

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Somalia
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: SEMI-ANNUAL
YEAR OF REPORT: June 2020



Project Title: Prevention of child recruitment and community-based reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: please select 118131	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund	Type and name of recipient organizations: please select UN (UNICEF) please select
Name of Recipient Fund: UNICEF	
Date of first transfer: 15 October 2019 Project end date: 15 April 2021 Is the current project end date within 6 months? No	
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):	
Recipient Organization	Amount
UNICEF	\$ 2,000,000
	\$
	\$
	Total: \$ 2,000,000
Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 64%	
ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE	
Gender-responsive Budgeting:	
Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: 500,000	
Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: US\$ 376,000	
Project Gender Marker: GM2 Project Risk Marker: Medium Project PBF focus area: 1.2 DDR	

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: [UNICEF](#)

Project report approved by: Mr. Jeremy Shusterman

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

During the reporting period, October 2019 – May 2020, UNICEF and UNSOM worked with government line ministries (Ministry of Defense (MoD), Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and Ministry of Internal Security), as well as, International and National non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs) to carry out the interventions planned in this project. The project started as planned, as the selected partners have demonstrated before enough capacity to access areas and deliver reintegration programmes for Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFAG).

UNICEF and UNSOM child protection (CP) co-chaired six-monthly Country Taskforce on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) meetings except in March and April 2020 due to the COVID-19 disruption. The CTFMR reviewed and verified documented cases and those that lacked enough evidence were either recommended for additional details or completely rejected by the group. In March 2020, the CTFMR negotiated the release of nine children allegedly associated with Al Shabaab and transferred the children using a UN special flight from Hudur to a UNICEF supported centre for rehabilitation and subsequent reintegration.

The children and armed conflict (CAAC) working group also developed a road map intended to speed-up/accelerate the implementation of the two action plans signed with the United Nations in 2012 to end recruitment and use, as well as killing and maiming of children by the Somali security forces.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for CAAC, Ms. Virginia Gamba, visited Somalia on 27th – 30th October 2019. She signed the roadmap and launched, together with the Minister of Defense, the Peace Building Fund project supporting the prevention and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups.

The Group of Friends of CAAC was successfully revived with Denmark and UNICEF as the current co-chairs. Two meetings were held in January and April 2020, respectively.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000 character limit):

Graduation ceremonies will take place in Garowe, Dhusamareb, and Kismayo for children who are currently undergoing vocational skills training. Graduation activities are usually jointly organized by UNICEF implementing partners and government line ministries (Ministry of Défense, Ministry of Women and Human Rights). Also, the MoD will continue the screening of the Somali National Army and Police force to ensure children are not in their ranks.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to.** This is not

anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

The project is not within six months of completion

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

Farouk, a 17-year-old boy, born in the South West region, was abducted by Al Shabab in 2018 and made to fight alongside the armed group. His initial role with the armed group was a bodyguard to one of the commanders. “Training to be a fighter with Al Shabab is not easy; one has to be physically fit to survive the rigors.” He said it is more challenging for children whose body is not ready for such tasks. As days passed by, he realized the dangers he was being exposed to.

After spending over a year and a half with the group, he started planning his escape. He knew that his release would never be granted if requested except to escape on his own. He took his chance one morning when he was asked to buy groceries from the market.

After two days of trekking in the bush, he found his way back to his relatives, who referred him to a UNICEF partner operating in the area. Farouk’s first few weeks in the Interim Care Center (ICC) were apprehensive. “I was scared and didn’t trust anybody.” Psychosocial support activities in the ICC helped Farouk to deal with his emotions and as well benefited from learning vocational skills training in electrical installation and repair.

“I’ve learned a skill that will contribute positively to my community and, at the same time, help start a business to support myself and family’.

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- “On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.
- “On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: National and Regional Security Institutions have strengthened their capacity to prevent and respond to child recruitment

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

In January 2020, the Child Protection Unit (CPU) at the MoD raised awareness and conducted screening of military battalions at the General Gordon Training Centre (GDTC). Awareness messages were on the six grave violations and commander's order #1 issued in 2017. Two military battalions were screened with a total of 704 officers involved as follows – Battalion 83 (351 officers) and Battalion 84 (353), respectively.

In February 2020, the CPU in the MOD commemorated International Day Against the Use of child soldiers at its headquarters in Gaashaandhigga. The MoD organized the celebrations inside the Gaashaandhigga military base precisely to reach a large number of Somali National Army and other security forces and to highlight the importance of preventing and halting the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The event was well attended by more than 251 diverse child protection stakeholders, Ministry of Justice and Judicial Affairs, diplomatic dignitaries from Embassies, UN agencies, and International NGOs. Majority of the participants were from the different security forces of the Somali National Armed Forces and other Security Forces.

In March 2020, the MoD-CPU, with the support of UNICEF, carried out screening and awareness missions to two different sectors (sector 60- based in Barawe lower Shabelle-Southwest and sector 21, based in Dhusa-mareb, Galmudug). Three hundred military personnel were screened in both locations, with no minors identified.

Moreover, the CPU conducted training and awareness-raising in collaboration with SNA Human Rights Team at Turksom. The main topics covered during the sessions were human rights in Islam, international humanitarian law, the definition of child soldiers and roles, and the six grave violations. A total of 188 officers were trained.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000 character limit)

The CPU in the MOD targeted women in implementing activities, which included screening of forces, capacity building, and awareness-raising. Various training events were conducted in different areas to include the Safe Schools Declaration which Somalia endorsed in November 2015, a commitment to keep students, teachers and their schools free from the fear of violence and occupation during armed conflict. A total of 59 female officers benefited from the training provided by the CPU, MoD. Awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of recruitment also targeted women.

Outcome 2: Children formerly recruited and use by armed forces and groups successfully integrate in their community

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

With contributions from the Peace Building Fund, UNICEF enrolled 328 CAFAAG (260 boys and 68 girls) and 63 other vulnerable children (34 boys and 29 girls) into a UNICEF supported reintegration programme in Mogadishu, Dhusumareb, Baidoa, Kismayo, Jowhar and Garowe. Services provided include enrolment into formal school (below 14 years), vocational training (tailoring, plumbing, carpentry, etc.) for those above 15 years, and interim care, family tracing, and reunification. In the interim care centres, children were provided with support, including accommodation, meals, psychosocial support, medical care, and basic reading and numeracy skills.

From January – December 2019, the CTFMR verified 3,710 grave violations affecting 2,959 children (2,436 boys and 523 girls), some as young as one year old. These numbers represent

a 23 per cent decrease in the number of violations committed compared to the 4,798 grave violations that affected 4,880 children (4,100 boys and 780 girls) verified in 2018. The grave violations against children occurred in Middle Juba (703), Galgaduud (596), Bay (549), Mogadishu/Banadir (368), Lower Juba (310), Middle Shabelle (264), Bakool (221), Lower Shabelle (200), Gedo (198), Hiraan (135), Mudug (68), Nugal (42), Sool (40), Sanaag (seven), Bari (five), and Togdheer (four). The main perpetrators were Al-Shabaab (AS) (72 per cent or 2,671 violations).

During the same period, 1,495 boys and 53 girls - some as young as 8 years old - were recruited and used by perpetrators of the conflict. Al Shabaab (AS) remained the main perpetrator, although its recruitment of children has considerably reduced to 1,169 compared to 2,300 children in 2018. Other perpetrators included the SPF (100), SNA (74), clan militias (56), Puntland Forces (40), Galmudug Forces (30), Jubaland Forces (19), Galmudug Police (four), Westland army (two), and Jubaland Police (one).

Graduation ceremonies were held in Baidoa, Dhusumareb, and Garowe, respectively, for 200 children who had trained in various skills, such as, mobile phone repair, computer skills, electric installation and repair, and tailoring. Recreation activities were also provided within the time table schedule, including sports, art and craftwork, as well as beadwork.

Despite the effect of COVID-19, partners continue to operate the interim care centres (ICCs), providing protection services for children. Additional measures have been put in place limiting access to the ICCs for non-essential staff and visitors, conducting temperature checks, hand washing, and the use of sanitizers and face masks.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000 character limit)

Despite CAAFAG reintegration programmes most times dominated by boys, the programme nevertheless also paid special attention to the situation of girls and young women, as part of a community approach to preventing GBV and supporting those who have been harmed. The interventions included but not limited to girl-sensitive methods and approaches to screening girls formerly associated with armed forces and groups, their release and reintegration programmes. Girls accounted for about 20 per cent of the overall beneficiaries reached for the reporting period with tie-dyeing, beauty salon, and tailoring. The implementing partners supported survivors of GBV to have quality and confidential services to help them respond and recover from the physical, emotional, psychological, and social effects of gender-based violence.

Outcome 3: Community members have the capacity to prevent and respond to the recruitment use of children

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

Recognizing families and communities as key to the reintegration process, implementing partners during the reporting period worked closely with communities to better able support both the children returning home. During the reporting period, partners embarked on the “Act to Protect” campaign. Through this campaign, partners developed targeted messaging towards the community at large, the local authorities, and the parties to the conflict in Somalia to stop the recruitment and use of children in conflict and to support the release and reintegration of former child soldiers. The campaign underlined the primary obligation of the Government to

protect children and emphasized the provisions of the 2014 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) signed by the Government to that effect. Special attention was given to the needs of girls given their increased vulnerability to sexual violence during their association with armed forces and groups. Most families are unaware of the rights of children, and as such, some see no wrong in sending older children or adolescents to work in potentially harmful situations. Hence awareness-raising on the rights of the child, targeting parents, local authorities, and communities at larger, is an integral part of successful reintegration.

Partners made use of social media to creatively portray the journey of children who are forcefully recruited by parties to the conflict. For instance, a partner in Bay Region made use of Radio Baidoa (frequency 89.5 MHz) to raise awareness using three daily slots (9:00 AM, 3:55 PM, 5:00 PM).

Additionally, five training workshops on the prevention of recruitment and use of children were conducted for local authorities, educators, caregivers, and the business community in Baidoa, Dhusamareb, and Mogadishu.

Awareness teams also conducted hygiene education on COVID-19 for children and adults, focusing on proper handwashing and social distancing to prevent diseases.

The CPU at the MoD conducted awareness-raising on the prevention of child soldiers. Two of the most popular TV stations, namely, Somali National Television (SNTV) and Universal TV along with popular Radio stations in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Galmudug, as well as banners, stickers, fliers and social media (Twitter, Facebook) were used for the media outreach.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

(1000 character limit)

Partners made use of extensive community networks during the reporting period. These networks also included community-based grassroots structures such as youth and women groups, to ensure that, the program not only has a wide coverage but also maintain direct contact with its beneficiaries. The wide-ranging networks that the program embraced ensured partners can effectively draw upon comparative advantages, avoid duplication, and ultimately deliver faster and better services to the children who need them the most. 37 per cent of people reached with awareness messages, and training sessions were women.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p><u>Monitoring:</u> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p> <p>UNICEF maintained direct oversight over the implementation process with its staff visiting project location areas monthly. Equally, where access was possible, UNICEF staff and partners undertook direct joint monitoring, which included field visits. For inaccessible areas, independent third-party verification was engaged to monitor projects using standard tools with pre-set indicators. Both direct and third-party monitoring activities involved collecting direct feedback from beneficiaries. Monitoring involved, among others, regular site visits to the Interim Care Centers, accommodating children as well as to the vocational skills training centres. Information collected by UNICEF, partners, and communities during such joint monitoring visits and reviews was triangulated to validate achievements and identify gaps. UNICEF analyzed the data provided by each facility to ensure that project implementation went according to plan and that the best quality of services was provided.</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? Only outcome 2.</p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? No</p>						
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?</p> <p>An independent baseline evaluation was not conducted.</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required):</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit): N/A</p>						
<p><u>Catalytic effects (financial):</u> Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of funder:</td> <td>Amount:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Danish</td> <td>2,300,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIDA</td> <td>900,000</td> </tr> </table>	Name of funder:	Amount:	Danish	2,300,000	SIDA	900,000
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Danish	2,300,000						
SIDA	900,000						
<p><u>Other:</u> Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>Some of the prevention and awareness activities under Outcome 1 have been affected by COVID-19. As a result, some</p>						

	<p>adjustments are proposed, including a request to support seven Somali National Army child protection focal points in the regions with a laptop each and a regular stipend to cover internet costs to facilitate timely reporting. Since face-to-face awareness-raising among the Somali security forces is not possible during the Covid-19, some funds should be reallocated to the development of Information, Education and Communication materials to be disseminated through print and electronic media including radio, TV, leaflets, pamphlets, and posters.</p>
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PART IV: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Using the **Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments**- provide an update on the achievement of **key indicators** at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 National and Regional Security Institutions have strengthened their capacity to prevent and respond to child recruitment	Indicator 1.1 % decrease in child recruitment among national forces, local forces and clan-linked militias in the targeted of States of Galmudug, Jubaland, South West Hirshabelle	1500	60%		40%	The implementation of activities is going according to plan. However, the 40% decrease is not attributed to the PBF project as the CAAFAG reintegration is funded by multiple donors. About 20% can be attributed to the PBF.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 1.1 The three sectors of Somali Security Forces and Regional Forces in Three Sectors (Baidoa, Galmudug, and Kismayo) have measures in place to prevent child recruitment	Indicator 1.1.1 # of SNA rank and file members and regional forces rank and file members screened.	0	2000		1,192 (1,178 male + 14 female)	Same as above
	Indicator 1.1.2 # of clan elders and militia leaders screened and reached/sensitized	0	2000		1,192 (1,178 Male-14 Female)	Same as above
	Indicator 1.1.3 # of SNA senior officers, clan elders and militia leaders demonstrating knowledge and commitment on prevention of child recruitment and release of CAAFAG in their ranks	0	200		124 (98 Male-26 Female)	Same as above
Output 1.2 A total of 300 soldiers and members of security forces the regional forces and national levels are trained on the prevention of child recruitment	Indicator 1.2.1 # of security personnel trained	0	300		124 (98 Male-26 Female)	Same as above
	Indicator 1.2.2 # of children released and/or defecting separating from SNA, regional forces and AS	0	80%		281 (263 boys + 18 girls)	Same as above
	Indicator 1.2.3 # of regional security personnel demonstrating knowledge and commitment to the prevention of child recruitment and release of CAAFAG in their ranks	0	250		124 (98 Male-26F)	Same as above

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 2 Children formerly recruited and use by armed forces and groups successfully integrate in their community.	Indicator 2.1 # and % of children who are successful in school or have a marketable trade six months after their releases from armed forces and groups	0	500		328 CAFAAG (260 boys and 68 girls)	Same as above
Output 2.1 500 children (boys and girls) formerly associated with armed forces and groups are provided with appropriate interim care services List of activities	Indicator 2.1.1 # of children in interim care centers (boys and girls)	0	500		328 CAFAAG (260 boys and 68 girls)	Same as above
	Indicator 2.1.2 # of children are provided with comprehensive case management, including alternative care arrangements, tracing and reunification, life skills vocational training) and referral to other services	0	500		328 CAFAAG (260 boys and 68 girls)	Same as above
	Indicator 2.1.3 % of children in interim care centers/alternative care arrangement showing positive behavior change and outlook (e.g., through active/positive engagement in center activities, uptake of services, etc.)	0	80%		65%	Same as above

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 2.2 700 Children including 500 boys and girls formerly associated with armed forces and groups and 200 children at risk of child recruitment are provided with reintegration services	Indicator 2.2.1 # of children accessing vocational training skills (electricity, mechanic, mobile repair)	0	700		391 (273 boys + 118 girls)	Same as above
	Indicator 2.2.2 % of youth who accessed vocational training skills engaging or engaged in ongoing livelihood opportunity	0	80%		56%	Same as above
Output 2.3 The Standard Operating Procedure on Reception and Handover of Children Separated from armed groups in Somalia is followed	Indicator 2.3.1 # of children handed over to UNICEF, its partners or UN agencies within 72 hours	0	80%		281 (263 boys + 18 girls)	Same as above
Outcome 3 Community members have the capacity to prevent and respond to the recruitment use of children	Indicator 3.1 Community members, parents, youth, and caregivers of former CAAFAG/ vulnerable children from the community in target locations can prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.	0	6000		4,281 (3,211 male + 1,070 female)	Same as above

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 3.1 Community members, including community leaders as well as youth, are reached with training on child protection standards; engaged on issues related to child recruitment and training on the identification, referral and follow-up principles	Indicator 3.1.1 Number of affected people reached by messaging initiatives providing lifesaving information	0	6000		4,281 (3,211 male + 1,070 female)	Same as above
	Indicator 3.1.2 # and/or % of community leaders who demonstrate understanding and commitment to the prevention of child recruitment by armed groups and forces	0	400		266 (224 male + 42 female)	Same as above