

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 2013

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UNICEF (Global Fund)
UNDP TRAC

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

FEDERAL LEVEL

UNDP works closely with South Central AIDS Commission (SCAC) at the federal level in Mogadishu to help create a more supportive environment for all HIV activities in Somalia. As the current HIV strategy for Somalia will come to an end on 31st December 2013, a key priority for the remainder of the 2013 will be developing a new HIV strategy for Somalia that is costed from 2014-2018. The importance of the development of the a new strategy cannot be over emphasized as it is a requirement for Somalia to submit with the next HIV proposal to the Global Fund, due in early 2014. The Global Fund currently provides approximately 95% of all funding for HIV work in Somalia. UNDP is working closely with UNAIDS who will take the lead to develop this new strategy and have brought on board KPMG who will take the lead in providing technical expertise and costing this new strategy.

PUNTLAND

UNDP's relationship with Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC) improved over the last quarter as the Commission paid back some funds owed to UNDP. Nevertheless the capacity of the AIDS Commission remains weak, with staff that have very little technical expertise. The delays in the disbursement of funds from the Global Fund which were only released in September 2013 (for the year Jan - December 2013) did not help, as it meant that staff working with the AIDS Commission did not receive incentives paid by the Global Fund for the first 8 months of the year. However as the Principal Recipient (PR) for the Global Fund grant in Somalia (UNICEF Somalia) has signed an agreement for 2014 with the GF we are hopeful that the same delays will not occur in 2014. UNDP the three AIDS Commissions and other CSP Stakeholders had a meeting with the PR and the Global Fund in Uganda in Q3 to discuss various issues which was helpful.

SOMALILAND

A new Executive Director was appointed for Somaliland National AIDS Commission (SOLNAC) in the last quarter. Despite the change, day to day activities of the National AIDS Commission continued over the last quarter. The new ED also arranged for the President of Somaliland Mr. Silanyo, as Chairman of the AIDS Commission to visit SOLNAC offices soon after his appointment. In a press release the President expressed deep concerns that funding for HIV and AIDS responses is not commensurate with the magnitude of the epidemic due to the global financial & economic crisis, and said that the Somaliland government would try to mobilize more resources locally. The President also highlighted the need to build political support for HIV and AIDS programmes at district & regional level. Noting that the HIV Strategy for Somalia will come to an end in December 2013, UNDP is working with SOLNAC and UNAIDS to develop a new HIV Strategy to guide the response from 2014-2018

RESULTS

	Indicator	3.1.2.5 Number of people reached through HIV & AIDS awareness raising	
SL	Result	581 person has access to basic information on HIV and AIDS through the monthly CC sessions.	G
	Comment	Female participation remains dominant with (425) 72% of the participants were women, while (156) 27.3% were men, the monthly CC session aimed to initiated transformation behavior changes	
	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"	
SL	Result	The Somali HIV/AIDS strategy being developed using all available research done to date by WHO, IOM and other stakeholders.	G
	Comment	The HIV Media Project is taking into account recommendations that came out of the impact evaluation carried out on this project in 2012	
	Indicator	# of Community Conversations on HIV (CC) held in Berbera	
SL	Result	15 Community Conversations on HIV were implemented in 4 villages and with 1 youth group in Berbera. 581 people participated in CCs in Q3 (with 72% women).	G
	Comment	Community Conversations created a space for mutual sharing & learning regarding issues that fuel HIV within the community. This is leading to more positive attitudes towards HIV.	
	Indicator	# of Community Conversations on HIV (CC) held in Togwajale	
SL	Result	No CC sessions took place in Togwajale in Q3 due to delays in Global Fund budget. We also face a challenge in relation to identifying strong Community Facilitators to work with on this project.	Y
	Comment		
	Indicator	# of people reached through Community Conversations on HIV	
SL	Result	581 people participated in CCs in Q3. This helped build the capacity of communities to better respond to HIV, as well as reduce stigma and discrimination associated to HIV. As a result more people accessed VCT services in areas where CCs take place.	G
	Comment	Female participation remains dominant in the monthly CC session with (425) 72% of the participants being women.	
	Indicator	# Administrative support provided to Somaliland AIDS Commission (SOLNAC)	
SL	Result	In Q3 SOLNAC continued its mandate to coordinate HIV activities in Somaliland, and initiated advocating for more resources to be committed to address HIV awareness particularly targeting Youth.	G
	Comment	In Q3 SOLNAC also arranged for the President to visit the Commission to learn more about their work as Chair of the Somaliland AIDS Commission (SOLNAC).	
	Indicator	# AIDS Commission : Coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E)	
SL	Result	3 Joint IPTCS and M&E meetings took place in Q3. These were chaired by SOLNAC and included most of the Global Fund sub recipient partners.	G
	Comment	Monthly Joint IPCTS & M&E meetings provide a platform to discuss bottle necks & achievements in implementing GF activities in relation to HIV prevention, care and treatment.	
	Indicator	# quarterly communication meeting	
SL	Result	1 communication meeting was held by SOLNAC. Participants agreed to increase awareness on stigma & discrimination against PLHIV, with strong support from Religious Leaders who agreed to include HIV in speeches in Mosques/gatherings.	G
	Comment	Religious Leaders agreed to integrate messages into prayers at mosques, as a result of our work over the last 5+ years, sensitizing them about the role they they can play in helping to address HIV.	

RESULTS

	Indicator	# of radio messages aired	
SL	Result	No messages were aired	Y
	Comment	There are ongoing discussions taking place between SOLNAC and the Ministry of Information on the formalities to air the messages on HIV from Q4 onwards. These will be aired by Radio Hargeisa.	
	Indicator	# of institutional support of Talowadag Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS.	
SL	Result	MCG has been drafted and finalized to release the funds soon to support planned activities with TALOWADAG .	Y
	Comment		
	Indicator	# of counselors at Talowadag Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS to support positive living	
SL	Result	MCG has been drafted and finalized. We therefore expect funds to be released to Talowadag in the next few weeks.	Y
	Comment	Counselors are expected to be hired once the funds are received. Another TOT on Community Conversations will be arranged to build the capacity of new Community Facilitators in 2014.	
	Indicator	# of UNDP Projects that mainstreamed HIV into their work	
SL	Result	HIV mainstreamed into SPU (Civilian Police Project (CPP)) training sessions as well as Income Generating Projects supported by PREP.	G
	Comment	The HIV and AIDS Unit aims to integrate HIV training into ongoing UNDP projects to strengthen HIV mainstreaming , and enhance basic knowledge about HIV and AIDS.	
	Indicator	# of people reached through mainstreaming HIV into the Civilian Police Project	
SL	Result	30 male SPU in Hargeisa were provided with basic information on HIV and AIDS. Training focuses on sensitizing them on basic facts about HIV transmission, addresses myths, taboos associated with HIV in Somalia. This helps reduce stigma and discrimination, once people know the basic facts about HIV.	G
	Comment	Uniformed people are recognized as one of the most at risk groups in Somalia and the main clients of Sex Workers in Somalia. This training is therefore important to help prevent the spread of HIV.	
	Indicator	# AIDS Commission : Coordination meetings (IPTCS and M&E)	
SL	Result	No Coordination meetings took place in Q3 due to the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund.	R
	Comment		
	Indicator	# quarterly review meetings	
PL	Result	One Quarterly Review meeting took place between Puntland AIDS Commission and all partners working on HIV in Q3.	G
	Comment		
	Indicator	# of Community Conversationson HIV (CC) held in Bosasso	
PL	Result	No CC sessions took place in Bosaso in Q3 due to the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund which only arrived in Septmber 2013.	R
	Comment	The timeline for this project has been revised noting the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund and the project will now run from October 2013 to September 2014 (one year).	

RESULTS

PL	Indicator	# of Community Conversations on HIV (CC) held in Garowe	R
	Result	No CC sessions took place in Garowe in Q3 due to the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund which only arrived in September 2013.	
	Comment	The timeline for this project has been revised noting the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund and the project will now run from October 2013 to September 2014 (one year).	
PL	Indicator	# of people reached through Community Conversations on HIV	R
	Result	No Community Conversations took place in Q3 due to the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund for Somalia.	
	Comment	The timeline for this project has been revised noting the late arrival of funds from the Global Fund and the project will now run from October 2013 to September 2014 (one year).	
PL	Indicator	# Administrative support provided to Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC)	G
	Result	Administrative support was provided to PAC over the last quarter	
	Comment	UNDP currently makes all payments on behalf of PAC noting their weak financial management systems. This has increased the amount of work the HIV programme is expected to undertake considerably.	
FL	Indicator	# of HIV radio messages aired	G
	Result	33 short HIV radio messages were aired by Banadir radio	
	Comment	Approx 31,518 people were reached during the last quarter by airing HIV radio messages.	
FL	Indicator	# Administrative support provided to AIDS commission	G
	Result	UNDP signed a Letter Of Agreement with SCAC in Q3, following the release of 2013 Global Fund grant for Somalia. As a result AIDS Commission staff were paid their salaries for the last 8 months.	
	Comment	Due to delays in the Global Fund grant for Somalia in 2013, UNDP only received funds from the PR in September 2013. This delay in funds seriously effects the work of the AIDS Commission and partners.	
FL	Indicator	# of Coordination meetings held by the AIDS commission	Y
	Result	The AIDS Commission held one joint M&E and communication and mobilisation meeting in Q3	
	Comment	At the end of the the meeting SCAC shared recently printed (UNDP funded) HIV Information Education and Communications materials (IEC) with all partners, to better support them in their work.	
FL	Indicator	# of Quarterly review meetings.	R
	Result	No Quarterly Review meetings took place in Q3	
	Comment	The reason no Quarterly Review meetings took place in Q3 was due to the late disbursement of funds from the Global Fund for Somalia. Funds were only received for 2013 in September 2013.	
FL	Indicator	Somalia HIV&AIDS policy finalised	R
	Result	The HIV policy yet to be approved/endorsed by the Parliament	
	Comment	It was not possible for the AIDS commission to present the policy to the parliament due to a lot of Bills and legislation waiting to be approved by parliament.	

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	Income Generation Activities (IGA) for people living with HIV& AIDS in the south and central Somalia	R
	Result	No Income Generating Activities for PLHIV were provided in Q3 by PREP.	
	Comment	PREP was unable to support this project due to a lack of funds.	
FL	Indicator	# Introduce Community conversations on HIV in two sites in South and Central Somalia	Y
	Result	2 new sites in Banadir and another 2 in Gedo region have been identified where Community Conversations will be introduced in Q4	
	Comment	MCGs for AAWDO and HDC which are the partners on Community conversations in Banadir and Gedo regions are in process and should be finalised ready for work to start in Q4.	
FL	Indicator	Support mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into all other UNDP projects e.g.CPP,A2J, Community Security.	R
	Result	Discussions are on-going to integrate HIV & AIDS into the work of other UNDP projects in South and central Somalia	
	Comment	UNDP Somalia aims to mainstream HIV& AIDS in to all other UNDP programmes and projects. Nevertheless due to a lack of funds this is not always possible.	
FL	Indicator	Support Religious Leaders Network to support HIV awareness	Y
	Result	Religious leaders received training on HIV, to encourage them to play a more active role in the response to HIV&AIDS in Somalia	
	Comment	Noting the strong and influential role Religious Leaders play in Somalia, Religious leaders will participate and support strengthening Community Conversations on HIV in Banadir and Gedo regions	
SL	Indicator	# of site visits by project staff.	G
	Result	One monitoring mission to Berbera took place in Q3 to monitor the implementation of the Community Conversations on HIV project. UNDP have a full time HIV Project Manager in Somaliland who conducts regular monitoring missions to monitor the implementation of partners and provide guidance.	
	Comment	UNDP also held several meetings with SOLNAC to monitor activities in Q3.	
PL	Indicator	# of site visits by project staff	G
	Result	The HIV Programme Specialist conducted several missions to Garowe over the last quarter to meet with Puntland AIDS Commission, noting that UNDP is currently recruiting a new HIV Area Project Manager for Puntland.	
	Comment	The Programme Specialist provided guidance as required to the teams.	
FL	Indicator	# of site visits by the project staff	G
	Result	6 project site visits took place in Q3 which included visits to AAWDO and SCAC offices	
	Comment	UNDP HIV Project Manager in Mogadishu regularly undertakes site visits to partners supported by UNDP. Indeed UNDP has created strong working relationships with most HIV partners in Mogadishu.	

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEDERAL LEVEL

Noting the success of Community Conversations on HIV in Somaliland and Puntland, UNDP have identified two suitable locations to introduce Community Conversations on HIV in Banadir and Gedo regions of the federal level. UNDP have also selected two NGOs to work with on this project and provided training to the local facilitators and Recourse people such as Religious Leaders that will be expected to take the lead in implementing this project. This will help scale up community outreach work linked to HIV in South Central which to date has been limited due to security concerns.

Secondly, UNDP in collaboration with UNAIDS have brought on board KPMG in Q3 to help develop a new costed HIV Strategy for Somalia 2014-2018 in Q4 of 2013.

PUNTLAND

UNDP have signed partnership agreements with 2 NGOs in Puntland that will continue to roll out Community Conversations on HIV in Bosaso and Garowe now that funds from the Global Fund have been received.

SOMALILAND

Community Conversations on HIV have proven to be useful in reaching women, men and youth that would usually not be reached by more formal HIV Workshops. In areas where Community Conversations on HIV are being delivered it would appear that some transformational behavior changes have been observed, which include communities becoming more accepting of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in their communities and more people accessing VCT services in areas where community conversations are being rolled out. These are both significant achievements.

PARTNERSHIPS

At the federal level UNDP continues to work closely with the AIDS commission to help them better coordinate and support all HIV stakeholders in the Somalia. UNDP also continues to work closely with UNICEF, UNAIDS and others UN agencies that are part of the UN Joint Team on AIDS. In addition UNDP works with AAWDO and HDC two local NGOs to support the rights of People living with HIV & AIDS and will soon start to work with these NGOs to help carry out more HIV outreach work, through a project known as Community Conversations on HIV in Banadir and Gedo region in Q4

In Somaliland the HIV unit will start a new partnership with TALOWADAG Network for PLHIV, to start rolling out Community Conversations on HIV in two new sites in Borama and Hargeisa in Q4. SOLNAC continues to be the primary government institution that UNDP works with in Somaliland to coordinate HIV interventions in the region. The HIV Unit also continues to work with YOVENCO, a strong partner in Berbera that support CC's on HIV in 5 villages each month.

In Puntland UNDP's main government partner is Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC). NGO partners include BADBAADO based in Bosaso and TASS in Garowe. In collaboration with UNDP PREP programme the HIV programme has also worked with an NGO called TIDES to support an Income Generating Project (IGA) for PLHIV. In Quarter 4 UNDP plans to form stronger partnerships with the most popular radio stations in Puntland in collaboration with Puntland AIDS Commission (PAC).

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PEACE AND CONFLICT

There continues to be a misunderstanding about the different role of the Ministry of Health and the AIDS Commission in the response to HIV and AIDS in Somalia, which has led to tension between the two government institutions. UNAIDS in collaboration with UNDP did make a presentation on this issue at the Health Sector Meeting in December 2012, however it appears that the confusion about their different roles and responsibilities is still not clear to all partners. It is likely this has resulted due to competition for resources. To this end this will be a critical issue that will need to be discussed and agreed upon during the development of the new HIV strategy for Somalia 2014-2018. The work of the Ministry of Health is critical in addressing all medical components of the HIV response, as is the role of the AIDS Commission in relation to strengthening the multi-sectoral response to HIV. It is therefore important to strengthen relationships and linkages between these two institutions.

GENDER

The incidence and prevalence of HIV & AIDS cannot be separated from social norms and cultural structures that are closely associated with gender issues in Somalia. The HIV Programme therefore continues to work in close partnership with the Gender Programme at UNDP Somalia, particularly in the area of community outreach activities such as Community Conversations on HIV, to ensure that gender issues are adequately addressed in our work. In this regard the HIV programme includes specific sessions to discuss and address gender issues during Community Conversations on HIV. In certain cases specific sessions on HIV are also supported for young men and women. UNDP also continues to support Networks of People Living with HIV in Somalia whose main members are women. In Q4 UNDP will assist UNAIDS in undertaking a gender assessment to see how all partners in Somalia can better address gender issues closely linked to HIV in their work.

UPCOMING QUARTER

Below are the main activities that will be carried out and supported in Q4 (October - December 2013):

1. Finalise contract with KPMG who will take the lead to develop a new costed HIV Strategy for Somalia 2014-2018.
2. Support the 3 AIDS Commissions to hire National Consultants to work with KPMG and the lead consultant to develop the new costed HIV strategy for Somalia 2014-2018.
2. Support 3 zonal consultation meetings on the draft of the new HIV strategy for Somalia 2014-2018, to ensure that all HIV stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the development of this new strategy.
3. Support the roll out of the Community Conversation on HIV in Somaliland and Puntland as well as in two new regions (Banadir and Gedo regions) in South and Central Somalia.
4. Support each AIDS Commission to prepare for World AIDS Day (WAD) on 1st December 2013.
5. Support Somali representatives to participate in International Conference on AIDS in Africa (ICASA) in South Africa December 2013

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REFLECTIONS / LESSONS

1. There has been an increased level of awareness and positive trends in behavioral change towards people living with HIV (PLHIV). This demonstrates some level of reduction in the negative thinking towards PLHIV as communities gain accurate information on correct mode of HIV transmission.
2. As communities gain information on HIV prevention and available services such as Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), there has been an increase in the number of people seeking VCT services to know their HIV status in areas where Community Conversations are being supported.
3. Community Conversations are also becoming a platform for communities to discuss other hot issues such as maternal health and nutrition.
4. Positive results have been achieved by hosting discussions in the open (outside) on issues to do with morality in the presence of Religious Leaders and Community Elders. For example, Community Conversations on HIV have provided a forum to discuss sensitive issues such as the use of condoms. By highlighting the important role condoms can play as an HIV preventative method which include protecting people whose partners are HIV+ communities are gradually becoming more sensitised about the important role condoms can play in reducing new HIV infections.
5. HIV Radio Project: Working in collaboration with radio stations in Somalia can help reach substantially more people with HIV prevention, care and treatment messages. In South and Central Somalia where there are many regions that have received very little HIV sensitisation this has been recommended as one way of reaching out to more people.

CUMULATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
APPROVED BUDGET	1,288,832
TOTAL (DISBURSEMENTS + COMMITMENTS)	687,244
BALANCE OF FUNDS	601,233
% DELIVERY (AGAINST APPROVED BUDGET)	53.3

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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