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UN SOM Police Newsletter

Supporting the development of Somalia's Police Services

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COMMUNITY POLICING AND SGBV PREVENTION WORKSHOP IN JOWHAR



Jowhar, Hirshabelle: In July 2024, UNSOM Police, in partnership with UN Women and UNSOM's Integrated Gender Office, organized a three-day "Community Policing and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Awareness Workshop" in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle. The workshop supported implementing the Somali Community Policing Policy 2023, bringing together 30 participants from Hirshabelle Police, civil society, and religious leaders. Facilitators from UNSOM, ATMIS Police, and local NGOs led participants through role-playing, brainstorming, and group work to explore best practices for community engagement and preventing SGBV and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The workshop resulted in actionable plans to be presented to the Hirshabelle State government, reflecting a commitment to collaboration and promoting gender equality in Somalia.



SECURITY AND POLICING ADVANCEMENTS DISCUSSED IN KISMAYO

Kismayo, Jubaland: In September 2024, the UNSOM Police Commissioner, Ralf Schröder, met with key security officials in Kismayo to discuss the region's ongoing security challenges and policing priorities. A key topic was the anticipated endorsement of the Jubaland Police Act, expected to be passed by parliament soon, marking an important step in strengthening the State's policing structure and legal framework. Commissioner Schröder commended the efforts of Jubaland's security forces in the fight against insurgency and their contributions to stabilizing the region. He also thanked the Deputy Minister for the productive collaboration during his tenure and assured that key insights from the meeting would be taken forward to ensure continued UNSOM Police support.



PUNTLAND REVITALIZES NEW POLICING MODEL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Garowe, Puntland: In August 2024, Puntland's Minister of Security and DDR took a significant step toward enhancing strategic policing by appointing new members to the New Policing Model Technical Committee (TC). Through a series of strategic engagements, UNSOM Police provided advice to Puntland's Ministry of Security and Puntland Police, advocating for the committee's revitalization to address emerging security challenges. Comprising stakeholders from different sectors of society, the TC will guide the implementation of the New Policing Model in Puntland, advancing the key policing priorities within the state and supporting the overall federal policing framework in Somalia.

PAWG MEETING ADVANCES POLICE COORDINATION



Mogadishu: In September 2024, the Ministry of Internal Security (MoIS) and UNSOM Police co-hosted the inaugural Police Advisory Working Group (PAWG) meeting, marking an important step towards advancing police reform and coordination in Somalia. The PAWG is intended to oversee the implementation of the Somalia Security Development Plan's "Police Component" and align policing initiatives with national priorities. Key stakeholders, including international partners, discussed governance reforms and capacity building within the Somali Police. The meeting laid a foundation for further collaboration and emphasized the ownership of Somali authorities in implementing their designed plans. UNSOM Police continues its advocacy efforts to ensure that progress can be maintained and police development remains responsive to Somalia's evolving security needs.

WORKSHOP BOOSTS CID INVESTIGATION SKILLS

Mogadishu: UNSOM Police and EUCAP partnered to deliver a 4-day workshop to enhance the Somali Federal Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The workshop, attended by 15 mid-level investigators, focused on strengthening investigative skills in line with national laws and international standards. One session addressed "Juvenile Crime Investigation and Procedures", emphasizing proper practices when dealing with minors. This workshop reinforced the SPF's capacity for rights-based investigations, reflecting continued collaboration in Somalia's security institutions.



TOT WORKSHOPS IN SOMALILAND ON POLICING AND SGBV RESPONSE



Hargeisa: In July 2024, UNSOM Police co-facilitated two sessions of a four-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop, under the Joint Rule of Law Programme, to enhance the skills of Somaliland police officers. Eighteen officers, including six women, were trained in key areas of law enforcement, focusing on Community Policing and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The SGBV session addressed the root causes and categories of violence and the role of Women and Child Protection Units (WCPUs) in addressing domestic violence and human trafficking, while the Community Policing session emphasized trust-building between law enforcement and communities through proactive crime prevention strategies.



These workshops, designed to build local capacity through a Training of Trainers approach, empower participants to transfer their skills to colleagues, strengthening police capacity and promoting a more community-focused approach to policing.

WOMEN IN UNIFORM NETWORK WORKSHOPS ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY IN SOUTHWEST STATE AND HIRSHABELLE



In September 2024, UNSOM Police, in collaboration with the Joint Justice and Corrections Section (JJCS), organized two key workshops in Southwest State (SWS) and Hirshabelle to promote the participation of women in policing and law enforcement. These events are part of the broader "Women in Uniform Network" initiative, aligned with the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), and UNSOM Police's mandate to foster gender equality in Somalia's security services.



In Baidoa, SWS, the workshop brought together eight female police officers from various departments, including community policing, CID, and the tax police. The event focused on the unique challenges and opportunities women face in policing, offering a platform to discuss their motivations, obstacles encountered, and working conditions. Participants explored strategies to ensure that female officers receive adequate support from leadership and that gender equality continues to be a priority within the SWS Police.



Similarly, in Beledweyne, Hirshabelle, UNSOM Police and JJCS hosted a workshop engaging 13 participants, including 10 women, from the Hirshabelle Police and Custodial Corps. The event focused on addressing the challenges faced by women in law enforcement and developing actionable plans to improve conditions for female officers. The Deputy Minister of Internal Security praised the workshop's outcomes and called for continued efforts to enhance female representation in Somalia's security services. These workshops demonstrate UNSOM Police's ongoing commitment to advancing gender inclusion and strengthening the role of women in the country's security sector.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to promote early detection and support for those affected. UN staff in Somalia are participating in activities throughout the month to raise awareness and collect funds for Somali institutions, helping strengthen local care and save lives. Together, we aim to make a lasting difference in the fight against breast cancer.



NEW SOMALI POLICE CHIEF APPOINTED

On 26 September 2024, Brigadier General Asad Osman Abdullahi was appointed as the new Chief of the Somali Police Force. UNSOM Police extends its warm congratulations to the new Commissioner and looks forward to working together to strengthen Somalia's security sector. General Abdullahi's leadership will be instrumental in advancing security reforms and enhancing policing services across Somalia.



UN SOMALI POLICE GAINS SKILLS FROM INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS



UN SOM Police continues to enhance its ability to provide strategic advice and support the implementation of the New Policing Model in Somalia by participating in United Nations and partner-funded trainings and workshops. Across diverse locations, including Ghana, Uganda, Italy, Germany, and Indonesia, advisers have taken part in sessions to expand their knowledge in key areas such as leadership, child protection, curriculum development, and human resource management. These training programs have equipped five advisers with additional skills to ensure more effective and inclusive approaches to policing in Somalia. By strengthening its own capacities, UNSOM Police remains committed to delivering impactful, strategic support and advancing policing reform in the country.



POLICE COMMISSIONER BIDS FAREWELL AFTER TWO YEARS OF SERVICE IN SOMALIA

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

After more than two years of serving as Police Commissioner with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UN SOM), the time has come for me to bid farewell. These past years have been both deeply challenging and immensely rewarding, and I leave with a profound sense of pride in what we have collectively achieved. When I arrived, I knew the road ahead would not be easy, but I was inspired by the resilience and determination of the Somali people and the dedication of my colleagues. Together, we faced complex challenges and worked tirelessly to strengthen the capacity of Somali law enforcement institutions.

Throughout my time here, I witnessed extraordinary commitment from officers, both local and international, who every day put their efforts on the line to bring peace and stability to this beautiful nation. Our mission has been more than just strengthening the law; it has been about building trust and hope, fostering partnerships, and laying the groundwork for a brighter, safer future for all Somali citizens. While there is still much work to be done, I am confident that the progress we have made will continue to inspire and guide those who follow.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend my Deputy, Pekka Kokkonen, for his steadfast support and dedication throughout our time working together. As his end of mission approaches as well, I recognize that his contributions have left a lasting impact on the mission, and I am deeply grateful for his partnership.

I leave Somalia with a deep respect for its people and culture, grateful for the friendships and partnerships forged during my tenure. My heartfelt thanks go out to my dedicated team, our Somali partners, and the international community for their unwavering support and collaboration. It has been an honor to serve here, and though I step away from this role, Somalia will forever hold a special place in my heart. The mission's work will continue, and peace and security will take deeper root with each passing day.

Stay safe now and for the future, wishing you all the best,



Ralf Schröder

