

HIV / AIDS Project



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PROJECT SUMMARY

2013 marked the first year of Phase 2 of the Global Fund HIV grant (Round 8). Unfortunately, due to prolonged negotiations between the Principal Recipient (PR) and the Global Fund the arrival of funds was delayed. UNDP finally received 2013 funding in September. Fortunately with TRAC funding and some other financial resources, UNDP HIV unit was able to implement activities from January onwards. Administrative support to the AIDS Commissions was delayed, although in September UNDP entered into contracts with the AIDS Commissions, which included back payments for office salaries and administration. During 2013, UNDP HIV unit was able to implement nearly all activities in the AWP 2013. UNDP entered into a 2 year agreement (2013 - 2-14) with UNICEF (the Principal recipient), and it is anticipated that there will be no delays in activities in 2014.

The first few months focused on providing trainings for HIV community conversation (CC) facilitators, journalists and PLHIV. These activities laid the ground for a speedy roll-out of the community conversations. In Quarter 4, UNDP signed contracts with several NGOs to implement this activity until the end of 2014. It is also the first time that CCs are being implemented in South-Central Somalia, after having proven very successful in Puntland and Somaliland. They assist communities to discuss and address important and sensitive issues, and contribute to a reduction in HIV stigma and discrimination and an increased uptake in VCT services.

UNDP is the lead agency to technically and administratively support the coordination efforts of the three AIDS Commissions (NACs). Despite funding delays, the NACs were able to continue organizing zonal coordination meetings for IPTCS (Integrated Prevention, treatment, care and support), communication and M&E. These meetings bring together all stakeholders involved in the HIV response, and ensure coordination and information sharing. Financial mismanagement by Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC) in 2012 has resulted in UNDP doing direct payments to vendors (an approach that prevents future fraudulent activities) instead of entering into a contract with PAC. This approach increases the workload of the HIV unit substantially, and is expected to be revisited in 2014 without compromising the Oversight over the funds.

The HIV unit continued to work with other programmes on integrating HIV, and on doing joint activities. The PREP programme included PLHIVs into their income-generating activities project. The HIV and gender programmes entered into a joint contract with a local NGO in South-Central. HIV awareness raising sessions have been an integral part of trainings in ARMO police academy for many years, and the Youth at Risk project also included HIV sensitisation activities.

A highlight of the year was the participation of several Somalis in the 17th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), which took place in Cape Town in December. UNDP together with other UN agencies supported the participation of the AIDS Commissions Executive Directors, a journalists and a staff of a local NGO partner.

One of the most important activities that started in Q4 is the development of the new HIV National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2014–18. The process is being led by UNAIDS, but UNDP provides both administrative and technical support. UNDP entered into an agreement with KPMG, who provide the consultants. Zonal consultations will take place in January. Once the NSP has been finalised, Somalia has to develop a concept note for the Global Fund. The current HIV grant ends at the end of 2014, and Somalia has to submit a new proposal. The Global Fund provides nearly all funding for HIV activities in Somalia.

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PROJECT:
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HIV / AIDS

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CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

FEDERAL LEVEL

In 2013, UNDP worked closely with the South-Central AIDS Commission (SCAC) to help create a more supportive environment for all HIV activities in Somalia. UNDP continues to enjoy a strong partnership with SCAC who are a key government counterpart in Mogadishu. UNDP is the lead agency supporting SCAC, especially building their capacity and supporting coordination activities. A key priority has been the initiation of the development of a new and costed HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018. The importance of the development of the new strategy cannot be overemphasised as it is a requirement for Somalia to submit with the next HIV proposal to the Global Fund, due in 2014. The Strategy will also guide the development of the Proposal. The Global Fund currently provides about 95% of all funding for HIV work in Somalia. UNDP is actively involved in the strategy development through providing strong support to UNAIDS who are taking the lead and KPMG who are the implementing organisation.

PUNTLAND

In 2013, UNDP work successfully with two NGOs on implementing Community Conversations in Berbera and Garowe. With the PREP programme, an initiative was started which supports 120 PLHIV with Income Generating Activities. UNDP is the key agency supporting the Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC). PAC was not very active earlier in the year due to delays in Global Fund funding. In Q3, PAC paid back some of the funds owed to UNDP. This allowed UNDP to increase its financial support to PAC, who are now actively coordinating the HIV response in Puntland. There should be no more delays in 2014, and this should result in increased technical and financial cooperation between UNDP and PAC.

SOMALILAND

2013 marked an increase in political support and leadership for the HIV response in Somaliland. A high-level political delegation led by the President of Somaliland, his Excellency Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud (Silanyo), visited SOLNAC office. In a press release the president reiterated his government's commitment to increase resources to address effective coordination of HIV response, and greater support to people living with HIV (PLHIV). The participation of the vice presidents in testing for HIV at a public auditorium during WAD commemoration is another good indicator of political support. The increase in the Government's contribution to the HIV response was noted, including distributing food to PLHIV and AIDS orphans. With technical support of UNDP, SOLNAC's strategic leadership, management of national HIV response and coordinating the combined efforts of civil society, PLHIV networks, Islamic charities and the UN was highlighted extensively in 2013.

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	3398 people reached with basic information on HIV and AIDS in 2013	
	Comment	Education and awareness programmes conveying basic facts about HIV and AIDS and its transmission, result in promoting behavior changes and combating harmful myth and stigma. Training reached uniformed personnel, PLHIV, Gov. representatives, youth, women and most at risk groups.	
SL	Indicator	2.4.1.1 Number of police officers trained and carrying-out duties in accordance with human rights and with mediation capacities	G
	Result	200 police (F:150, M:50) were trained on basic HIV facts as part of mainstreaming HIV into the civilian police project, noting that uniformed services are identified as a vulnerable group for HIV infection. Information on available services was also given.	
	Comment	Key message to the police was to avoid making value judgments on how someone contracted HIV and instead provide service to PLHIV like any other citizen that have basic right to access rule of law when wronged. Basic knowledge on HIV and available services for their own protection was also given.	
PL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	2,418 persons reached with basic information on HIV and AIDS in 2013	
	Comment	This included training for community members (women, men, youth), the academy trainees, People living with HIV and representatives from different government sectors and CSOs. Further, it includes people who participated in Community Conversations in Garowe and Bossaso.	
FL	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	G
	Result	400 people were reached. Of these, 30 people living with HIV, incl. family members participated in training on 'knowing your rights', and 216 participated in CCs.	
	Comment	This included training for community members (women, men, youth), the police, PLHIV and representatives from different government sectors and CSOs. Also Training for PLHIV was to empower them, sensitise family members on their rights, and reduce stigma and discrimination.	
ALL	Indicator	1.1.1.1 Level of findings and recommendations from relevant research and data analysis that is incorporated in programming decisions is "high", "medium" or "low"	Y
	Result	HIGH: The Somali HIV/AIDS Strategy being developed using all available research done to date by WHO, IOM and other stakeholders.	
	Comment	The HIV media project is taking into account recommendations that came out of the impact evaluation carried out on this project in 2012.	
SL	Indicator	# of community conversation (CC) sessions held in Togwajale, Berbera, Hargeisa and Borama	G
	Result	73 Community Conversations session are held in 2013, Berbera (60 sessions), Togwajale (9 sessions), Hargeisa (3 sessions) and Borama (1 Session). Monthly CC have resulted in providing basic facts on HIV to a large number of people as well as addressing Stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV.	
	Comment	Community Conversations on HIV have helped to break the silence surrounding HIV & AIDS. Considerable support towards PLHIV by the local government and the local community has been observed and this also resulted in uptake of HIV awareness as Local governments priority in Berbera.	
SL	Indicator	# of people reached through the Community Conversation on HIV	G
	Result	2610 people (F:1997 and M:613) attended the CC session in 4 locations. CC continues to achieve key results in increasing communities' knowledge in identifying norms and community practices that fuel HIV infection.	
	Comment	Women and Youth are especially vulnerable group to HIV. Of the CC participants, 77% were Women and 23% were youth. They were provided with a platform to access accurate information on HIV. This is an effort to decrease their vulnerability.	

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	# of people attended Community Capacity Enhancement Training	G
	Result	9 (F:3 and M:6) people representing local and central government, NGOs, religious leaders and AIDS commission were trained on CCE approach. CCE approach promotes meaningfully community participation to HIV response at district level.	
	Comment	As a result of the CCE training 2 new sites in Hargeisa and Boroma were established, CC aim to empower communities through monthly sessions that engage communities in constructive facilitated dialogue to identify norms and cultural factors that contribute towards HIV infection.	
SL	Indicator	# of Community Capacity Enhancement Training	G
	Result	1 CCE training held in Hargeisa, the training was organized in collaboration with Gender Unit. The aim of the training is to generate a sustained long term interactive dialogue to address issued related to HIV and Gender	
	Comment	CCE approach is used to strengthen HIV and AIDS mainstreaming in district and community-driven, 'bottom-up' problem identification and solution. This approach will address the different vulnerabilities faced by women/men, young/old and different Most At Risk Populations (MARPs)	
SL	Indicator	# of people that recieve leadership training.	G
	Result	30 (F:16 and M:14) people attended the 2nd phase of 'Leadership for Results' training.	
	Comment	Leadership for result programme is aimed to equip partners to be more effective in improving leadership skills, improved decisions making process, skills to determine whether or not desired results have been reached, and aspirations change as a result of their decisions.	
SL	Indicator	# of Leadership training for HIV commission, Religious Leaders, People living with HIV , NGOs and Media	G
	Result	1 training conducted in Hargeisa. During the training participants developed small action plans and committed themselves to implement these (e.g. provide awareness to young mothers on link between HIV and FGM).	
	Comment	The leadership for results training was aimed to build the capacity and engage leaders to be involve in the HIV response , by mainstreaming HIV into all the ongoing and planned programmes .	
SL	Indicator	# Administrative support provided to Somaliland AIDS Commission	G
	Result	The support ensured that Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) have the capacity to coordinate and monitor a multisectoral, sustainable response to HIV and AIDS.	
	Comment	Multisectoral coordination at all levels is conducted by SOLNAC. The actors developed and participate in coordination forums for Key stakeholders to discuss issues, measure progress, & make plans. There is also biannual review meeting with all stakeholders' & monthly technical thematic meetings.	
SL	Indicator	# AIDS Commissions:Coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E)	G
	Result	11 joint IPCTS and M&E meetings conducted in 2013 led by SOLNAC, this technical meeting is attended by 25 (3 Female and 22 Male) key stakeholders involved in HIV response there stakeholders is composed of UN, CSOs INGOs, religious leaders, line ministries.	
	Comment	Monthly IPTCS and M&E meetings provide an opportunity to continuous technical support to ongoing activities and also an opportunity to discuss and resolve any burning issues related to care and treatment services and strengthening monitoring tools.	
SL	Indicator	# quarterly communication meeting	Y
	Result	1 communication meeting was organized/led by SOLNAC, as an outcome of the meeting it was agreed that communication interventions must promote behavior change simultaneously at these different levels across the community.	
	Comment	Stakeholder discussed to coordinate prevention intervention by identifying target audience and also identify the other groups that influence the target audience in relation to a defined set of outcomes or objectives, such as peers, family members, or community leaders.	

RESULTS

SL	Indicator	# IEC material produced focusing on HIV	G
	Result	15 HIV billboards, 2500 HIV A3 posters and 3000 brochures were printed. A distribution plan was developed with IPTCS stakeholders and implemented. Billboards to universities, hospitals. Posters and brochures were distributed to all Global Fund partners implementing HIV activities in the regions.	
	Comment	IEC material were developed in conjunction with stakeholders and people living with HIV, and the messages on the IEC material were also pretested to determine their potential effectiveness on the target beneficiaries. List of organisations who received materials is available, and numbers also.	
SL	Indicator	# of commission meetings	G
	Result	1 commission meeting was held in 2013 involving all six ministries that form the commissionaires of Somaliland National AIDS commission (SOLNAC). The role of the multi-sectoral ministries is to provide guidance to the coordination of HIV response in Somaliland that is led by the national institute.	
	Comment	Somaliland vice president chaired the commission meeting, this illustrate the political and leadership commitment to compact HIV in Somaliland , and aim to achieve the global vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths.	
SL	Indicator	# of participants attend HIV training for Media representatives	G
	Result	25 journalist (12 Female , 13 Male) capacity was built on how to better report on HIV and AIDS, and the journalist were also sensitized on critical issues such as stigma and discrimination linked to the disease and how inaccurate reports can play a part in fueling stigma towards PLHIV.	
	Comment	This training equipped journalists with skills to develop an accurate understanding and provided guidelines for reporting about HIV. It was witnessed that 4 journalist had improved reporting on HIV, as evidenced during World AIDS day 2013 media coverage.	
SL	Indicator	# of community committees and leaders provided with training on Basic HIV and AIDS in Hargeisa and Borama	G
	Result	95 people were trained. 10 (F:7 and M:3) from Hargeisa and 10 (F:8 and M:2) from Boroma were committee members. The remaining 27 people trained were influential from the community, incl. community elders, teachers, traditional birth attendants, mosque imams, sheikhs, police, local government.	
	Comment	The aim was to equip the committees with key facts on HIV/AIDS, prevention & treatment and to consider their own prejudice against PLHIV . As a results the committees supported the new initiative of starting CC on HIV in 2 villages to raise awareness among their communities in Hargesia & Borama.	
SL	Indicator	# of youth reached with basic HIV training	G
	Result	201(131 Male, 70 Female) beneficiaries of youth for change project in Hargeisa, Burao, Borama, and Las-Anoud, obtained basic training on HIV/AIDS, their capacity was built to understand the myths & facts about HIV & AIDS to encourage seeking appropriate medical assistance	
	Comment	Mainstreaming HIV into youth for change project was to support the youth make informed and responsible decisions about their lifestyle	
SL	Indicator	# of times messages aired on radio stations	R
	Result	No messages were aired in 2013 in Somaliland.	
	Comment	Agreement was made between SOLNAC and Radio Hargeisa. SOLNAC will provide equipment to Radio Hargeisa, and Radio Hargeisa will air 1 message 3 times a day for 6 months. Start Q1 2014. Delay due to late arrival of Global Fund money.	
PL	Indicator	# of times messages aired on radio stations	R
	Result	No messages were aired in 2013	
	Comment	UNDP will enter into an agreement with Somali Broadcasting Corporation in Q1 of 2014 for airing of messages.	

RESULTS

PL	Indicator	# of community conversation sessions held in Bossaso and Garowe	G
	Result	10 Community Conversation sessions were held in 2013 in Q4, 6 in Bossaso and 4 in Garowe. Monthly CC have resulted in providing basic facts on HIV to a large number of people as well as addressing stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV.	
	Comment	Community Conversations on HIV have helped to break the silence surrounding HIV & AIDS and considerably support towards PLHIV by the local government and the local community has been observed. Activity started in November, and will continue until October 2014. Funding for one year from Global Fund.	
PL	Indicator	# of people reached through community conversations on HIV	G
	Result	1,288 person (F:845 and M:443) attended the CC session in Bossaso and Garowe locations. An additional approximately 200 persons attended CC sessions in Q2. CC continues to achieve key results in increasing communities' knowledge in identifying norms and community practices that fuel HIV infection.	
	Comment	Women and Youth are especially vulnerable to HIV. Of the CC participants, nearly all were either women or youth. They were provided with a platform to access accurate information on HIV. Communities now acknowledge HIV as a critical issue and more people have been accessing VCT.	
PL	Indicator	# of PLHIV trained on IGA and offered financial support to start IGA activity (PREP synergy)	Y
	Result	85 (F:56 and M:29) PLHIV were given small business management training in Q1. Of these, 45 persons were given small grants in Garowe.	
	Comment	Due to financial mis-management issues by the NGO YAHAN in Bossaso, no IGA activities were supported there.	
PL	Indicator	# of PLHIV who participated in a 'Know your rights' training	G
	Result	45 PLHIV (F:33 and M:12) received training on 'Knowing your rights' in Bossaso and Garowe in Q1	
	Comment	The training raised the awareness on the rights of PLHIV and created linkages with Puntland Legal AID centres (also supported by UNDP) in Garowe and Bossaso. The PLHIV are now capable of advocating for themselves.	
PL	Indicator	# of people who receive leadership training	G
	Result	40 persons from government and civil society groups received leadership training in Q1	
	Comment	The training raised awareness on HIV/AIDS and strengthened the participants' leadership skills to become advocates	
PL	Indicator	# of UNDP projects that mainstream HIV into their work	G
	Result	104 (F:8 and M:96) police officers from the SPU, 60 (M:60) police trainees at the Armo police academy and 175 Youth at Risk (93 in Qardo prison and 86 in Bossaso prison) received basic training on HIV/AIDS.	
	Comment	Implementation in collaboration with UNDP Youth at Risk project and UNDP police project.	
PL	Indicator	Administrative support provided to Puntland AIDS Commission	G
	Result	In Q1 there was no support, in Q2 there was limited support due to delays in funding. Support started in Q3.	
	Comment	Due to financial mismanagement in 2013, UNDP did not sign a LoA with PAC. UNDP currently makes all payments on behalf of PAC noting their weak financial systems. This has increased the workload of the HIV unit considerably. It also limits the support that UNDP can provide to PAC.	

RESULTS

PL	Indicator	# of coordination meetings organised	G
	Result	1 IPTCS meeting each in October and November. In December there was a joint IPTCS and M&E meeting.	
	Comment	Delays in GF funding resulted in no M&E meetings taking place during the first 3 quarters.	
PL	Indicator	Religious leaders provide support to HIV awareness activities	G
	Result	Religious leaders participated in community conversation sessions as resource persons	
	Comment	This is continuing. The participation of religious leaders and community leaders and local government representatives had proven to be highly beneficial, since they serve as opinion leaders.	
PL	Indicator	# of Quarterly Review meetings	G
	Result	One Quarterly Review meeting took place between Puntland AIDS Commission and all partners working on HIV in Q3	
	Comment	Delay in funding and the challenges associated with direct payments have resulted in fewer activities being coordinated by PAC than originally planned.	
FL	Indicator	# of people that received leadership training	G
	Result	12 people from Mogadishu (community facilitators, religious leaders, NGO staff) participated in 'Leadership for Results' training that took place in Hargeisa in Q1	
	Comment	Unfortunately only half of the planned participants from Mogadishu were able to participate due to flights being full.	
FL	Indicator	# of People living with HIV (PLHIV) that participated in 'Knowing your Rights' training	G
	Result	33 individuals which included PLHIV and their family members participated in a training in Q1. In Q2, another 105 PLHIV and family members participated in 3 trainings.	
	Comment	23 + 67 women and 10 + 38 men benefited from this training. The objective of empowering PLHIV to claim their rights was successfully achieved, and stigma and discrimination by family members reduced.	
FL	Indicator	Technical Assistance provided to help strengthen M&E of HIV work in Somalia	G
	Result	35 people participated in a 2 day workshop to help finalise the HIV M&E framework for Somalia	
	Comment	UNDP co-facilitated this meeting in Mogadishu with UNAIDS.	
FL	Indicator	# of journalists that received training on HIV	G
	Result	25 journalists from Mogadishu participated in a 2 day training on HIV/AIDS	
	Comment	Journalists were equipped with basic facts on HIV and skills on how to use non-discriminatory vocabulary when reporting on HIV. This will help address stigma associated with the disease.	

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	# of IEC materials reviewed	G
	Result	24 different stakeholders participated in a meeting to review IEC materials in Q1.	
	Comment	The IEC materials were subsequently printed and the AIDS Commissions distributed them to all organisations working on HIV/AIDS.	
FL	Indicator	Administrative support provided to AIDS Commission	G
	Result	As a result of the delay in Global Fund funding, support to SCAC was limited for the first 2 quarters, but is now on-going.	
	Comment	UNDP entered into an LoA with SCAC in September. This included back payments for SCAC staff incentives for January - September.	
FL	Indicator	AIDS Commission: # of coordination meetings supported	G
	Result	Q1: 1 M&E meeting. Q2: 1 IPTCS meeting Q3: 1 joint M&E and Communication & Mobilisation meeting Q4: 2 IPTCS meetings (Oct. and Dec.) and 1 joint M&E and Communication & Mobilisation meeting in Nov.	
	Comment	Delays in Global Fund funding resulted in limited activity during first 2 quarters.	
FL	Indicator	Somalia HIV/AIDS policy finalised	Y
	Result	HIV policy still to be approved/ endorsed by parliament.	
	Comment	The delay in finalising the HIV policy is due to a long list of policies and bills that need to be approved by parliament.	
FL	Indicator	# of PLHIV trained and supported to start IGA (PREP) synergy	R
	Result	No PLHIV were supported in 2013 in FL.	
	Comment	There are two reasons for this activity not being implemented at FL. There was lack of funding from PREP programme, and it was decided to see results and learn lessons from SL and PL IGA project for PLHIV before expanding it to South-Central. It is planned to implement this activity in 2014.	
FL	Indicator	# of community conversations sessions held	G
	Result	4 community conversation sessions were held in Mogadishu in Q4	
	Comment	CCs sessions were introduced in Mogadishu, and will start in Dollow in Q1 of 2014. Two new NGO partners: AAWDO in Mogadishu and HDC in Gedo region. LoA with HDC jointly with Gender programme, who are also introducing CCs.	
FL	Indicator	Religious leaders provide support to HIV awareness activities	G
	Result	Several religious leaders participated in a training on community conversations in Hargeisa	
	Comment	Noting the important role that religious leaders play in Somalia, they will act as resource persons during the community conversations.	

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	# of people who attended community conversations	G
	Result	There were 4 CCs held in November and December in Mogadishu, with a total of 216 participants (F:129 and M:87)	
	Comment	CCs in Gedo region so start January 2014	
FL	Indicator	# of times messages aired on radio stations	Y
	Result	In Q1 Benadir Radio broadcast an HIV message 33 times (a different one of the 15 standardised messages each time). In Q2, 1047 times an HIV message was aired by Radio stations Benadir, Kulmiye, Risaala and VOD in Benadir region. The radio stations used the 15 standard messages	
	Comment	There are 15 standardised messages that were developed. Activity will continue in 2014.	
ALL	Indicator	# of uniform radio messages developed	G
	Result	15 radio messages were developed through consultations and finalised. They were shared with partners through the zonal communication taskforce and with radio stations.	
	Comment	These messages are the same for the whole country. Radio stations have been broadcasting these messages. In 2014, the project will continue to support message broadcasting. Uniform and tested messages being repeated contributes to reduction of stigma and increase in awareness.	
SL	Indicator	# of site visits by project staff	G
	Result	HIV Area Project Manager provided regular monitoring to all projects. 3 missions to Togwachale and Berbera were carried out in Q2 and 1 visit to Berbera in Q3 and Q4. In Q4 the HIV area project manager was accompanied by the HIV programme specialist	
	Comment	Project monitoring visits have proven important in ensuring that the projects are on track. Providing technical support as well as guidance to implementing partners is key. It is much appreciated by partners and helps them improve performance and keep them motivated.	
PL	Indicator	# of site visits by project staff	G
	Result	The HIV area project manager conducted several site visits in Q1&2, esp. to support CCs in Bossaso. The HIV Programme Specialist conducted several visits to Puntland in Q2&3.	
	Comment	UNDP is hiring a new HIV Area project manager for Puntland in Q1 of 2014.	
FL	Indicator	# of site visits by project staff	G
	Result	The HIV area project manager conducted a mission to Dollow, Bula Hawa and Elwak in Q2. 6 project site visits took place in Q3 which included visits to SCAC and AAWDO offices.	
	Comment	The HIV Programme Specialist was not able to visit Mogadishu due to security issues. She is planning to travel to Baidoa in January 2014 for the HIV Strategy consultations. This will be an opportunity to meet with several partners and HIV stakeholders.	

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEDERAL LEVEL

Training on 'Knowing your Rights' for PLHIV and family members has contributed to empowering them and reduce stigma. Noting the success of the CCs on HIV in Somaliland and Puntland, UNDP have identified two suitable locations to introduce CC sessions in Gedo and Benadir regions in 2014. UNDP have also selected two NGOs to work on this project and provided training to the local facilitators and resource people such as religious leaders. This will help scale up community outreach work linked to HIV in South-Central which to date has been very limited due to security concerns. UNDP has also entered into a contract with KPMG to assist in developing the new Somali National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2014-18. Zonal consultations are planned for January 2014.

PUNTLAND

The transformational 'Leadership for Results' training helped to arouse greater interest of mid-level managers in joining the fight against HIV and AIDS. Community Conversations (CCs) sessions proved to be very successful. They helped strengthen a culture of consultation within communities and contribute to debates on other critical issues in communities such as poverty and sanitation. In Puntland, 2 NGOs provide CCs sessions in Garowe and Bossaso. UNDP also worked with the Youth at Risk programme to conduct 3 days HIV trainings for Youth in Gardo and Bossaso prisons and Bossaso Youth Centre.

SOMALILAND

HIV unit supports in building the technical capacity of SOLNAC to promote government's ownership of the HIV response. In 2013 SOLNAC demonstrated effective coordination, harmonization & alignment of efforts between response partners, an increase in local resource commitment in support to PLHIV (gov. distributed food). CCs conducted to support positive behavioral & societal changes and to reduce transmission of HIV through strengthening the capacities of communities, & local government to respond to & lead the fight against HIV & AIDS. In 2013, 2610 persons (F: 77%, M: 23%) benefited from participating in CC on HIV, CCs have helped to break the silence about HIV, address myths and facts and provide platform to candidly discuss taboo topics such as condom , female Sex workers etc.

PARTNERSHIPS

SL : Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) is the main government institution mandated to nationally coordinate HIV response in the region and supported by UNDP's HIV unit . YOVENCO and HAVOYOCO remain to be a strong partners in implementing community conversation on HIV in Berbera and Togwajale, Somaliland National HIV and AIDS Network (SAHAN) is a local partner that support mainstreaming initiatives between UNDP project and HIV unit, and have been instrumental in conducting HIV training for Youth for Change beneficiaries , TALOWADAG PLHIV Network has taken up the role of implementing CC in Hargeisa & Borama and also supporting in empowering PLHIV through provision of skill development trainings and income generating activities.

FL: UNDP continues to work closely with South-Central AIDS Commission (SCAC) to help them better coordinate and support all HIV stakeholders. UNDP works with 2 local NGOs, AAWDO and HDC to support the rights of PLHIV. These NGOs have also started Community Conversations in Gedo and Benadir regions.

PL: UNDP works with the Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC). NGO partners implementing the CCs are Badbaado in Bossaso and TASS in Garowe. In collaboration with UNDP PREP programme the HIV programme worked with an NGO called TIDES to support and IGA project for PLHIV.

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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. Competition for resources is a contributing factor. The new Strategic Plan will clearly define their respective roles. 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 the multi-sectoral response.

In Puntland, after financial mismanagement issues in 2012, UNDP did not enter into a new LoA with PAC and continues to make direct payments. This has strained relationships and affected the work of PAC. Also in PL, the Director of the NGO partner YAHAN, who was contracted to support IGA with PLHIV, disappeared with a large sum of project funds, resulting in the project being halted. The reluctance of the authorities to properly address this issue is of concern.

GENDER

Community members mentioned early marriages, polygamy, male promiscuity, puberty, limited awareness and poverty as one of main causes of HIV among women & girls. Young people also mentioned rape, poverty & divorce as the principal causes of HIV among women & girls. Similarly, PLHIVs also identified issues such as lack of awareness about HIV, polygamous marriage, early/forced marriages, poverty & unemployment as making women & girls susceptible to HIV. As results of the findings, in 2013 the HIV unit has intensified its support for the gender-sensitive approaches in addressing HIV response, empowerment of women through provision of information, training on leadership skills & Livelihood opportunities. In addition, HIV unit also focused in increasing the involvement of men & boys in CC session, as they are critical to achieving both successful gender sensitive HIV response & to slowing the tide of HIV transmission.

UPCOMING QUARTER

1. Finalize the Somali HIV National Strategic Plan after multi-stakeholder consultations in each zone. The finalization of this plan is an essential element in the development of a new proposal to the Global Fund.
2. Support the roll-out of Community Conversations in 2 pilot regions in South-Central. PAC remains weak and requires substantial technical support, which should be scaled up in 2014.
3. Enter into agreements with Radio stations to broadcast standard HIV messages.
4. Provide continuing capacity building to the AIDS Commissions and Ministries of Health to ensure each institution understands its role and does not compete with others. It is important to strengthen relationships and linkages between these 2 institutions.
5. Re-visit direct payment approach to PAC after elections. Find way to improve relationship and provide better support.
6. Hire new HIV Area project managers in Puntland and Somaliland.

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REFLECTIONS / LESSONS

Community involvement has played a central role in the fight against HIV and AIDS in generating individual and social change. As result of implementing (73 sessions in SL and + PL sessions) community conversations in Somaliland & Puntland, significant milestones have been achieved in increasing communities' involvement and commitment to HIV response, and addressing stigma and discrimination as it's been identified as a barrier for people seeking information, Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), and treatment services (ART & PMTCT) in Somalia. As a result of success stories obtained by implementing CC on HIV in Somaliland and Puntland, HIV unit has started to roll out the CC initiative in South Central in close liaison with Gender unit to develop common synergies in implementing the monthly session addressing HIV and gender.

Involving the media is a great way of improving access to accurate information on HIV and AIDS and reporting about the lives and perspective of people most affected by HIV. 15 messages were broadcast on local radios in Puntland and South Central, these messages address the thematic objectives of creating more awareness on Prevention, Care and Support. As media report has capacity to build a healthier community, to make a difference in the lives of People living with HIV. HIV unit invested in training journalists and media groups to improve their reporting capacity on HIV and prompt accurate reporting and avoid derogatory or discriminatory language that perpetuates myths about HIV or incorrectly stereotypes people or behavior.

HIV unit and PREP worked together in providing 165 PLHIV in Somaliland and Puntland with small grants for generating small business that will improve their household income and reduce the socio economic problems faced by the PLHIV as a direct result of their HIV status. Their ability to sustain jobs is very limited as result of high stigma and discrimination. This has been a successful project as in the case of Somaliland case studies done show that 95% of the beneficiaries have sustained a profitable small business that enables them to cover their basic needs, such as school fees, medical and rent expenses and clothes.

In 2013 the HIV Unit was able to mainstream HIV in the Civilian Police project and community security project which was a significant achievements in targeting 'High Risk' groups for HIV infection (541 Youth (M:306,F:70) and 165 Police (F:158 , M:126) are equipped with basic information on HIV and AIDS. But in 2014 stronger synergies are envisioned in ensuring that HIV is mainstreamed in all UNDP projects. For successful national multisectoral HIV response in Somalia , it is deemed as a necessary factor to include HIV related activities at the project planning and work planning session, and not to treat mainstreaming as an adhoc element.

CUMULATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

APPROVED BUDGET	1,288,832
TOTAL (DISBURSEMENTS + COMMITMENTS)	880,680
BALANCE OF FUNDS	408,152
% DELIVERY (AGAINST APPROVED BUDGET)	68%

HIV / AIDS Project



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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