

ENGAGING IN SOMALIA

# Newsletter

## EU in Somalia

June 2012 - December 2012

IN THIS NOTE:

## A renewed partnership

**Editorial by** Michele Cervone d'Urso, EU Special Envoy (EUSE) to Somalia

The EU aims for a renewed partnership with Somalia as the country enters a new era following two decades of internal conflicts and absence of a functioning central government.

The transition came to an end with the adoption of a Provisional Constitution and the establishment of a more representative Federal Parliament that elected a new President on 10 September 2012. With the recent appointment of a Prime Minister and a lean Cabinet, the new leadership has led to renewed optimism on Somalia's future, and presents opportunities for greater peace and stability, reconstruction and development, regional and international integration.

The successful appointment of the new leadership in Mogadishu coincided with my appointment as the EU Special Envoy (EUSE) to Somalia and with my accreditation as the first EU Ambassador to Somalia. Ever since my arrival, I have engaged the EU in a regular dialogue with the Federal Institutions as well as with regional authorities. The dialogue focuses on a broad range of issues that are of mutual interest and on a renewed partnership with Somalia rooted in the desire to reduce poverty and to build a stable and prosperous Somalia.

The EU will also continue to take a leading role in bringing together the international community to provide space for greater Somali ownership of the development process. The EU recognizes that the

challenges facing Somalia will require the deployment of all EU instruments in a comprehensive manner. A strategy is under preparation on how to take forward such a comprehensive EU approach for Somalia.

### Implementing the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF mid-term review

While our dialogue with Somalia is evolving, the EU Somalia team has launched the new EU development package of 158 million euros that results from the mid-term review. This review has increased Somalia's development envelope from 212 million to approximately 500 million EUR and will support the Governance and Security sectors (39 million EUR), the Economic Development Programme (42 million EUR), MDG Initiative in Puntland (25 million EUR), the Education Sector (30 million EUR) and Democratisation efforts (14 million EUR). The new projects will be implemented in the 3 coming years.

Moreover, the EU Somalia team has been working on the programming of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) that will cover the period of 2014-2020. In the future, the EU hopes to base its development programmes in Somalia on a new *Compact Aid Framework* that is still in a negotiation phase. Meanwhile, the EU team proposed to Head Quarters *Interim Strategic Guidelines* that will give the EU-Somalia partnership an initial basis to work on in view of a renewed partnership.



### Presenting the mid-term review

In order to present the new programmes that will be financed under the mid-term review of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, the EU Somalia team has travelled to Mogadishu, Somaliland and Puntland where it has met the authorities, the civil society and the media. Page 2



### Celebrating the EU Nobel Prize

The EU Ambassador, Michele Cervone d'Urso, has explained on several occasions how the Nobel Peace Prize is a reminder of what the EU stands for. Especially during the "Media Round Table", an event the EU team organized on *Human Rights Day* in order to address the challenges of the Somali media sector. Page 6

## I. LAUNCH OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW

After more than one year of hard work for the Somalia Unit team, including identification and formulation missions and studies, several *Quality Support Groups* and multiple discussions with colleagues from Headquarters, the biggest assistance package for Somalia worth 158 million EUR was approved in November 2012.

The Somalia Unit organized a special EU *Political and Development Counsellors* meeting on this issue, in view of preparing the EDF Committee and Member States. This initiative was praised by Member States and allowed a smooth approval of the package at this Committee.

In view of announcing this important development package, the Unit organized a "tour mission" to Somalia, led by Michele Cervone d'Urso. The Heads of Operation Sections, the field officers and the press officer participated in the mission. The mission visited Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Garowe following the same format: meetings with the authorities, the civil society as well as a joint press conference with the respective authorities.

*"With the new programmes approved by the 27 Member States of the EU, the EU remains the main donor to Somalia with the firm commitment to bring peace and stability to the country, stressed the EU Special Envoy to Somalia who presented the 6 new programmes in 3 focal sectors:*

- 1.Support to Governance and Security Sectors: 39 million EUR;
- 2.Economic Development Programme for Growth and Resilience: 42 million EUR;
- 3.Tackling Food Security through sustainable management of Puntland's rangeland: 25 million EUR;
- 4.Education Sector Development Programme : 30 million EUR;
- 5.Support to Democratisation: 14 million EUR;
- 6.Technical and operational support to Development assistance to Somalia : 8 million EUR

The programmes were warmly welcomed by the civil society and the authorities and had quite some visibility as a journalist of *Reuters* press agency accompanied the team throughout the tour. Media coverage was also ensured by locally organized press conferences.

## II. STATE BUILDING

### 1. Access to Justice

The new leadership in Mogadishu has defined "access to justice" as one of the key priorities of the country. So far, the EU has been supporting the Somali Justice sector via the Rule of Law (ROLS) programme, implemented by UNDP.

Within this framework, the EU aims at strengthening access to basic structures of justice by providing legal aid to vulnerable groups, by financing scholarships for law faculties' students, by providing trainings for the judiciary staff or work on legislative changes.

In the period in reference, over 150 members of the judiciary have undergone judicial training across different regions of Somalia; legal aid was delivered through the so-called Legal Clinics to 3000 persons and over 300 scholarships for Law Faculty students were granted. The EU funding also supported "mobile courts" which allow poor people in remote areas of Somalia better access to justice by enabling them to start their cases in court.

### 2. Peaceful elections in Somaliland

On November 28, Somaliland successfully held local council elections, which will also determine the three political parties to be licensed to compete in all elections over the next ten years. Despite some technical shortcomings and security challenges, polling was peaceful and orderly. Following an escalation of tensions on the eastern border with Puntland, a last minute pullback of Somaliland security forces prevented armed clashes. The EU Somalia team engaged with both Puntland and Somaliland Presidents to defuse tensions.

Elections in Somaliland are relevant for the wider Somali context and have been applauded by President Hassan who has reiterated commitment to engage in dialogue with Somaliland.

As part of the Democratisation Programme Steering Committee, the EU has contributed around € 900,000 to the M€ 3.5 donor budget allocated for this election, which marks yet another important milestone in the democratization process.



#### Launching the 158 million € package

The EUSE led a "tour mission" to Somalia to present the mid-term review package. The team met with the President of Somalia in Mogadishu, the Cabinet of Somaliland in Hargeisa, and the President of Puntland in Garowe



#### Somaliland council elections

Somaliland successfully held local council elections on 28/11. The EU's contribution was 900.000 EUR out of the 3,5 million EUR donor budget.



### Mine risk education

Through the EU funded UNMAS programme, Mine Risk Education teams organize trainings to deliver awareness messages in schools, IDP camps and other public places.



### Women's empowerment

As part of its continued support to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), the EU Somalia team has selected 6 new projects focused on elimination of gender based violence, minority group's rights, economic empowerment, livelihood, capacity building and political representation.



### Celebrating Human Rights Day

The EU has organized, on Human Rights Day, a high-level round table focusing on freedom of expression as there has been a rising number of attacks against media workers in Somalia.

## 3. Stabilising Somalia

Due to the diverse nature of the explosive threat in Somalia, the EU has launched in May 2012, for a period of 15 months, a demining project with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Mogadishu. The proliferation of explosive remnants of war (ERW), improvised explosive devices (IED) and landmines not only threatens the lives of all in Somalia, but also limits access to basic services and economic opportunities for much of the population. As a result, explosive contamination represents a serious impediment to stability, security and ultimately recovery and development. The project will focus on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Mogadishu, support the demining capacities of the police and create public awareness on explosive threat.

## 4. Institutional support

The EU has taken the lead to coordinate donor support to the new federal institution in carrying out their post-transition agenda. During the period in reference, a donor working group on institutional support has been established and is co-chaired by the EU and UK. The main issues currently under discussion are support to the executive organs of the new Federal Government as well as to the Federal Parliament. In this context, the EU has provided initial support to a Policy Unit, a think-tank body located at the Presidency and assisting both the President and the Cabinet in their policy work. The EU, through UNDP and AWEPA, has also provided assistance to the new parliament in developing a parliamentary strategy to which all future donor support should align.

## 5. Civil Society

Civil Society is taking more and more an active role in the political processes in the new dispensation in Somalia. SONSAF, PUNSA and SONCENSA, civil society umbrella organizations co-funded by the EU, have been engaging locally with key actors in support of the formation of the new Somali federal government and the democratization process. During the last 6 months, the EU has also awarded several contracts under the NSA support programs in order to strengthen the civil society engagement in different aspects of the Somali development.

## 6. Gender

The latest political developments in Somalia have led to increased participation of women

in the decision making processes. The more significant event in this area has been the appointment of two women in the Somali Cabinet last 13 November, including Somalia's first female Minister of Foreign Affairs. Still more work needs to be done in support of Somali women's economic empowerment and political representation as well as fight against violation of women's rights.

The EU has continued to support gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) through different channels. Recently, 6 projects have been awarded under the *Gender thematic programme* with focus on elimination of gender based violence (GBV), minority group's rights, economic empowerment, livelihood, capacity building and political representation.

## 7. Human Rights

In order to mark the *International Human Rights Day*, the members of the Working Group on Human Rights (HRWG) - which is formed by EU MS, Norway, Switzerland and the US and chaired by Denmark - has organized a first mission to Somaliland and Puntland on the 3d and 4th of December (see page 6) to support the inclusion of Human Rights as a priority in the Somali political agenda and to start a dialogue with Somali authorities on this matter.

The Human Rights mission culminated with a *Media Round Table* organised by the EU team in Mogadishu on 10th December in order to discuss the "freedom of expression", and more particularly the threats that journalists face in Somalia. Under the lead of the EU Special Envoy, the EU Heads of Mission (Homs) have participated in this exercise as well as the UN Special Representative for Somalia, the US Ambassador to Somalia, the Somali Minister of Information, the Somali Minister of Social Affairs, and members of the Presidency.

The EU has initiated this event in order to address the targeted killings and attacks of journalists. In recent years, there has been indeed a rising number of attacks against media workers as well as of incidents affecting their ability to exercise freedom of expression.

The Somali Government, journalists, media houses and the international community, including many EU ambassadors, called for increased safety and security for journalists, investigations in the killings, improved media regulation and the need for a professional code of ethics.

## II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Food security

#### Agricultural support: working with communities

With the help of Oxfam and the local Somali NGO WASDA, the EU is supporting and expanding livelihoods by empowering communities through better use of existing community structures.

Since the 1st of April 2011, the EU and Oxfam have been able to effectively design and implement community driven food security and livelihoods initiatives for 73% of the 42.000 targeted households in Lower Juba in South Somalia.

Over the last 20 months, the "*Community driven Livelihood and food security*" project has indeed provided farmer inputs to hundreds of farmers, rehabilitated 11 weak points of the Juba river in Jilib, supported 290 micro enterprises, provided donkeys for small scale commercial transportation, and given sheep and goats to 110 households.

The management of the project is ensured by the community groups which are trained accordingly: a first group of elders which take the responsibility of the project, a second group from the concerned village which comprises the "implementers" and a third group that reports to the village which is the monitoring group. The project is totally on track and should reach a 100% implementation by April 2013.

#### Livestock: developing the meat industry

While the EU has significantly supported Somalia's livestock sector by focusing on animal health, we are now looking also at other constraints for the livestock value chain with a special focus on local transformation and processing in Somaliland and Puntland.

As these two regions don't have food safety laws with respect to the meat industry, the EU is now supporting the establishment of a regulatory framework for the meat sector and quality assurance through the project "*Promoting an Internationally Competitive Somali Meat Industry*" implemented by Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) and Veterinaires Sans

Frontieres - Germany (VSF – Germany). The project allowed the Puntland Parliament to recently pass the Meat Control Act and the Lower House of the Parliament of Somaliland approved a similar act.

Meanwhile, "meat hygiene units" have been established within the Ministries of Livestock to monitor and regulate the meat sub-sector in Somaliland and Puntland.

Moreover, private sector associations have been established to promote meat marketing and trade for small scale meat producers. Trainings on different aspects of food safety along the meat value chain have also been given to 677 professionals, 235 butchers and 130 livestock traders, and more than 50 slaughterhouse workers have benefited through training on Good Hygiene Practices (GHP).

The project has also created awareness to 60,000 and 400,000 people through radio and television respectively, on the benefits of safe meat control and hygiene. Overall, the project will benefit 60,000 households (360,000 people).

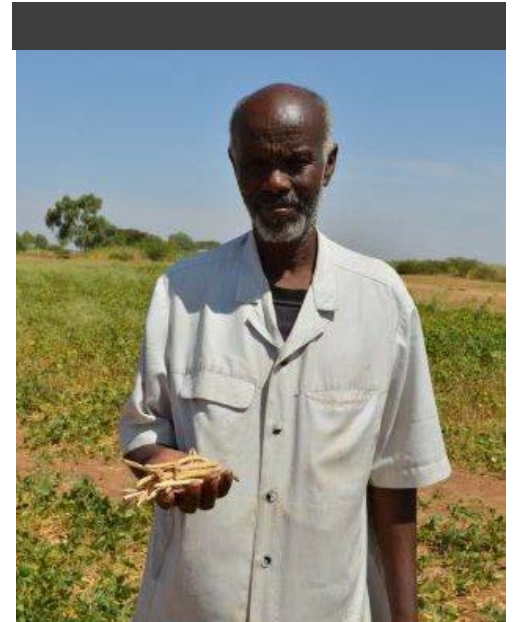
### 2. Infrastructure - Water

#### Supporting water supply management in Somaliland's biggest cities

Over the second half of 2012, work continued apace on our cooperation with urban water agencies in Hargeisa and Burao. The key to successful water supply in urban areas is down to simple financial data and human resource management systems.

Our partner, Terre Solidali, has been supporting the water agencies in the development of their accounting and billing systems, as well as helping them to develop master plans for future investment. Identifying new sources of groundwater is also an essential task in the arid lands of northern Somalia in order to help the cities' water supply systems accommodate rapid urbanisation over the next 10-15 years.

Thanks to EU support, Terre Solidali has developed an innovative partnership with the Hargeisa Water Agency and the Coca-Cola Foundation to supply up to 1000m<sup>3</sup>/day to IDP camps in the south of Hargeisa where water tariffs are currently some of the highest in the city. These communities should be able to turn on the taps by mid-2013.



#### Supporting Somali farmers

While the EU continues to support the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, the EU Somalia Unit is supporting and expanding livelihoods by empowering communities.



#### Developing water sources

Over the second half of 2012, cooperation continued with urban water agencies in Hargeisa and Burao.



#### Developing the meat industry

The Somalia Unit will support the meat sector in Somaliland and Puntland.

## Roads

The EU led two missions to Somaliland to review the public sector agencies and private sector companies engaged in the rehabilitation and development of the region's roads. A necessary exercise as the EU is supporting a feasibility and detailed study to reconstruct and upgrade the Berbera Corridor linking Ethiopia to the Somaliland capital, Hargeisa, up to the port of Berbera on the Gulf of Aden. The rehabilitation of this Corridor will multiply business opportunities as access for agricultural products and livestock to export markets is a cornerstone of the whole region.

## III. Education

### From project approach to sector-wide approach

The EU has become the first donor to align its funding for the education sector in Somalia, worth 30 million EUR, with the Education Sector Plans for Somaliland and Puntland. This strategic shift will allow the EU, as lead donor in this sector, to better adhere to aid effectiveness commitments and foster governmental leadership of the EU funded education programmes.

The Ministries of Education have welcomed this important ownership shift as they had often echoed the need for donors to align funding with their sector plans. The shift reinforces coherence between the various funding streams, coordination, donor harmonisation, better ownership and non-duplication. Further, it translates to some core elements of the sector-wide approach (SWAP) making them applicable to the fragile and very unique Somali context.

The Somaliland and Puntland programmes were launched on 11th and 12th of December in Hargeisa and Garowe (see page 6).

### EU support for the youth in Somalia

The EU is currently supporting 3 projects worth 7 million EUR targeting vocational training and employment creation for young people. By giving young people the necessary professional skills and opening for them the employment market, vocational training is an important tool to fight radicalism. One of these projects is the "VETAPE project, Vocational Education &

Training for Accelerated Promotion of Employment".

This project, worth 3.6 million EUR, is implemented in 21 major towns (10 in Somaliland, 5 in Puntland and 6 in South Central Somalia) by a consortium led by Save the Children, CARE and CISP and in consultation with Ministries of Education and Labour in the target regions. It contributes to improved equitable and, sustainable livelihoods for 6,250 disadvantaged youth and women and hence reduces their vulnerability through vocational training linked to functional literacy and employment advisory services.

The project has successfully enabled 6,558 target beneficiaries (45.9 % females) gaining employable skills. It has enrolled another 1,098 trainees (56.6 % females) in seven skills areas: ICT, Office Administration, Plumbing, Auto-mechanics, Electrical Installation, Carpentry, Embroidery and Cloth Design. In total, 6,234 (73,7 % females) benefited from functional literacy and numeracy training. The capacity of three training institutions has been improved through the provision of tools, equipment and master trainers. Youth represents a high potential in the economic recovery of Somalia and investment in vocational training can give Somali youth a subsequent employment and livelihood.

## IV. Non Focal sectors

### Health

The EU funded interventions in the health sector in Somalia are amounting approximately to 9 million EUR. The EU's support focuses on mental and reproductive health services in 52 health posts, 26 Mater and Child Health centres and 8 hospitals countrywide.

The focus on reproductive health services is essential as infant and maternal mortality rates in Somalia are among the world's highest. Recent survey and health information reaffirm high fertility and high maternal mortality, considerable unmet needs for birth spacing, high prevalence of traditional practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM).

With the EU's funding, each of the 26 "Mother and Child Health Centres" employ 5 Traditional Birth Attendants to build community awareness on safe delivery and identify pregnant mothers to accompany them through 3 focused Ante-natal care visits, the skilled delivery and post-delivery care.



### The EU aligns its education programmes with national plans

The EU has become the first donor to align its funding for the education sector in Somalia, worth 30 million EUR, with the Education Sector Plans for Somaliland and Puntland.



### From education to jobs

The EU is currently supporting 3 projects worth 7 million EUR targeting vocational training and employment creation for young people. One of these projects is the VETAPE project, "Vocational Education & Training for Accelerated Promotion of Employment". See our video on Youtube: <http://youtu.be/mTKgNSurkRA>



### Reducing the very high maternal mortality rate

The EU's health support focuses on reproductive health services in 52 health posts, 26 Mother and Child Health Centres and 8 hospitals countrywide. Infant and maternal mortality rates in Somalia are among the world's highest. Recent survey and health information reaffirm high fertility and high maternal mortality in Somalia.



### Livestock and fisheries mission

The EU will maintain its substantial support to the livestock sector in Somaliland and will also start developing artisanal fisheries projects.



### New liberated areas - Baidoa

The EU Somalia team participated in a UNDP assessment mission in order to examine how and where the EU could provide support to Baidoa.



### Human Rights mission

For the very first time, the "EU+" Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) has organized a Human Rights mission to Somaliland and Puntland.



### Launching Education support

The new Education Sector Support Programmes were successfully launched in Somaliland and Puntland.

## The EU in the field

### Livestock and fisheries mission

The EU Somalia Unit has organized a Livestock mission in October in order to witness the livestock export in the port of Berbera during the highest peak of exports and to interact with key stakeholders in livestock and fisheries sectors in Somaliland. To promote livestock trade, the EU supports development of marketing infrastructure, control of livestock diseases affecting trade and negotiations between private sector stakeholders of Somaliland and Gulf States. It is envisaged to continue this support. The mission also met with representatives of 3 Fisheries associations and visited the very basic fisheries facilities in Berbera on 22nd October 2012. This with a view to develop projects in the coastal region of Somaliland and to support artisanal fisheries that have a high potential to reduce poverty among coastal communities.

### Supporting Baidoa

The EU participated in UNDP's second mission assessing the feasibility of re-engaging in security, justice and support to local governance. The mission met Bay region Governor in Baidoa, District Commissioners of Baidoa district and other Bay districts, community elders/leaders and women's organisations. A lot of issues were discussed such as the relations with the new Somali leadership, reconciliation and security. The mission visited Baidoa law enforcement infrastructures (prison, courts and police facilities) and identified possible interventions in infrastructure rehabilitation and police/custodial corps' stipends as the EU is already funding 102 policemen based in Baidoa out of the UNDP/ROLS program.

### Human Rights Mission

The "EU+" Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) has organized for the first time a Human Rights mission to Somaliland and Puntland (see page 3). The "EU+" HRWG was established by the EU in December 2011 and comprises EU + Member States and Norway, Switzerland and the United States. The goal of the mission was, in line with the EU+ HRWG mandate, to meet with a select number of Human Rights organizations and authorities in order to better understand the Human Rights and media situation and to identify gaps where support from the international community could be provided. This mission has been organized as part of the EU's International Human Rights Day

event that took the shape of a Media Round Table in Mogadishu (see page 2).

### Education mission

The new Somaliland Education Sector Support Programme (Horumarinta Cilmiga) worth 11,25 million EUR and the Somalia-wide education Synergies programme (Cilmi Wadaag) worth € 2 million EUR were successfully launched in Hargeisa by President Ahmed Mohamud Silanyo. The event was attended by Ministers of Education, Finance and Planning among other stakeholders who included representatives of regional education authorities, development partners and university representatives.

In Garowe, the new Puntland Education Sector Support Programme (Waxbarashada Waa Iftin) worth 7.5 million EUR was successfully launched by the Minister of Education, Abdi Farax Juxa. The event was attended by the Minister for Planning, the Director General of the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders.

## The EU in the media

The European Union's activities in Somalia have had large media coverage over the last six months. The EUSE's accreditation, the many political visits, the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF mid-term review tour, the Human Rights events and the development missions have all had considerable media attention.

The EUSE is currently raising the EU's profile in Somalia by multiplying efforts in the field of public diplomacy and media with a view to explain what the EU is doing in Somalia. That is why the EUSE has created a twitter account, hosts press breakfasts, brings journalists to the field, visits radio stations, and gives a lot of attention to the EU Somalia team's communication activities.

### Celebrating the Nobel Prize

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, the EU has received the Peace Nobel Prize in Oslo. On that day, while organizing a Media Round Table in Mogadishu on "freedom of expression", the EU team recalled, through a press conference, a press release and a radio programme, that the EU is promoting peace beyond its borders and throughout the world. Together with the EU Delegation to Kenya, the EU Somalia team has also published an opinion/editorial in 3 local newspapers. The document is open to all on our Homepage: <http://eu-somaliam-unit.eu>.

