

# Protection Cluster Update

## Weekly Report

30<sup>th</sup> December 2011

IASC Somalia

• Protection Monitoring Network (PMN)

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*This update provides information on the protection environment in Somalia, including apparent violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law as reported during the last two weeks through the IASC Somalia Protection Cluster monitoring systems. Incidents mentioned in this report are not exhaustive. They are intended to highlight credible reports in order to inform and prompt programming and advocacy initiatives by the humanitarian community and national authorities.*

### General Overview

Despite increased rainfall and the reduction in the famine-affected population to 250,000 people in November, increased insecurity due to military activities, and the reduction in access to humanitarian assistance<sup>1</sup> in Al Shabaab controlled areas, the protection environment continues to exacerbate the already weakened protection situation during the final two weeks of the year. It is projected that food and other humanitarian assistance will be continue to be required for the better part of 2012 and that the stabilizing all of these factors will be critical for improving the humanitarian situation over the next year.

Armed conflict, clan tensions, drought and subsequent mass displacement coupled with an environment of impunity affected the overall human rights situation in Somalia in 2011. The Protection Monitoring Network (PMN) reported over 5,800 protection incidents throughout the country in 2011, with over 3,100 cases reported in South Central alone, 1,600 cases reported in Somaliland and 1,000 reported in Puntland. The top violations reported in all three regions include physical assault, killing, illegal arrest or detention and rape or attempted rape. Additionally, according to an interagency child protection assessment carried out in the aftermath of the drought, all regions reported separation of children from their families as a major protection problem. Population movements and parents sending their children to find food during food distribution, as well as during attacks at distribution centers are believed to be the main risk factors for separation of children from their families.<sup>2</sup>

In the aftermath of heavy rains, many roads have been destroyed, causing logistical challenges for the delivery of basic food supplies, and contributing to soaring food prices. During the past two weeks alone, more than 50 villages in and around the towns of Jilib, Buale Afmadow and Saakow, in the Middle and Lower Juba regions saw their crops destroyed and many residents were displaced due to floods.<sup>3</sup> As the heavy rains continue, the likelihood of increased waterborne diseases such as cholera among the displaced populations living in congested camps remains a major concern. Additionally, the operation of humanitarian agencies was further restricted by new Al Shabaab 'taxation' demands, particularly in the Lower and Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle and Hiraa regions. These additional demands include, but are not limited to, increased registration fees for humanitarian agencies, as well as a 10 percent tax rise on humanitarian programs for local NGOs funded by international organizations.<sup>4</sup>

During the reporting period, heavy fighting erupted between forces affiliated with TFG and Al Shabaab militias in various regions in South Central Somalia including Galgaduud, Banadir and Lower Juba, provoking displacement of local residents. The scale of such movements and the number of casualties as a result of the fighting are yet to be established.<sup>5</sup>

## MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

*During the reporting period, heavy fighting continued between Al Shabaab insurgents and TFG/AMISOM forces in Heliwa and Dayniile district and extended to Karan district. The fighting reportedly resulted in at least 5 civilian casualties.<sup>6</sup> The number of IED attacks in Mogadishu has reduced slightly during the past two weeks.*



- An international aid worker, working for Doctors Without Borders, was shot dead and another was wounded at their offices in Mogadishu by a former (according to the media both died – a French man and an Indonesian doctor (please check) colleague who had recently been fired.<sup>7</sup>(29 December)
- Two girls aged 7 and 5 were raped in Hanti Wadaag village of Waaberi district Banadir region. The victims were referred to a hospital for medical examination. The perpetrator was captured by the police.<sup>8</sup> ( 22 December)
- A bystander was severely injured when a hand grenade was hurled at TFG soldiers patrolling the Medina Market area. The perpetrator escaped.<sup>9</sup> (20 December)
- Over 500 IDPs arrived in Mogadishu from Bay and Bakol regions to seek humanitarian assistance. The IDPs claimed that their movement to Mogadishu was prompted by a lack of access to humanitarian assistance following the Al Shabaab ban on aid agencies operating in these regions.<sup>10</sup> (19 December)
- A prominent Somali local journalist working with Horn Cable TV was shot and killed by an unidentified gunman wearing what appeared to be a TFG uniform in Hamar Jajab district. The perpetrator escaped and there is no confirmation as to whether the TFG police forces have managed to apprehend the perpetrator. According to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) four journalists have been killed and five others wounded in Mogadishu in 2011.<sup>11</sup>(18 December)
- A hand grenade was hurled into a video game arcade in Bulo Hubey neighbourhood in Medina district, killing two children. It is the second such attack exclusively targeting civilians in the last two months. A similar attack was carried out in November, targeting a local video shop where people were watching a football match.<sup>12</sup> (18 December)

## NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

*According to port officials and the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Bossasso, an estimated 100 Somali returnees arrived in Bossasso from Yemen. The returnees claimed to have returned due to increased insecurity in Yemen. The majority of the returnees originated from Mogadishu and reportedly joined family members in the IDP settlements in Bossasso.<sup>13</sup> Serious cases of GBV, particularly in IDP camps continued to be reported in Puntland. Another major fire incident occurred in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region on 21 December. This is the second major fire outbreak reported in Gaalkacyo during the month of December, the previous major fire incident having taken place on 9 December.*

- A major fire broke out in Arafat IDP settlement in South Gaalkacyo, Mudug region destroying 18 tents and a number of businesses belonging to IDPs. It is thought that fire was an accident, and was contained with the help of the host community and fortunately no one was hurt. The humanitarian agencies are in the process of assisting those affected by the fire.<sup>14</sup> (21 December)



- A 28 year old pregnant IDP woman and a mother of six was shot five times in the abdomen in Bulo Qorax IDP settlement in South Gaalkacyo by an armed man who tried to kidnap her while she was resting outside her makeshift in the early morning hours. The perpetrator fled. She was rushed to the hospital where she was pronounced dead.<sup>15</sup>(20 December)

- A 2 year old IDP girl was sexually assaulted in her makeshift shelter in Tawakal IDP camp in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region when her mother went out to herd her goats. The child was referred to South Gaalkacyo hospital for examination. The perpetrator escaped. The PMN has recorded 60 incidents of rape/attempted rape against children in Puntland in 2011.<sup>16</sup> (20 December).

## HIRAAAN & GALGADUUD

*Aid workers in Hiraan region continue facing risks and challenges as the Al Shabaab administration introduced new "taxes" during the reporting period and three aid workers were shot dead during a food distribution monitoring exercise. Other developments in the regions include, armed clashes between Ahlu Sunna Wa'l Jama'a (ASWJ) forces and militias affiliated with a TFG Member of Parliament in Hananbuure district of Cabudwaaq region, Galgaduud region. Al Shabaab launched an attack against ASWJ in Dhuusamarreeb district of Galgaduud region. The attack lead to a brief occupation of the town by Al Shabaab and resulted in temporary displacement of local residents. The total number of casualties arising from the fighting is currently unknown.<sup>17</sup>*



- Three national WFP staff members were shot and killed during a food distribution monitoring exercise in Mataban town of Hiraan region. The gunman who shot the three aid workers reportedly gave himself up and was taken into custody by local authorities. WFP operations are temporarily suspended in Mataban.<sup>18</sup> This brings the total number of casualties involving aid workers to 5 attacked, 4 dead and 1 severely wounded during the reporting period. (23 December)

## LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

*Family tracing services provided to separated IDP families in Jowhar was temporarily stopped by the Al Shabaab administration, leaving 493 registered separated IDPs representing 3,451 House Holds without the much needed hope of re-establishing family contacts.*

## BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

*In addition to ongoing violations against populations in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions, a further ban by Al Shabaab on humanitarian agencies forbidding the provision of basic services to the affected populations continues to worsen the human rights situation in these regions. According to a report,*

denial of access to humanitarian assistance, particularly in Bay region has resulted in food and water shortages, severely impacting basic rights to an adequate standard of living, to education and to health.<sup>19</sup> New influxes to into TFG-controlled areas could be expected in 2012 as people move in search of humanitarian assistance.



- A 16 year old boy was accidentally shot and killed in a restaurant in Wajid district of Bakool region when an Al Shabaab militant fired his weapon in an attempt to put an end to an argument between two customers. The local administration arrested the perpetrator.<sup>20</sup>(27 December)

- The Somali Diaspora has reportedly initiated a donation and distribution campaign to assist needy populations in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions through local businessmen. The distribution of donated items was reportedly however rejected by the Al Shabaab authorities, who insisted that only Al Shabaab authorities should carry out distributions. (20 December)<sup>21</sup>

## LOWER & MIDDLE JUBA (JUBA HOOSE & DHEXE)

Heavy rains continued in Middle and Lower Juba regions, causing serious flooding, loss of crops and an unknown number of displacements mainly within the two southern regions. The heavy rains also affected movement of vehicles and the transportation of goods and services.<sup>22</sup> The unstable security situation, coupled with heavy rains and restricted access to humanitarian assistance, particularly in Kismaayo<sup>23</sup> has lead to severe food and drug shortages, while contributing to an upsurge in food prices.



- Al Shabaab beheaded two men accused of spying for TFG in Afmadow district, Lower Juba region. During the past two weeks five men accused of collaboration with enemy forces were beheaded by Al Shabaab.<sup>24</sup> (23 December)
- More than 50 villages across the Juba River lost their crops due to floods and people moved to Jilib, Buale and Saakow.<sup>25</sup>(22 December)
- 27 farms were washed away by the floods in Jilib district of Middle Juba region, affecting 40 households.<sup>26</sup>(22 December)
- Heavy rains in Afmadow district of Lower Juba region flooded an estimated 400 farms, leaving an estimated 1,000 households in the area without livelihoods and facing severe food shortages.<sup>27</sup> (22 December)
- At least 11 people, including seven children were killed and more than 25 others were injured when three fighter jets bombarded Hosungow town, 160 kilometers from Kismaayo town, Lower Juba region. Most of those injured were transferred to Kismaayo hospital. According to a report, at least 100 families out of a total number of 600 living the town fled their homes as a result of the incident.<sup>28</sup> (20 December)
- Two men who had been arrested by Al Shabaab for chewing Khat each received 20 lashes at a public gathering in Fanole village of Kismaayo, Lower Juba region.<sup>29</sup> ( 19 December)

- Al Shabaab forces beheaded and publicly displayed bodies of three men accused of collaboration with Kenyan forces, in Afgaduud village in Kismaayo district, Lower Juba region.<sup>30</sup> ( 17 December)

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<sup>1</sup> IRIN News, *Kismayo IDPs face hunger, drug shortages*, 20 December, available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=94507>

<sup>2</sup> Child protection Assessment report UNICEF, 22 December 2011

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR internal report 22 December

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>6</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 19 -21 December 2011

<sup>7</sup> New York Times, *Foreign Aid Worker Is Killed and Colleague Is Wounded in Somali Capital*, 29 December available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/30/world/africa/aid-worker-killed-in-mogadishu-somalia.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/30/world/africa/aid-worker-killed-in-mogadishu-somalia.html?_r=1)

Yahoo News, *2 Doctors Without Borders workers shot in Somalia*, 29 December available at

<http://news.yahoo.com/2-doctors-without-borders-workers-shot-somalia-144948637.html>

Shabelle News, *MSF confirms two foreign staff killed in Somalia*, 29 December, available at

<http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=13970>

<sup>8</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 29 December 2011

<sup>9</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>10</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 20 December 2011

<sup>11</sup> Internal UNHCR source 19 December

Shabelle News, *NUSOJ: 4 Killed, 7 Wounded, 19 Arrested in 2011*, available at

<http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=13905>

Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 19 December 2011

UN News Service, *Unesco Condemns Killing of Somali Television Reporter*, 20 December, available at

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40792&Cr=press&Cr1=freedom>

<sup>12</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>13</sup> UNHCR internal report 21 December 2011

Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on 18 December 2011

<sup>14</sup> UNHCR internal report 26 December

<sup>15</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 21 December 2011

<sup>16</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 21 December 2011

<sup>17</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>18</sup> UN News Centre, *UN deplors murder of three aid workers in Somalia*, 23 December, available at

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40832&Cr=Somalia&Cr1=>

<sup>19</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 20 December 2011

<sup>20</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 27 December 2011

<sup>21</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 20 December 2011

<sup>22</sup> UNHCR internal report 22 December

<sup>23</sup> IRIN News, *Kismayo IDPs face hunger, drug shortages*, 20 December, available at

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=94507>

<sup>24</sup> Shabelle news, *The Bodies of Two Men Found Beheaded in southern Somalia*, 23 December, available at

<http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=13967>

<sup>25</sup> UNHCR internal report 22 December

<sup>26</sup> *ibid*

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

<sup>28</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 23 December 2011

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Somalia Report, *Kenyan Airstrike in Lower Juba Claims 11 Lives*, 20 December, available at, [http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/2373/Kenyan\\_Airstrike\\_in\\_Lower\\_Juba\\_Claims\\_11\\_Lives](http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/2373/Kenyan_Airstrike_in_Lower_Juba_Claims_11_Lives)

<sup>29</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on 19 December 2011

<sup>30</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on 18 December 2011