European Union Training Mission Somalia

PRESS SUMMARY

27th April 2018

“In Media stat virtus”
Al Shabaab militants ambush UPDF convoy in southern Somalia

April 25, 2018 - Heavily armed Al Shabaab fighters were reported to have attacked a military convoy carrying peacekeepers from Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) in southern Somalia.

The convoy came under ambush assault as it was travelling El-Waregow area, located outside the southern coastal city of Marka, the regional capital of Lower Shabelle province.

Local residents said the UPDF soldiers have engaged in a heavy gunfight with the militants and managed to repulse the surprise attack which inflicted casualties on both sides.

The Militant group has said in a statement that it has burned down three armoured personnel carrier during the attack, a claim that could not be independently verified.

Sources confirmed that militants planted an EID (Improvised Explosive Devise) on the road that detonated the lead vehicles before engaging soldiers in a fierce protracted fight.

Several Al Shabaab Killed, Detained In A Security Sweep In Galmudug Area, Somalia

The Galmudug administration has launched security operations in the southern town of Mudug against the al Shabaab terror organization. The security sweeps were conducted in a joint effort between military and police forces in the region.

The troops have been patrolling roads in the outskirts of Galkayo, Mudug region and clearing mines set up the al Shabaab militants. During the operation, several al Shabaab were killed and others arrested in an operation that is set to rid the region off the elements.

Gedo region has been characterized by numerous attacks and presence of the al Shabaab militants seeking to topple the Western-backed government replacing it with Sharia-governed caliphate.

Somali Intelligence agent shot dead in Mogadishu

April 26, 2018

Suspected Al-Shabaab members have shot and killed a member of Somalia’s National Security and Intelligence Agency, known as [NISA] in Mogadishu on Wednesday night.

Ahmed Mohamud, the NISA officer was gunned down by two men armed with pistols near his house in the capital’s Waberi district, according to the local residents.

The killers managed to escape the scene before the arrival of the Somali security forces, who later conducted an operation, though no arrest has been made for the murder.

No group has claimed responsibility for the assassination which was the latest in such targeted killing against Somali security force members and civil servants in the seaside city.

Al-Shabaab says it carried out a bomb attack in Barawe port city

April 26, 2018

Al Shabaab said on Thursday that it has carried out a bomb attack in Barawe city in Somalia’s southern Lower Region.

The Al Qaeda-linked militant group issued a statement claiming an attack using a remote-controlled landmine targeting Somali military checkpoint in the town.

“At least three Somali military soldiers were killed and several others wounded in the blast,” read the statement as part.

There was no any comment from the Somali military regarding the incident, which comes barely a week after a bomb killed at least 6 football fans at soccer crowd in the city.

Despite being ejected out of main strongholds, Al-Shabab still capable of carrying out deadly attacks in the country, mainly in Mogadishu as part of its struggle to oust Somali government.

Ex Al-Shabaab leader Aweys Bashes Militant Group Over Robow Death Threat

On Apr 26, 2018 - Former Alshabaab leader Hassan Dahir Aweys has for the first time spoken publicly about the defection of Deputy leader Mukhatr Ali Robow Abu Mansoor from the militant group in which both were vital in its establishment.

Aweys has defended Robow's decision to ditch the Alqaeda linked group in a video released on Wednesday. “The thruth is you are unappreciative entity. Mukhtar Robow helped start this work and you have betrayed him.Poeple are to be protected but the people have are now realized that you are the enemy” Aweys said in the video.

“You label those who oppose you as apostates or they have talked to the infidels. But am telling you to treat poeple with dignity and stop the acts you do.” he added.

This is the first time that Aweys is directly confronting Alshabaab since he fled from the group in June 2013.

He was to flee AlShabaab after he fell out with the leader Ahmed Godane when he backed Robow in a power struggle between the two.

Aweys has been under house arrest in Mogadishu in the last six years.

Fears persist as Mogadishu dares to rebuild itself

Six months after the country's deadliest bombing, life is slowly returning to normal in Somalia's capital city, but uncertainty remains.

by Mohammed Adow

At least 3,000 civilians have been either killed or injured by improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, in Somalia in the past three years.

2017 was by far the deadliest, largely due to a massive bombing in Mogadishu in October that killed more than 500 people.

Six months later, things are slowly returning to normal at the busy market it destroyed.

Al Jazeera's Mohammed Adow reports from Mogadishu, Somalia.

Uganda deploys air force to pursue militants in Somalia

April 26, 2018 - The Uganda People’s Defence Air Force has for the first time sent a contingent of ace pilots to support the ongoing African Union (AU) peace operations in Somalia. The Uganda People’s Defence Air Force has for the first time sent a contingent of ace pilots to support the ongoing African Union (AU) peace operations in Somalia. The air force will provide aerial escort for convoys, reconnaissance operations along the supply routes, medical evacuation, air search and rescue as well as aerial combat against the al-Shabaab in Mogadishu. The contingent of airmen and women and helicopters was flagged off yesterday by the chief of defence forces Gen. Aronda Nyakairima and the commander of the air force Gen. Jim Owoyesigire. Aronda handed over the AU flag to the contingent commander Lt. Col. Chris Kaija.

Gen. Owoyesigire said that the utility helicopters will be used to support the ground troops in line with the unapproved mandate for troops deployed in Somalia under the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Ugandan air force is to provide air cover in the areas of Somalia which are occupied by the contingents from Burundi, Djibouti and Uganda, according to Gen. Aronda.

Gen. Aronda said that the Uganda air force has formally joined AMISOM after the deployment was authorised by President Yoweri Museveni and endorsed by the African Union and the UN.

Ethiopia ‘wants’ AU mission to stay in Somalia

Multinational African peacekeeping force was deployed in Somalia in 2007 to cope with threat of al-Shabaab terrorist group

26.04.2018 - By Addis Getachew

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

Ethiopia wants the multinational African peacekeeping force to stay in Somalia, Ethiopian Foreign Ministry’s spokesman said on Thursday. "Ethiopia's stance on the issue of AMISOM’s [African Union Mission in Somalia] withdrawal is that the multinational force should stay in Somalia until the time comes when the militant group al-Shabaab is very much weakened," Meles Alem told journalists. The multilateral African peacekeeping force was deployed in Somalia in 2007 to cope with the threat of al-Shabaab terrorist group. The African Union has been calling for gradual reduction of the AMISOM force, leading to ultimate withdrawal and handing over the responsibility to Somalian military. According to Meles Alem, al-Shabaab should be rendered “much weaker” and AMISOM should be staying until the insurgent group is no more a threat. In October 2017, some 500 civilians in Mogadishu were killed by twin car bombs, indicating that the threat from Al-Shabaab is far from over. The incident was recorded as the worst of attacks in Somalia in recent years. In June 2016, the African Union Commission Peace and Security Council resolved for gradual reduction of AMISOM troops followed by total withdrawal leaving the responsibility to the Somalian National Army. The decision has yet to be implemented.

Military On The Spotlight As Government Declares Illegal Deal With SKA

Muqdisho | April 26, 2018 – The government has declared illegal a military logistics contract between the Dubai based logistics company SKA and the Somali National Army noting the deal was un-procedurally entered into. The Ministry of Information in a statement to newsrooms Thursday said the contract which came to the public domain following a media expose was illegal and would now be subject of investigations. “The agreement reported in the media is illegal. According to the Minister of Finance Abdirahman Beyle, the contract was not done according to the Public Procurement Law,” acting information minister Abdirahman Yonis said.

Chief of Defence Forces Abdiweli Gorod confirmed to VOA Somali the existence of the contract. In the expose aired Wednesday, VOA Somali said SKA had secured a deal with the national army to manage its supply and logistics countrywide which would include delivery of supplies to all the military bases in the country. “Yes the contract is there and has been agreed,” Gen. Gorod said. Yonis said the government will investigate the circumstances under which the tender was disposed of and findings be submitted to the cabinet.

The Dubai based company, SKA which according to information on its website describes itself as a global supplier of fuel, aviation and logistics services operating throughout the Middle East and Africa, has been operating in Somalia since 2010. The company was first contracted by then Transitional Federal Government to manage operations at Aden Adde Airport before the Turkish based company Favori took over. SKA also operates a security company, Somali Risk Management, which it says provides full range of security services
including international security management and advisory services, security audits and assessments, vetted guards, convoy support, training, CCTV and armored vehicle transport.

The move to declare the contract illegal once again puts the military on the spotlight over procurement procedures. There have been accusations in the past including by the UN Monitoring Group against the military over what it termed as shady dealings in procurement procedures. The U.N. Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group, observed in its 2015 report the army “hierarchy has systematically inflated their troop numbers in order to secure greater funding for salaries and rations”.

“Few cases illustrate the threat posed by financial mismanagement and misappropriation to peace, security and stability in Somalia more than corruption within the Federal Government security institutions,” said the U.N. monitoring group. The US suspended food and fuel aid to the national army last December over corruption concerns. Sources at the US State Department quoted by Reuters said Somali National Army ‘failed to meet the standards for accountability for U.S. assistance.’

WOFIJ Congrats IGAD for her inauguration of the Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE)

April 26, 2018 by Adan Awale - The World Federation of Intercultural Journalists (WOFIJ) delighted to take part the official Inauguration of the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) that was made at the Center’s Offices in Djibouti on 25th April 2018.

The president of the World Federation of Intercultural Journalists (WOFIJ) H. E. Rev. Sayed Daud Abdi Daud who also heads an WOFIJ member association from Somalia SOMESHA was respectively invited to attend the formal procedure of the Inauguration by the IGAD Center made a tremendous remarks while officially opened the center yesterday afternoon at around 3:30PM-5:00PM and said “I’ am optimistic to see ICEPCVE center mission away forward through in a deductive manner with imperative coming up diplomatic research appliances by obtaining consultative ideologies from such like me revolutionists who lives and operate in across IGAD region”. The ceremony was being presided over by His Excellency, Mr. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf,
Djibouti’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Amb. Donald Y. Yamamoto, the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, US Department of State whereas other civil society delegates from across IGAD nations were present the event including respective diplomatic officials from Turkey, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Australia, Denmark, Japan, Uganda, Sudan, and South-sudan.

For over one year and half, IGAD and its partners have been engaged in efforts to develop and operationalize the Center and is now fully operational and has secured permanent premises. It was also launching the Regional Strategy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Horn and Eastern Africa Region.

“Although nowadays, the term is mostly used in a political or religious sense, to refer to an ideology that is considered by the speaker or by some implied shared social consensus the center needs to be far outside all religious and ethnic traditional argues related topics and should come up with acceptable ideas with proactive fairness visualization to attract the mainstream attitudes of society, but extremism can’t be remain as hereditary to one religious community whereas the matter has bilateral aspects in which can looms both Islam and non-islam community” Rev. Sayed Daud Abdi Daud added

Revolutionist Sayed Daud Abdi Daud met separately high level delegates and discuss over the matter by means of how it would be possible to challenge by averting one community isolation and discrimination including Amb (Eng) Mahboub M. Maalim who is IGAD Executive Secretary.

Whereas, the mission of the World Federation of Intercultural Journalists (WOFIJ) is to build into a strong, independent and committed to promote excellence in intercultural coverage journalism worldwide by supporting journalists and the writers in the globe through advocacy building efforts by means of theology respect within the communities due to social awareness. It will be a dynamic media partner with IGAD and her Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) by means of sharing the PCVE knowledge, reports socializing and doing advocacy through transparent manner.

KSRelief Center Signs Joint Executive Project to Provide Primary Health Care in five Areas of Somalia

Riyadh, Sha'ban 10, 1439, April 26, 2018, SPA
-- King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) signed here today a joint executive project to provide primary health care in five regions of Somalia at a total cost of US $ 1,074,108.

This project carried out in cooperation with Physicians Across Continents Organization in Somalia, and as part of the Kingdom's donation of $ 10 million for the humanitarian response plan for Somalia in 2018.

The project was signed by the Assistant General Supervisor of Operations and Programs at the Center Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Al-Bayez, and Director General of the Physicians Across Continents organization in Kenya and Somalia Dr. Abdulhakim Qattan.

The project will operate and rehabilitate 5 primary health centers in the cities of Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Groy, Boussa and Afjouli, and benefiting 253,800 people annually.

Pictures: Chinese Embassy donates office equipment to Somali National Women Organization

Apr 26, 2018 – Mogadishu -Ambassador of People’s Republic of China, H.E. Qin Jian on Wednesday provided office equipment to Somali National Women Organization at a handing over ceremony in the capital,in attendance with Government ministers, SONNA reported.

http://sonna.so/en/?p=13155
Girls in ICT Day celebrated in Somalia with the launch of an ICT initiative

The event was aimed at drawing the attention of policy makers, academia and the business sector on the challenges faced by girls in ICT.

MOGADISHU, Somalia, April 26, 2018 -- International Girls in ICT Day has been celebrated in Mogadishu with the launch on an initiative to create gender parity in Somalia’s ICT industry.

Organized by Fursad .so in partnership with Somalia’s Research and Education Network (SomaliREN) and Ministry of Post, Telecom and Technology, the event was aimed at drawing the attention of policy makers, academia and the business sector on the challenges faced by girls in ICT.

Abdulkadir Mohamed, Fursad .so manager, presented a survey they conducted on the share of women in total number of graduates in ICT. He said out of the 1,233 ICT graduates in 2017 from 23 universities across Puntland, GalMudug, SouthWest, Benadir, Jubbaland and HirShabelle only 9% were female. He added the few who managed to graduate despite challenges face stereotypes and discrimination in accessing the scarce job opportunities.

We can teach girls and women to love technology and use it for their life, such ash health, education, finance, etc and encourage them to pursue ICT as a suitable career.

Safiya Abshir who completed her computer science degree three years ago said the challenges women graduates face in the ICT sector are more than other sectors in Somalia.
She said lack of ICT labs and internships; and disconnection between the courses offered at universities and the skills needed in the local market, make their education irrelevant.

The Minister of Post, Telecom and Technology, H. E. Abdi Ashur Hassan, who was the chief guest of the event, said he is touched by the figures of women graduates in ICT and the challenges they face in employment. He said he could see these facts at the Ministry as women with ICT background form less than 1% of the total Ministry staff and cannot help because of the freeze.

The Minister said he believes that young girls are incredible innovators who can come up with solutions to many of the problems we have if they are provided the right tools and environment. He said, “as charity begins at home, we will start from our Ministry, but we will also partner with other institutions, such as the academia and the private sector, including telecoms, to address these challenges at a national level.”

He acknowledged the successes made in the Communications Act and dotSO management and the increasing penetration of fiber internet in major cities, ICT will be one of the fastest growing fields in the years to come, offering some of the highest paid and most exciting careers. We’re working to open the door to a career in technology to as many young women as possible.

“We can teach girls and women to love technology and use it for their life, such as health, education, finance, etc and encourage them to pursue ICT as a suitable career. Together we can empower the next generation of women to thrive in ICT,” he concluded.

Mayor of Mogadishu launched Taakulo Campaign for the month of Ramadan

April 26, 2018 by Adan Awale

Mogadishu - H.E. Abdirahman Omar Osman (Eng. Yarisow), the Mayor & Governor of Mogadishu today launched Taakulo campaign for the month of Ramadan in order to support vulnerable people in our society in the capital city of Mogadishu. Mayor Eng. Yarisow said “According the Islamic teachings, it is mandatory among Muslim communities to help one another by giving assistance for those in need of help. The holy month of Ramadan, expected to start in three weeks, it is imperative to get our souls ready also to plan to deliver aid and assistance to citizens in need who are not afford to get breakfast food.

Therefore, with the partnership of the below stakeholders, Banadir regional administrations;

1. Somali ordinary citizens in all 17 districts of Banadir
2. Federal level agencies and Banadir administration
3. Business sector
4. Charity associations and academic institutions (Schools and Universities)
5. Somali Diaspora living abroad
6. Foreign embassies in Mogadishu

Today, dates on 26th April, 2018, officially announces the launch of TAKULO campaign in Ramadan Month aiming mobilizing community groups to raise funds (Cash and Food items) to be provided to the those who are not able to get breakfast in Ramadan. Banadir regional administration will convene advocacy meetings with relevant actors as well as organizing
community mobilization sessions at districts. The first phase of this campaign will last till 14th May, 2018 while the 2nd phase will start on 20th May till to Eid festivals after Ramadan.

Mayor Eng. Yarisow continued to say "It is believed that the Somali people do help one another, willing to donate and delivering assistances to the needy among them so I am taking this opportunity to send my appeal to those able to give charity to participate actively and generously in this campaign to reveal responsibility and humanity as a whole. BRA commits to actively and transparently lead, organize, coordinate and facilitate the delivering of aid to the target populations. We also vow to offer supportive and facilitative role for no governmental organizations/charity organization planning to do humanitarian interventions towards Ramadan Month in Mogadishu. In advance, BRA appreciates and sends special gratitude for its staff at both regional and district levels for their generosity and taking the first step of contributions for needy communities during Ramadan deducting portion of their April, 2018 salaries to feed their vulnerable community in Mogadishu.

UAE playing a key role in growth of Horn of Africa

President of Puntland of Somalia on a four-day official visit to the UAE

Abdiweli Mohamad Ali - April 26, 2018

Abu Dhabi: Endorsing strong ties between Somalia and the UAE, the President of Puntland, Abdiweli Mohammad Ali, who is currently on a four-day official visit to the UAE, says the UAE is playing a key role in the development of Horn of Africa region.

Puntland, a region in northeastern Somalia, is the federal member state of Somalia and was established in 1998 before the formation of the federal government in 2004.

“Somalia and the UAE have firm historical ties and the UAE is the biggest trading partner of Somalia. The country has welcomed thousands of Somalis and provided them with employment, and we are here to develop that partnership which is helping the Horn of Africa progress,” Ali said in a statement issued Thursday by the Dubai Press Club.

He added that the UAE has been a strategic partner in the fight against terrorism, illegal human trafficking, illegal fishing and piracy.

Touching upon the Bossaso Port project with P&O Ports of Dubai, he said: “The powers provided to us by the constitution on foreign direct investment, allow us to enter into agreements with national and foreign companies. Bosasso is one example that will help move our economy forward, developing trade in the region and creating jobs for our people.”
Strategic location

The president explained that P&O Ports had agreed a legitimate concession in 2017 to operate the existing facility at Bosaso while building a new port.

Puntland is strategically located and is the only state that borders both the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It is the oldest federal member state of Somalia and was established in 1998 before the formation of the federal government in 2004.

Speaking of ties with the federal government in Somalia, Ali said they support a federal government that upholds the constitution and also respects the rights of state governments in their areas of jurisdiction.

“It is important that all government institutions collaborate together towards a common goal for the benefit Somalia.”

From Cooperation to Conflict: The UAE’s Deepening Crisis with Somalia and Djibouti

April 26, 2018 by Adan Awale

The crisis between the two countries reached its peak in April 2018, when Somalian security forces seized a UAE-owned plane illegally carrying 9 million U.S. dollars in cash to the country. The allegations that the money in the plane was planned to be given to the anti-government groups in the country caused the Somali government to take a harder stance against the Emirates.

The new Turkey | April 26, 2018 | by İsmail Numan Telci – The Horn of Africa region has recently been the stage for a number of international actors that aim to expand their foreign policy reach. This can be seen from Turkey’s increasing relations with Somalia, China and Russia’s decision to establish military bases and the United Arab Emirates’ economic and military activities taking place particularly in Somalia and Djibouti.

These activities, however, receive different reactions by the countries of the region. While humanitarian and development-oriented activities of Turkey have received appreciation by Somalia and Djibouti, the UAE’s aspirations to influence these countries’ political life have faced cold reaction. The Somalia government allowed Turkey to establish its largest military bases in the country and the Djibouti government allocated a vast plot of land close to the Doraleh seaport in order for Turkey to establish a “Free Economic Zone.” On the other hand, both countries soured relations with the UAE, criticising Abu Dhabi for pursuing an interventionist policy. Examples of these strained relations can be seen in the recent political crisis between the Emirates and two important countries of the region, Somalia and Djibouti.
Mogadishu and Abu Dhabi enjoyed close relations during the presidency of Hasan Sheikh Mahmoud of Somalia. However, relations deteriorated in 2017 following the election of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, known as Fermacu, who was supported by Turkey and Qatar, countries that also have tense relations with the UAE. Following his election to presidency, Abdullahi criticized the Emirati activities in the region and argued that the UAE does not respect the national sovereignty of Somalia. In the following period, Abdullahi took a firm stance against the UAE and prevented some of its activities taking place in the country.

One of the activities of the UAE was the establishment of military bases in Somalia’s semi-autonomous regions, Somaliland and Puntland. President Abdullahi criticized these activities and argued that they were against Somalia’s national sovereignty. The UAE, on the other hand, intensified its activities in these regions and had taken a more aggressive stance against Mogadishu by supporting political actors in Somaliland and Puntland. It was even argued that the UAE encouraged these regions for independence from Somalia. The tension between Mogadishu and Abu Dhabi further deteriorated when the parliament of Somalia passed a bill in March 2018, preventing the UAE’s economic and military activities in the country.

The crisis between the two countries reached its peak in April 2018, when Somalian security forces seized a UAE-owned plane illegally carrying 9 million U.S. dollars in cash to the country. The allegations that the money in the plane was planned to be given to the anti-government groups in the country caused the Somali government to take a harder stance against the Emirates.

In response to a harsh stance from the Mogadishu leadership, the UAE announced that it halted all military co-operations with Somalia and shut down the Sheikh Zayed hospital that was built by the Emirates. It is expected that the UAE will further retaliate to Somalia with a number of new measures that are to be seen in the coming period.

Another country recently experiencing tension with the UAE is Djibouti. The relations between these two countries soured in February 2018 with Djibouti’s decision to nationalize the Doraleh Port, which was run by the UAE-based company DP World since 2009. Following a 30-year agreement in 2006 between Djibouti and DP World, the company was supposed to operate the port at a maximum capacity. However, the Djibouti administration realized
that the Doraleh Port has been operating with less than %50 of its full capacity. The Djibouti government thus argued that DP World’s main motivation to keep Doraleh port at the lowest capacity was to sustain the maximum level of activity at the Dubai port, the leading location of maritime transport in the region.

The Djibouti government also claimed that the deal with DP World in 2006 was in contrast with the national interests due to malpractices of Djiboutian officials involved at that time, and this was the main reason for the cancellation of the agreement. In the aftermath of the decision, Djibouti forces seized the Doraleh Port and suspended the activities of DP World.

It is clear that there are deepening tensions between the UAE and two strategic players in the Horn of Africa, namely Somalia and Djibouti. It can be said that there are three major reasons for that. First of all, the UAE does not respect the national sovereignty of these countries and prioritizes its interests even if they contradict with these countries’ national sovereignty. The second reason is related to the nature of the UAE activities in the region. The Somalia and Djibouti governments are not comfortable with the UAE-sponsored ports and military bases, mainly because of their long-term negative impacts on these countries. The final reason is that there are a number of emerging international actors such as Turkey, Russia and China, which have developed good relations with Somalia and Djibouti. This has caused them to reconsider their relations with aggressive actors in the region such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Shifting Regional Dynamics Challenge UAE’s Balancing Act in Somalia

Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, center, waves to supporters after winning the election in Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb. 8, 2017.

by Taimur Khan

On April 8, a group of officials from the United Arab Emirates flew on a government jet from Abu Dhabi to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. Onboard were three bags containing $9.6 million for the salaries of 2,407 Somali National Army soldiers, including the counterterrorism troops that UAE special forces have been training since 2015. This training, at a UAE-run military base in Mogadishu, is part of the UAE’s efforts since the end of Somalia’s civil war to support both federal and regional state security forces as well as the broader campaign against violent extremism.

The Somali and Emirati accounts over what happened next at the airport differ, but an argument and scuffle appear to have broken out after Somali airport security personnel demanded to search the diplomatic bags and the Emirati officials refused. The bags were allegedly confiscated at gunpoint and the officials and their plane detained. The event at Mogadishu’s airport sparked a week of recriminations, and rumors about possible additional moves against the UAE’s interests in Puntland – the semiautonomous state in northeastern Somalia with coastlines on the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.
Local Somali media reported that Emirati forces had another standoff at the Bosaso naval base in northeastern Puntland, where the UAE trains the Puntland Maritime Police Force, which combats piracy and conducts operations against al-Shabab and the breakaway affiliate of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. Emirati trainers were reportedly prevented from leaving the base. Whatever happened, the Puntland president quickly issued an apology. “We apologize for any inconvenience that may have inadvertently faced them [the Emiratis] in Somalia,” Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali said on April 16 after a visit to the Bosaso base, adding that the “UAE is [an] indispensable ally of Somalia, no other country can replace their support to Puntland.” On April 21, Ali flew to Abu Dhabi for talks.

But in Mogadishu, the government of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, known as Farmajo, announced that the units trained by the UAE special forces in Mogadishu were being permanently disbanded and dispersed among other federal military units, perhaps bringing an end to a key aspect of Abu Dhabi’s relationship with the federal government and what has been a significant Emirati role in strengthening the central government’s fledgling security capacity. In response, the UAE Foreign Ministry announced that it was suspending all security assistance to Somali federal forces. This was followed by the suspension of operations at the Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Mogadishu, which treated, for free, around 300 Somalis a day.

The next day, the mayor of Doha traveled to Mogadishu to hold a joint press conference with his counterpart announcing Qatar’s donation of 30 passenger buses to the city. The timeline of events suggests that aspects of the Gulf crisis are reverberating regionally, in this instance reaching into Somali domestic and even clan politics. The ending of UAE aid and assistance to Mogadishu comes five months after the United States suspended its own financial aid to the Somali military because of persistent corruption, although it appears that the impoverished federal government has concluded the loss of such large streams of funding will be offset by increased support from Doha.

Rumors circulated on social and Somali media that the UAE would stop issuing visas to Somalis and that residency visas for Somali nationals in the UAE would not be renewed. Whether or not that actually happens, the anxious reactions by many Somalis underscore how important the UAE remains as a trade partner and a crucial business and financial hub for Somalia and its global diaspora. And even if other patrons can make up for the loss of
Emirati, U.S., or other donors’ aid, mitigating the impact of restrictions on access to Dubai will be much more difficult.

While Saudi Arabia is the largest destination for Somalia’s largest export, livestock, Dubai is a logistics and import-export hub for Somali business communities and a central node in the hawala and formal remittance systems that are a lifeline for Somalis. At an investors conference in Dubai in April 2017, a cross section of Mogadishu’s business community was represented, from telecom moguls to cattle exporters to the city’s only dry-cleaning service, which sources its material from the emirate.

Last week, there had appeared to be some momentum toward de-escalation after Farmajo government officials said that talks with the UAE were underway after the April 15 Arab League summit in Saudi Arabia. On April 16, the Somali Foreign Ministry released a statement that emphasized that the “sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia are the inviolable foundations of the well-being of Somalia and the security of the wider region,” but added that “the Federal Government of Somalia has sought to clarify facts surrounding recent developments in order to remove any room for misunderstanding between the two governments and peoples. This effort continues.” Two days later, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, told BBC Arabic that the country’s policy toward Somalia had not changed. Despite increasingly close bilateral security and economic ties with breakaway and semiautonomous regions that have angered Farmajo’s government, the UAE maintains a one-Somalia policy, recognizing Mogadishu as the capital. However, he also indicated that the development of a military base and DP World-run port in Somaliland had been agreed upon with Farmajo’s predecessor, and that the one-Somalia policy does not preclude helping Somali states with development and humanitarian aid. Mogadishu has, in vain, tried to stop the Berbera port development, which triggered the precipitous deterioration of ties between Abu Dhabi and the central government since Ethiopia was given a 30 percent stake in the port. The Somali Foreign Minister reiterated this position on April 21, saying that if the Dubai-owned DP World includes Mogadishu in the Berbera project, “after that, Somalia welcomes any investment in any part of Somalia, including Berbera.” In April 2017, during a visit to the UAE for talks with officials and potential investors, a Somali federal cabinet minister described the importance of the UAE’s role in helping stabilize Somalia, and its contribution to the security sector in particular. He did not
openly criticize the Berbera projects, but reiterated that the federal government must be consulted as a matter of sovereignty. He implied that a formula that all sides would find acceptable was not out of reach. The minister was in Dubai as part of the then-recently installed Somali government’s charm offensive with the UAE, an attempt to clear the air after the contentious election during which the candidate allegedly backed by the Emirates lost to Farmajo, who is apparently supported by Qatar and Turkey. According to a lobbyist in Washington, the Farmajo government had been looking to hire U.S. firms to lobby the UAE government on behalf of Mogadishu. But those efforts fell to the wayside completely in June 2017, when Saudi Arabia and the UAE called on Somalia and regional state governments to cut ties with Qatar. Farmajo refused, but three semiautonomous states, along with Somaliland – Puntland, Galmudug, and Hirshabelle – agreed, angering Mogadishu. Until now, the UAE has balanced its relations with Mogadishu with its ties to Somaliland and other semiautonomous states and their underlying clan interests. The UAE, along with Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States were the only individual state members of the “S6” group of donors to Somalia’s security sector that was formed in 2016. The now disbanded UAE funding and training programs were a part of the Emirati efforts under this framework to help enhance Mogadishu’s ability to secure fragile political and economic gains. But with a 2020 deadline for the withdrawal of African Union forces and little sign that the Somali National Army can maintain or consolidate gains that have been made in combatting al-Shabab, the S6 pushed for a new approach that would strengthen local security forces in semiautonomous states to more effectively counter the militant group’s strategy of exploiting local grievances and clan dynamics. This dovetailed with stabilization efforts already being bolstered by the UAE, such as training the Puntland Maritime Police Force, as well as projects, beginning in 2015, to develop strategic military naval bases and commercial ports along the Somali coast. The UAE has played a role as patron in Somalia since the civil war of the 1990s. Until now it had been possible for the UAE to strengthen, outside of the Somali federal government’s ambit, its bilateral ties with various Somali regions and pursue interests independent of Mogadishu. As regional dynamics grow more complicated, however, that balance looks increasingly unlikely to last.

Development in Somalia; a Missed Opportunity or a Failed Responsibility?

Mohamed A. Alasow - Thursday, April 26, 2018

The Somalis were aid dependent for 27 years and prospects of emancipation from charity are a distant dream, since the Federal Government of Somalia’s (FGS) focus to country and people’s development is neither an issue nor a priority; as the concentration to development is constantly obscured and upset by political turmoil, insecurity, corruption, delusions about Federalism, etc.

The three pillars of the government are not well established in Somalia, except the Executive and the Legislative, the Judiciary branch is either sideline or neglected, while the Constitution is at an interim phase for six years. Whereas, the periodic frictions between the Executive and/or Legislative, paralysis the governance and development endeavors and heightens the insecurity.

Moreover, despite different ministerial positions instituted to oversee the national development, i.e. agriculture, livestock, fishery, etc., yet, the development sector is facing a huge challenges. Similarly challenged are the service delivery; health, education, water and sanitation, etc. which is in the hands of the private sector, whereas the government role is either limited, absent or uncertain. In short, the above situation indicates that those tasked to deliver the development in Somalia might have capacity challenges that require bridging through training, regular monitoring and guidance. On the other hand, the high turnover of
ministerial positions and their supervisors is a weak link to development; a move that discourages donors and development partners alike, when it comes to, dealing with the new Ministers - most of them novice - who need time to understand the development processes before they take on their duties seriously.

In addition to that, most of the political leaders seem to be authoritarian; instead of empowering the different institutions, they distract them by becoming involved directly or indirectly in their institutional duties and responsibilities, especially, those institutions and/or agencies that bring in revenues. Therefore, to achieve tangible development results, a thorough change in leadership attitude may be one of the key ingredients to development and good governance in Somalia.

Nevertheless, the FGS's focus to development is equally hampered by the Federalism structure; a system adopted out of clan interests and based on international community pressure. Sadly, the Federalism ideology was embraced and implemented as a new style of governance without proper policy sensitization, education and acceptance by both the public and the politicians. For example: the Federalism fostered power struggle between FGS and Federal States. Besides, the Federal State Administrators, styled themselves as 'Presidents' (a title not accorded to them in the constitution) and took national decisions affecting only their respective regions, when it comes to development and resource sharing.

Even though, stepping up the national security is the mantra of every Somali leader, yet, no tangible success is achieved, since, approaches and responsibilities to boost the security seem not well defined, as well as the skills, knowledge, experience and type of competencies required to reinforce the security sector. in short, the ills and the Achilles' heel of the sector that require thorough attention include: corruption, nepotism, mismanagement, poor performance, etc.

The above distracters to development and more, paved the way for Humanitarian Organizations to fit in and fill the void. Regrettably, the Aid Agencies are trying to manage and achieve a progress that is not much linked to the national development agenda. Because of the above dilemma, the Somalis will be forced to remain destitute, unemployed, under-developed, and charity dependent for years to come, unless the FGS takes seriously the development agenda.
To achieve a significant development and resilience in Somalia: the FGS should (1) adopt a careful selection process of personnel coupled with background check; (2) clarify roles and responsibilities for each institution and personnel; (3) create code of conduct for all personnel; (4) encourage for inter-ministerial collaboration for efficient use and rationalization of funds while avoiding fragmented programs; (5) intensify public participation in development; (6) with the help of the International Community advocate for the creation of a good governance system that fosters the national development agenda, boosts the service delivery, fights corruption, and other ills to governance. One of such system, is the e-Government. A good example to reckon with is Rwanda's successful implementation of e-government; a success story replicated in many other African countries. According to Nkohkwo and Islam, (2013) the most common challenges to address prior to adopting e-Government in Sub-Saharan Africa are ICT infrastructure, human resources, legal framework, Internet access, the digital divide, and connectivity. However, to implement e-Government in Somalia, requires political will rather than infrastructure development. At present, in Somalia, ICT services are used to advance Hawala/Banking systems, a network of remittance companies, each linked to a user-friendly e-service system developed to connect all their businesses worldwide and rid of corruption within their ranks.

Despite the hiccups, there is still a hope in Somalia, even when all prospects seem bleak, work on linking all government services at all levels, boost transparency, promote public confidence, and use adopt e-government to create a bio-data/ID systems, that may facilitate one-man-one-vote scheme for 2020. In a nutshell, an honest leadership, a tranquil political climate, and good governance may ease the hitches in security and influence the development endeavors.

https://www.hiiraan.com/op4/2018/apr/157802/development_in_somalia_a_missed_opportunity_or_a_failed_responsibility.aspx
Puntland fete earns elder Buurmadow 5 year jail term in Somaliland

April 26, 2018

A court in Somaliland has sentenced prominent elder Boqor Buurmadow to five years in jail about a week after he attended the inauguration ceremony of another elder in Puntland.

The details of the case are not yet clear but Goobjoog News correspondent in Hargeisa says the court handed the elder five year jail time in a ruling delivered Thursday.

The verdict comes days after the elder was released following arrest last week upon return from Puntland. A senator, Sultan Ismael Sultan Abdirahman was suspended Tuesday for attending the same ceremony.

Somaliland: What does it take to create a new country?

April 26, 2018 - Secessionist movements across three continents are vying to form new, independent states.

From Catalonia to Taiwan, separatists are increasingly mounting pressure on national governments who face the possibility of new breakups.

CNBC looks at what it takes to make a country from scratch.

Who gets to form a state?

The number of countries in the United Nations has grown from 51 recognized states in 1945 to 193 states today.

There are no official international rules, but guidelines are on hand for separatist movements.

The Montevideo Convention held in Uruguay in 1933 said that a region must meet four requirements to become a state; a permanent population, a defined territory, a government and the ability to form relations with other nation states.

Other conditions must be met, including clear evidence that a majority of people have freely chosen independence, that minorities are welcome and respected. A state must also be able to agree divorce terms mutually with the country it breaks away from.

In practice, many have found it difficult to meet all the guidelines.

Why is it so difficult to meet?

National governments almost always oppose secession.
Taiwan is a democratic state in almost everything but name. It has had its own constitution since 1947 and has functioned as an autonomous state since 1950. Unlike mainland China, Taiwan has democratically-elected leaders and was the first place in Asia to rule in favor of gay marriage.

However, China President Xi Jinping regards Taiwan as a province and has put pressure on countries to have no diplomatic relations with them. Only 19 countries, along with the Vatican, officially recognize Taiwan.

**Who wants to break away?**

Catalonia declared independence from Spain in October 2017 following a historic referendum. Spain’s government dismissed it as illegal and said politicians leading the rebellion could be jailed. The Basque Country in northern Spain also lays claim to independence. Militant group Eta issued an apology Monday to those it killed during its armed struggle for Basque independence.

The autonomous region of Kurdistan, in northern Iraq, held a referendum in September last year but the results were strongly opposed by Iraq’s central government in Baghdad and neighboring Turkey, Iran and Syria. Kurdish minorities are spread through Iraq and its neighbors. In response to the referendum, Baghdad seized back Kurdish land.

Scotland held its own referendum on whether to break away from the U.K. in 2014, but a majority of Scots voted to remain in a union with England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

In the Arctic Circle, Greenland remains under Denmark’s control despite having its own government. Voters elected a new president Wednesday and will now eye up the long-term goal of full independence, despite some estimates that doing so could relegate it to being Europe’s poorest nation.

**Can independence cause instability?**

Near the Gulf of Aden, Somaliland declared itself independent from Somalia in 1991.

It has its own government, police force and currency but no government recognizes Somaliland. Doing so could put further pressure on Somalia’s weak national government, as
it fears further splits from factions wanting a new state called Puntland, on the northeastern coast.

Eritrea declared independence from Ethiopia in 1993. Today, poverty is rife in the country and it is ruled by a despotic government. The United Nations has accused the government of crimes against humanity and press freedom is the worst compared to all other African nations, according to the World Press Freedom Index.

South Sudan is the world’s youngest state after it broke away from Sudan in 2011. The country is plagued by violence and hyperinflation.

Other places that lay claim to an independence movement include French speaking Quebec in Canada, Bavaria, North Cyprus, Belize, Kashmir, and Tibet.

Somaliland reopens former School for street children

By Ahmed Abdi

Hargeisa—Somaliland reopened a former school for street children in Sahel region and laid the foundation stone of a new well on Tuesday.

“We have learned the importance of reopening this school for the street kids and we requested from the ministry of water development to help us find a water well for the school,” Minister of Justice Eng. Abdiqhani Mohamoud Atieh said.

Minister of Water development Saleban Ali Koore said that the government is responsible for the well-being of the children that will contribute the development of the nation. Minister Koore called on the Business-people, diaspora and International NGOs to participate in executing this plan which he said will discourage young kids to turn gangs that can harm the nations well being.

http://www.somalilandinformer.com/somaliland/somaliland-reopens-former-school-for-street-children/
Military court postpones hearing on murder case in Kismayu

A military court in Kismayu has deferred hearing of case in which a soldier is accused of killing his wife and ordered the prosecution to conclude investigations into the case.

The accused, Abdullahi Aasad Ismael allegedly shot dead his wife Muhubo Mohamed Guure in Halanley location April 15 barely three months after the two married in January 15.

Judge Bashir Mohamed Khaire set the hearing of the case for May 15.

420,000 People Affected In Somalia As Weatherman Forecasts More Floods

On Apr 26, 2018 - The Ethiopian highlands and Juba and Shabelle basins in Somalia continued to receive moderate to heavy rains, according to FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). The result has been a rapid increase in river levels causing flash and riverine flooding in many locations. Overall, rainfall has been above average over broad areas of Somalia.

Short-term forecasts suggest heavy rainfall is likely to continue over the coming week both inside Somalia and within the Ethiopian highlands. Other central and northern parts of the country are expected to receive moderate to high rains in the coming week with regions of Puntland being the exception.

The projection for heavy rains coupled with the high river levels means that riverine flooding will continue in the Juba and Shabelle river basins in the coming week. The Shabelle River levels in Belet Weyne areas are above the high flood risk level and has reached the bank full-level leading to significant displacement. Flash flooding and inundation of IDPs settlements was reported in Baidoa, Banadir and Galgaduud. In Jowhar, which is in the middle parts of the river, the water levels remained high over the last week and is expected to continue rising posing a high risk of flooding in the area. Flooding along the Shabelle River, especially in the middle and lower reaches, is expected to continue in the coming week. The Juba River levels in Luuq sharply increased over the past week and are beyond the high flood risk level. At Bardheere, the river levels continued to rise, with the current level surpassing the high
flood risk levels. Flash floods are foreseen in the coming week in low lying build up areas especially in Mudug, Bay and Bakool regions given the rainfall forecast.

Humanitarian impact and needs

Overall, more than 427,000 people have been affected as of 26 April and of these nearly 175,000 have been displaced as a result of the flash and river flooding in Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland states as well as Banadir region, according to data collected by humanitarian partners. Assessments are ongoing to determine the impact of flooding in affected areas.

In Hiraan region of Hirshabelle State, an estimated 122,580 people have been displaced in Belet Weyne town and surrounding riverine villages after the Shabelle River burst its banks and inundated houses and crops. Some of the affected were already internally displaced. Immediate needs include water, shelter, food, latrines, health services and emergency education. Shabelle River levels have reached the bank full-level as heavy rains continued to pour in the river basin of Ethiopian and Somalia.

The main road that connects Belet Weyne town to the airport is on the verge of closure due to the river overflow. Motorized boats are among the priority needs, in order to reach people in isolated locations.

In Middle Shabelle in Hirshabelle State, the situation continued to worsen with nearly 20,000 people affected by flash and river flooding. The Shabelle River overflow displaced people in Horseed area and other low lying areas within the river basin. Flooding also affected access to roads and washed away farmlands. Some 7,000 people moved to Hantiwadaag village in Jowhar. Limited road movement due to flooding is hindering access to some of the affected areas. Jowhar, Mahaday and Balcad are among the worst affected areas. The road connecting Mogadishu and Jowhar is almost impassable, while the Jowhar-Balcad road is cut off at Garsaale village, north of Balcad.

An estimated 174,000 people have been affected by flash flooding and water inundation in Baidoa town, Bay region and another 5,000 people in Afgooye town, Lower Shabelle in South West State. Over 200 latrines were either damaged or completely destroyed in 26 IDP sites in Baidoa town. Some of the affected fled their inundated sites to higher ground. Baidoa
town hosts an estimated 246,000 IDPs. Flash flooding was also reported in Afgooye town where 70 shelters for IDP and host communities were inundated with water. Al-Yasir primary school in Afgooye town was also filled with flood water, thus disrupting learning activities for children. A canal breakage in Golweyne village washed away an estimated ten hectares of farmland.

In Jubaland, the number of displaced people spiked from an estimated 28,200 on 22 April to 42,300 people who are part of the 165,000 people affected in the state. The worst affected areas include Bu’aale, Garbahaarey, Ceel Waaq, Luuq, Baardheere and Saakow. Some 2,000 farmers along the Juba riverine areas lost their crops, irrigation infrastructure such as 200 irrigation pumps and farming equipment. In the low-lying areas of Jilib and Jamaame, where access to partners is difficult, some farmers lost their cash crop that was almost ready for harvesting. No new human casualties have been reported since the last update when three people were found drowned.

In Galgadud region of Galmudug State, the projected heavy rains in the coming week may worsen the situation in IDP settlements in low-lying areas of Abduwaq town. An estimated 9,300 IDPs have been affected in Danwadaag, Kulmiye and Wadajir settlements, including 1,650 people who moved to higher ground. Poor hygiene and stagnant water may trigger diseases. Immediate humanitarian needs include shelter, mosquito nets, food, latrines and health services.

In Banadir region, which hosts an estimated 497,000 IDPs, flash flooding has also affected nearly 54,000 people mainly in IDP settlements in K12, towards the Afgooye corridor. Most of their improvised shelters and latrines built by partners have been destroyed. Waterlogging and lack of access to hygiene facilities is heightening the risk of communicable diseases. The region was already experiencing AWD cases, with over 430 cases reported since January. Urgent needs include shelter, food, health and WASH.

More rain expected next week-Regional forecast

April 26, 2018 - Kampala, Uganda | THE INDEPENDENT

Widespread moderate to very heavy rains are expected to continue through much of the region next week, according to a regional forecast issued this week.

The forecasters in a report released by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWNET), warn that the rains are expected to come with associated risk of flooding in Kenya, eastern Uganda, rift valley regions of Ethiopia and southern Somalia.

It says during the next seven days, heavy rainfall is forecast over much of Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and southern and central Somalia.

During the second half of the forecast period, rainfall is expected to become less widespread and will be concentrated over southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, coastal Kenya, and northern and coast.

The report says rainfall has been above average over broad areas of Somalia, eastern and southern Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi. It observes that initial satellite-derived estimates suggest rainfall since late March has been as much as 200 percent of average across many areas.

The observers say favorable seasonal performance over the past 30 days has contributed to a continuation of timely and well-distributed rains that had already resulted in seasonal rainfall surpluses across much of the region.
“Overall, seasonal rainfall totals in excess of 150 percent of average have been observed across much of the region, though poor performance has been observed in parts of northern Ethiopia.” it said.

In the short-term, forecasts suggest heavy rainfall is likely to continue over the next week in much of the region, which should further strengthen rainfall surpluses in many areas, and may reduce rainfall deficits in parts of northern Ethiopia.

The forecast adds, rainfall is expected to continue in early May but become relatively less widespread and will be concentrated over southwestern and eastern Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, coastal, central and western Kenya, and northern and coastal Tanzania.

In Uganda, the forecast says following a timely onset of seasonal rainfall in March, cumulative rainfall totals are above average. It says during the past 30 days, rainfall has been near average through much of the country.

https://www.independent.co.ug/more-rain-expected-next-week-regional-forecast/
Situation overview
The Ethiopian highlands and Juba and Shabelle basins in Somalia continued to receive moderate to heavy rains, according to FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). The result has been a rapid increase in river levels causing flash and riverine flooding in many locations. Overall, rainfall has been above average over broad areas of Somalia. Short-term forecasts suggest heavy rainfall is likely to continue over the coming week both inside Somalia and within the Ethiopian highlands. Other central and northern parts of the country are expected to receive moderate to high rains in the coming week with regions of Puntland being the exception.

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Humanitarian Response and coordination

Humanitarian partners in collaboration with authorities continued to step up efforts to mitigate the impact of the flooding in different flood-affected areas. Authorities in Banadir, Jubaland and South West have appealed for urgent humanitarian assistance. In Galmudug region, efforts to mount a robust humanitarian response are hampered by limited resources. A rapid needs assessment was conducted and plans are underway to distribute shelter materials and education services to affected IDP communities.

The taskforce established by the Hiraan authorities last week continued to mobilize response. Dissemination of early warning information to flood prone-areas also continued limiting loss of assets and life. Partners have pre-positioned emergency shelter and hygiene kits and sandbags in their regional hubs. Some 10,000 sandbags were distributed on 25 April by local authorities.

The Hirshabelle authorities met with partners in Middle Shabelle to mobilize resources to repair the Mahadherere breakage along the Shabelle River. This breakage is reportedly the major source river overflow into nearby farms and villages. Authorities, who are working with affected communities, have appealed to partners to contribute between $200 and $400 to secure sandbags for the repair of river breakages. Plans are underway to distribute more than 1,000 plastic sheets and 600 hygiene kits. To address protection related issues, authorities have established a police post in Ceel Jaale where the majority of the flood-displaced people are settled. Humanitarians are also mobilizing resources to step up response.

In South West State, the WASH cluster continued to distribute hygiene kits and water chlorination tablets alongside stepping up hygiene promotion in Baidoa and other major towns in the state. Emergency shelter kits were provided to nearly 3,000 households but the stocks are not sufficient. Medical supplies, which can last up to three months, are pre-positioned in the town ready to deploy. The Afgooye district authorities have approached humanitarians to assist the affected families.

Jubaland authorities together with humanitarians conducted joint rapid need assessments in Baardheere, Doolow and Garbahaarey. Health partners have deployed mobile clinics in Ceel Waaq, Doolow and Luuq and other nearby affected areas. Food security partners have assisted 1,168 families, while the Shelter cluster distributed shelter kits to 400 families in Dhooley. WASH partners will also distribute 900 hygiene kits to communities affected by the Juba River flooding. Plans are underway to provide unconditional cash assistance to 350 families in Buulo Guduud village of Kismaayo for three months. Medical and nutrition supplies are pre-positioned in Dhooley ready to deploy.
In Banadir region, no flood-related displacement has been reported. On 24 April, the Mayor of Mogadishu appealed for immediate humanitarian assistance for 100,000 IDP families in six districts of Kahda, Daynille, Dharkinley, Hodan, Gubedley, and Garasbaley.

While the Gu rains are expected to ease the impact of severe drought conditions spanning over four consecutive poor rainy seasons, flooding is compounding an already fragile humanitarian situation with an estimated 5.4 million people in need of assistance, 2.7 million of whom require urgent life-saving assistance. The current recorded funding under the Humanitarian Response Plan 2018 stands at $282 million with up to an additional $100 million in confirmed pledges out of a $1.5 billion requirement. These funds are insufficient to support on-going operations and are inadequate to support a robust flood response as is required. While immediate humanitarian funding is required to meet additional needs caused by flooding, the repetitive nature of flooding and the impact it has on humanitarian indicators and massive financial losses in assets and agricultural output reinforces the need to work with development partners to drive investment in the Resilience and Recovery Framework (RRF) to address root causes of vulnerability.

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Africa: Somalia e Tunisia verso adesione al mercato unico Comesa

Il maggiore blocco commerciale continentale, il Mercato comune dell’Africa orientale e australe (Comesa) si accinge ad ampliare la propria associazione con l’annuncio della prossima adesione di Somalia e Tunisia.

A darne notizia sono i media keniani, specificando che grazie all’adesione di Somalia e Tunisia alla Comesa saranno in tutto 21 i Paesi membri dell’organismo che promuove un’area di commercio preferenziale. L’adesione, viene specificato dalla stessa Comesa, sarà formalizzata nel corso del prossimo vertice dell’organismo commerciale previsto a giugno a Bujumbura in Burundi. In base a quel che è stabilito dall’articolo 4 del trattato istitutivo della Comesa, all’organismo può aderire qualsiasi Paese che condivide una frontiera con uno Stato membro già aderente (la Tunisia confina infatti con la Libia, mentre la Somalia con Gibuti, Kenya e Tanzania), dopo aver rispettato una serie di condizioni tra cui l’accettazione delle finalità e degli obiettivi della Comesa stessa, nonché il rispetto degli impegni generali e il desiderio di cooperare con gli altri Paesi membri. L’adesione di Somalia e Tunisia consentirà alla Comesa, attualmente consistente in un mercato di 490 milioni di persone, di aumentare la propria popolazione a più di 516 milioni, pari a poco meno della metà della popolazione dell’intero continente. Creata nel 1994, la Comesa rappresenta un’estensione di una precedente area di commercio preferenziale già esistente dal 1981 ed è uno dei pilastri della Comunità economica africana; nel 2008 la Comesa ha aderito all’Area di libero scambio africana (AFTZ) che include i membri di altri due blocchi commerciali africani, la Comunità dell’Africa orientale (EAC) e la Comunità di sviluppo dell’Africa meridionale (SADC), la cui istituzione è stata formalizzata ufficialmente lo scorso marzo a Kigali con l’obiettivo di abolire le barriere al commercio all’interno del continente.