PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT COUNTRY: SOMALIA

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

ANNUAL

YEAR OF REPORT: JUNE 2021



· ·	ent and community-based reintegration of children formerly					
associated with armed forces and groups						
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:	please select 00118131					
If funding is disbursed into a national or	Type and name of recipient organizations:					
regional trust fund:						
Country Trust Fund	please select UN (Convening Agency)					
Regional Trust Fund	please select					
	please select					
Name of Recipient Fund: UNICEF	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 mo	onths? Yes					
Check if the project falls under one or mor	e PBF priority windows:					
Gender promotion initiative	•					
Youth promotion initiative						
Transition from UN or regional peacekeep	ping or special political missions					
Cross-border or regional project						
Total PBF approved project budget (by rec	cipient organization):					
Recipient Organization Amount						
r r						
UNICEF \$ 2,000,0	000					
Total: \$ 2,000,0						
Approximate implementation rate as percenta						
ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE						
Gender-responsive Budgeting:						
	ment 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						
1						
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: Emma Grylle						
	adumo Mumin, M&E Specialist and Maurits Rade, Conflict					
Analysis Officer	addino Munini, M&E Specialist and Maurits Rade, Connec					
Alialysis Ullicti						

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, 95 per cent of set targets were achieved. Grave child rights violations continued to be monitored, and trends analysis developed. During the implementation period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) regretably 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 a result of encouragement by family members and clan leaders. The Child Protection Unit within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Defectors Rehabilitation Program (DRP) played a critical role in the release of children by armed groups and forces, to civilian authorities and non-governmental organizations within the standard agreed time period of 72 hours.

Coordination of children and armed conflict (CAAC) activities in Somalia was assumed by the CTFMR and 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 2014 Action Plan to stop the use and recruitment of children by armed groups and forces, conduct high-level advocacy and flag trends in grave violation. The CTFMR held its quarterly coordination meeting and noted delays in implementing the government work plan to end the use of children by armed groups and the road map signed by MOD. As a result, a technical working group consisting of UNICEF, MOD, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (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):

UNICEF, Ministry of Internal Security (MOIS), Adam Smith International (ASI) and MOD will
conduct a dissemination workshop in July 2021 to ensure compliance of the new screening and
verification processes for child defectors and finalized guidelines adapted by the partners
implementing Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFAG) reintegration
activities.

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):

The Federal Government of Somalia has demonstrated commitment to the 2014 Action Plan to end child recruitment and use, killing and maiming by leading and coordinating a roadmap to accelerate its implementation. Funding from PBF has contributed to the streamlining of military screening and age verification of children, with clear screening and age assessment guidelines of child defectors. The MOD and MOISfocal points are empowered to protect children defecting from Al Shabaab and understand children's needs from a rights-based perspective rather than a security one. Key government focal points now understand Al Shabaab child defectors as victims of violations as opposed to criminals. This is reflected by the MOD, MOIS, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Ministry of Women and Human Rights (MOWHR) endorsement of guidelines for the individual assessment/screening of child defectors from Al Shabaab that emphasis the release of children UNICEF with 72 hours. Social workers developed the

knowledge and skills to build a meaningful and therapeutic relationship with disassociated children, leading to improved quality of life for the children and their families. Communities have incorporated the prevention of child recruitment in awareness-raising initiatives. They know where and whom to report to if children are at risk of recruitment and other grave child rights violations. The project has strengthened the federal government's capacity to prevent child recruitment while building on community initiatives where clan elders and militia groups are active players.

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):

On 1 March 2020, after lengthy negotiation by the CTFMR, local authorities in Hudur handed over nine children who had been intercepted as Al-Shabaab moved them from one camp to another to UNICEF. 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 be reunited with their family.

According to the 2014 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Reception and Handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia on 31 March 2021, a 17-year-old boy formerly associated with Al Shabaab surrendered to the SNA in Jalalaqsi was handed over by National Intelligence and Security Agency's Defectors Rehabilitation Program to the UN. As a result, the boy was transferred by the United Nations to Mogadishu and is benefitting from the reintegration program.

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, December 2020 – April 2021, the Ministry of Defence increased its capacity to coordinate CAAFAG activities. The PBF funding enabled UNICEF and UNSOM to provide technical support to the Ministry of Defence, resulting in better coordination of activities through the CAAC working group.

Screening of Somalia National Army (SNA) and regional forces remained a vital component of this programme and incorporated awareness-raising and child protection trainings. The Child Protection Unit at the Ministry of Defence remained at the forefront of coordination, preventing child recruitment and screening of government forces and militia. The Unit screened 2,885 men in the Somali Armed Forces from military battalions in Barawe-Lower Shabelle, Southwest State, the TURKSOM military

base, and Sector 21 Dhusumareb, Galmudug State. No children were identified during the screening process.

In 2021, UNSOM Human Rights Protection Group (HRPG), in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence Child Protection Unit, delivered virtual training to SNA and specialized security units, benefitting 30 staff (12 women and 18 men). By the end of the training, officers demonstrated expertise and a solid understanding of child protection issues and an improved understanding of child defectors' release and reintegration ethos.

The project benefitted from the technical support of the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative and the Dalhousie University, in which a guide handbook on six grave violations was produced and distributed to more the 400 SNA officers (all men). The distribution started in mid-2020 and is continues. The pocketbook covers how military personnel can interact with children, the legal obligations for Somali Armed Forces and zero tolerance for violations committed against children. As a result, an estimated 80 per cent of local authorities, clan leaders and members of the SNA now know how to prevent child recruitment and other grave child rights violations.

The Interim Care Centres (ICC), run by trained social workers, provided access to safe shelter and opportunities to receive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, career guidance, family tracing, and reunification through case management medical care and access to education. ICCs were vital spaces for children and social workers to build meaningful relationships that support full community reintegration. To better support dissociation from armed groups and elicit a steady recovery from life-threatening shocks that impact MHPSS wellbeing, UNICEF continued its support for six master trainers (three women) on the science of mindfulness and the brain's neurological functions so that they can cascade skills to different service points. This approach, once fully established, will allow UNICEF to track the impact of its MHPSS services on dissociated children and build evidence on the value-added of comprehensive reintegration programmes. Children's social and economic reintegration needs have been addressed through career guidance by social workers, leading to vocational or formal education. As a result, 75 per cent of children released and supported through the ICCs are now engaged in livelihood opportunities.

In 2021, allegations of financial impropriety led to the suspension of UNICEF's partnership with the Ministry of Defence. However, discussions are currently at an advanced stage to set up a new partnership with the Ministry of Internal Security to fill the gap and ensure screening and training of military institutions continues.

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)

In Somalia, the patriarchal system engraved in the clan system negatively impacts women and girls' decision-making. This project targeted female officers and adolescent girls, ensuring gender equity during training sessions and reintegration activities such as vocational training and MHPSS. Reintegration activities were tailored to meet the special needs of girls by ensuring girls have female social workers attached to them and vocational training options are gender sensitive.

<u>Outcome 2:</u> 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 children (184 girls and 677 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls and 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 685 children (501 boys and 184 girls)including 186 children at risk (111 girls and 75 boys) benefitted from reintegration services, including vocational training such as tailoring, electrical wiring, plumbing and carpentry. In addition, children below 14 years were referred to formal education. Children's assessments at the ICCs portrayed a high degree of indoctrination, calling for urgent focus on MHPSS. In partnership with a local nongovernmental organization, the Elman foundation, Waves for Change (an international nongovernmental organization) was contracted to pioneer specialized training for social workers on mindfulness and wellbeing using behavioural and neurological science to support children in developing a sense of normalcy regain their lost childhood. The first cohort of 59 children (all boys) and six master coaches used child-friendly social activities such as surfing, basketball, and football as an entry point to self-awareness and mindfulness. An assessment of the impact of the training reported that children demonstrated positive social behaviour such as teamwork, self-awareness, self-control, improved stress management and problem-solving. The technique empowered master trainers to build a meaningful therapeutic relationship with children who have experienced traumatic events. In 2021, UNICEF and Elman foundation will expand this initiative to other ICC to improve MHPSS interventions, trigger meaningful changes in children's lives, and reduce the risk of re-recruitment.

During this period, the CTFMR verified the recruitment of 533 children (12 girls and 521 boys), some as young as 10 years old. This number represents a sharp increase of 175 per cent when compared to the last reporting period. An increase in military offensive by AMISOM and SDF resulted in huge military loses within the AS rank and file prompting a nationwide recruitment campaign in which children were coerced or forced to join the armed group. Al Shabaab remained the highest recruiter of children, with 88 per cent of the cases reported attributed to them. However, access to Al Shabaab held territory to prevent child recruitment remained problematic and dangerous, leaving most children at risk of recruitment and missing out on education.

Despite the negative impact of COVID-19, partners continued to operate ICCs while following COVID-19 precautionary measures such as conducting temperature checks, hand washing, use of sanitisers, 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 are 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 ICCs and vocational centres. Other interventions that took into account gender equality and women empowerment included the eligibility criteria and screening procedures for inclusion in release and reintegration programmes. Girls accounted for approximately 21 per cent of children accessing vocational training during implementation and benefitted from tie-dyeing, beauty salon and tailoring. In addition, 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: (3000character limit)

During this reporting period, funding from PBF allowed UNICEF and its partners to conduct awareness-raising campaigns in the Bay region, Kismayo, and Baidoa using social media, radio and television messages. As a result, a total of 9,865 people (5,657 men and 4,208 women) were reached with messages on preventing and responding to child recruitment in the community. As key community members, military personnel, social workers and local leaders were among the beneficiaries of the

awareness-raising sessions. The sessions increased the knowledge and capacity of people to prevent and report child recruitment in their communities and make timely referrals to support children in need. In addition, the campaign shed light on the action plan and road map to accelerate its implementation and the 2014 Standard Operating Procedure on Reception and Handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia signed by the Federal Government of Somalia.

Under the Ministry of Defence, the Child Protection Unit remained a crucial player in the sensitization and awareness-raising, given their access to military facilities and possession of knowledge on child recruitment. In 2020, the unit organized eight training workshops on preventing recruitment and use of children targeting local authorities, educators, caregivers and the business community in Baidoa, Dhusumareb and Mogadishu. In addition, the Child Protection Unit was at the forefront of two popular television stations, namely, Somali National Television (SNTV) and Universal TV, along with popular radio programmes in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Galmudug. Banners, stickers, fliers and social media (Twitter and Facebook) were also used during the campaigns. However, allegations of financial inconsistencies within the Ministry resulted in the suspension of the partnership in 2021.

Child protection awareness covered other broad child protection issues such as prevention of GBV, child marriage, female genital mutilation, family separation, referral mechanisms and harmful coping mechanisms and social norms. In addition, 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, ensuring that the program has comprehensive coverage and maintains direct contact with its beneficiaries. The wide-ranging networks that the program embraced ensured partners can effectively draw upon each other's 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 are women.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities	Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes			
undertaken in the reporting period (1000-				
character limit)	Has the project launched perception surveys or other			
Quality assurance was conducted through	community-based data collection? No			
field visits by project officer at project sights.				
Meetings and quarterly reviews also offered				
critical project monitoring opportunities				
Evaluation: Has an evaluation been	Evaluation budget (response required):			
conducted during the reporting period?	Endline Evaluation – US\$80,000			
No	If the project will end in the next six months, describe			
	the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit):			
	The Terms of Reference for the Endline Evaluation is			
	under development and will be shared for review.			
Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate the	Name of funder: Amount:			
name of the funding agent and the amount of	Danish 2,300,000			
additional non-PBF funding support that has				
been leveraged by the project.	SIDA 900,000			
Other: Are there any other issues concerning	There are positive results in strengthening linkages			
project implementation that you want to	between the CAAFAG reintegration programme with			

share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)

theUNICEF juvenile justice programme. This allows us to concentrate capacity support efforts on a cadre of social workers and policymakers that see any child in conflict with the law as having a similar set of needs as a child who has been associating with armed forces and groups.

By having this caseload of children handled according to legislation aimed to promote restorative justice through effective diversion procedures, UNICEF can engage with civilian ministries such as the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Women Human Rights and Development. Removing the duty of care from the Ministries of Defence and Internal Security who approach such issues from a militarised/security perspective to ministries that approach the children from a human rights and justice perspective means that capacity can be focussed on achieving the best interests of the child. Rather than treating the children as a threat to security, they are treated as individuals who can be supported and live a socially harmonious life.

The need to develop, enact and implement human rights-based legislation that prioritises restorative justice approaches and that is harmonised with Somali traditional Xeer law is fundamental to ensuring the rights of former CAAFAG and empowering a peaceful and prosperous Somalia

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 – Apr2021	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 clanlinked militias in the targeted States of Galmudug, Jubaland, South West Hirshabelle	1500	60%		50%	Parents living in the Al Shabaab controlled territory have fought back against AS child recruitment campaigns 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 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 and gaps in Ministry's of Defence financial system. No further progress was made under this indicator. However, a new partnership with the Ministry of Internal

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Apr2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
						Security (MOIS) and SNA once finalised will ensure continuity of this activity.
	Indicator 1.1.2 # of clan elders and militia leaders screened and reached/sensitized	0	2000		2,850 (male)	The Child Protection Unit has been functioning more efficiently by setting goals and work plans
	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)	1,703 SNA senior officers (1,374 men and 329 women), and 2850 (male) clan elders and militia leaders.	The variance is attributed to an efficient children's Unit within the Ministry of Defence. In 2021 this partnership was suspended following spot check findings that flagged inconsistencies and gaps in Ministry's of Defence financial system. No further progress was registered under this indicator
Output 1.2 A total of 300 soldiers and members of security	Indicator 1.2.1 # of security personnel trained	0	300		1,003 military personnel (974 men and 29 women)	In 2021 activities were suspended due to allegations of financial impropriety
forces, the regional forces and national levels are trained on	Indicator 1.2.2 # of children released and/or defecting separating from SNA, regional forces and AS	0	80%		80% 416 children (387 boys and 29 girls)	In 2021 activities were suspended due to allegations of financial impropriety

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Apr2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
the prevention of child recruitment	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)	In 2021 activities were suspended due to allegations of financial impropriety
Outcome 2 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		75% 375 children (279 boys, 96 girls0	
Output 2.1 500 children (boys and girls) formerly associated with armed forces and	Indicator 2.1.1 # of children in interim care centres (boys and girls)	0	500		861 (184 girls and 677 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls and 102 boys)	Insurgency in CSZ led to some parents preferring their children to stay longer in ICCs for safety reasons.
groups are provided with appropriate interim care services List of activities	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		861 (184 girls and 677 boys), including 213 vulnerable children (111 girls and 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 centres/alternative care arrangement showing positive behaviour change and outlook (e.g., through active/positive	0	80%		78%	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Apr2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	engagement in centre activities, uptake of services, etc.)					
Output 2.2 700 Children, including 500 boys	Indicator 2.2.1 # of children accessing vocational training skills (electricity, mechanic, mobile repair)	0	700		685 Children (501 boys and 184 girls)- including 186 children at risk (111 girls, 75 boys)-	
and girls formerly associated with armed forces and groups and 200 children at risk of child recruitment, are provided with reintegration services	Indicator 2.2.2 % of youth who accessed vocational training skills engaging or engaged in ongoing livelihood opportunity	0	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 handed over to UNICEF, its partners or UN agencies within 72 hours	0	80%		80% 282 children (261 boys and 18 girls)	
Outcome 3 Community members have the capacity to prevent and respond to the	Indicator 3.1 # of community members, parents, youth, and caregivers of former CAAFAG/ vulnerable children from the community in target locations can	0	6000		9,865 people (5,657 men and 4,208 women)	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress Jan2019 – Apr2021	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
recruitment use of	prevent the recruitment and use of					
children	children in armed conflict.					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1	0	6000		9,865 people (5,657 men	
Community	Number of affected people reached by				and 4,208 women)	
members, including	messaging initiatives providing					
community leaders	lifesaving information					
as well as youth, are	Indicator 3.1.2	0	400		700 (400 men and 300	
reached with	# and/or % of community leaders who				women)	
training on child	demonstrate understanding and					
protection standards;	commitment to the prevention of child					
engaged on issues	recruitment by armed groups and forces					
related to child	, , ,					
recruitment and						
training on the						
identification,						
referral and follow-						
up principles						