

HIV / AIDS Project



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PROJECT:
HIV / AIDS Project

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PROGRAMME:
HIV / AIDS

REPORT PERIOD:
Q3 - 1 July to 30 September 2014

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Final

DONORS:
UNICEF (Global Fund)

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

FEDERAL LEVEL

On the 6th July 2014 the Federal Government AIDS Commission met with the Prime Minister to inform him that the three AIDS Commissions in Somalia had finalized the new HIV National Strategic Plan to guide the response to HIV in the next five years 2015 - 2019. In August, with technical support provided by UNDP, Somalia also submitted a new HIV Proposal to the Global Fund to support work in the next three years - 2015-2017. The Prime Minister was informed however that the HIV Grant for Somalia is expected to be considerably less than Somalia has been getting for the last five years. Therefore there is an urgent need for the Somali government to mobilize additional resources to support the response to HIV in Somalia. The Prime Minister commented that the government would do all it could to mobilize political, technical and additional financial resources to support the implementation of the new HIV National Strategic Plan 2015-2019.

PUNTLAND

During quarter three (July – September 2014), Puntland AIDS Commission continued to carry out its mandate of coordinating all HIV activities in Puntland. To support this the AIDS Commission convened three Integrated Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support (IPTCS) meetings with the aim of facilitating greater collaboration between different IPTCS key stakeholders in Puntland. In addition PAC hosted a Quarterly Review meeting where the final draft of the Global Fund HIV Concept Note 2015-2017 (proposal to the Global Fund) was presented to all stakeholders, so that participants could add any final inputs, before the proposal was submitted to the Global Fund in August 2014. UNDP also continued to support 15 Community Conversations on HIV in Q3 in 5 villages in Bosaso and Garowe and reached 824 people through this initiative over the last quarter. Basic HIV/AIDS training was also given to 60 police officers in Garowe, in collaboration with the UNDP Police Project.

SOMALILAND

In Q3 Somaliland AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) continued to carry out its mandate of coordinating all HIV activities. To support this the AIDS Commission convened three Integrated Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support (IPTCS) meetings with the aim of facilitating greater collaboration between key stakeholders in Puntland, and two Quarterly Review meetings. The AIDS Commission also met with Berbera Council on 8th September 2014, to advocate for HIV to be integrated into their District Development Plan in 2015. As a result of this meeting Berbera Council promised to allocate a budget for HIV in their District Development Plan for 2015. UNDP also provided basic HIV and AIDS training for 174 people from Local Councils of Berbera and Sheikh Districts in Q3, and continued to support Community Conversations on HIV in Hargeisa, Borama and Berbera which reached approximately 434 people.

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	In total 608 people participated in HIV & AIDS awareness sessions in Berbera, Borama and Hargeisa in Q3.	
	Comment	434 (M: 83, F: 351) people were reached through Community Conversations on HIV. The other 174 persons (F: 125, M: 49) were reached through basic HIV & AIDS trainings and knowing your rights training. Approximately 78% of the overall target of people reached in Q3 were female.	
PL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	In total 824 person were reached through Community Conversations on HIV in Bosaso and Garowe. In addition 60 police men and women received training on HIV and AIDS.	
	Comment	557 women and 267 men (between 15 - 50 years old) were reached through HIV Community Conversations. NGOs have reported that 43 out of 824 voluntarily went for VCT/PMTCS after the training, with 2 females finding out they were HIV positive.	
FL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	In total 636 people were reached in Banadir and Gedo regions through Community Conversations on HIV at the federal level over the last quarter.	
	Comment	Out of 636 people reached through Community conversations in Q3, 373 were female and 263 male. 60 women and 20 men received basic training on HIV&AIDS in efforts to try to mobilise support from influential leaders and local government in areas where these projects are being rolled out	
SL	Indicator	Community Conversations on HIV held in Berbera, Hargeisa and Borama	G
	Result	8 Community Conversation on HIV took place in Hargeisa (3) and Borama (5) in Q3.	
	Comment	Community Conversations were held in two sites during the reporting period, as UNDP partner in Berbera (YOVENCO) MCG ended in Q2. This is the reason why there were fewer Community Conversation sessions in Q3 compared to Q2 (25 sessions).	
SL	Indicator	# of people reached through the Community Conversations on HIV	G
	Result	Total of 434 (M: 83, F: 351) persons were reached through Community Conversations on HIV.	
	Comment	These Community Conversations were facilitated by Talawadag Network for People Living with HIV in Hargeisa and Boroma.	
SL	Indicator	# of district Councils, community committees and leaders provided with training on Basic HIV and AIDS in Berbera and Sheikh.	G
	Result	21 (F: 1, M: 20) local council members and community leaders that received training on HIV & AIDS in Q3	
	Comment	This training was conducted in Berbera for District Local Councils from Berbera and Sheikh. This training advocated for HIV to be included in District Development plans. It also opened doors for PLHIV to get substantial support from their district councils.	
SL	Indicator	# of PLHIV accessing legal aid	G
	Result	Know your rights training was conducted for 50 persons (F: 38, M: 12) in Hargeisa. Workshop for Beneficial disclosure for PLHIV (F: 20, M: 5). Refresher counseling training conducted for 10 counselors (F: 7, M: 3). Counseling session conducted for 68 persons (F: 59, M: 9).	
	Comment	The main objectives of this trainings was to provide counseling, legal and psychosocial support for People Living with HIV and people affected by HIV&AIDS, as well as to support PLHIV to adopt and maintain 'positive prevention'.	

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	# of PLHIV who participated in a 'Know your rights' training	G
	Result	50 People Living with HIV participated know your rights training in Q3. 38 Women and 12 Men.	
	Comment	The main objective of this training was to make sure that People Living with HIV are aware of their rights, and to make them aware of legal aid services available if they need them.	
SL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Review meetings	G
	Result	Somaliland National AIDS commission (SOLNAC) conducted 3 Quarterly review meetings in Q3. SOLNAC combined Q1 & Q2 review meetings held in July. Pllus another review meeting was conducted in September 2014.	
	Comment	The reason combining Q1 and Q2 review meetings was that SOLNAC was busy working on UNAIDS Gender and HIV Assessment and Developing the National HIV & AIDS Strategic Plan until July 2014. The Q3 review meeting took place as planned on 30th September 2014.	
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, utilities costs and costs to host coordination meetings etc.	
	Comment	The support ensured that Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) have the capacity to coordinate and monitor a multisectoral, sustainable response to HIV and AIDS.	
SL	Indicator	# of AIDS Commission Coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E)	G
	Result	3 IPTCS and M&E meetings took place in Q3 in Somaliland	
	Comment	Somaliland National AIDS Commission conducted 3 IPTCS and M&E working group meetings with key stakeholders to support and coordinate programme activities, share information, review and streamline M&E/IPTCS data and programme activities.	
SL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Communication meeting	G
	Result	Two quarter communication meetings took place in Somaliland in Q3	
	Comment	The July meeting provided an opportunity for the new HIV Proposal to be discussed, before it was submitted to the Global Fund mid-August 2014. Partners also discussed the lack of food being received by People Living with HIV from WFP. SOLNAC agreed to follow up on this with WFP and UNAIDS.	
SL	Indicator	# of site visits by project staff	G
	Result	The UNDP HIV Project Officer attended all coordination and activities supported by UNDP. UNDP continues to provide technical support to the AIDS Commission and all HIV Partners in Somaliland.	
	Comment	The project officer will continue to undertake field visits in Q4 to monitor and provide technical support to the partners.	
PL	Indicator		G
	Result	15 Community Conversations (CC) on HIV were held in 5 villages, 3 in Bosaso and 2 in Garowe, 5 Sessions per month.	
	Comment	NGOs reported to UNDP that as a result of the CCE 32 females and 11 males went for VCT where two women found out they were HIV positive.	

RESULTS

PL	Indicator	# of people reached through the Community Conversations on HIV	G
	Result	824 people from different communities in Bosaso and Garowe were reached.	
	Comment	This included 557 women and 267 men with average age ranges from 15 to 50 years old.	
PL	Indicator	# of district Councils, community committees and leaders provided with training on Basic HIV and AIDS Bosaso and Garowe	G
	Result	No training was planned for Q3.	
	Comment	The above training was carried out in Q2.	
PL	Indicator	# of administrative support provided to Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC)	G
	Result	Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC) continues to receive GF support for running costs such as salaries of the staff, coordination support, communication costs and day to day running costs of the office.	
	Comment	This support ensures that Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC) have the resources to coordinate and monitor a multisectoral, sustainable response to HIV and AIDS.	
PL	Indicator	# of AIDS Commission Coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E)	G
	Result	3 IPTCS and M&E meetings took place in Q3 in Puntland.	
	Comment	The meetings emphasized the importance of tracking HIV activities on an on –going basis and their key accomplishments, to see what lessons could be learnt to improve HIV services in Puntland. Approximately 20 people from UN Agencies, International and Local NGOs attended these meetings.	
PL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Review meetings	G
	Result	PAC hosted a Quarterly Review meeting on 30th September 2014 for all HIV stakeholders.	
	Comment	PAC, UNDP and UNICEF recommended that People Living with HIV should be included in as many activities on HIV taking place in Puntland as possible. The three partners recommended that NGO stakeholders should consider hiring PLHIV as Community Mobilisers and food distributors. NGOs welcomed the idea.	
PL	Indicator	HIV policy review, finalization, launch and printing	R
	Result	The HIV Policy in Puntland has not been finalised.	
	Comment	The HIV Policy needs to be updated with the latest data on HIV in Puntland. UNDP in collaboration with Puntland AIDS Commission are currently looking for a national consultant to assist with this assignment.	
FL	Indicator	Community Conversations on HIV took place in 2 sites in Banadir and 2 sites in Gedo region	G
	Result	12 CC sessions were conducted in Mogadishu and Gedo regions in Q3	
	Comment	The local authorities in Banadir and Gedo Regions showed great interest in this project and collaboration between government, NGO partners and UNDP to implement this project was strong.	

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	# of community local authority trainings conducted	G
	Result	Two local authority trainings were conducted in Hodan and Xamarweyne districts. Each training was 4 days, and a total of 80 people participated in training hosted in Q3 (F:60,M:20).	
	Comment	The aim of the local authority trainings in Hodan and Xamarweyne was to equip them with basic information on HIV & AIDS and strengthening their capacity to be able to support the smooth implementation of the CCE in Banadir and Gedo Regions.	
FL	Indicator	# of administrative support provided to South and Central AIDS commission (SCAC)	G
	Result	SCAC continues to receive GF support for running costs such as salaries of the staff, coordination support, communication costs and day to day running costs of the office.	
	Comment	SCAC supported Coordination meetings, Quarterly review meetings as well as monitoring of activities conducted by other stakeholders at the federal level in Q3, as planned.	
FL	Indicator	# of IPTCS meeting hosted by the AIDS commission	G
	Result	Two IPTCS meetings took place in Mogadishu in Q3.	
	Comment	WHO highlighted results of the surveillance data from SC. The surveillance was conducted in 10 ANC and STI centres in Mogadishu, Merca and Jowhar. In 2004 the HIV rate was 0.6 in SC while in 2011 it was 0.25 which shows that the incidence was lower in 2011.	
FL	Indicator	# of M&E and Communication meetings host by the AIDS Commission	G
	Result	One joint M&E and communication meeting took place on 30th August 2014. Twenty nine (29) stakeholders working on HIV&AIDS participatd in this meeting.	
	Comment	All partners working on HIV were asked to share updates of work plans with the AIDS Commission, so they could plan for their M&E officers to conduct monitoring and evaluation visits to project sites.	
FL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Review meetings hosted by the AIDS Commission	G
	Result	On 23th-24th July, 2014 two days SCAC review meeting conducted at SCAC meeting hall, 22 different stakeholder were invited to the meeting including president office HIV unit, prime-minister office HIV unit, MoH, UN agencies, INGO, LNGOs and South central PLHIV network	
	Comment	The quarterly review meeting is concentrated to share the achievement and challenges of the ongoing global fund project for HIV and also reviewing and contributing SZC input to global fund concept note to prioritize and request to fund source to HIV&AIDS programs.	
FL	Indicator	CCE refresher training was conducted in September 2014	G
	Result	CCE refresher training was provided to 10 participants (F:4 M:6) from partner organisations between 15th- 18th September in Hargeisa. This was carried out in collaboration with UNDP Gender Programme.	
	Comment	This training provided an opportunity for all HIV partners implementing Community Conversations on HIV to reflect with facilitators on their experiences and insights of implementing this project in Somalia. Participants remarked that they found it very helpful.	
FL	Indicator	HIV policy review, finalization, launch and printing	R
	Result	The draft HIV policy is yet to be finalized and endorsed.	
	Comment	The reason for the delay in finalising the HIV Policy is due to competing demands and the difficulty in the AIDS Commission securing a date for the Policy to be presented to Parliament. UNDP will continue to follow up on this with the AIDS Commission.	

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	Support mainstreaming HIV / AIDS into all other UNDP projects e.g.CSP, A2J, Community Security.	Y
	Result	The HIV project has arranged to integrate HIV & AIDS in to the CSP project in 4 project locations one in Baidoa and three in Banadir regions targeting 260 beneficiaries in Q4.	
	Comment	This is part of UNDP Somalia's aims to mainstream HIV& AIDS in to all other UNDP programmes and projects.	
SL	Indicator	# of site Visits by the project staff	G
	Result	UNDP HIV Project Officer visited all partners the project supports in Q3 to ensure that all activities being carried out by partners are delivered to a high standard.	
	Comment	As a result of keeping in almost daily contact with partners as well as participating in activities they implement, UNDP continues to enjoy strong partnerships with all partners we work with ion HIV n Somaliland.	
PL	Indicator	# of site Visits by the project staff	G
	Result	UNDP HIV Project Officer in Puntland visited all partners the project supports in Q3 to ensure that all activities being carried out by partners are delivered to a high standard.	
	Comment	As well as UNDP staff monitoring activities that we support, all partners are also required to submit a report and attendance sheets for all meetings/training on HIV that takes place as per Global Fund procedures.	
FL	Indicator	# of site Visits by the project staff	G
	Result	UNDP HIV Project Officer visited CCE sessions in both sites in Banadir region , and co-facilitated HIV training for two local authorities carried out by AAWDO. He also regularly participated in coordination meetings and in the quarterly review meeting hosted by the	
	Comment	The main purpose of this regular monitoring to project sites is to provide technical support to partners that the HIV Project works with, as well as strengthen the quality of the projects and the partnership between UNDP and its partners.	

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEDERAL LEVEL

One of the main achievements over the last quarter was the finalisation and submission of the HIV Concept Note for the period 2015-2017 that was submitted to the Global Fund in August 2014. UNDP took the lead to provide the necessary technical support to the three AIDS Commissions, who arranged regional consultations to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible had the opportunity to participate and share their experiences in the development of this proposal. The guiding document to support this proposal was the HIV National Strategic Plan for Somalia 2015-2019 where UNDP also provided technical support to the Somali government.

PUNTLAND

Improved Coordination capacity of Puntland AIDS Commissions (PAC): The capacity of Puntland AIDS Commissions to convene stakeholders without much support was considerably strengthened in Q3. In Q3, Puntland AIDS Commission hosted regular monthly IPTCS meetings (3 in total) with key HIV stakeholders to identify achievements, challenges and recommendations on how HIV services in Puntland can be improved. These meetings provided an opportunity for all HIV stakeholders in Puntland to endorse the HIV proposal submitted to the Global Fund as well as address critical issues such as stock-outs of HIV supplies in health facilities and concerns regarding the quality and ratio of food/nutrition provided to People Living with HIV in Puntland.

SOMALILAND

One of the main achievements over the last quarter in Somaliland, was that SOLNAC met with Berbera Council on 8th September 2014, to advocate for HIV to be integrated into the District Development Plan for Berbera in 2015. Outcomes of the meeting included the following: i) The Mayor of Berbera City Council and the Executive Officer of Berbera Municipality agreed to integrate HIV activities into District Development Plans (priorities) for 2015. If this materialises this will be a significant achievement, and the first time that funds to support HIV are integrated into District Development Plans. ii) Berbera Local Authority agreed to allocate funds to support 150 People Living with HIV. iii) SOLNAC and Berbera Council agreed to work more closely together to address HIV in the District.

PARTNERSHIPS

FL: UNDP continues to work closely with South Central AIDS Commission (SCAC) to help them better coordinate and support all HIV stakeholders in Somalia. UNDP also works with 2 local NGOs, AAWDO and HDC to support the rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV). In 2014 both of these NGOs started rolling out Community Conversations on HIV in Benadir and Gedo regions. Through these NGOs UNDP is also working to strengthen the relationship between the AIDS Commission and Local Government Authorities in Benadir and Gedo regions. UNDP advocates for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) as well as Religious Leaders to be included in all activities we support.

SL: Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) is the main government institution mandated to coordinate the HIV response in Somaliland. As a result they are the HIV Project's main government partners. Two local NGOs, YOVENCO and Talawadag remain strong partners in implementing Community Conversations on HIV in Berbera, Hargeisa, and Burao. To help mainstream HIV into other UNDP Projects, UNDP works closely with the Somaliland National HIV and AIDS Network (SAHAN) that are based in Hargeisa. Through the AIDS Commission, UNDP also supports Radio Hargeisa to air messages on HIV.

PL: UNDP's main government partner in Puntland is Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC), set up to coordinate and support all HIV stakeholders in Puntland. UNDP also works in close partnership with two local NGOs, BADBAADO (Bosaso) and TASS (Garowe).

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PEACE AND CONFLICT

There were no conflicts to report during this period which impacted the project delivery.

GENDER

The Community Conversation on HIV project that UNDP supports in areas identified as HIV 'hot spots' in Somalia (Berbera, Hargeisa, Bosaso, Garowe, Mogadishu and Gedo Region) continues to attract approximately 70% women and 30% men. Therefore a significant number of women are benefiting from this project.

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 as FGM, polygamy, wife inheritance and early/forced marriages, which make women particularly vulnerable to . To help strengthen this work the HIV & Gender Projects recently supported joint refresher training for all partners rolling out Community Conversations in Somalia.

The HIV Project also supports women living with HIV, with counselling support, 'knowing your rights' training, legal aid and IGA support, noting the specific impact HIV has on women.

UPCOMING QUARTER

1. UNDP in collaboration with UNAIDS are trying to arrange for the President or Prime Minister of Somalia to launch the new HIV National Strategic Plan 2015-2019 on World AIDS Day (1st December 2014) in Mogadishu.
2. UNDP is helping to arrange for representatives from the three AIDS Commissions to participate in up-coming District Development planning meetings, where Districts will develop their Annual Work Plans for 2015. This is being done in collaboration with colleagues from the Joint Programme for Local Governance (JPLG). The main objective is to advocate for all Districts to allocate some funds to support HIV prevention work in each District, noting cuts from the Global Fund.
3. UNDP are discussing with each AIDS Commission for radio stations in each region to air the HIV Radio messages produced in collaboration with BBC Media Action again, in the build up to World AIDS Day. Through this initiative we expect that over 2,000 messages will be aired.

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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 remains the main donor for all HIV work in Somalia, and provides the bulk of funding, there will be a significant funding gap from 2015. The new HIV National Strategic Plan 20-15-2019 outlines priority HIV activities, and the Global Fund proposal will not even cover half those costs. Therefore, it is imperative for the Somali government and partners to explore additional sources of funding for the HIV response in Somalia urgently.

UNAIDS, the Joint UN Team on AIDS and the UNCT believe in the importance to continue supporting the HIV response in Somalia, in order to contain the epidemic and to prevent an increase in HIV incidence and prevalence, as well as to be able to provide treatment, care and support to those effected, by HIV. Nevertheless more resources will need to be mobilised to support this.

It would appear from anecdotal evidence that the Community Conversations on HIV project are successfully helping to create a more supportive enabling environment for all HIV work in Somalia, noting the following:

1. 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.
2. The CCE initiative is helping to intensify and promote meaningful community participation to reduce HIV transmission in Somalia.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. It would appear that the 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 Local government have said they will integrate HIV activities into District Development Annual Work plans in 2015 which if this materialises would be a significant achievement.

CUMULATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

APPROVED BUDGET	\$1,562,621
TOTAL (DISBURSEMENTS + COMMITMENTS)	\$1,100,656
BALANCE OF FUNDS	\$461,965
% DELIVERY (AGAINST APPROVED BUDGET)	70%

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LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

CC – Community Conversations on HIV

IPTCS – Integrated HIV Prevention Treatment Care and Support

PLHIV – People Living with HIV

SCAC – South Central AIDS Commission

SOLNAC – Somaliland AIDS Commission

VCT – Voluntary Councelling and Testing

PAC- Puntland AIDS Commission

PL - Puntland

SL - Somaliland

FL - Federal Level