

HIV / AIDS Project



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PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2014 UNDP took the lead to support the 3 AIDS Commissions in Somalia to develop a new costed HIV strategy for Somalia 2015-2019. This included holding consultation meetings with HIV partners in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garowe and Hargeisa. The HIV Strategy 2015-2019 also formed the basis for the new proposal for the Global Fund that was submitted in August 2014 and approved. The global fund grant (approximately \$22 million) will provide 70% of the funding required to support the HIV response in Somalia from 2015 - 2017. UNDP worked closely with UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and all other UN agencies to support the Somali authorities with this work.

In 2014, the HIV project at UNDP also continued to support the three AIDS Commissions to effectively coordinate and support multisectoral efforts of the national response for HIV & AIDS in Somalia. As a result the capacity of the AIDS Commissions to convene stakeholder meetings and advocate for greater support for HIV in Somalia has greatly improved. The AIDS Commissions have raised the profile of HIV and established close relationships with senior government officials such as the Prime Minister's Office and the President in all regions. This has resulted in political leaders and district Mayors demonstrating increased commitment to the HIV response in Somalia.

The HIV Community Conversation project continues to reach a significant number of women and men in Somalia. In 2014 this project reached approximately 8,422 people, 5,652 of whom were women. This project appears to resonate strongly with Somalis based on the large number of people that regularly participate in these meetings. The Community Conversation on HIV project is also helping to bridge the gap between health services (VCT, ART etc) and communities by encouraging more people to access these services, which is essential in order to increase the uptake of VCT, ART and PMTCT in order to reduce new infections.

The HIV Radio Project is also helping to reach large numbers of people with correct information on HIV. In 2014 approximately, 1664 HIV messages were aired by 7 radio stations in Somaliland, Puntland and Mogadishu. Indeed, 2014 marked the first time that it felt safe enough for these messages to be aired by 4 radio stations in Mogadishu which is a milestone in terms of creating a more supportive environment for all HIV work in Somalia.

UNDP also continued to mainstream HIV into other UNDP projects in 2014. For example, HIV was integrated into training provided for Youth at Risk, Police training, prisoners and work being carried out by the Gender Project (Community Conversations on Gender issues); UNDP's legal aid project and UNDP's PREP project. As result approximately 498 police (one of the groups identified as at high risk of HIV infection in Somalia) and youth at risk groups were trained on basic HIV & AIDS.

Lastly, another significant achievement and one of the highlights of the year was working with the Joint Programme for Local Governance (JPLG) to integrate HIV into District Development Plans of five districts including Berbera, Borama, Burao, Sheikh and Gabiley district. This resulted in the Mayors of these districts making a commitment to include HIV in their local district plans. Berbera, Sheikh and Gabiley decided to allocate funds to support PLHIV as well as support HIV awareness activities in 2015. UNDP will continue to work more closely with JPLG in Puntland and at the Federal Level to encourage other districts to do the same, noting the cuts for prevention work from the Global Fund in 2015.

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PROJECT:
HIV / AIDS Project

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PROGRAMME:
HIV / AIDS

REPORT PERIOD:
1 January to 31 December 2014

DATE SUBMITTED:
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STATUS:
Final

DONORS:
UNICEF (Global Fund)

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

FEDERAL LEVEL

Federal AIDS Commission enjoyed good year in coordinating HIV activities. Nevertheless due to security issues the AIDS Commission is still not able to reach and work in all districts, and due to the size of the country not all those working on HIV in districts far from Mogadishu are able to participate in coordination meetings. The AIDS Commission continues to benefit from Senior Government Officials who participated in World AIDS Day events in Mogadishu (Minister of Health & Human Service and the Chairman of Social Affairs Committee). Both officials addressed participants during the WAD Commemoration which included representatives from various line Ministries, Ministry of Planning, UN agencies, INGOs, LNGOs, community elders, Somali National Women Association, Somali Medical Association, and members of the PLHIV Network in Mogadishu.

PUNTLAND

In 2014 the HIV Project managed to strengthen our relationship with Puntland AIDS Commission. Puntland AIDS Commission also demonstrated increased momentum to carryout their mandate to coordinate HIV activities in Puntland. This was marked by PAC hosting more regular coordination meetings with partners, and a new M & E Director was appointed by the Commission which resulted in more field visits to monitor the work of partners taking place, with good reports being prepared from these visits.

Puntland AIDS Commission also continues to benefit from strong relationships with Senior Government Officials such as the President and Vice President who both took part in World AIDS Day commemorations on the 1st December 2014. The AIDS Commission has also built up a strong partnership with Radio Garowe and Radio Bosaso who continue to air HIV messages, as well as with Golis telecommunications who sent out a text message about HIV to approx 940,000 users on World AIDS Day.

SOMALILAND

UNDP continues to benefit from a strong relationship with the Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) who coordinated and provided technical support for all HIV work in 2014. The AIDS Commission with support of UNDP was also able to host advocacy meetings with several Mayors of different districts in 2014, which resulted in five districts (Berbera, Gabiley, Sheikh, Borama and Burao) integrating HIV into their District Development plans for 2015.

In Somaliland, HIV work was not affected by security and as a result the HIV project was able to support activities in most districts namely Burao, Berbera, Borama, Hargeisa, and Sheikh. This is resulting in more people being reached with accurate information about HIV and AIDS, as well as decreasing stigma and discrimination associated with HIV. Having said that, stigma/discrimination continue to be experienced by People Living with HIV in Somaliland, which is one of the reasons why UNDP continues to support Talawadag Network of PLHIV.

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	In total 4,419 (M:1,458, F: 2,961) people were reached through HIV & AIDS awareness and outreach programmes in 2014.	
	Comment	The majority of people reached in 2014 (3,713) participated in Community Conversations on HIV (F:2,601, M:1,112). These are gatherings that usually take place outside. The HIV Project is working together with UNDP's Gender Project on this project.	
PL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	In total 3,220 (M: 1,148, F: 2,072) persons were reached through HIV awareness raising in Bosaso and Garowe.	
	Comment	Approximately 2,674 of the participants reached was through Community Conversation on HIV (M: 833; F: 1,841). NGO partners reported that 55 people went for VCT as a result of attending Community Conversation on HIV sessions.	
FL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	In total of 2,346 (F:1,383, M:963) people were reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising in Banadir and Gedo regions.	
	Comment	This is the first year that this project is being implemented at the Federal Level. The majority of people reached this year attended Community Conversation on HIV sessions, similar to the above two regions.	
SL	Indicator	# of Community Conversations on HIV in Berbera, Borama & Hargeisa in the last 12 months	G
	Result	78 Community Conversations on HIV took place in Hargeisa (10), Berbera(54) and Borama(14)	
	Comment	Community Conversations on HIV are rolled out in hot spots where there is greater risk of HIV . Religious & Community Leaders as well as PLHIV act as Resource Persons. As a result of this project several Districts in Somaliland have allocated funds to support HIV work.	
SL	Indicator	# of people reached through the Community Conversation on HIV	G
	Result	In total 3,713 (M:1,112; F: 2,601) persons were reached through Community Conversations on HIV in the last 12 months.	
	Comment	Community Conversations on HIV are reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV. They are also encouraging more people to access HIV services e.g VCT, ART, PMTCT. Women constitute almost 70% of participants at CC sessions in Berbera, Hargeisa and Borama.A few CCs are also held for male youth	
SL	Indicator	# of District Councils, Community Committees and Community Leaders provided with Training on Basic HIV & AIDS in Berbera, Sheikh, Borama and Hargeisa	G
	Result	71(M:48; F: 23) people participated in basic HIV and Leadership Training. This was held for influential leaders in each of the Districts where the CC project is being rolled out.	
	Comment	Berbera and Sheikh District Councils attended training on HIV & AIDS in Q3. Borama and Hargeisa community leaders participated in HIV & Leadership training in Q1. These trainings encouraged District Councillors and community leaders to participate in CC sessions & play a stronger leadership role.	
SL	Indicator	# of PLHIV accessing legal aid and attended Know your rights trainings	G
	Result	368 People (M:102, F:266) Living with HIV (PLHIV) participated in legal aid counseling (68) and training that focused on 'Knowing your rights' training (300) in the last 12 months	
	Comment	The objective of legal aid training was to increase the knowledge of PLHIV on the concepts of human rights in the field of HIV and better understand human rights violations relating to HIV & AIDS. The training also encouraged PLHIV to use UNDP Legal Aid Services when they need them.	

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	# of administrative support provided to Somaliland National AIDS Commission	G
	Result	The support from the Global Fund covered the running costs of the AIDS Commission e.g. salaries of staff, communication costs, rent, utilities costs and the cost of hosting HIV coordination meetings with all partners in Somaliland.	
	Comment	This support ensured that the AIDS commission had the necessary support to coordinate and monitor a multisectoral response to HIV & AIDS in Somaliland.	
SL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Review meetings	G
	Result	Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) conducted 4 Quarterly review meetings in 2014.	
	Comment	The 4 Quarterly Review & Coordination meetings provided an opportunity for all HIV partners in Somaliland to provide inputs for the new HIV Strategy developed for 2015-2019 as well as the HIV Proposal submitted to the Global Fund in August 2014..	
SL	Indicator	# of AIDS Commission Coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E)	G
	Result	11 IPTCS and M&E meetings took place in 2014	
	Comment	Somaliland National AIDS Commission conducted 11 IPTCS and M&E working group meetings with key stakeholders to review programme activities, share information, review HIV data from health facilities and discuss partners work.	
SL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Communication and HR meetings	G
	Result	Somaliland National AIDS Commission conducted 4 Quarterly communication and HR meetings in 2014	
	Comment	IEC materials developed for the HIV response were reviewed and approved during these meetings.	
SL	Indicator	# of times HIV messages aired on Radio Stations	G
	Result	270 HIV Radio messages were aired by Radio Hargeisa in 2014.	
	Comment	HIV messages aired were the 15 HIV radio messages developed in collaboration with BBC Media Action in 2012. Each message was aired twice a day. The AIDS Commission has developed a strong partnerships with Radio Hargeisa who shall continue to air HIV messages in 2015.	
PL	Indicator	# of Community Conversations on HIV held in Bosaso and Garowe	G
	Result	54 Community Conversations on HIV took place in targeted sites of Bosaso and Garowe in 2014.	
	Comment	The involvement of resource persons such as religious leaders, local government officials, PLHIV and AIDS Commission staff who have been trained on HIV contributed to strengthening CC sessions and reducing stigma associated with HIV in targeted sites.	
PL	Indicator	# of people reached through the Community Conversations on HIV	G
	Result	2,674(M:833, F:1841) people were reached through Community Conversation on HIV in the last 12 months.	
	Comment	The majority of participants were women but the number of men is increasing compared to last year. Community Conversations are helping to reduce stigma and discrimination linked to HIV in Puntland as well as encourage more people to access HIV services such as VCT, ART and PMTCT.	

RESULTS

PL	Indicator	# of District Councils, Community Committees and Community Leaders provided with Training on Basic HIV & AIDS in Puntland	G
	Result	240 (M:140, F:100) Community leaders participated in HIV and Leadership training in Bosaso.	
	Comment	The trained persons act as resource persons in Community Conversations on HIV sessions and their presence plays an important role in encouraging community members to attend and in shaping the community attitudes towards HIV & AIDS	
PL	Indicator	# of administrative support provided to Puntland AIDS Commission	G
	Result	Puntland AIDS Commission was able to support coordination of all HIV work in as well as host several coordination meetings and M&E visits as a result of the administration support provided to the Commission in 2014	
	Comment	The support from the Global Fund covered the running cost of the AIDS Commission in 2014 e.g salaries, coordination costs, utilities and M&E costs	
PL	Indicator	# of AIDS Commission: coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E), Communication &HR, Quarterly Review Meetings	G
	Result	Puntland AIDS Commission conducted the following coordination meetings in 2014: 9 IPTCS and M&E Meetings, 4 Quarterly review meetings and several field visits to monitor the work of partners in all regions of Puntland.	
	Comment	Coordination meetings helped to track HIV activities, streamline data and improve implementation of HIV programmes. Approximately 30 people from UN agencies, International and local NGOs attended each of these meetings.	
FL	Indicator	# of Community Conversations on HIV held in Gedo and Banadir regions in the last 12 months	G
	Result	39 Community Conversations on HIV took place in Gedo and Banadir regions in the last 12 months	
	Comment	Local authorities in Banadir and Gedo regions have shown a great interest in the CC project and collaboration between Government and NGO partners to implement this project has been very strong	
FL	Indicator	# of people reached through the Community Conversation on HIV in Banadir and Gedo regions	G
	Result	2,035 people(F:1,210, M: 825) were reached through the CCE Project on HIV over the last 12 months.	
	Comment	Both men and women participated in Community Conversations on HIV in Mogadishu and Gedo Regions. However, there were more women than men participating in the sessions. Noting women's increased vulnerability to HIV this is a positive trend.	
FL	Indicator	# of community local authorities trained on HIV	G
	Result	80 persons (F:60, M: 20) from local governments of Hodan and Hamarweyne districts attended basic HIV training	
	Comment	The objective of these trainings was to equip the participants with basic information on HIV and strengthen their capacity to be able to support the smooth implementation of CC in Banadir and Gedo regions	
FL	Indicator	# of administrative support provided to South and Central AIDS Commission	G
	Result	The support from the Global Fund covered the running costs of the AIDS commission e.g. salaries of staff, communication costs, utilities costs and cost to host coordination meetings	
	Comment	This support ensured that AIDS commission have the capacity to coordinate and monitor a multisectoral sustainable response to HIV &AIDS	

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	# of IPTCS meeting hosted by the AIDS Commission	G
	Result	3 IPTCS meetings took place in Mogadishu in 2014	
	Comment	Meetings provided an opportunity for HIV stakeholders to share results of programmes being supported as well as discuss IPTCS data . These meetings also supported the coordination of all IPTCS activities.	
FL	Indicator	# of M&E and Communication meetings hosted by the AIDS Commission	G
	Result	4 M&E and Communication meetings took place in Mogadishu in the last 12 months	
	Comment	These meetings support tracking progress of HIV implementation plans and provide an opportunity for any challenges to be discussed by partners, e.g. stock outs and CD4 machine problems.	
FL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Review Meetings conducted by SCAC	G
	Result	3 Quarterly Review Meetings took place in Mogadishu in 2014.	
	Comment	Quarterly review meetings provided an opportunity for participants to contribute to the new HIV Strategy developed for 2015-2019 as well as discuss the development and priorities for the HIV Proposal that was submitted to the Global Fund in August in 2014.	
FL	Indicator	# of times HIV radio messages aired	G
	Result	1464 HIV radio messages (the 15 HIV messages produced in collaboration with BBC Media Action) were aired by 4 Radio stations in 2014.	
	Comment	The 4 Radio stations that aired the HIV messages were those with the largest coverage, namely Radio Kulmiye, Radio VOD, Radio Banadir and Radio Risala.	
FL	Indicator	# of Community Committee and Leaders trained on HIV & AIDS	G
	Result	40 (F:32, M:8) community leaders attended basic HIV & AIDS training in June 2014	
	Comment	Participants included influential leaders such as Religious Leaders, Elders, District Councillors and teachers who now show their support for HIV work by attending Community Conversation on HIV in their district.	
ALL	Indicator	# Community Conversation Refresher training conducted to improve capacity of NGO partners	G
	Result	CCE Refresher training was provided to all HIV partners implementing Community Conversation on HIV projects in Somalia	
	Comment	This training was carried out in collaboration with Gender project in September 2014	
ALL	Indicator	A new HIV Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 to be developed and endorsed by all stakeholders	G
	Result	A new HIV Strategy for Somalia 2015-2019 was developed together with an M&E Plan to support its implementation. framework and GF Somalia Concept note for 2015-2017 was submitted	
	Comment	The HIV Strategic Plan 2015-2019 formed the basis for the new HIV Proposal that was submitted to the Global Fund in August 2014. As a result of this proposal Somalia was awarded approximately USD 19 to support the HIV response in the next three years (2015-2017) from the Global Fund.	

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	# of Project HIV Board meeting conducted	G
	Result	1 HIV project board meeting took place in Q4 in Hargeisa.	
	Comment	All UNDP HIV project partners and government counterparts participated in this project board meeting. HIV Board reviewed project progress towards expected results and delivery of the project. The annual work plan was revisited and priorities and issues were discussed including funding challenges.	
SL	Indicator	# of site visits by Project staff	G
	Result	The UNDP HIV Project Officer attended all coordination and activities supported by UNDP. This involved various trips to Berbera and Boroma to support and monitor partners work.	
	Comment	The participation of UNDP's HIV Project Officer allowed for him to provide technical support to the AIDS commission and all HIV partners in Somaliland that are supported by UNDP. His presence also helped motivate partners in their work.	
FL	Indicator	# of Project HIV Board meeting conducted	G
	Result	1 HIV project board meeting took place in Mogadishu	
	Comment	The objective of the board meeting was to review project progress towards expected results and the delivery of the project, revisit the annual work plan and discuss priorities, issues, funding challenges and make appropriate recommendations on the way forward.	
FL	Indicator	# of site visits by Project staff	G
	Result	The Project Officer attended as many UNDP supported activities in Banadir Region. However, due to the large distance was not able to attend all activities supported in Gedo region	
	Comment	UNDP HIV Project Officer based in Mogadishu has built up a strong relationship with all UNDP supported partners at the Federal Level. There is also regular communication between staff and partners on activities.	
ALL	Indicator	Number of people reached through mainstreaming HIV into other UNDP projects	G
	Result	In total 764(M:481, F:283) people from UNDP's Police project and Y4C project benefited from Basic HIV Training (BCC).	
	Comment	In Somaliland 127 youth at risk (M:78; F: 49) and 140(M:118, F:22) Police members attended Basic HIV training. At the FL 191(F:81, M: 110) youth at risk received training on HIV. In Puntland 306(F:131, M:175) Police officers and youth at risk groups attended HIV basic(BCC) training.	
ALL	Indicator	World AIDS Commemoration	G
	Result	All 3 zones commemorated World AIDS Day in full event whereby senior government officials and hundreds of persons participated	
	Comment	UNDP supported the World AIDS Day Events. UNDP also supported printing IEC materials in 3 zones and airing HIV messages on Radios in Puntland during the event.	

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEDERAL LEVEL

One of the main achievements over the last year was the finalization of the National HIV strategy 2014-2019 and submission of Somalia's Concept note to the Global Fund. UNDP and the AIDS Commissions provided technical support and the necessary arrangements for the regional consultations of validating these above documents, as well as arranging a meeting in Kampala to have all documents endorsed by all partners. This resulted in the Global Fund allocating a grant of \$22 million to support all HIV work in Somalia for the next three years (2015-2017).

At the Federal Level with UNDP support 2,346 (1383, M:963) people benefited from HIV & AIDS awareness raising in Banadir and Gedo regions. The majority of participants who attended Community Conversation on HIV sessions were women.

PUNTLAND

UNDP successfully supported the AIDS Commission to develop a new HIV Strategy 2015-2019 as well as a new proposal for the Global Fund in 2014. This resulted in approx \$22 million being mobilized to support HIV (2015-2017)

In Puntland high level government officials participated in HIV meetings. This included his excellency the President, Vice President and Minister of Health (MoH) who all expressed their commitment to the fight against HIV & AIDS. Getting high level representatives to play a leadership role in the HIV response in Puntland is reassuring.

In total 3220 persons (M:1148, F:2072) reached through HIV awareness raising in Bossaso and Garowe. The majority of the participants were reached through Community Conversation on HIV project, where the majority of participants were women.

SOMALILAND

UNDP successfully supported the AIDS Commission to develop a new HIV Strategy 2015-2019 as well as a new proposal for the Global Fund in 2014. This resulted in approx \$22 million being mobilized to support for HIV (2015-2017)

The HIV Community Conversation Project reached a significant number of people in Somaliland in 2014. In total 4,419 (M:1,458, F: 2,961) people were reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising programmes in Somaliland in 2014. The majority of people reached in 2014 participated in the community conversation on HIV project. Approximately 70% of people were women.

The AIDS Commission played a strong role in advocating to integrate HIV in District Annual Plans and Budgets for 2015. This

PARTNERSHIPS

SL : Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) is UNDP's main government counterpart in Somaliland. SOLNAC is the main government institution mandated to coordinate the HIV response in Somaliland and are supported by UNDP's HIV unit. YOVENCO remain a strong NGO partner who implement the Community Conversation on HIV project in Berbera. They also support mainstreaming HIV into other UNDP projects and have been instrumental in conducting HIV training for Youth for Change beneficiaries. TALOWADAG PLHIV Network has taken up the role of implementing Community Conversations on HIV in Hargeisa & Borama. They also support empowering PLHIV with counselling services and training on 'Knowing Your Rights' which is supported by UNDP.

FL: UNDP continues to work closely with the Somali National AIDS Commission (SNAC) to assist them to coordinate and support all HIV stakeholders. UNDP also works with 2 local NGOs, AAWDO and HDC to role out Community Conversations on HIV in Gedo and Benadir regions. UNDP is also strengthening its partnership with the Network of PLHIV in Mogadishu who have over 500 members.

PL: UNDP works with the Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC). NGO partners implementing the CCs are Badbaado in Bossaso and TASS in Garowe.

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PEACE AND CONFLICT

There continues to be a misunderstanding about the different roles of the Ministry of Health and the AIDS Commissions in the HIV response, which has led to tensions between the two government institutions. The work of the MoH is critical in addressing all medical components of the HIV response, as is the role of the AIDS Commissions in relation to strengthening and coordinating a multi-sectoral response.

Due to security issues at the Federal Level the AIDS Commission is not able to travel to all regions to support HIV work. Indeed, in some recently evacuated Al Shabaab areas, it is unlikely that any HIV activities have ever taken place there.

Lastly, with so many refugees returning from Kenya to Somalia there is a need to scale up work with refugees and cross border populations.

GENDER

Community Conversations on HIV attract significant numbers of women and girls which has increased the number of women that receive HIV information. Community Conversation empower women and provide a platform for them to raise their issues and explore local solutions. Noting that women are more vulnerable to HIV infection, the HIV and Gender Projects at UNDP have also worked together over the last two years, to ensure that all Community Conversations address critical gender issues such a FGM, polygamy, wife inheritance and early/forced marriage, which make women particularly vulnerable to HIV. To help strengthen this work the HIV & Gender Project recently supported joint refresher training for all partners rolling out Community Conversations in Somalia.

The HIV Project also supports women living with HIV, with counseling support, 'Knowing Your Rights' training, legal aid and IGA support, noting the specific impact HIV has on women.

UPCOMING QUARTER

1. Host HIV Commission Meetings in Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeisa. These meetings will play an important role to support the AIDS Commissions to advocate and lobby other sectors to integrate/mainstream HIV into their work.
2. Carry out an Audit of each AIDS Commission. This is required by the GF and will assist UNDP in building the capacity of the AIDS Commission.
3. M & E capacity building and hands on training. This will support hands on capacity building training to help strengthen M & E in Somalia which UNDP and UNAIDS shall support in close collaboration with UNICEF (PR). This will be based on the newly developed M & E Plan to support the implementation of the HIV Strategy 2015-2019.
4. Continue to air HIV messages on 7 Radio Stations in Somalia. This will help spread accurate information on HIV as well as reduce stigma associated with the disease. To support and complement this work, UNDP will also conduct training on HIV for Journalists in each region.

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REFLECTIONS / LESSONS

Funding from the Global Fund for the Somali HIV response will be significantly reduced in the coming three years, compared to previous years. Since the Global Fund still remains the main donor, and provides the bulk of funding, there will be a significant funding gap from 2015. The NSP outlines the priority HIV activities, and the Global Fund proposal will only cover 70% of these costs. Therefore, it is imperative for UNDP and partners to explore additional sources of funding, and to dispel the myth that through the Global Fund the HIV response in Somalia receives adequate funding. The JUNTA and UNCT believe in the importance of continuing to support the HIV response in Somalia, in order to contain the epidemic and to prevent an increase in incidence and prevalence of HIV, and to be able to provide treatment, care and support to those that need it

Community Conversations on HIV continue to attract a lot of people to discuss issues linked to HIV. This is a community driven approach where participants explore cultural practices that fuel HIV transmission. Communities' also prepare local action plans to address HIV and as a result some CC sites committee now provide economic support for PLHIV. Continuation and supporting the Community Conversation approach will be important in efforts to reduce new HIV infections in Somalia.

The Community Conversations on HIV project has been successful in terms of creating a more supportive enabling environment for all HIV work in Somalia, noting the following:

- The HIV Community Conversation Project continues to reach a significant number of women and men. It also appears the project resonates strongly with Somalis' based on the large number of people that continue to participate in these meetings.
- The CCE initiative is helping to intensify and promote meaningful community participation to reduce HIV transmission in Somalia.
- The CCE initiative is helping to reduce stigma and discrimination closely associated with HIV in Somalia. An example of this is the empathy shown to People Living with HIV that regularly participate in Community Conversations as well as follow up support (food and psycho-social support) provided to PLHIV by communities.
- Anecdotal evidence would suggest that the CCE is contributing to increase the uptake of HIV services such as VCT, PMTCT and ART in areas identified as HIV Hot Spots in Somalia. Nevertheless a more detailed assessment/evaluation is needed to confirm this.
- The CCE initiative is helping to strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities to play a more active role in the response to HIV in Somalia.
- CCE initiative is encouraging local government authorities, for example Berbera, to play a more active role in the response to HIV in their communities. Berbera, Shiekh and Gabiley Local governments allocated budgets in 2015 for integrating HIV activities into District Development Annual Work plans in 2015 which if this materializes would be a significant achievement.

CUMULATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
APPROVED BUDGET	1,562,621
TOTAL (DISBURSEMENTS + COMMITMENTS)	1,216,129
BALANCE OF FUNDS	346,492
% DELIVERY (AGAINST APPROVED BUDGET)	78%

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LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

CC – Community Conversations on HIV
IGA - Income Generating Activities
IPTCS – Integrated HIV Prevention Treatment Care and Support
PAC- Puntland AIDS Commission
PLHIV – People Living with HIV
PMTCT - Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission
SCAC – South Central AIDS Commission
SOLNAC – Somaliland AIDS Commission
VCT – Voluntary Councelling and Testing
PL - Puntland
SL - Somaliland
FL - Federal Level

Donor	Global Fund
2014 Allocation from donor for 2014	1,315,971
2014 Allocation as % of AWP	84%
2014 Expenditure to date	1,016,129
Delivery %	77%

Donor	TRAC
2014 Allocation from donor for 2014	200,000.00
2014 Allocation as % of AWP	13%
2014 Expenditure to date	200,000.00
Delivery %	100%

Donor	UNFPA
2014 Allocation from donor for 2014	21,000
2014 Allocation as % of AWP	1%
2014 Expenditure to date	Nil
Delivery %	0%

Donor	IOM
2014 Allocation from donor for 2014	56,010
2014 Allocation as % of AWP	4%
2014 Expenditure to date	Nil
Delivery %	0%