

Country spotlight – Somalia

Child Protection in the context of COVID-19



CP Partnership with UNICEF



INTERSOS partnership with UNICEF on child protection started in 2012 on CPIE project focusing on FTR / IDTR for UASC in eight (8) districts of Somalia (at the time SCZ and Pundland)

From 2014, the partnership evolved to focus on community-based reintegration of CAAFAG, integrating PSS and GBV but focusing in a single region (while still supporting with capacity building to UNICEF partners in the parts other seven (7) who received transferred INTERSOS caseload).

Current agreement with UNICEF from 2019 to 2020 is on implement child protection interventions within Bay region of South West State in Somalia. Interventions are centered around prevention and response to children affected by armed conflict (CAAC) like former CAAFAG or at risk of use by AF/AG, UASC, Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and community based psychosocial support to children whom have experience multiple shocks.

A continuation of the project for the next calendar year with active beneficiaries as well as COVID-19 related impact, is being finalized. Note also is to be taken of the still recovering caseload (in need of continuity of care by investing on strengthen community based approach and developing their capacities for coping with relevant protection concerns.

Project purpose

Improving the Protective Environment and access to child protection services for children affected by conflict and other emergency-affected populations in Baidoa district, Bay region. The activities focus on the outputs below:

- Output 1: **Case management** for CAAFAG and Children at risk of child recruitment or use, survivors of Gender-Based Violence and other protection related risks are provided with, including children in need of alternative care arrangements, family tracing and reunification, even referrals basic services.
- Output 2: Children and caregivers have access to structured **Psycho-Social Support (PSS)**.
- Output 3: Children associated with armed forces/groups have access to **community based reintegration services**.
- Output 4: *Communities and local authorities engaged to reduce recruitment and use of children by armed actors and ensure they engage in reintegration of CAAFAG into their communities.*
- And **functional** internal as well as external **systems to respond to SEA**

The key sites include: Vocational Training Center (VTC) for children over 14 years whom have NEVER been in any formal education before, and interim care centers (ICC) for children without adequate care / community based care options. Other education activities are also implemented in partnerships with local schools, to support the most vulnerable IDP sites and host communities.

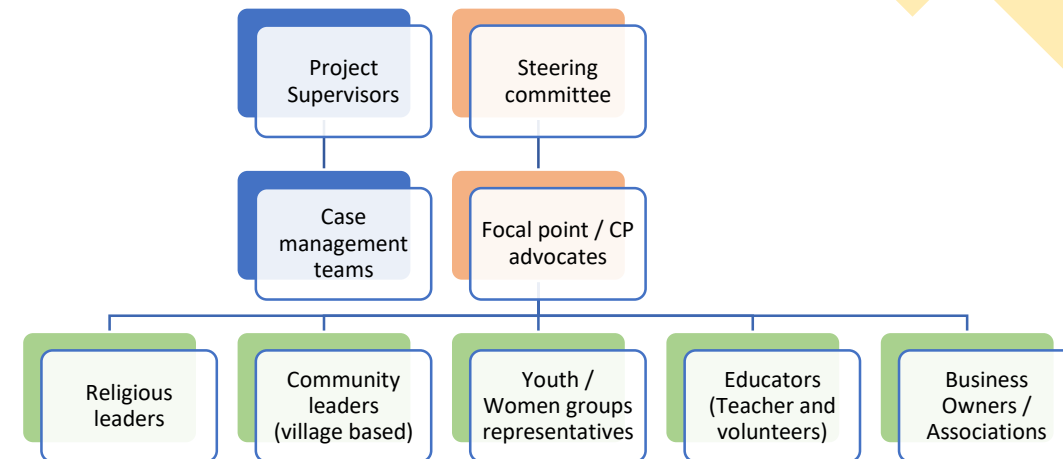


Service Continuity and COVID-19

With the government declaration that schools and universities would be closed from 19 March and large gatherings being prohibited, Case management and PSS (especially the group sessions were affected as social distancing directives followed), in recognizing delicate nature case management process where most beneficiaries are recovering from multiple shocks (both man-made and natural disasters) therefore continuity was by strengthening existing links with;

- Individuals under case management process (from contact information)
- community based structure (considering the most vulnerable groups lack even basic communication assets (phones)).

INTERSOS work with **project steering committees** who regularly connect with **focal points** from various sections in the areas of operation and trained on right base approach (*they were traditionally involved in identification, but currently support surveillance and are able to support communication / link case worker to beneficiaries or recommend need to for person to person process in line with prevention protocols



Coordination with UNICEF and CP AOR

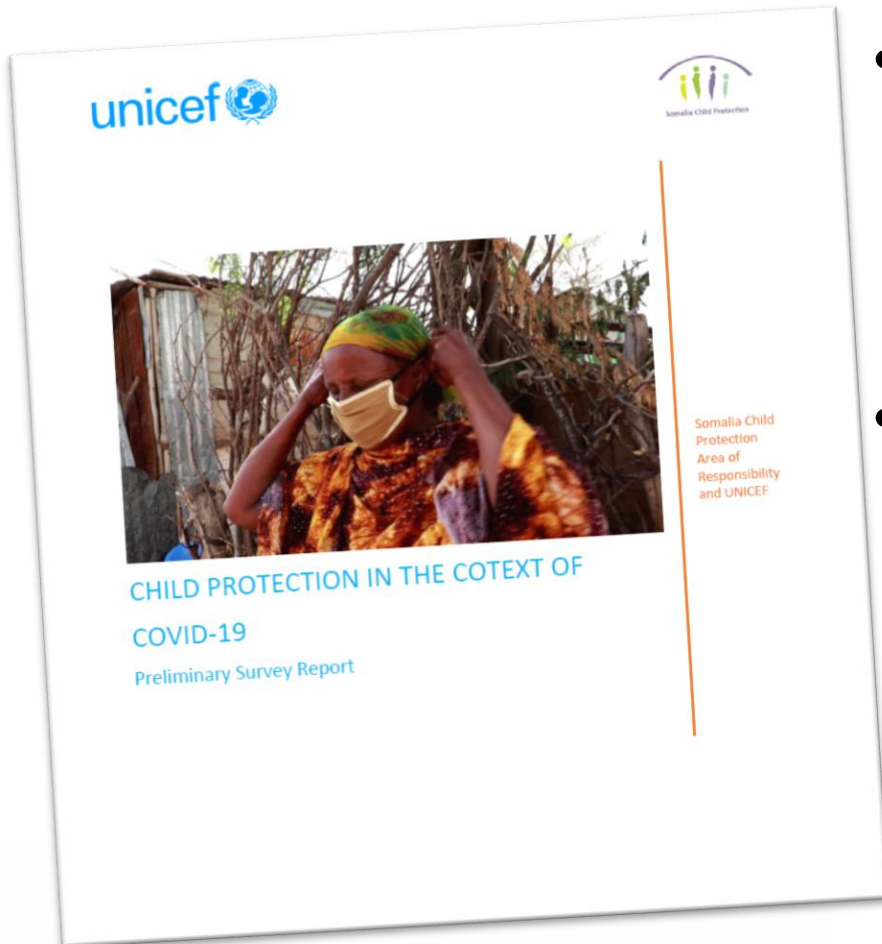
Re- activate the CMTF in Somalia and Co-chair of CMTF

Active member of CP AoR

INTERSOS is also a member of the country Technical Working Group (TWG) of Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) Somalia, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNSOM



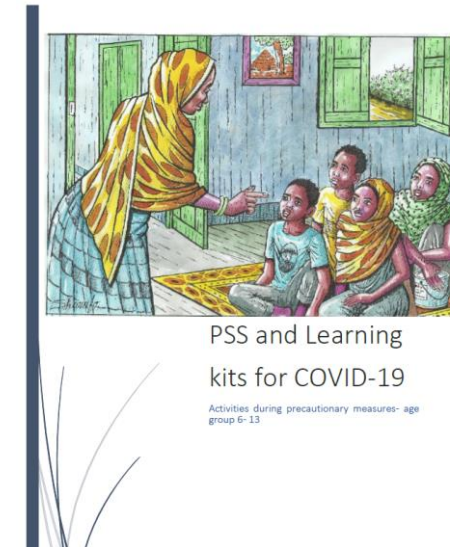
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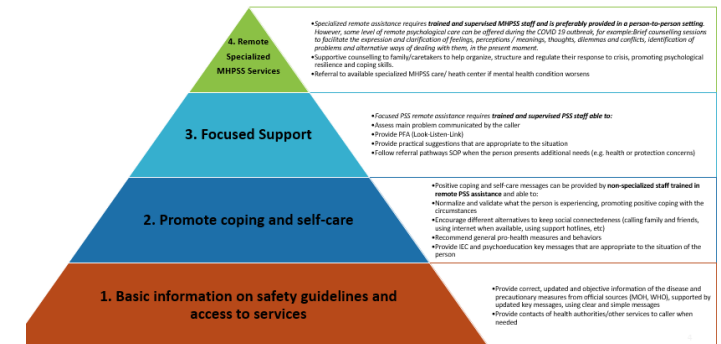
- UNICEF/ CP AoR conducted survey on COVID 19 mitigation measures on children and partners (April 2020)
- 35 CP / GBV partners responded on KOBO (and results analyzed for strategic response)

Child Protection Response in context of COVID-19

- Support to international and national partners providing CP services
- Adjusting and adapting modalities of service delivery – including
 - Case Management guidelines,
 - CP and child friendly messaging,
 - Positive parenting,
 - PSS learning kits for different age groups,
 - Remote PSS guidance for partners,
 - Deployment of 200+ student social workers to provide PSS,
 - Update the referral pathways – MHPSS and case mgt.
- Advocating access for CP staff, placing CP staff in health facilities
- MHPSS inter sectoral coordination and capacity including resources and training



MHPSS Adaptations



Updated the interactive referral pathways –Child Protection including MHPSS and Case Mgt

SOM - Child Protection

Private group

☆ Not following

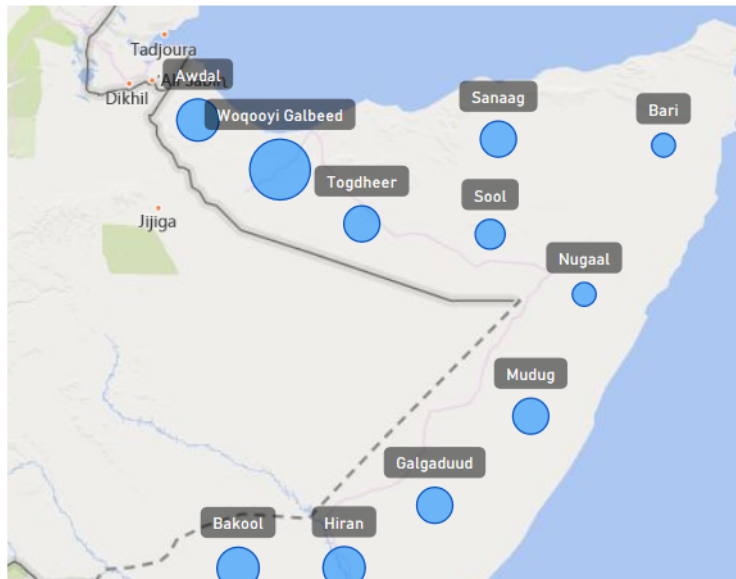
👤 3 members

✉ Send by email

Published 6/11/2020

Somalia CP AoR Partner Referral Contact details

of Organisation and # of Services by Region



Name of Service

- Alternative Care
- Awareness raising
- Caring for Child Survival
- Case Management
- Child Friendly Spaces
- Community Mobilization
- Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR)
- Interim Care Center
- Legal Aid
- Life skills
- Material Assistance
- Psychosocial Support Services (PSS)
- Recreation Activities
- Safe house
- Vocational Training

Region

Organisation	District	Referral_Focal_Contact_Name	Mobile (Referral_Focal_Contact_Name)	Email (Referral_Focal_Contact_Name)
SOYDA Mogadishu	Marka	Aamina Abdulle Cilmi	615531909	umuzakiya20
MESAF	Hargeysa	Muna Hussien Abdi	0025263-4047849	muna12400@
DRC	Laas Caanood	Hafsa Said Abdirisak	4934180	Hafsasaid457
CEDA	Doolow	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
CEDA	Luuq	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
CEDA	Belet Xaawo	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
CEDA	Doolow	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
CEDA	Kismayo	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
CEDA	Luuq	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
CEDA	Mogadishu	Soada Gedi	615766397	soadageedi@
MESAF	Ceerigabo	Deeqa Ali Cawad	0025263-4199862	Deeqaa94@g
MESAF	Ceerigabo	Yasin Abdi Osman	0025263-4204205	Jamayabdi@c
SCWRW	Baidoa	MOhamud Abdi Adan		Somali childr <scwrw_mon

Inter- sector/cluster collaboration

- Re-activation of National MHPSS working group – co-chair with and health cluster and protection cluster and its AoRs
- Virtual training for Child Protection staff on the health consideration and continuation of CP service
- Building MHPSS capacity – series of Webinar on MHPSS, Staff/self care and PFA for protection and other humanitarian actors
- Child Protection and Education collaboration to support Somalia school re-opening guideline(contextualized)
- Child Protection and Education collaboration to support the development of Guideline for remote MHPSS support to children and teachers during covid-19 using head teachers networks
- Child Protection and CCCM – train CCCM cluster partners on CP referrals

Lessons learned and way forward

- With human resource challenges (caseworkers to beneficiaries ratio) due to existing high displacement – traditional events/disaster/multiple emergencies, COVID-19 limitations as well as beneficiaries exacerbated psychosocial needs, community based networks have been able to reclaim their role in ecological model to protect families, and families to their children.
- With context specific capacity mapping; remote capacity building are influencing and operationalizing standard procedures which ensure uniform and quality service provision while also engaging local authorities and other service providers, including education programmes/schools.
- With audience tailored RCCE, community volunteer focal points including clan elders, camp leaders, community protection committees and IDPs committee support and mitigation of the protection risks, monitor children and those trained in rights based approach. With COVID-19 the community based volunteers are active part of quick response focal point since they are already embedded within the affected population(s) with remote trainings and communication allowances.
- COVID has strengthened inter-coordination forums, at country and global level

Working progress

- Development of Case Management SOPs – whole of Somalia
- Development of Information Sharing Protocol
- Roll out CPIMS+
- Co- lead arrangement for National CP AoR