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JOINT POLICE PROGRAM MARKS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN SOMALIA



The Joint Police Program (JPP) in Somalia has made significant progress in its efforts to improve policing and the rule of law since its establishment in 2018. The recent meetings of the JPP Design Steering Committee and the JPP Executive Board, held in September, achieved significant outcomes, including the approval of the Inception Report.

The JPP's Somali-led approach, guided by the principles of affordability, acceptability, ability, and accountability, has paved the way for improved security and access to justice for civilian populations in Somalia. As the program continues to drive positive change, it plays a crucial role in supporting the Somali government's efforts to build a safer and more secure Somalia.



We commend the progress achieved thus far and eagerly anticipate witnessing further advancements in the JPP's mission to support the Somali government's efforts to create a safer and more secure Somalia. The dedication and collective efforts of all stakeholders involved, including the generous support of the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Germany, are instrumental in achieving this goal.

COMMUNITY POLICING: IMPROVING MOGADISHU SECURITY



Community engagement is an essential aspect of Mogadishu Security. UNSOM Police, UNDP, and ATMIS are continuously supporting the effort of the Somali Police Force (SPF) in the implementation of a community policing approach.

Acknowledging the inevitability of community engagement to make a safer Mogadishu, the SPF is taking the lead on a pilot project to improve trust between the police and the community, enhance the capacity of the SPF to strengthen security, and institutionalize partnership between the Somali police and community for sustainable law and security. The project is expected to commence in the upcoming months, with three core activities: community orientation engagements, training on community policing for the community police officers, as well as equipping police stations for delivering community policing initiatives.

This integrated approach and initiatives represent a significant step forward in the development of community policing in Mogadishu. With the support of UNSOM, UNDP, and ATMIS, the SPF is well-positioned to implement a sustainable and effective community policing program that will benefit all residents of Mogadishu and Banadiir.



UNSOM AND EUCAP SUPPORT SPF INSPECTION DIRECTORATE

The Somali Police Force (SPF) Inspection Directorate, a newly reestablished unit responsible for internal inspection and police oversight, is receiving support from UNSOM Police and EUCAP's legal reform team to develop its capacity and capabilities.

Internal inspection and police oversight are essential for promoting accountability and transparency within the police force. The SPF Inspection Directorate will help to ensure the police force operates in a fair and professional manner by investigating allegations of misconduct, corruption and monitoring the compliance of police officers with laws and regulations.

UNSOM and EUCAP are providing technical advice on the development of the SPF Inspection Directorate's internal policies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), terms of reference (TORs), and the identification of the training needs of the officers assigned to this department.



GALMUDUG STATE POLICE RECEIVES TWO NEW POLICE STATIONS



In September, two new police stations were handed over to Galmudug State Police in Galkayo and Dhusamareb. The construction of the police stations was financially supported by the Joint Police Programme (JPP), a collaborative international effort funded by the European Union, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

The handover of the new police stations is a significant milestone in the development of policing services in Galmudug State and the strengthening of security in Somalia. The new police stations will provide much-needed facilities for police officers to work from and to serve the community, including in populated areas of the State.

UNSOM POLICE AND HIRSHABELLE POLICE DISCUSS JOINT POLICE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION



In August, UNSOM police advisors met with senior police officers from Hirshabelle state to discuss the implementation of the Joint Police Programme (JPP).

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the current state of the police and the progress that has been made under the JPP. The discussion also focused on specific areas of development and the New Policing Model.

The meeting enhanced the knowledge of the officers on the JPP and better equipped them to continue discussions on the Design Steering Committee for the next phase of the program.



KISMAYO GBV ONE-STOP CENTER OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED

The Kismayo GBV One-Stop Center, which will provide comprehensive services to victims of gender-based violence, was officially inaugurated in August by the Gender Director in the Jubaland Ministry of Women, Family Affairs, and Human Rights, along with UNSOM Police and other international partners.

The center is a significant step forward in enhancing local capabilities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. The center will provide essential services to victims, including medical care, counseling, legal support, and referral services. It will also work to raise awareness of gender-based violence and to promote a culture of respect and equality for all.



SOMALILAND POLICE AND UNSOM POLICE STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP

In September, UNSOM Police met with the Somaliland Police Commissioner (SLPC) in Hargeisa to discuss ways to strengthen their partnership. Both sides expressed their commitment to working together to improve the capacity of the Somaliland Police and better serve the needs of the community.

The SLPC highlighted a number of areas where the Somaliland Police would benefit from assistance, including capacity building. UNSOM Police reaffirmed their commitment to providing strategic advice and international coordination, as well as capacity building and technical support.



PUNTLAND POLICE DEVELOPS GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY



Puntland State Police (PSP) has developed and approved a Gender Equality Strategy, with the assistance of the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and UNSOM Police. The Strategy was presented at a workshop in Garowe, Puntland, during August 2023. The workshop was attended by PSP, representatives of government ministries, and international organizations.

The Strategy aims to increase recruitment of more female police officers, promotion of women to leadership positions, promotion of gender equity, and equality within PSP.

This is a significant step for PSP and gender equality in Somalia. The implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy will help to create a more inclusive and effective police force that serves all members of the community equally.

UNSOM POLICE ORGANIZED SGBV RESPONSIVENESS WORKSHOP FOR HIRSHABELLE POLICE



In September, UNSOM Police organized a one-day workshop on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) responsiveness for Hirshabelle police officers. The seminar aimed to enhance the police's ability to handle SGBV cases sensitively and equip them with comprehensive knowledge of the response procedure.

Twenty-one Hirshabelle police officers and their leadership attended the seminar, along with representatives from UNSOM, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and other humanitarian organizations.

Experts on the role of the police in responding to SGBV, the issue of SGBV in IDP camps, and best practices for dealing with SGBV cases delivered presentations at the workshop. The Deputy Police Commissioners of the Somali Police Force and HirShabelle State Police also gave presentations on the significance of local ownership and the need for collaboration in improving the response to SGBV.

Group activities and a video program interview were also included in the activity to help participants develop a better understanding of the SGBV response process and the importance of delivering services in a sensitive and supportive manner.

As a result of the workshop, participants gained a deeper understanding of the SGBV response process and the importance of providing victims with compassionate and helpful services.

SOUTH WEST STATE POLICE BILL ENACTED BY PARLIAMENT



Advocacy and support was provided by UNSOM Police and UNDP to the South West State Ministry of Security in advancing the implementation of the New Policing Model, subsequently resulting in the enactment of the Southwest State Police Acts by parliament on 11 September 2023.

This new State legislation further contributes to the federalisation of security in Somalia by providing the governance framework for SWS, reinforcing the National Security Architecture. Police Acts now exist for Galmudug, HirShabelle, SWS and Somaliland with work continuing to finalise Police Acts in the remaining FMS and for the Federal Police.



The enacted Police Act will serve as future anchor of governance and will adhere with the new National Security Architecture as well as the modern principles of police service professionalism.