



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY: SOMALIA**

**TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: FINAL REPORT-**

**YEAR OF REPORT: NOVEMBER 2021**

**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:** 00118131

**If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**

- Country Trust Fund
- Regional Trust Fund

**Name of Recipient Fund:** UNICEF

**Type and name of recipient organizations:**

- please select UN (Convening Agency)
- please select
- please select
- please select
- please select

**Date of first transfer:** 15 October 2019

**Project end date:** 10 October 2021

**Is the current project end date within 6 months?** Yes

**Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**

- Gender promotion initiative
- Youth promotion initiative
- Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
- 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: 99 per cent

\*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: US\$ 500,000

Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: US\$300,000

**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: [Joshua Kakaire](#)

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: please select [Yes. Fadumo Mumin, M&E Specialist](#)

### **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):*

Following challenges detailed to PBF management in respect of the partnership with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) which delayed project implementation significantly, new partnerships with the Somali National Army (SNA) and the Ministry of Internal Security (MoIS) have been established. These partnerships have been significant in increasing the number of children referred through to UNICEF supported child reintegration centres and paved the way for capacity support initiatives direct with rank and file soldiers and screening teams at the Federal Member State level as well as SNA Forward Operating Bases (FOB). However, and in spite of continued commitment to reducing grave child rights violations by government and government aligned forces, including strong commitments to implementing the 2014 Action Plan to end the recruitment and use of children in armed forces, grave child rights violations continue unabated. As recognised through the September meeting of the UNICEF co-chaired Ambassadorial Group of Friends of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC), Somalia is now the most dangerous conflict in the world for children. Aggregated figures for the past 5 years show that there have been more than 23,000 grave child rights violations; higher than any of the other 21 situations of armed conflict currently monitored through Security Council Resolution 1612 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism. While the project is successful in supporting those children that have evaded recruitment, escaped or been apprehended by government forces, and supports compliance with government action plans and standard operating procedures, these children represent a modest proportion of the number of children affected by armed conflict in Somalia. The majority of the 23,000 atrocities were committed by AS which, as a fighting force, remains beyond the reach and scope of this, and all, UNICEF programmes. An Ambassadorial statement from the September Group of Friends of CAAC meeting<sup>1</sup> highlights the magnitude of the problem. While this project can be considered successful within the scope developed in 2019, there is growing awareness within UNICEF and the broader UN donor community that programming which does not address the major perpetrator of grave child rights abuses in Somalia is, manifestly, insufficient.

PBF funding has strengthened national capacity to prevent and respond to child recruitment throughboosting implementation of the action plan to end child recruitment,with the set up of coordination forums and meaningful engagement with the SNA to facilitate smooth release of AS children captured at battle. The meaningful engagement with key government institutions, the security organs and civil society during the last two years underlines continuity and sustainability of activities. Community reintegration for CAAFAG was successful with only one report of recidivism. Elders, clan leaders and community leaders increased knowledge and understanding on child protection and prevention of recruitment which led to treatment of captured children as victims and an increase in referrals from community members to NGO partners.

*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):*

While this is the final report of this project, UNICEF is collaborating with IOM on an innovative youth reintegration project with a broadened scope that aims to provide alternative pathways for youth who are at risk of recruitment. This project aims to expand scope and reach of programming building on

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/press-releases/grave-child-rights-violations-somalia>

new insights that all children being raised in AS controlled territories are vulnerable to recruitment and forced conscription of children by AS now appears to be policy. This project aims to build a new model of engagement that can be tested and replicated in all FMS and major urban centres.

In addition to this initiative, there will be continued engagement with SNA and MoIS partners and the development of a UNICEF support community liaison programme that aims to increase pathways for the defection of children throughout FMS.

The project is also preparing for the endline evaluation. A TOR has been developed and reviewed by PBF and PBSO and awaits the sharing of the final version before initiating hiring processes.

*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. (1500character limit):*

Meetings with General Odawa, Commander of the Somali National Army, and key commanding officers in the SNA, as well as trainings for sector level commanders in Bay and Bakool, security agencies at the FMS level and at the national level and engagement with Puntland forces has brought structural shifts with the handling and treatment of children affected by armed conflict. Engagements at the operational level of the SNA and with MoIS screening teams has brought new confidence in the programme which has resulted in a steady flow of approximately 10 children per month being diverted through to UNICEF reintegration centres since mid-2021. Critically, these children have not undergone adult screening processes and confidence in the programme is sufficiently high that case workers have been entrusted with effective reintegration and rehabilitation of children with oversight and monitoring from govt social workers and administrators.

There is also a structural shift in understanding amongst military actors in Somalia that children recruited by AS should be considered child victims in association rather than perpetrators of abuse and, consequently, there has been a shift away from prosecution and persecution of children associated with AS, towards greater numbers of referred children. In Puntland the martial court has established a children's desk within its structures and following substantial advocacy from UNICEF and through our juvenile justice partnership with the Ministry of justice, will be applying the Puntland Juvenile Justice Act to the handling of children associated with AS, rather than the Anti-Terrorism Act. The structural shift is significant - children who previously have been sentenced to life imprisonment and death, will now have the opportunity to enter diversion programmes overseen by the MoJ, UNICEF and partners.

*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 people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000-character limit):*

The project has had an undeniably positive impact upon children. These are direct quotes from children who have found their way to UNICEF's reintegration centres through MoIS screening officers and SNA soldiers supported with this intervention:

Child 1 - *I was always thinking about trying to escape, because I thought a drone would kill me. I spoke about this with the other boys in the group. We were all scared. We wanted to escape. We were always looking for plan to try to get away. We were thinking that when we got rotated to protect the perimeter of the area, we would be able to escape. So I was waiting for this.*

Child 2 - *No-one could talk about what they really felt. If they found out that we wanted to leave, they would accuse us of being a spy, and maybe kill us. So we couldn't talk about it. One day, it was raining. Rain was pouring everywhere. AS soldiers had to shelter inside from the rain. Four of us just ran away from the base, at night-time, in the rain. We ran through the night. No one chased us.*

Child 3 - *One day, very early in the morning, we woke up and realised that we didn't see any guards in the morning. There were about 20 of us. We all ran away. We went in different*

*directions so they couldn't catch us. We ran towards where we knew the government soldiers were. It took one night and the next day. At the end of the next day, we found the government soldiers. They were at Saa Maja checkpoint. We told them we were coming from AS. We had heard that we wouldn't get in trouble from government soldiers if we surrendered, we would be okay.*

## **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)

Midway through this programme, responsibilities for co-delivery and government oversight of this programme were shifted from the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Internal Security following challenges in liquidation of PBF funds provided by UNICEF to the Ministry of Defence. The challenges led to significant difficulties in progress against the Ministry of Defence workplan and delivery of capacity support, training, screening and other activities planned in partnership with the Ministry of Defence. Reporting from the Ministry of Defence Child Protection Unit to UNICEF has also lapsed in the absence of a financial agreement. Despite this, the Child Protection Unit of the Ministry of Defence continues to programme and coordinate child protection related activities and we maintain positive relations with the Ministry of Defence and will continue discussions with the view of resolving existing challenges.

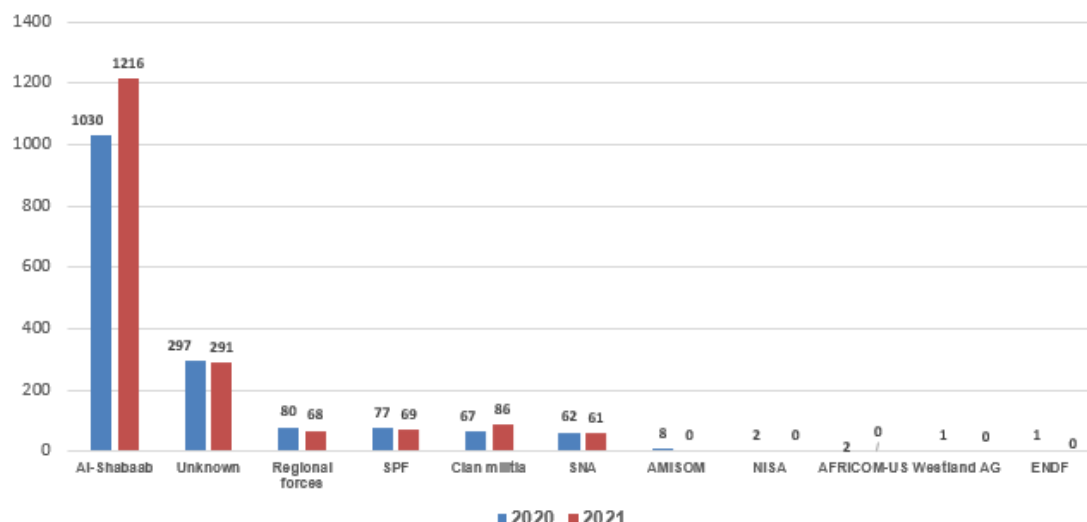
To ensure continued programme delivery, UNICEF has developed strong partnerships with the Somali National Army and with the Ministry of Internal Security. Over the course of the programme UNICEF engaged through formal and informal advocacy, trainings and mentorship. Significant energy and technical resources were applied to engaging with the Somali National Army and Ministry of Internal Security to establish new relationships and ensure leadership within these two organisations was supportive of internal reforms to improve child rights protections. These engagements have begun to bear fruit in the past 5 months where we have seen increased referrals of children through MoIS and SNA structures (47 children referred by SNA/MOIS since July) through the following capacity support activities:

- Co-convening with UK FCDO a workshop to explore mechanisms to improve coordination and reintegration impact in newly liberated areas including key donor counterparts and colleagues from stabilisation, PVE, DDR, human rights and CAAFAG programmers.
- 3 day training and workshop for 19 Sector Commanders of the Somali National Army and development of joint commitments to support implementation of 2017 Command Order to prevent recruitment of children in SNA and allied forces, the 2012 Action Plans to end killing and maiming and to end recruitment as well as to operationalise standard operating procedures on the handover of children.

- 5 day Training for 24 AMISOM and SNA officers on Child Protection and GBV including 2012 Action Plans and 2014 SOPs.  
<https://twitter.com/amisomsomalia/status/1460680960517758981?s=20>
- Training for 17 people working in screening units across FMS Ministries of Internal Security on child protection and GBV principles including 2012 Action Plans and SOPs.
- Installation of a child protection unit within the Puntland Martial court system to ensure application of juvenile justice.

The accumulated impact of UNICEF’s work with the government of Somalia on reducing grave rights violations against children through investments in the Somali National Army, policing and regional forcing units and with collaborating forces such as AMISOM, the UK Mission Support team and others is working. The following slide illustrates that violations committed by Govt continue to decrease, mostly due to commitment to implement the action plan and roadmap to end child recruitment, and killing and maiming of children. The major perpetrator of grave child rights violations is Al Shabab, followed by unknown (many of the unknown incidents are rape and sexual violence where perpetrator cannot be identified, but given the location and nature of the abuses, incidents are suspected to be by AS operatives). An increase in grave violations by AS is attributed to renewed military campaigns and lack of rule of law in regions controlled by the group.

**Grave Child Rights Violations Committed by perpetrator 2020 v 2021**



**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)**

Through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism we do monitor incidents of conflict related rape and sexual violence and provide substantial support to survivors. To bring down incidence of rape and sexual violence all training and capacity support initiatives include substantial support to build GBV response capacity and ensure that SNA, MoIS and other allied forces prevent rape and sexual violence within their own rank and file, and also support referrals of survivors to relevant service providers.

**Outcome 2: Children formerly recruited and used 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)**

Funding from PBF allowed UNICEF and its partners to support 861 (184 girls and 677 boys), including 213 children at risk of recruitment (111 girls and 102 boys) in 2020; and 451 children (392 boys and 59 girls) including 96 children at risk of recruitment (37 girls and 59 boys) in 2021 (to date). UNICEF and

partners maintain residential Interim Care Centres which host newly referred children and provide clinical, psychosocial, food and shelter services as well as initiate case plans and conduct identification and tracing services. Children are then integrated into the broader non-residential reintegration programme where younger children are supported to re-enter schools to attain basic education and older children are provided literacy, numeracy and vocational training services. Children stay in residential care for a minimum amount of time in order to ensure effective reintegration and to avoid normalisation of group based residential care. This programme, while broadly successful in 2020-21 and previous years, requires greater accountability and case management services to ensure the integrity of the programme in the coming years. In October 2021, the first case of recidivism was reported whereby a young man who had passed through the reintegration programme as a child was apprehended in Puntland after having been reengaged by AS. Whilst this is an isolated case (the only verified case of recidivism since the programme started in 2014), it has brought to light the need to professionalise case management services in the centres and ensure long term engagements and relationships with children as they move into the wider community. Most of the children maintain relationships with the centres and peer groups from the centres for upwards of 3 or 4 years after developing bonds with social workers, coaches and guardians as well as developing strong peer friendships through programmes offered at the centres. The ecosystem provided by the reintegration centres which includes ongoing recreational and PSS services is, in itself, a healthy and important aspect of the reintegration process.

To strengthen the accountability and integrity of the programme, UNICEF is strengthening case management and social work services through:

- a) ensuring centres recruit graduate social workers from the UNICEF supported Social Work university scholarships programme.
- b) Integrating e-based case management services to improve record keeping and documentation
- c) Supporting social workers within the Ministry of Internal Security, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Women, all of whom have a role to play in case management engagement and support post completion of vocational training and other support services.
- d) Supporting innovative and evidence based improvements in the quality of care and services provided at the centres.

Critically, however, the key challenge is enhancing the number of children who are able to access the centre. Figures reported through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism show that 9,533 children have been recruited and used by armed forces and groups in Somalia since 2016. The vast majority of these children spend the formative adolescent years of their life within AS structures. A small proportion of these children ever find their way to UNICEF's reintegration programme nor the adult rehabilitation programmes offered. In 2021 UNICEF has established a community liaison programme with the Ministry of Internal Security and child protection partners operating throughout the Federal Member States of Somalia. As this programme grows and develops, we aim to increase the number of children able to access effective reintegration services.

**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)**

Most CAAFAG children are boys, however, as reported above there are significant numbers of girls who are recruited by AS. For the most part, girls are not recruited to fight with AS. Girls are groomed to support AS in other ways and usually find their way in to AS through the AS Madrasa system. Many young girls become wives for AS soldiers, but some work as spies. With the exception of some bases in Jubaland (Kismayo region), most of these girls are never found on al-Shabaab bases, but live in towns, or also live with their parents while husbands are away. The reintegration programme provides gender sensitive programming for girls including separate interim care centres, GBV services, and vocational training, recreation and individualised case management and PSS services.

**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:** (3000character limit)

Community engagement work to prevent and respond to child recruitment issues has expanded in 2021 with thanks to PBF support. Over the life of this project, we have reached 13,972 people (8165 men and 5627 women). The programme has been successful in reaching targets and disseminating messages and key results have been in the destigmatisation of children formerly associated with AS demonstrated through successful reintegration and effective community based support upon completion of the UNICEF supported programme. Non-residential community based care of children has been strengthened through ongoing community engagement where a network of guardians and community based child protection mechanisms have been relied upon to facilitate transitions of children from our interim care centres back into the community. This aspect of the programme has been a resounding success and will be strengthened over future years.

However, the impact of non-targetted awareness raising and prevention messaging remains questionable. One key activity in 2020-21 has been the commissioning of research in to the drivers of child recruitment (research findings to be published in first quarter 2022). Through this research, former child combatants, parents, community members and key stakeholders in govt and CSOs as well as former adult defectors were interviewed to identify the push and pull factors related to child recruitment. The objective of the research was to provide insights that could improve prevention programming. The research identified many contributing factors to child recruitment at a personal and societal level, but the one overwhelming finding was that children living in AS controlled territories have little choice in the matter. Forced conscription of children appears to be AS policy and one of the key insights of the research was that AS appears to prefer recruiting children rather than adults for various reasons including children's pliability making them easier to indoctrinate and children are less demanding with respect to salaries and conditions. As a matter of policy, AS are targeting children rather than adults for recruitment. One key informant from the Somali National Army, responding to the challenge of parents dropping young boys at SNA Forward Operating Bases, stated 'parents have two choices for their boys if they live in AS territory, the child will have to fight for AS or fight for us, that is the dilemma they have'. A third option exercised by many families in Bay, Bakool and Jubaland, is to send children either unaccompanied or separated to major towns such as Baidoa, Kismayo or Mogadishu where they are vulnerable to other forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, deprivation and neglect.

Given this, UNICEF and partners have been convening a series of meetings to identify how or if more strategic prevention programmes can be established at the community level, including the high level meeting convened in partnership with the UK FCDO on programming for reintegration in newly recovered areas<sup>2</sup>. Over the course of 2021, several new prevention concepts have been identified and will be pursued in 2022:

- Expanded community liaison programme - working closely with key Child Protection partners and MRM grave child rights monitors who have access to and operate in AS controlled territory and newly liberated areas, we will consolidate structures for community liaison and negotiation. There are indications that if parents/communities have the will and funds to facilitate logistics for the escape of children, and if the parents have confidence and trust in the reintegration pathway (Interim Care Centres and Reintegration centres), and the children themselves wish to leave AS, then there is scope to significantly increase the number of children escaping. In 2021, we have been training and deploying community liaison workers who are operating anonymously working on the referral of children to reintegration centres in partnership with the MoIS, key CSO partners and UNICEF.
- Expanded public youth reintegration programme - feedback from govt at both the FMS and FGS level is that we need to create more public youth reintegration programmes whereby youth who are at risk of recruitment as well as those in conflict with the law and those who have fled AS (or been apprehended) can demonstrably acknowledge mistakes, take responsibility for their actions, and participate in a meaningful reintegration programme including vocational training (for livelihoods), MHPSS support for improved well being and to cultivate positive attitudes towards their

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<sup>2</sup> Workshop report available on request - for limited circulation.



community. The aim of this programme is to build a platform whereby youth and their parents can see alternative pathways for themselves and build a sense of hope and strengthen the social contract between FGS-FMS-community. Given the ‘instrumentalisation’ of youth in the war, young people grow up within a militarised atmosphere where role models are often older arms carrying soldiers. It is critical, to create a new model that will allow youth to imagine different futures.

**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)**

AS is, at its core, rooted in gender discriminatory views and practices. The gender inequities realised within AS do not contradict those found within Somali society and from within pastoralist and rural communities where children are frequently recruited. Within all public communication and awareness raising work to counter child recruitment and to support the reintegration of children, messages are blended with messages to prevent GBV, FGM and other harmful norms. Trainings for community members on prevention of recruitment are sensitive to the gendered threats faced by girls and boys which are different. All trainings with community members include GBV messaging and training on elimination of harmful practices.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

<p><b>Monitoring:</b> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit)          Quality assurance was constrained during the Covid 19 but programmatic visits by UNICEF staff have been resumed following loosening of travel restrictions and increased vaccination rates of UNICEF staff in early 2021.</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? <b>Yes</b>           Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? <b>Yes - Prevention of Child recruitment study [inception report available upon request]</b></p>
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?          An external evaluation has not been conducted. However, a series of programmatic reflections, multi-year analysis of MRM data and the researchers on drivers of recruitment study have precipitated strategic programmatic shifts. These shifts fundamentally relate to the impact of the programme upon individual participants (former CAAFAG children) as well as upon broader societal impacts (is the programme addressing root causes by preventing recruitment). This honest reflection process has culminated in several key findings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programme currently structured is not preventing child recruitment.</li> <li>2. While the quality of the programme is high - assessed through only 1 verified case of recidivism in more than 5 years and multiple stories of change from children who have graduated the programme - documentation of case mgmt. processes are insufficient to provide literal evidence of impact. Case mgmt. processes must be professionalised and strengthened.</li> <li>3. The programme does not sufficiently respond to latest research and thinking on adolescent development. There should be greater diversity of services to</li> </ol>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required):          If the project will end in the next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit):</p>

<p>support well being, peer to peer growth, skill development and guardianship.</p> <p>4. The programme is insufficiently recognised in the community and could benefit from greater awareness within govt, community and</p> <p>Essentially, the programme trajectory can be enhanced. Based on these reflections, we are in the process of creating strategic shifts catalysed through this existing programme. Shifts are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop of evidence based MHPSS model of support with individual case assessments that can aggregate impact on a personal level.</li> <li>2. Introduction of multiple and diverse activities.</li> <li>3. Development of youth accountability and decision support mechanisms.</li> <li>4. Enhanced case mgmt. processes/professionalisation</li> <li>5. Enhanced capacity support to MoIS.</li> <li>6. Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the programme at the community and govt level and greater support to prevention and diversion facilitation through community liaison officers.</li> </ol> <p>The project will be conducting an endline evaluation. TOR has been developed and shared with PBF and PBSO. The project will share the final version incorporating the comments for endorsement and subsequently shall initiate hiring processes.</p>							
<p><b>Catalytic effects (financial):</b> Indicate the name of the funding agent and the 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
Name of funder:	Amount:						
Danish	2,300,000						
SIDA	900,000						
<p><b>Other:</b> 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>There are positive results in strengthening linkages between the CAAFAG reintegration programme with the juvenile justice programme. By coalescing diversion approaches for children in conflict with the law with reintegration approaches for children formerly associated with AS and other armed groups, we can synergise the beneficial outcomes of both programmes. With growing awareness of principles within juvenile justice frameworks - restorative justice, non-penal sentencing, responsabilising perpetrators and building platforms for dialogues and de-stigmatisation of children in conflict with the law - we are able to qualitatively improve outcomes for children formerly associated with AS. Through application of UNICEF's global campaign to have children treated as children, not soldiers, we are also able to achieve more sympathetic judicial responses to children in conflict with the law as well as children formerly associate with AS. Reframing the approach to former AS children as being children who are victims of forced recruitment first, and perpetrators of conflict second, we are able to reframe their potential contribution to Somali society. The programme therefore counters widespread fear of these children perpetuated through normative dialogue of these children as 'terrorists' for which there is often no perceived solution.</p>						

	The long term outcome of this synergy is a more coherent and accountable juvenile justice system.
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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)

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b> 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 States of Galmudug, Jubaland, South West Hirshabelle	1500	60%	<b>2019 - 1495</b> <b>2020 - 1716</b> <b>2021 - 671*</b> <i>(first 6 months)</i>	-15%	Rather than decreasing child recruitment, during the programme period child recruitment had increased by 15% at the end of 2021 and figures would indicate that recruitment will be maintained at unacceptably high levels. Recruitment with government forces is maintained at approximately 25% of the overall figures.
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	Indicator 1.1.1 # of SNA rank and file members and regional forces rank and file members screened.	0	2000		2,880 SNA members (2,850 male and 30 female)	The Child Protection Unit functioned efficiently in 2020 by setting goals and work plans. In 2021 this partnership was suspended following spot check findings that flagged inconsistencies

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
prevent child recruitment						and gaps in the Ministry's of Defence financial system. New partnerships with the Ministry of Internal Security and Somali National Army will ensure continuity of activities moving forward. The MoD Child Protection unit continues screening without UNICEF support and SNA will initiate screening programmes in 2022, however, modalities for UNICEF support remain to be negotiated.
	Indicator 1.1.2 # of clan elders and militia leaders screened and reached/sensitized	0	2000		3116 (male)	The Child Protection Unit functioned efficiently during 2020 and achieved its target efficiently. In 2021, working through CSO and MoIS community liaison officers this work has been reinitiated in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021 with community discussions and campaigns in

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
						Jubaland and South West State.
	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	700 (400men 300 women)	1,722 SNA senior officers (1,393 men and 329 women), and 2,850 (male) clan elders and militia leaders.	This work was a key outcome of the CPU at the Ministry of Defence. Most of the results were achieved in 2020 prior to suspension of the partnerships. A new initial training of senior officers of the SNA from Bay and Bakool directly by UNICEF was conducted in Sept 2021, as a precursor to further training and support as well as establishment of child protection focal points within SNA to directly take forward this work.
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		1,003 military personnel (974 men and 29 women)	There were no new activities in 2021. This was an MoD CPU activity.
	Indicator 1.2.2 # of children released and/or defecting separating from SNA, regional forces and AS	NA	NA		2019 - 480 children (441 boys, 39 girls) 2020 - 416 children (387 boys and 29 girls)	Efforts to increase the number of children referred through to reintegration programmes are challenging, but as

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
					2021 - 355 children (321 boys, 24 girls) at time of writing	described above, are being restructured taking into account new insights on drivers of recruitment and contextual factors.
	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		693 security personnel (650 male and 43 female)	These activities were reported on at end of 2020 following suspension of the MoD CPU workplan.
<b>Outcome 2</b> Children formerly recruited and used 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 80%		879 children (703 boys, 176 girls) 67%	Higher numbers of children have been harder to place and new graduates will have gaps between graduation and finding placements.
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 centres (boys and girls)	0	500		2020 - 861 (184 girls and 677 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls and 102 boys) 2021 - 451 children (392 boys and 59 girls) to date - including 96 vulnerable children (37 girls and 59 boys)	We have vastly exceeded the target due to improvements in case management processes and strengthening of community/home based care systems. This has meant we can take children out of residential care and reintegrate them into homes much quicker

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
						than in previous years. Previously children were staying in our Interim Care Centres for upwards of 6 months, we are now having some children stay for days and weeks before tracing and reunifying them in homes where they are supported with case workers and are required to attend non-residential reintegration programmes on a daily basis. This mechanism is more cost effective and results in many more children being able to pass through the system.
	Indicator 2.1.2 # of children provided with comprehensive case management, including alternative care arrangements, tracing and reunification, life skills vocational training) and referral to other services	0	500		<b>2020</b> - 861 (184 girls and 677 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls and 102 boys) <b>2021</b> - 671 children (592 boys and 79 girls to date - including 320 children at risk of recruitment)	As above.



	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
	Indicator 2.1.3 % of children in interim care centres/alternative care arrangement showing positive behaviour change and outlook (e.g., through active/positive engagement in centre activities, uptake of services, etc.)	0	80%		2020 - 78% 2021 - not available.	Due to gaps in co-funding partnerships with another donor, we have had to delay technical support to case workers to build case assessment tools that would allow individualized impact assessments necessary for aggregation of positive behavior change. Partnership is expected to be reestablished in 2022 where technical support will be initiated to allow for collection on this data point.
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		842 Children (617 boys and 225 girls) including 201 children at risk (111 girls, 90 boys)	The No Cost Extension of the programme has led to increased numbers of children passing through the vocational training programme.
	Indicator 2.2.2 % of youth who accessed vocational training skills engaging or engaged in ongoing livelihood opportunity	0	80%		67%	This variance is due to higher numbers of children having passed through the vocational training programme and newly graduated - usually there is a lag between completing the

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
						programme and finding new opportunities.
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%		2020 - 80% 282 children (261 boys and 18 girls) 2021 - Information not available.	This information was previously provided by the CPU at the MoD and is not being provided following contract suspension. We are also reevaluating this indicator given anecdotal evidence provided by children at centres, that the 72 hour rule is not being followed in a systematic way. UNICEF intends to follow up more rigorously. The 72 hour rule is not being followed due to operational challenges in bringing children from deep inside AS territory to govt controlled towns, financial issues, lack of awareness of protocols of rank and file soldiers and other issues.
<b>Outcome 3</b> Community members have the capacity to prevent	Indicator 3.1 # of community members, parents, youth, and caregivers of former CAAFAG/ vulnerable children from the	0	6000		13,972 people (8165 men and 5627 women)	Due to the contract extension standard activities have been extended through CSO

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Oct2021</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
	and respond to the recruitment use of children	community in target locations can prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.				and MoIS engagement. These activities continue with minimal funding support which accounts for the over achievement.
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		13,972 people (8165 men and 5627 women)	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		700 people (400 men and 300 women)	This activity was reported by CPU in 2020, but there has been no reporting in 2021. Community leaders are engaged in prevention of child recruitment campaigns at grassroots level. There is an increase in referrals to NGO partners when CAAFAG are identified demonstrating an understanding that children are victims and not criminals.