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Editor’s note

This quarter, the police section of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) continued to deepen partnerships and support national policing priorities across Somalia. From Mogadishu to Baidoa, Kismayo, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Puntland, and “Somaliland,” our work focused on enhancing security coordination, strengthening community policing, advancing gender-responsive initiatives, and developing institutional capacity. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to professional, accountable, and community-centred policing across Somalia.



UNTMIS and SPF strengthen strategic engagement

Mogadishu — Head of UNTMIS’s Rule of Law and Security Institutions Groups (RoLSIG), Nasrin Khan, and Head of UNTMIS Police, Gerard Smith, recently met with General Asad Osman Abdullahi, Commissioner of the Somali Police Force (SPF), to advance their strategic partnership. Their discussions focused on preparations for election security and the substantial SPF contributions in securing Mogadishu and other locations.

UNTMIS Police held a follow-up session with the Banadir Regional Police Commander, Colonel Mahdi Omar Mummin, and his team. The engagement focused on enhanced public safety through coordinated action.



Joint Police Program Phase II gains momentum

Mogadishu — From 15 to 17 June, key stakeholders came together to progress the European Union and United Kingdom funded Joint Police Programme Phase

II (JPP-II). A technical workshop on 15–16 June assessed current progress and aligned future priorities, followed by the Programme Technical Committee meeting, co-chaired by the Ministry of Internal Security, UNDP, and UNTMIS Police, where participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting national police development. The Programme Steering Committee on 17 June, co-chaired by the Minister for Internal Security, the UNDP Resident Representative, and the Head of UNTMIS RoLSIG, endorsed a revised multi-year workplan and budget, which incorporates a recent contribution of £830,000 from the United Kingdom to further advance the programme's implementation.

The meetings reaffirmed the importance of JPP-II as a key platform supporting the professionalization and development of the Somali Police, aligned with national priorities to strengthen security and stability.



Community Policing to prevent SGBV in Southwest and Jubaland

Baidoa and Kismayo — In May, UNTMIS Police and UN Women Somalia jointly delivered two workshops to strengthen community policing in response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).



In Baidoa (14–16 May) and Kismayo (17–19 May), 60 participants (including 26 women), comprising state police officers and community representatives, received training on combating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) through community policing approaches. The training covered relevant legal frameworks, roles and responsibilities in prevention and

response, child protection, survivor-centred responses, referral mechanisms, and available support services, including the Women's One Stop Centre.

An outcome from Kismayo was the launch of a community policing WhatsApp group to promote trust, advance ongoing communication, and facilitate wider collaborative responses to SGBV at the community level.



Radio show to spotlight CRSV and women in policing

Mogadishu — UNTMIS Police, in coordination with the mission's Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Group (SCPAG), aired two radio programmes through 13 FM radio stations, seven community radios, and UNTMIS social media platforms to raise awareness on gender and security.

On 18 April, "Women in Policing" was broadcast, featuring a UNTMIS Police adviser and a Puntland police gender officer. The programme highlighted how women officers build public trust and play key roles in community safety.

On 27 June, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, "Addressing Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) in Somalia" aired in partnership with Southwest Police and the mission's Human Rights and Protection Group. The broadcast advocated for survivor-centred responses and accountability while reinforcing the police role in tackling CRSV through community engagement.



Galmudug and Hirshabelle Police enhance capacity in newly recovered areas

Galmudug and HirShabelle — UNDP continued implementing the project “Support to the Somali Police to Ensure Service Delivery in Fragile and Newly Recovered Areas,” funded by the Government of Japan, in targeted districts of Galmudug and HirShabelle. In March and April, three six-day training sessions were conducted in Galmudug (Bahdo, Harardheere, and Wisil) for a total of 500 police officers, including 48 women. Additionally, in April, two six-day training sessions were held in HirShabelle (Beledweyne and Jowhar) for another 500 police officers, including 73 women. These trainings strengthened operational capacity, enhanced professionalism, and promoted rights-based, community-focused policing. This initiative represents a significant step in strengthening local security institutions in some of Somalia’s most fragile and high-risk areas.

In a linked activity, UNDP and UNTMIS Police supported the facilitation of a workshop for the focal points to enhance the project’s compliance with human rights requirements in February 2025.



Workshops in “Somaliland” strengthen public event security capacity

Hargeisa and Berbera — As part of ongoing capacity-building efforts under the Joint Rule of Law Programme, UNTMIS Police, in collaboration with

UNDP and the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP), delivered two Public Event Security Management workshops in Hargeisa from 4 to 7 May and in Berbera from 11 to 14 May.

A total of 49 officers including three women from various departments, including the Coast Guard, took part in the sessions, which focused on human rights principles, command and control structures, strategic planning, and community-oriented policing.

The workshops provided participants with practical tools to translate strategic plans into effective security operations for public gatherings. By promoting rights-based, well-coordinated policing practices, the initiative contributed to enhancing professional standards and public safety.



Puntland lays groundwork for community policing rollout under JPP-II

Garowe — From 25 May to 1 June, UNDP and UNTMIS Police jointly conducted a field mission in Puntland to accelerate preparations for the implementation of community policing under Phase II of JPP. This field mission established a strong foundation for the next stage of the initiative.

Engaging closely with the Ministry of Security and DDR, police leadership, civil society organisations, and local government officials, the mission secured high-level commitments to support the rollout. Specific pilot locations were identified, and assessments of existing capacities revealed both opportunities and operational challenges, providing strategic direction for the work ahead.

This initiative strengthened collaboration between stakeholders and enhanced the capacity of the Puntland State Police to provide community-oriented, responsive, and trusted policing services.



UNTMIS Police strengthens its internal responses to Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)

Mogadishu — In June, UNTMIS Police issued an internal Directive on Preventing and Responding to CRSV, providing clear operational guidance for UN police advisers. The directive covers advising, capacity-building, and survivor-centred engagements with Somali police, and outlines participation in the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA). This will strengthen coordinated UN responses to CRSV and contribute to the protection and support of survivors.

Similarly, an updated Directive on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) reinforces efforts to prevent grave violations against children in conflict settings. It defines the role of UNTMIS Police within the broader CAAC framework, reaffirming their obligation to integrate child protection considerations into all rules of law and policing activities.

Together, the two directives promote accountability and strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups and the prevention of human rights violations in Somalia's security landscape.



Puntland Police Commanders Strengthen Strategic Planning Skills

Garowe — Twenty mid-level Puntland State Police commanders, including nine women, sharpened their

strategic planning and policy development skills during a two-day workshop held in Garowe on 17–18 June. Facilitated by three senior Puntland police officers along with the UNTMIS Police Adviser, the training aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to develop effective strategies and policy documents that support modern and responsive policing.

The workshop equipped participants with practical skills to develop clear strategies and policies, enabling them to lead more effectively, anticipate future security challenges, and deliver policing services that meet the needs of their communities.

Featured Photos



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