****

**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** Somalia

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual, annual OR FINAL:** Semi-Annual

**YEAR of report:** November 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:**  **118131** | |
| **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:**  **UN (Convening Agency)** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 15 October 2019  **Project end date:** 15 April 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: 98%  \*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: 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: Peter Nordstrom, PBF Coordinator  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes. Peter Nordstrom, PBF Coordinator, 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):*

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the overall humanitarian response in Somalia, the project targets and results remained on track. At least 70 per cent of the set targets have been achieved. Grave child rights violations continued to be monitored, from which a trend analysis was developed. During this reporting period, January – November 2020, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) registered a 35 per cent increase in Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases, especially child rape compared to the same period last year. Child recruitment remained high, with 70 per cent of new cases being as a result of encouragement by family members and clan leaders. The Child Protection Unit (CPU) within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Defectors Rehabilitation Programme (DRP) continued to play a pivotal role in the release of children by armed groups and forces, releasing children to civilian authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within 72hours

Screening of the Somalia National Army (SNA) and regional forces remained a key component of this programme, which incorporates awareness-raising and child protection training. An estimated 80 per cent of local authorities, clan leaders and members of the SNA now know how child recruitment and other grave child rights violations can be prevented in Somalia. Interim Care Centres (ICCs) run by trained social workers provided access to safe shelter and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), career guidance, family tracing, and reunification through case management, access to medical care, and education.

Children’s social and economic reintegration needs have been addressed through career guidance by social workers leading to placement in either vocational training centres or formal education. At least 75 per cent of children released and supported through the ICCs are engaged in livelihood opportunities.

Coordination of children associated with armed conflict (CAAC) activities in Somalia was assumed by the CTFMR, co-chaired by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and UNICEF. The CTFMR is mandated to track and follow-up on the action plan to stop the use and recruitment of children by armed groups and forces and to conduct high-level advocacy, and flag trends in grave violations. The CTFMR held its quarterly coordination meeting and noted delays in implementation of the government work plan to end the use of children by armed groups and the road map signed by the MoD. A technical working group consisting of UNICEF, MOD, UNSOM, and DRP was set up to accelerate implementation.

*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):*

* Key partners implementing the Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFAG) reintegration component have agreed to adapt new screening and verification processes for children released by AS which requires that children are handed over to civilian authorities and UNICEF within the first 72 hrs and are considered as victims rather than perpetrators. Endorsement of the screening/assessment procedures will take place in November 2020. When adapted children will be accompanied by a trained social worker during security interrogation by intelligence officers.

*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):*

Funding from the Peace Building Fund (PBF) has strengthened the Federal Government's capacity to lead and coordinate the response and prevention of child recruitment in Somalia. The MoD has institutionalized the CPU with a special mandate dedicated to CAAFAG activities such as prevention of recruitment, screening/assessment of armed forces to identify children, and training military personnel on child rights and protection. The DRP set up to support adult defectors has adapted child-friendly release and handover procedures reflective of children as innocent victims of AS recruitment.

*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):*

On 1st March 2020, local authorities in Hudur, after lengthy negotiation by the CTFMR, handed over to UNICEF nine children who had been intercepted as Al-Shabaab (AS) was moving them from one camp to another. UNSOM arranged a special flight to transfer the children from Hudur to Baidoa and handed them over to a UNICEF partner for reintegration support. The children expressed relief that they would eventually reunite with their 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)*

During the reporting period, the MoD increased its capacity to coordinate CAAFAG activities. Funding from the PBF allowed UNICEF and UNSOM to provide technical support to the MoD, resulting in better coordination of CAAC activities. The CPU of the MoD remained at the forefront of the coordination, prevention of child recruitment, and screening of government forces and Militia. The CPU led the prevention of recruitment awareness and participated in the screening of 2,285 men from the Somalia Defence Force (SDF) from military battalions in Barawe-Lower Shabelle, Southwest State, and Sector 21 in Dhusumareb, Galmudug State. Awareness sessions covered the six grave violations (Recruitment of children, killing and maiming, abduction, sexual exploitation and rape, attacks on schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access) against children, and Command Order #1 issued in 2017 on the prevention of recruitment. No children were identified during the screening process.

**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 196 female officers benefited from the training and awareness raising sessions on prevention of recruitment provided by the CPU, MoD. Awareness-raising sessions on the prevention of recruitment also targeted women.

**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 the PBF allowed UNICEF and its partners to provide support to 860 CAAFAG (184 girls, 676 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls,102 boys) through ICCs in Baidoa, Kismayo, Jowhar, and Mogadishu. In the ICCs, children received safe accommodation, meals, psychosocial support, medical care, and basic reading and numeracy skills. A total of 684 children (500 boys, 184 girls) - including 186 children at risk of recruitment (111 girls, 75 boys) benefitted from reintegration services, including vocational training such as tailoring, electrical wiring, plumbing, and carpentry. Children below 14 years were referred to formal education.

During this period, the CTFMR verified the recruitment of 532 children (12 girls, 520 boys), some as young as 10 years old. This represents a sharp increase of 175 per cent when compared to the last reporting period. Al Shabaab remained the highest recruiter of children, with 88 per cent of the cases reported attributed to them. Access to AS held territory to conduct prevention of child recruitment is still problematic and dangerous, which leaves most children at risk of recruitment and therefore miss out on education.

Despite the negative impact of COVID-19, partners continued to operate the ICCs while following COVID-19 precautionary measures such as; conducting temperature checks, hand washing, use of sanitizers, face masks, and social distancing.

**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 being dominated by boys, the programme paid special attention to the situation of girls and young women, as part of a community approach to preventing GBV and support those who have been harmed. The special needs of adolescent girl survivors of violence were considered through gender sensitive MHPSS services in the ICCs and vocational centres. Other interventions that factored in gender equality and women empowerment included the eligibility criteria and screening procedures for inclusion in the release and reintegration programmes. During the reporting period, girls accounted for approximately 21 per cent of children accessing vocational training, benefitting from tie-dyeing, beauty salon, and tailoring skills. 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 GBV.

**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)*

During this reporting period, funding from PBF allowed UNICEF and its partners to conduct awareness-raising campaigns in the Bay region, Kismayo, Baidoa using social media, radio, and TV messages. A total of 7,500 people (4,000 male and 3,500 female) were reached with messages on preventing and responding to child recruitment in the community. As key members of the community, military personnel, social workers, and local leaders were among the beneficiaries of the awareness raising sessions. The sessions are believed to have increased people's capacity to prevent child recruitment within their communities and overall knowledge on child rights and protection. The campaign shed light on the action plan and road map to accelerate its implementation and the 2014 standard operational procedures (SOP) signed by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS).

The CPU under the MoD remained a key player in the sensitization and awareness-raising activities given their access to military facilities and possession of knowledge on child recruitment. The Unit organized eight training workshops on the prevention of recruitment and use of children, targeting local authorities, educators, caregivers, and the business community in Baidoa, Dhusumareb, and Mogadishu. The CPU was at the forefront of two of the most popular TV stations, namely, Somali National Television (SNTV) and Universal TV, along with popular Radio programmes in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Galmudug. Banners, stickers, flyers, and social media (Twitter, Facebook) were also used during the campaigns

Child protection awareness focused on GBV, prevention of family separation, referral mechanisms, and negative coping mechanisms, and social norms. Hygiene education on COVID-19 for children and adults was also delivered, focusing on proper handwashing and social distancing.

**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 include community-based grassroots structures such as youth and women groups, which ensured that the programme has wide coverage and maintains direct contact with its beneficiaries. These networks would also ensure that partners can effectively draw upon comparative advantages, avoid duplication, and ultimately deliver faster and better services to the most vulnerable children. At least 47 per cent of people reached with awareness messages and training sessions were women.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit)  Quality assurance was conducted through field visits by project officers to the project sites. COVID-19 precautionary measures affected field visits. Virtual meetings and quarterly reviews also offered critical project monitoring opportunities during the COVID-19 | Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes  Has the project launched perception surveys or other com munity-based data collection? No |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  No | Evaluation budget (response required):  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. | Name of funder: Amount:  Danish 2,300,000  SIDA 900,000 |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | Project implementation was slowed down by COVID-19 precautionary measures. However, partners adapted new methods such as virtual meetings, social distancing, and use of masks to ensure continuity of activities. |

**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**  **Jan2019 – Nov2020** | **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% |  | 50% | Parents leaving in AS controlled territory have fought back by opting to move children to safer communities |
| 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 filemembers and regional forces rank and file members screened. | 1192 | 2000 |  | 2,285 (2,250 male,35 female) | The CPU has been functioning more efficiently by setting goals and workplans |
| Indicator 1.1.2  # of clan elders and militia leaders screened and reached/sensitized | 60 | 2000 |  | 2,285 (2250 male, 35 female) | The CPU has been functioning more efficiently by setting goals and workplans |
| 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 | 124 | 200 |  | SNA Senior Officers 700 (560 men 140 women)  Clan elders and Militia leaders 1630 (All men) | The variance is attributed to an efficient children’s unit within MoD |
| 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 | 124 | 300 |  | 930 military personnel (734 men 196 women) |  |
| Indicator 1.2.2  # of children released and/or defecting separating from SNA, regional forces and AS | 281 | 80% |  | 415 (386 boys, 29 girls) |  |
| 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 | 124 | 250 |  | 620 (490 men, 130 women) |  |
| **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 | 328 | 500  75% |  | 75% or 513 |  |
| Output 2.1  500 children (boys and girls) formerly associated with armed forces andgroups are provided with appropriate interim care services  List of activities | Indicator 2.1.1  # of children in interim care centers (boys and girls) | 328 | 500 |  | 860 (184 girls, 676 boys) including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls,102 boys) | Insurgency in CSZ led to some parents preferring their children stay longer in ICCs for safety reasons. |
| 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 | 328 | 500 |  | 860 (184 girls, 676 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls,102 boys) | Some children required longer stay periods in the ICC because of insecurity in their communities. |
| 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.) | 65% | 80% |  | 78% |  |
| 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**)** | 391 | 700 |  | 684 children (500 boys, 184 girls)- including 186 children at risk (111 girls, 75 boys)- |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2  % of youth who accessed vocational training skills engaging or engaged in ongoing livelihood opportunity | 56% | 80% |  | 75% |  |
| 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 handedover to UNICEF, its partners or UN agencies within 72 hours | 281 | 80% |  | 281 (263 boys 18 girls) |  |
| **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 thecommunity in target locations can prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. | 4281 | 6000 |  | 7,500 (4,000 male, 3,500 female) |  |
| Output 3.1  Community members, including community leaders as well as youth, are reached with training on child protection standards; engaged onissues 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 | 4281 | 6000 |  | 7,500 (4,000 male, 3,500 female) |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2  # and/or % of community leaders who demonstrate understanding and commitmentto the prevention ofchildrecruitment by armed groups and forces | 266 | 400 |  | 700 (400 men, 300 women) |  |