Somalia - On 05 February, the Police Professional Development Board (PPDB) was hosted by AMISOM Police in Mogadishu. The PPDB is coordinating and synchronizing all police training activities and other professional development related activities provided by and to the Somali Police – both at federal level and within the Federal Member States. It is also entitled to certify, review or audit police training activities. The PPDB meeting was co-chaired by the Head of the Somali Police Force (SPF) Training and Planning Directorate and UNSOM Police. In attendance were also representatives from the FGS MoIS, from all five State Police Services, AMISOM Police, Egypt, UNDP, UNOPS, UNODC and EUCAP. The updated and consolidated “Somali Police Training Plan 2020” was presented by AMISOM Police and unanimously endorsed for implementation. As previously agreed with the Executive Board (EB) of the Joint Police Programme, the plan will be presented for funding at the next meeting of the EB. The meeting also discussed modalities of the roll-out of the UNODC-implemented Criminal Investigation Program in Federal Member States and reviewed the outcome of the working group on the “Somali Police Community Policing Policy”. SPF and EUCAP presented the curriculum of the predeployment training for the recently generated Federal Darwish companies. The PPDB also agreed to establish a working group to design the “Somali Police Training Architecture”.

Police Professional Development Board Meeting
Puntland State reshuffles Technical Committee NPM

Garowe - On 09 February, the Puntland State “Technical Committee (TC) on Implementation of the New Policing Model” convened a meeting in Garowe. Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Minister of Security & DDR emphasized the importance of the TC as an implementation body and link between the Ministry of Security and the Puntland State Police service. On request of the Acting Director General, the membership in the TC was adjusted to recent changes of personnel in Puntland authorities. On 16 February, the newly composed TC met for the first time chaired by the Puntland State Police Deputy Commissioner Administration. In his opening remarks the Deputy Commissioner emphasized his personal dedication to his new assignment stating that his priority will be the implementation of the NPM. During the meeting, Colonel Kismayo, one of the founding members of the TC in 2017, made a presentation on the history of the NPM and the TC. He pointed out that the TC created the Puntland State Police Plan with the contribution of all police sections. The strategic police plan became the base for the ongoing funding of projects through the Joint Police Programme (JPP). The Head of the Puntland State Police Criminal Investigation Department welcomed the new TC highlighting that there is an urgent need for the implementation of the activities agreed with JPP donors. It was strengthened by all members that the TC should serve as the crucial link between the Ministry of Security and the State Police as foreseen in the Terms of References.

HirShabelle State Police Commissioner discusses with UNSOM Police

Mogadishu - On 15 February, HirShabelle State Police Commissioner, Colonel Hassan Dhisow Hassan, and his Deputy Police Commissioner, Colonel Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim Kaafi, met UNSOM Police Commissioner Meinolf Schlotmann and his team. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the process of updating the HirShabelle State Police Plan. During the meeting discussions also included the upcoming graduation of the third batch of 205 recruits at the HirShabelle State Police Training Center in Jowhar and the deployment plan for this class. Other subjects were the recruitment of the fourth batch of 200 recruits, the number and deployment of regional forces in HirShabelle, establishment of State Police Darwish units, election security preparedness, HirShabelle Technical Committee New Policing Model meetings and police deployment along the road from Ferfer to Mogadishu. It was mutually agreed that pro-active planning on the police role after offensive operations against Al Shabaab in Middle Shabelle Region is necessary to ensure preservation of gains. The HirShabelle State Police Commissioner stated that Joint Police Programme (JPP)-funded projects are providing much-needed safety and security in communities. He suggested that officers for the fourth class should be recruited from the area of future operations implementing the Somalia Transition Plan and emphasized that this approach should be flanked by the establishment of HirShabelle State Police Darwish and Special Police units. For the former, the Commissioner is looking forward to the opening of a “Darwish Window” within the JPP in June, for the latter, UNSOM Police will establish the necessary communication between HirShabelle and federal authorities as well as the Turkish Embassy as implementing partner.
South West State Police Training Center

Baidoa - On 18 February, UNOPS representatives together with UNSOM and AMISOM Police were received by the South West State (SWS) Minister of Security and acting SWS Police Commissioner. All administrative prerequisites were presented in written, so that the group could inspect the recently chosen site assessing the technical possibilities for establishing a SWS Police Training Center. AMISOM also confirmed that the site would be suitable for its police personnel to support. It is planned that SWS Police Training Center will host basic trainings, decentralized advanced courses as well as future trainings for State Police Darwish units. While administered by SWS Police, there might be options for multi-purpose use by other state institutions to avoid vacancies and increase efficiency.

Banaadir Police and Prosecutors Task Force

Mogadishu - On 23 February, the Banadir Police and Prosecutors Task Force convened a meeting organized by UNSOM’s Joint Justice and Corrections Section. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Attorney General, a representative from EUCAP and prosecutors from Banadir Region as members of the taskforce. The objective was to support the Taskforce developing their workplan for 2020. Members agreed to operate on two levels, namely on strategic and operational level. Based on the operational findings, a strategic meeting will be held quarterly to consolidate the submissions made by members of the Taskforce which will be then used to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the collaboration between stakeholders. The findings will also inform the type of training programs to be organized either separately or jointly for members of the institution concerned.

FGS Cabinet endorses Federal Police Act

Somalia - On 27 February in Mogadishu, the Cabinet of the Federal Government of Somalia endorsed the draft Federal Police Bill. This development marks a milestone of progress towards commitments outlined in the Mutual Accountability Framework and the Security and Justice Roadmap. The development of the draft bill introduces a federated policing system in Somalia and provides a legal framework to transition the Somali Police Force to the Somalia Federal Police in line with the 2016-agreement on the New Policing Model. The next steps involve working with the Federal Member States to draft bills on their respective state police jurisdictions and the governance of police services. Finally, all bills must be once cross-checked when the review of the Constitution will be finalized.
AMISOM hands over Beletweyne Airport Police Station

Beletweyne - On 19 February, AMISOM officially handed over the newly built Beletweyne Airport Police Station situated at Ugas Khalif International Airport to HirShabelle State Police. The event was attended by a high-level African Union delegation that included the AMISOM Police Commissioner, the R & R Coordinator and the Heads of Stabilization, Reform and Restructure units among other dignitaries. Addressing people during the handover ceremony, the AMISOM Police Commissioner stated that the handover of the police station marks another achievement to improve the working environment of the HirShabelle State Police and to bring police services closer to the people. Police Commissioner Kailie said the construction of the police station was in fulfilment of the AMISOM mandate to bolster security at Ugas Khalif Airport and surrounding communities. The Acting Police Commander of Hiraan Region who spoke on behalf of HirShabelle officials, expressed gratitude for the police station and said the facility would go a long way to enhancing security in the region. As infrastructure projects are delivered by different partners all over Somalia, the coordination of those is improving to ensure that priorities are met and gaps are avoided.

UNSOM Police Bi-Annual Retreat

Somalia – In February, UNSOM Police conducted its bi-annual retreat. The retreat was attended also by representatives from UNOPS and UNDP. The main purpose of the retreat was to share field updates, priorities and observations and to develop strategies on how to adjust support delivery to the Somali Police Force, State Police services and to the respective line ministries. Guest presenters from other UNSOM ROLSIG sections delivered presentations, such as the Joint Justice and Corrections Section on the state of play regarding the elaboration/implementation of the Justice Model or the Defense Reform Section on operations implementing the Somalia Transition Plan. In 2020, main emphasis of UNSOM Police will be support to the updating of strategic State Police Plans, support to a Federal Technical Committee NPM when established and to continue supporting the elaboration of State Police Acts.

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