. He appreciated the support by the international community. Also, the security situation in Mogadishu was discussed – especially the status of projects implementing the “Mogadishu Security Plan – as well as the development of a strategic Banadiir Police Plan as suggested by the donors of the Joint Police Program. All participants agreed that the coordination mechanisms in place, including the Council of Police Commissioners, are important for a coordinated development of able, acceptable and accountable police services.
New AMISOM Police Commissioner arrived in Somalia

Mogadishu – On 6 November, AMISOM Police Commissioner Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Augustine Magnus Kailie arrived in Somalia. The Commissioner has got 31 years of experience working in the Sierra Leone Police, served inter alia also for the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and attended several high-level international courses. Commissioner Kailie was warmly welcomed by all stakeholders within “police family”. He will lead AMISOM’s police component implementing its mandate to train and mentor Somali Police services and support the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan. In addition to close working relationships with the FGS and FMS, the Commissioner highlighted in his first meetings also the importance of aligning international efforts especially of the police components of AMISOM, UNSOM and EUCAP. It is planned to mirror the exchange of Liaison Officers with the SPF by an exchange of designated officers also between these three.

EUCAP leads IC support to Federal Darwish generation

Mogadishu – To avoid duplication or gaps regarding international support to the generation of Federal Darwish, EUCAP and UNSOM Police agreed that operational support to the ongoing operations in Lower Shabelle should be coordinated by EUCAP. UNSOM Police is then facilitating the coordination of the short-term operational support with the mid- and long-term institution building efforts supported by the international community, namely the implementation of Somalia’s New Policing Model. Following this arrangement, EUCAP will support the SPF in developing a pre-deployment training for 300 Darwish officers to start in December while UNSOM Police together with the SPF Training Department will steer the process of developing a unified Darwish Training Curriculum through the mechanisms of the Police Professional Development Board. While the working arrangement will be officially presented at the next meeting of the CAS2B Sub-Working Group Police, in practice this mechanism was immediately adopted also by SPF and the FGS MoIS.

Meeting of UNSOM Police and EUCAP on the division of labor related to police support to ongoing operations

THE NPM NEWSLETTER
Produced by UNSOM Police