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1) Political and Security

South-central:

Security

The number of incidents remains high in Banadir and the general situation is deemed unpredictable. Likewise the situation in Afgooye, Wanla Weyne and Merka districts in Lower Shabelle remains unstable. It is noteworthy that a Dahaabshiil branch in Hawl Wadaag (Bakara Market) was targeted by an RCIED on 2 April. This is believed to be linked to the banning of Dahaabshiil in areas under Al Shabaab control, yet unconfirmed.

2) Population Movement

IDP Returns

An ad hoc lessons-learned and coordination session for Return Consortium members was facilitated by UNHCR on 3 April. Approaches to challenges with local authorities were shared and the rate of transportation costs to the different districts of returns was harmonized. It was furthermore noted by partners that some groups of beneficiaries dropped out in the last stage of the registration for the return programme. It appears that these groups, likely under pressure of gatekeepers, had heard rumours about the new sites where services and assistance will be ample. Strong messaging and consultation with IDPs through the Relocation Task Force Working Groups was recommended.

Furthermore in preparation of the movement, return beneficiaries benefited from Mine Risk Education sessions facilitated by UNMAS and its local partners. Fitness to travel tests by IOM could unfortunately not be conducted given the limited timeframe. Movement of Return Consortium beneficiaries has started through individual arrangements of IDPs. As of 7 April returnees supported by DRC have safely reached the districts of Jowhar, Balcad, Afgoye, Wanlaweyn, Awdhegle and Marko. The return of Mercy Corps and INTERSOS beneficiaries will continue over the coming days.

Evictions

On 6 April all 350 IDP households residing in Al Adalla were given an eviction notice of three days by a private landlord. So far IDPs have not moved out of the settlement. Local dynamics are complicated as it appears the same militia currently offering protection to the IDPs are those paid by the landlord to evict them. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation. Furthermore, with support of UNHCR, the IDP Task Force Coordinator will bring the issue of increased evictions and self-resettlement to KM7/10 to the urgent attention of the MINS given its imminent impact on relocation plans.

3) Protection and assistance activities:

South-central: Protection

On Sunday 31st March, the Population Estimation Survey (PESS) Task Force met with the Ministry of Planning to discuss matters relating to IDP population estimates and



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other population groups in Somalia. The national questionnaire will incorporate sections to identify IDPs living in host family arrangements. This should also provide a socio-economic profile of IDPs in host family arrangements. The questionnaire will also try to identify spontaneous refugee returns currently residing in different regions.

UNHCR was invited by the Finnish Ambassador Mrs. Sofie From-Emmesberger for a working lunch with Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development on 1 April. The lunch was furthermore attended by the RC's office, DRC, SSWC, HINNA, the School for Blind and Visually Impiared Children in Mogadishu (the latter four are all UNHCR partners) as well as Finnish Church AID. UNHCR highlighted its vision with regard to the its different groups of persons of concern, various protection issues across South Central Somalia as well as the ongoing migration of the RO to Mogadishu in the light of the above. The Finnish delegation indicated its intentions to support the SNFG in terms of capacity building and potentially direct aid, though concerns were phrased around accountability issues. The delegation appreciated UNHCR's insights on the protection situation in South Central Somalia. Notably, the delegation members did not put particular emphasize that they may be interested in the issue of returning refugee applicants.

Furthermore, UNHCR facilitated and attended several parts of the mission of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura from 2 - 4 April. This included a meeting with the GBV Focal Point and GBVIMS partners, visits to IDP settlements and a meeting with UN Heads of Agencies. Key messages focussed on the prevalence of incidents of sexual violence in IDP communities, the balance between do no harm vis-àvis survivors / GBV partners and advocacy efforts in the current hostile environment of Somalia as well as the need for justice and security sector reform.

In light of the International Day for Mine Awareness on 4 April, UNHCR attended activities organised by the National Mine Action Authority of Somalia, supported by UNMAS. This was followed by a joint UNHCR/UNMAS visit to an IDP settlement, were IDP victims of explosive remnants of war were interviewed in the context of a joint UNHCR/UNMAS public information project.

On 4 April UNHCR took part in an interagency mission to Ceel Barde to conduct an initial rapid needs assessment and supply urgent medical and WASH supplies to local partners in the town. The town is home to approximately 2,500 individuals recently displaced from Xudur, Bakool region following the ENDF withdrawal and Al-Shabaab's control of the regional capital. The majority of households are split as not all persons (young children, elderly, physically disabled persons) in Xudur were able to undergo the 90KM journey on foot. Estimates of up to 100 unaccompanied minors were shared by participants during a focus group discussion. The host community in Ceel Barde has been able to provide support. However, their capacity to do so is highly dependent on humanitarian assistance coming to the town. A settlement adjoining residential areas to the south of the town was allocated and IDP households are awaiting shelter assistance.

On 5 April the first joint UN mission making use of B6s (armoured vehicle) to Afgooye town took place since Al-Shabaab seized control of Lower Shabelle region. The Afgooye corridor, running from Afgooye town to Mogadishu was once home to the world's largest concentration of IDP sites. Since the Transitional Federal Government / AMISOM advance through the Corridor, the majority of residents and business owners in the



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Corridor returned to Mogadishu or joined IDP communities in pre-existing settlements and host families. As per these indications, the mission confirmed that the majority of IDPs have indeed left the Corridor. However, from direct observation it appears businesses and small-scale markets are gradually functioning again. The number of IDP households in Afgooye town has decreased.

IDP Relocation

An Operational Working Group meeting for Deynille was held on 4 April. The engagement of Clusters in the relocation process was discussed as well as different options for shelter types in light of to temporary nature of the relocation. Furthermore, all Working Groups are in the process of formulating their work plans. The IDP Profiling Working Group has procured hardware and software through IOM funding and database design is underway. The Communications Working Group has also been developing their strategy for public information related to the relocation process. An UNMAS UXO assessment has started on 7 April in the Deynile relocation sites.

Admin/Finance

The Sub-Office has identified ad hoc meeting space with support of DRC to utilize during the transformation of the current office facility in May and June. UNHCR attended an UNHAS user meeting facilitated by the Chief Air Operations Besides supporting to issues raised by other agencies including scheduling, routes, the need for UNHAS user meetings to be held in Mogadishu and better communication with passengers, UNHCR specifically highlighted the cargo tracking system as an area for improvement.

Programme

Monitoring visits were conducted to the Zanzibari community which has recently been evicted from the public school building they resided in. Given the needs identified, follow-up liaison is made with WASH and livelihood partners. An external auditing took place of Qatar Charity between 2 and 4 April. Final recommendations will be shared within two weeks. During his mission, the external auditor furthermore trained six partners including HINNA, DRC, ARC, QC, Mercy Corps and SSWC on UNHCR's financial requirements and standard accountability procedures. A joint monitoring visit took place to the three UNHCR/NRC warehouses in Mogadishu: KM5 and Paradise 1 & 2 warehouses. Key recommendations for improvement were shared with NRC and mainly relate to a review of security arrangements, establishing a rodent control system and improving climatic conditions in the warehouses.

Programme RO Somalia

A programme mission to support UNHCR Mogadishu started on 2 April. The final reports for the Italy Contribution, The Government of Japan contribution and Peace Building Funds contributions were submitted. A meeting with the Risk Management Unit (United Nations in Somalia) took place in order to strengthen the collaboration between two agencies. It was agreed that UNHCR will refer one Implementing partner case to RMU for further investigation. On a similar note, UNHCR has strengthened information sharing with the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group of partners with a high risk of diversion rate. Draft reports of the 2012 implementing partners external audits were received.

END

