



**Somalia Protection Cluster Annual Report 2015**



# Somalia Protection Cluster – Annual Report 2015



**Core Group in need: 1.1 million IDPs**, other civilians affected by armed conflict, violence, insecurity and disaster.



**Number of persons targeted in 2015: 550,000**

**Number of persons reached: 374,300 (68%)**



**Required funding during 2015: US\$ 39.2 mil**

**Received: US\$ 18 mil (46.2%)**

## Protection Highlights 2015

- **Launch of the Somalia IDP Solution Initiative:** Following strategic advocacy efforts by the Somalia Protection Cluster throughout the year, the RC/HC launched the Somalia IDP Solutions Initiative in December 2015. He is joined by Prof. Walter Kaelin, the former Representative of the UN Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs, as his special advisor. The Protection Cluster plays a catalytic and technical advisory role in this process.
- **First Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Forum in Mogadishu:** The significant increase in forced evictions necessitated the activation of the Housing, Land and Property sub-cluster co-chaired by UN-Habitat and NRC. In September, the first HLP forum on forced evictions and urban solutions was convened with the participation of national and regional authorities, donors, humanitarian and development partners. The forum identified three priority areas of action to pursue in the coming year. In 2015, 3,530 people were reached with protective interventions related to HLP.
- **Removal of explosive hazards in civilian areas:** Explosive hazards remain a risk to life, safety and freedom of movement of civilians. The respective area of responsibility of the Protection Cluster was therefore activated. In 2015, sub-cluster members reached 130,517 people through activities and amongst others concluded surface clearance in the IDP populated Afgoye corridor.
- **Full IDP settlement profiles were developed for Hargeisa and Mogadishu:** The two profiles revealed interesting data on the situation in IDP settlements in Hargeisa and Mogadishu, the socio-economic profile of the inhabitants and their durable solutions intentions. Both profiles confirmed that urban solutions must be prioritized with a focus on urban planning, development and livelihoods.
- **GBV and child protection sub-cluster collaboration:** Through the development of joint service mapping and standard operating procedure by the GBV and Child Protection sub-clusters in close collaboration with authorities, access to the response was further enhanced: GBV and child protection sub-cluster members reach 233,605 women, men, boys and girls during the year.
- **Field clusters strengthened:** Protection coordination and analysis was strengthened through capacity building including trainings. In Beletweyne, the field cluster was activated to better cover Hiraan region. The Hargeisa cluster successfully transitioned into an IDP solutions task force.

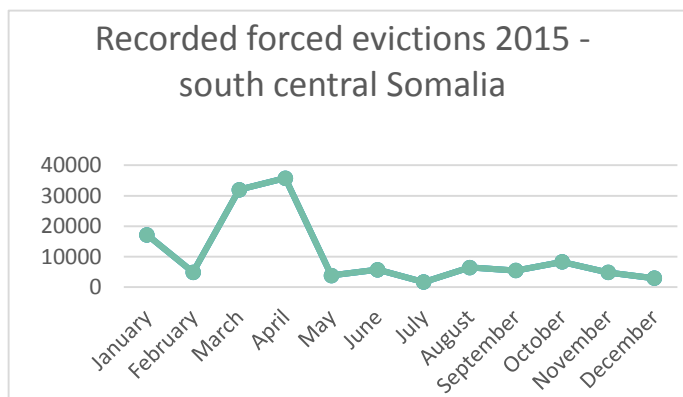
## Protection needs surge

Due to the deterioration of the protective environment the humanitarian community saw itself confronted with a surge in protection needs during 2015.

- 9582 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported in the GBV IMS, out of which 7,439 incidents in south and central Somalia (2014: 4724). The real number is likely to be considerably higher. 83% of the reported cases are incidents of rape, physical and/or sexual assault. Among the affected, 75% are IDP communities. Prevention of GBV and assistance to survivors was a priority in 2015.
- New or re-displacement was a key challenge during the year. Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) services for unaccompanied and separated children were therefore prioritized alongside support for children affected by armed conflict included victims of recruitment and use as child soldiers.
- Forced evictions of almost 130,000 people in towns in south and central Somalia resulted in a considerable surge in protection needs. Forced evictions was the main cause of new displacement in 2015. Loss of shelter, property, livelihoods and access to services made evictees exceedingly vulnerable.
- Civilians faced restrictions to their freedom of movement, linked to the presence of explosive hazards, road blocks, illegal checkpoints and armed and criminal violence. In 2015, 324 civilians were injured and 156 killed by explosive hazards.
- Durable solutions remain distant for most of the 1.1 million IDPs living in protracted displacement. Given the limitations of humanitarian responses to such a chronic crisis, IDPs are left to live in dire conditions, in unplanned settlements often in the outskirts of towns and vulnerable to rights violations.

### Heavy increase in forced evictions:

During 2015 almost 130,000 people were forcibly evicted in major towns in southern and central Somalia (2014: 32,500 UNHCR) and thousands more in towns in Puntland and Somaliland. While this is not a new phenomenon in the Somalia context, due to the significant increase and the forcible nature of evictions this has emerged as priority protection concern. Those affected were predominantly IDPs and urban poor living on public or private land or buildings. Many of those affected were pushed into unsafe areas in the outskirts of towns where services and livelihood options are limited and where rights violations, including GBV, are rampant. It is noteworthy, that 75% of the recorded GBV incidents in 2015 affected IDP communities. Forced evictions were mostly carried out without adequate notice or community engagement and at times resulted in further rights violations, such as family separations, destruction of property and humanitarian investments.



### Armed conflict and clan violence resurges in many parts:

A multi-party **military offensive focusing on Gedo, Bay and Bakool regions was launched in July 2015** and resulted in the displacement of over 42,000 people. Civilians from these areas were also severely restricted in their free and safe movement due to the presence of explosive hazards along main roads, road blocks and illegal checkpoints as well as ongoing fighting. Similar to past offenses, an increase in the recruitment and use of children as child soldiers as well as in family separation was observed. The freedom of movement and safety of civilians living in the two newly recovered towns of Bardheere and Dinsoor remains limited as both remain besieged by Al Shabaab, as is the case with many of the areas recovered in the wake of the 2014 military offensives, such as Xudur or Wajid. Restrictions in freedom of movement remains a central protection concern and cause of the deterioration in the overall humanitarian conditions.

**The armed conflict in Galkayo** in November/December 2015 resulted in the temporary displacement of 90,000 people. Among the displaced were 40,000 IDPs who, once the tension subsided had no choice but to return to their settlements where living conditions are dire and aggravated by El Nino rains earlier in 2015. Both conflicts raised serious concerns about violations of international humanitarian law, notably due to the indiscriminate impact on civilians. **Beletweyne has also seen a surge in clan tension and conflict in 2015.** While temporary solutions to pacify tensions were found, the root causes of the conflict remain and with the ongoing state formation process for Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, further clashes are anticipated. On account of the recent clan violence in Beletweyne, many IDPs lost access to livelihoods.

### El Nino rains and flooding:

Between October and the end of 2015, the military offensive was interrupted by heavy seasonal rains, flash floods and riverine flooding compounded by El Nino. Areas, especially along the Shabelle and Juba rivers experienced flooding while north-western Somalia saw lower than normal levels of precipitation. Around 145,000 people were affected by El Nino and 60,000 temporarily displaced. The key protection concerns identified included the loss of life, separated and unaccompanied children and a lack of access to services by GBV survivors. Overall, however, the impact of El Nino was considerably less severe than anticipated. Protection Cluster members, supported by the NRC/BRICS Consortium, had undertaken far reaching community-based protection outreach with a view to reduce disaster risks and ensuing protection concerns.



## 2015: A successful yet challenging year for protection response

In 2015, despite only receiving 46% of the required funding Protection Cluster members reported to have reached a total of 374,300 people<sup>1</sup>. This constitutes 68% of the target set for 2015, thanks to additional funding received by Protection Cluster members. Out of the 374,700 people reached, 35% were women, 20% men, 24% girls and 21% boys.

Other protection activity	Child Protection	Explosive Hazard	GBV	HLP
6,648	82,339	130,517	151,266	3,530

In addition, Protection Cluster members contributed to advocacy initiatives on IDP solutions, on protection against forced evictions and to a disaster risk reduction campaign prior to the El Nino rains in September and October 2015. A policy brief on protection in situations of natural disasters complemented these efforts. The cluster issued a number of briefs and reports on displacement and protection issued related the military offensive and local conflicts, such as in Galkayo, Beletweyne or Abudwaq throughout the year.

**More needs to be done:** The Protection Cluster continues to face funding shortages for coordination essential for a more effective and strategic humanitarian protection response, as well as for protection activities by our members. The surge in protection needs demonstrated by the significant increase in forced evictions and recorded GBV incidents puts further urge on an increased and sufficient protection response capacity.

### Outlook: Strategic focus for 2016

2016 does currently not allow for an overly optimistic outlook.

**Increased clan tension and conflict:** In the build up to the elections increased clan tensions and conflicts are expected. There is also an increasing risk of breakaway areas. Similarly, the state building process for Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions is confronted with major clan resistance, which can exacerbate the current tension in Beletweyne and trigger new armed confrontations.

**Resumption of the military offensive:** Despite the delay in recommencing the military offensive along Juba corridor, it has to be expected to begin soon. ENDF has assumed a stronger role as part of AMISOM as well as beyond and most recently has arrived in Kismayo. Kenyan Defense Forces on the other have reportedly increased their air interventions affecting Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba Regions following the attack against their base in El Adde, Gedo region.

**Disaster risk:** While the impact of El Nino was less severe than projected, the disaster risk in Somalia remains considerable. Community-based disaster risk reduction measures will continue to be required in 2016 in order for communities to be better protected against loss of life, property, separation of families and other consequences of disasters.

**Forced evictions risk:** Forced evictions are grave protection concerns not only because of their immediate impact but also as they create other protection risks. Lack of security of tenure is central to this problem as is the lack of innovative approaches to urban solutions for IDPs.

### For 2016, the Protection Cluster has set itself ambitious goals with six priority areas of action:

1. Protection and prevention of rights violations related to humanitarian crises and timely and effective protection responses and services to persons affected.
2. Improvement of safe and dignified freedom of movement of IDPs and other civilians.
3. Being a catalyst on durable solutions for IDPs
4. Strengthening the prevention and response to housing, land and property rights violations and access to effective restoration mechanisms
5. Building up of community protection capacity
6. Strengthening the capacity of civil society, formal and informal authorities

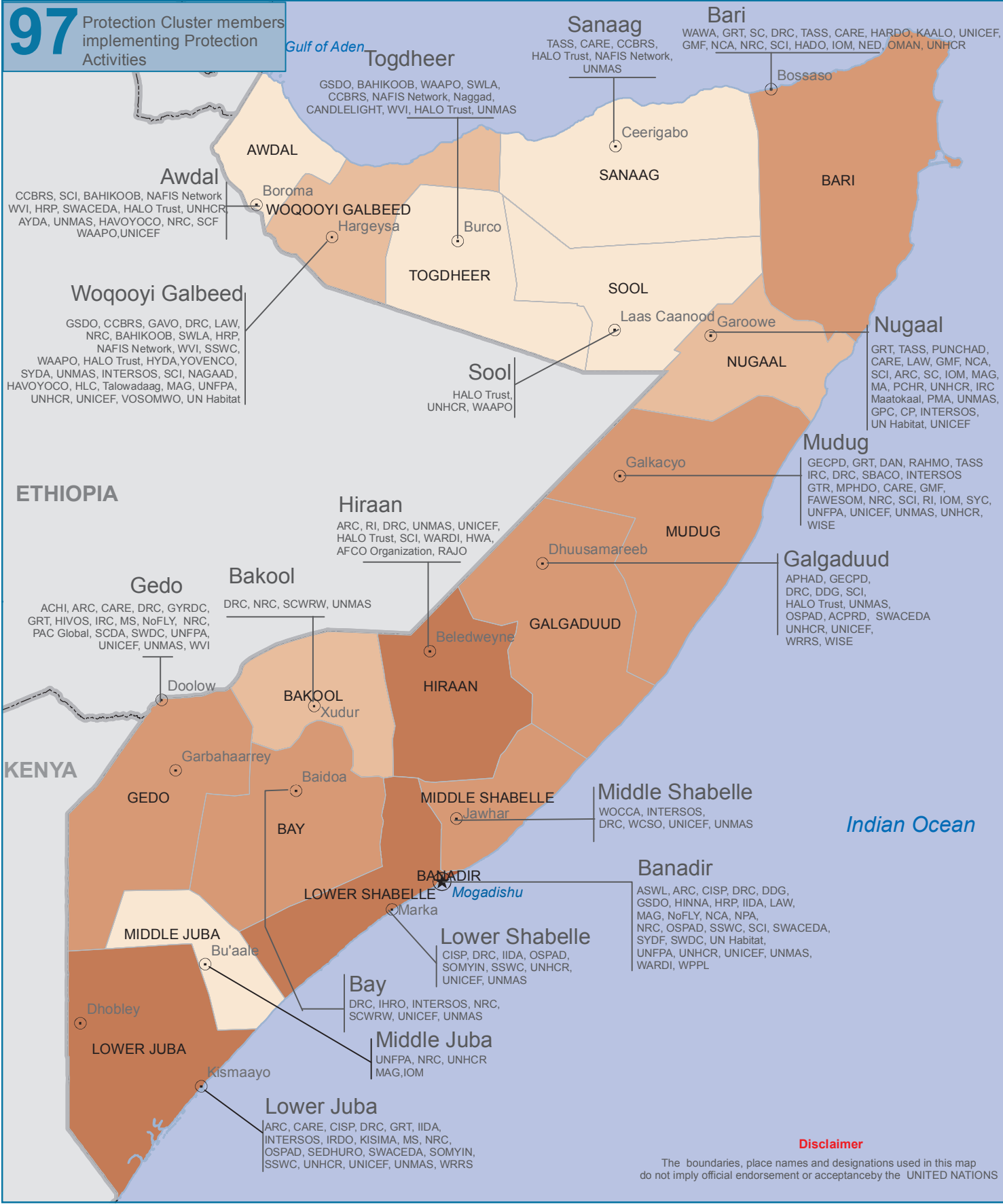
<sup>1</sup> This report has been compiled based on data received from the Protection Cluster and sub-cluster members. Protection Cluster is unable to verify the information reported by the members. Some beneficiaries may have been counted multiple times as they may have received different services by different organizations. The activities reported were implemented with Humanitarian Response (HRP) and non-HRP funding.

**Photo Credit:** DRC/Axel Fassio/Garowe 2014 (Title), PC UNHCR/Karolina Edsbacker/Galkayo 2015.

# Somalia Protection Cluster Partner Operational Activities 2015 (3W)



**97** Protection Cluster members implementing Protection Activities



**Disclaimer**

The boundaries, place names and designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UNITED NATIONS



**Map Legend**

- ★ National Capital
- ⊙ Regional Capital
- Sea Cover
- International boundary
- Coastline
- Regional boundary

**Number of UN Agencies / NGO'S in the Regions**

- 4 - 5
- 6 - 7
- 8 - 10
- 11 - 12
- 13 - 16

**Map Reference** 20151127\_4W Matrix

**Map Creation Date** 20-12-2015

**Projection/Datum** Geographic/WGS 84

**Source/Contacts** Somalia Protection Cluster

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