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UNSOM Police Newsletter

Supporting the development of Somalia's Police Services

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SOUTHWEST STATE - WOMEN IN UNIFORM NETWORK ESTABLISHED



In May 2023, UNSOM Police and Defence Sector Reform, in collaboration with the UK's FCDO-funded Women to Women Programme, supported the Women-in-Uniform Workshop in Baidoa, Southwest State (SWS). The workshop was attended by 20 participants from the SWS Security Forces, Somali Police, Somali National Army, African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, including the Ghana Formed Police Unit.

The workshop was designed to ensure the four pillars of UNSCR 1889 are better implemented with improved female representation in the security forces, particularly at the decision-making level, and focused on identifying barriers to recruitment as well as empowering service women.

Participants agreed to establish the SWS Women in Uniform network, aimed at providing a forum for women to share experiences, build relationships, and support each other.





SOMALI POLICE WORKSHOP ON CODE OF CONDUCT

UNSOM Police supported the Ministry of Internal Security (MoIS) to organise a three-day workshop on the Somali Police Code of Conduct and Ethics with funding from the Joint Police Programme. Twenty-two participants, including 9 women, from the Somali Police Force, Federal Member States police and MoIS attended.



The workshop aimed to provide in depth knowledge on the Somali Police Code of Conduct and Ethics and to explore the implementation mechanisms of the code of conduct. ATMIS, UNSOM, and EUCAP assisted in the facilitation of the course.

The participants had the opportunity to discuss and share their experiences on a range of issues related to the Police Code of Conduct and Ethics. They also heard suggestions from international partners on how to implement the Code of Conduct in their daily duties.



Mr. Yusuf Ali, the Director General of the MoIS, thanked the international partners for setting up the workshop, saying that it was a valuable opportunity for the participants to learn about the Code of Conduct and its subsequent implementation. He is confident that the workshop will help to improve the professionalism and accountability of the Somali police.

PUNTLAND FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS TRAINED ON SGBV AND CAAC

In May 2023, UNSOM Police conducted a workshop for 10 female police from Puntland State Police in Garowe, Puntland. The workshop focused on preventing and countering sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and children in armed conflict (CAAC)-related cases.

The workshop was led by UNSOM Police advisers with extensive experience in SGBV and CAAC prevention and response who shared their knowledge and expertise with the female officers, providing them with practical skills and tools to help them in their work. The workshop also included a number of interactive sessions, where the female officers were able to share their own experiences and challenges.



PUNTLAND POLICE PROVIDE SECURITY TO HISTORIC LOCAL ELECTIONS



Puntland successfully held local elections on 25 May 2023, after 50 years, earning praise from international observers. The Puntland Police security planning, including securing polling stations and preventing violence, contributed to the successful election. Their collaboration with the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) contributed to a fair and transparent process. Prior to the election, UNSOM police conducted a workshop with Puntland Police Regional commanders on planning for election security, and collaboration will continue to strengthen Puntland's rule of law.



UNSOM POLICE VISITS BANADIR POLICE HQ TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION

In April, UNSOM Police partnered with Banadir Police to enhance their collaboration, focusing on Mogadishu's security in line with the ATMIS drawdown and the Somali Transition Plan. Col. Mahdi Omar Muumim, Banadir Police Regional Commander, briefed UNSOM Police on security measures, including checkpoints, mobile operations against narcotics, and illegal weapon possession initiatives. Col. Muumim emphasized the 991-emergency hotline's importance for citizens reporting crimes and provision of support.



During the meeting, UNSOM Police recognised Banadir Police for their good work and innovation, expressing commitment to improve collaboration. UNSOM Police offered assistance in areas like planning, management, accountability, and coordination with the international community.

This meeting reinforces the partnership between UNSOM Police and Banadir Police.

JUBALAND TAKES STEPS TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



In June, an important meeting in Jubaland brought together representatives from various organizations to address gender equality and gender-based violence. Attendees identified SGBV survivors' challenges and committed to enhancing communication and coordination for better victim assistance. The Jubaland State Policewomen and Child Protection Unit will receive dignity kits from UNFPA to support SGBV survivors, marking progress in providing essential support during recovery.

UN, AND SOMALI AUTHORITIES PARTNER TO ADDRESS BELEDWEYNE FLOODING

On 11 May 2023, HirShabelle State President Ali Guudlaawe Hussein convened a meeting with UNSOM, and other International Humanitarian Agencies to discuss the devastating flooding in Beletweyne, which has impacted over 250,000 people, and leaving thousands displaced.

A UN convoy visited the Eljale IDP camps to assess the situation and provide assistance. Aid efforts are currently focused on providing emergency water, food, and medical treatment to those affected by the floods, particularly vulnerable women and children.

The flooding of Shabelle River has caused widespread damage in Beletweyne, as several houses and crops were destroyed, as well as a reduction in livestock. The floods have also caused a public health crisis, with outbreaks of cholera and malaria.



GALMUDUG COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHT SECURITY CHALLENGES



In May, the Galmudug Ministry of Internal Security collaborated with UNDP, the Joint Police Programme, and community stakeholders to hold consultation workshops in Galkayo, Hobyo, and Abudwak. Over 200 participants, including state police, community elders, and government officials, discussed security and policing priorities to inform the five-year state police plan.

Key challenges identified included the need for better community engagement, enhanced community policing, improved police response, increased police presence, and a secure place to report domestic violence and SGBV. Insights from the workshops will be incorporated into the updated state police plan, with ongoing collaboration between the Ministry, international stakeholders, and the community to improve regional security.

POLICE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MET IN MOGADISHU



In June, the Somali Police Force Training and Community Policing Directorates, and international partners (UNSOM, ATMIS, and EUCAP) discussed progress and advancement of the Police Professional Development Board (PPDB), which is co-chaired by SPF Training Directorate and UNSOM Police. Key updates incorporated, the current and planned training programmes and workshops, development of the Somali Police Training Strategy and National Community Policing Policy as well as the 2-year SPF/State police Cadet Curriculum.



JOINT POLICE PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

In June, DSRSG Political Anita Kiki Gbeho and Director-General Yusuf Ali from the Ministry of Internal Security co-chaired the Joint Police Programme (JPP) Executive Board, which included representatives from the FGS and four FMS, JPP Donors (EU, UK, and Germany), EUCAP, ATMIS and the United Nations.

DSRSG Gbeho welcomed the progress made by the JPP Phase II Design Committee with strong consensus on the inclusion of outputs on supporting police contributions to recovered areas, support to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, election security development of police leadership, oversight, and community policing.

Prior the JPP-EB, the JPP-Phase II Design Committee convened a three-day workshop in Mogadishu, early June 2023, to build consensus on how the JPP-II can best support a coordinated approach on delivering policing services within the newly recovered areas (NRAs), implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, development of police leadership, oversight, and community policing. Consensus was also reached on the importance of targeted stabilization activities, including increased police contributions in the NRAs.

ENHANCING JOINT OPERATIONS: SUCCESSFUL ATMIS-SSF AND FOB AIR LIAISON OFFICER TRAINING



The five-day ATMIS-SSF and FOB Air Liaison Officers Training Program, successfully concluded, in HirShabelle State during May 2023, aimed at enhancing joint operations between Somali Security Forces, and Forward Operating Bases. The training, conducted by UNSOS IMTC, equipped liaison officers with essential skills for air operations towards supporting the Somali Transition Plan. The Minister of Internal Security emphasized the importance of implementing the new knowledge to ensure the safety of officers and the community.

UNSOM POLICE CONDUCTS STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP



UNSOM Police held a 2-day Planning, Evaluation and Retreat workshop in Mogadishu from 31 May-1 June. The event aimed to align strategic developments with the mission mandate. It also emphasized Benchmark reporting, Rule of Law roadmap, sharing best practices, adjusting priorities, and team building.

The workshop provided a valuable platform for UNSOM Police to discuss and strategize their priorities for the remainder of 2023 and beyond.



The workshop enabled the police section to better align its work with both the mission's mandate and the Somali government's priorities. The agreements reached during the workshop will contribute to more effective efforts in supporting the Somali government to enhance the rule of law in the country.



"I believe the insights gained will help us deliver enhanced support in promoting the rule of law and fostering a safer and more inclusive society," said Petteri Hyytiainen, a Finnish strategic adviser based in SouthWest State.

UN MEDAL PARADE

On 29 May, a UN medal parade was officiated by the UNSOM Police Commissioner Mr. Ralf Schroeder, where three police advisers (two Sweden and one Indonesia) were presented with certificates and UN special service medals.

The UN Special Service Medal was established in 1995 and is awarded to personnel who have completed 90 days of service with a UN mission, and as sign of commitment to fulfil the mandate of the mission. The event coincided with this year's 75th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping.

