



**Puntland Youth and Social Development Association**

*In Conjunction with*

**UNICEF Child Protection and Ministry of Justice**

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## **Diversion Program Final Report**

**November 2020 – October 2021**



**Garowe**

**November 2021**

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## Introduction

PSA in partnership with UNICEF from November 2020 to October 2021 implemented a DIVERSION project that targeted children in conflict with the law in the district of Garowe in Puntland Somalia, the project entailed provision of comprehensive diversion package that comprised counseling and psychosocial support, community service, mediation and case management, and for most vulnerable children, diversion fee and reintegration packages such as vocational Skills, literacy, entrepreneurial skills training & opportunity.

The program also targeted staff from justice and security sectors, social workers and case management and mentors. The groups benefitted from capacity building aimed at strengthening protection, prevention and response to violations of children especially those affected by the conflict and support their participation in peace building activities.

## Activities Undertaken

### Output 1: Piloting of the diversion programme for children in Garowe

#### Developing and printing training manuals, guidelines and check list (Manual - Guideline - Register - Checklist - Entry/Status & Release Forms)

With the support of UNICEF and MOJRAR, the development and printing of training manuals, guidelines and checklists was successfully concluded, including case management tools, SOPs, service mapping including referral pathway and validate based on global best practice, research and evidence (sufficiently referenced throughout the document) developed and costed

The process comprised Development of ToR for study on diversion practice and existing literature and recruitment of a consultant, conducting inception meeting to introduce and consult with stakeholders and agree on expected results of the research, training of data collectors and actual data collection, data analysis and internal presentations, validation meeting with key stakeholders



## Children in conflict with the law enrolled under the pilot diversion programme

Within the period a total of 330 cases were enrolled under the diversion program based on the stipulated criteria; the juveniles underwent all the prerequisite procedures that entail screening, assessment, registration and counseling including being given preliminary comprehensive care. The gender disaggregation of the youth under the program were 262 boys and 68 girls, the nature of their offenses ranged from gang fights, stealing (mobiles and money), disobedience to parents, malicious property damages and other minor offences.

Some of the enrolled juveniles were referred to PSA by community committee leaders during PSA various community awareness and engagement meetings in residential areas and villages around Garowe.

The youth also received a formal caution on the consequences of failure to adhere to the programs requirements, which was led by the police department. It involved the juvenile, their guardians, diversion task force members and a police officer who described consequences of failure to adhere to program requirements, one is by “rescinding” diversion and returning the youth to formal juvenile justice processing. Typically this would mean that the youth is charged on the alleged offense for which formal processing was originally declined in favor of diversion.





## Establishment of Taskforce

A multi-sector task force of six member was formed, the members were drawn from the relevant stakeholders comprising 1 member from the ministry of justice, rehabilitation and religion (MOJRAR), 1 member from Ministry of Women Development & Family Affairs (MOWDAFA), 1 member from CID, 1 member from prosecution department, 1 from police and 1 member from PSA. The taskforce in conjunction with the social workers were responsible for providing recommendations, advice and guidelines pertaining the program's implementation.



## Training and Capacity Building

On capacity building, PSA/SSF facilitated and conducted staff and stakeholders training on manuals, assessment reporting, case management tools, SOPs and service mapping; The training took place from 16th - 26th February 2021 at Gobsoor Hotel, Garowe and was attended by 70 participants drawn from the following institutions, agencies and organizations:

- Diversion Committee members
- Probation Officers
- Juvenile Judges
- Social workers
- Police and CID
- Prosecutors
- MOJAR
- Rehabilitation centres staff
- CSO
- ADR
- Youth and women groups

In addition, in line with the project, from 21st to 25th March 2021, PSA held an orientation workshop which was attended by fifteen (15) participants who are members of diversion program taskforce drawn from various organization, institutions and agencies, namely; 1 representative from the Ministry of Justice, Religious Affairs and Rehabilitation (MOJRAR), 5 members of Diversion Task force, 2 Probation Officers, 2 Police officers, 1 CID officer , 1 Prosecution officer and 3 Social Workers. The training was on Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) task force TOR, diversion eligibility, human & child rights, suitable interrogation styles, case management tools, psychosocial support, child friendly service provisions and referral pathways



## Screening of cases

Within the period a total of 330 cases were enrolled under the diversion program based on the stipulated criteria; the juveniles underwent all the prerequisite procedures that entail screening, assessment, registration and counseling including being given preliminary comprehensive care. The gender aggregations of the youth under the program are 262 boys and 68 girls, the nature of their offenses range from gang fights, stealing (mobiles and

money), disobedience to parents, property damages and other minor offences.



All the 330 cases underwent screening and assessment, which was done to determine their mental health, substance abuse, and risk needs; the information from the screening and assessment was used for determining eligibility and service planning. The exercise was important in overseeing the provision of services (provided by direct service or through referral), which included substance abuse and mental health treatment services, mentoring, family counseling, educational assistance programs (school/job placement), caregiver respite/support, life skills training , parenting classes, and support

groups for caretakers of youth with disabilities.

The screening also included producing psychosocial assessment report covering socioeconomic, education, disability, health, family and psychosocial needs assessment of each juvenile entering the diversion program.



## Children Counseling

Individual counseling per child for all the 330 cases was facilitated and conducted, the counseling was imperative for the diversion program where youth well-being and healing was put into consideration, the counseling is part of mental health treatment, ranging from individual psychotherapy and counseling to more intensive mental health services, as well as services that are not “diagnostically specific”—for example, anger management programs .

Psychosocial therapy also helped them in various difficulties like coping with daily life; the impact of trauma, and specific mental disorders, like depression or anxiety. The program is conducted in both individual and group counseling. The sessions also help the children to change behavior and overcome problems in desired ways. It also aims to improve an individual's well-being and mental health.



## Follow up support

All 330 cases enrolled, among the general cases, 300 of them were supported through immediate care which included provision of meals for 15 days for each child, in addition the follow ups for all the cases was also done from time to time by diversion officers who always provided immediate contact point and follow up support to all cases by working closely with police and prosecutors. Efforts were made to ensure follow ups were facilitated at the earliest opportunity possible. Follow Ups are significant in determining if the interventions are working as expected and if not to offer early change of course or any alterations to the care plan.





**Output 2. Community prevention and awareness raising outreach on CICL and programme implemented.**

**IEC materials with messages produced and disseminated**

IEC has become an effective medium for bringing awareness, providing information, eradicating misunderstanding, and championing community engagement. Health Sector: Under Diversion program IEC played a pivotal role in awareness raising, outreach and enlightening community on CICL objective, goals and expectations.

On this, PSA designed and printed IEC materials namely; brochures, stickers, caps and metal posters. This was after together with other stakeholders, held a meeting to review, rectify and validate the C4D messages to be printed on metal posters and other IEC materials.

The metal posters were erected at designated locations such as police station, market place, some risk prone neighborhoods and city entrances, the number of designed and printed IEC material were; 100 stickers, 100 caps, 500 brochures and 10 metal posters.

**IEC materials designed and produced**

<p> <b>unicef</b>  <b>juvenile Diversion Program</b>  <b>Banaamijka Weecinta Da'yarta</b>  <b>Danbiyada gala.</b>          "Caruurta in aan la xiriin waxa ay ka mid tahay xuquuqda caruurta ee asaasiga ah"          "Caruurta lala xiro dadka waaweyn waxay khatar ugu jiraan lacadda - fadlan ka ilaali."          Adeegyada ay bixiyaan          Wacyi galin          390          Wixii faahfaahin ah Wac: 390       </p>	
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## Community dialogue and mobile outreach

As part of raising awareness on diversion program within the community, PSA conducted 24 community dialogue and mobile outreach (twice a month), around various neighbourhoods in Garowe mainly around Hantiwadag, Hodan, 1da Augusto, Waberi, Wadajir and Israac neighborhood. These neighborhoods are the most risk prone zones of Garowe, the events were attended by community members both men and women, so far 840 community members have been reached, the community outreach is important because problems facing children emanate from the community and within the restorative justice framework under which diversion is anchored, the community is an important stakeholder; responsible for working with offenders on understanding the consequences of their actions, discouraging them from re-offending, and providing them with an atmosphere of reconciliation and social acceptance as



they reintegrate into the community.

On educating members of the public on the DIVERSION program, Radio messages were produced and broadcasted.

### **Output 3: Innovative youth forum convened by young people, with findings report drafted to guide future implementation of diversion programmes and other youth programmes for children in conflict**

## Consultations session convened to design and plan youth forums.

On 29th April, PSA held a youth consultation forum attended by 24 youth leaders from various youth groups, youth organizations and umbrellas, colleges and other institutions, the objective was to increase the youth knowledge and awareness on diversion program and its benefits and to ensure voices of youth are properly represented in program implementation.

In addition, we used the session to provide the young people with the opportunity to present their concerns and ideas on how the planned youth forums should be conducted and what should be considered for it to be successful, we also requested them to help in the planning of the forums and in inviting their peers for the forums in the near future



## Youth forums

10 youth led forums were conducted which brought together young people, youth-led organizations, non-governmental organizations, and government departments to deliberate and agree on a common vision and roadmap to partner with young people in exploring ways and means of promoting juvenile diversion program and also as an opportunity for the youth to voice their views and ideas as part of their participation in the Diversion program.



## Output 4: Development and operationlization of M&E Systems that provide key insights into the impact of the programme upon the children and communities

### Development of M&E tools and checklist for monitoring progress of children who enter into the programme

PSA came up with Internal Monitoring Processes and tools with the most important monitoring process being production of periodic reports based on regular data collection that provided information about the program's activities, juveniles' characteristics, achievement and challenges of the program. Other monitoring processes involved site visits to program providers, interviews or surveys with program participants, program audits of providers' program records, and the providers' submission of periodic reports.





## Mapping of service points

The service mapping was conducted to provide an assessment of the case management system; examine quality of key support services and identify protection services for children under diversion program in key locations.

These services were provided directly or through referrals, depending on need basis, the service comprised substance abuse and mental health treatment services, mentoring, family counseling, educational assistance programs (school/job placement), caregiver respite/support, life skills training, assistance in obtaining Medicaid, parenting classes, and support groups for caretakers of youth with disabilities.

## Evaluation

In October, the final project review and evaluation was conducted, the exercise was process which documented project outputs and impact. The aim was to determine the relevance and level of achievement of project objectives, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability which the review identified lessons learned/recommendations.

The process also allowed us to ascertain, review and assess the extent to which the programme delivered on its targets, and establish whether it has met its program objectives.





<b>Programme Outputs*</b>	<b>Performance indicator*</b>	<b>Targets*</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Overall Status</b>
<b>Program. Output 1</b> Piloting of the diversion programme for children in Garowe.	<i>#of Developed and printed training manuals, guidelines and check list (Manual - Guideline - Register - Checklist - Entry/Status &amp; Release Forms)</i>	1	1	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of children in conflict with the law who enter the pilot diversion programme</i>	300	249	<b>Met</b>
	<i># task force established</i>	1	1	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of people trained</i>	70	70	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of children screened</i>	300	300	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of children counseled</i>	300	300	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of children received follow up support</i>	300	<b>300</b>	<b>Met</b>
<b>Program. Output 2.</b> Community prevention and awareness raising outreach on CICL and programme implemented.	<i>#IEC materials with messages produced and disseminated –</i>	610	610	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of community dialogue and mobile outreach conducted</i>	12	12	<b>Met</b>
<b>Output 3:</b> Innovative youth forum convened by young people, with findings report drafted to guide future implementation of diversion programmes and other youth programmes for children in conflict with the law.	<i># of consultations session convened to design and plan youth forums.</i>	1	1	<b>Met</b>
	<i># youth forums held</i>	10	10	<b>Met</b>
<b>Output 4:</b> Development and operationlization of M&E Systems that provide key insights into the impact of the programme upon the children and communities	<i># Of developed M&amp;E tools and checklist for monitoring progress of children who enter into the programme</i>	1	1	<b>Met</b>
	<i># of mapping of service points</i>	1	1	<b>Met</b>
	<i># Programme final evaluation of conducted</i>	1	1	<b>Met</b>

## Challenges Encountered and Adopted Solutions

- Being a pilot project, there were no existing training manuals or guidelines including case management tools for the project, we had to start from scratch
- A lot of time spent on consultations and desk reviews, more than planned, hence delaying the project activities
- The high cases of children in detention/high caseload of children in contact with the law including dropouts, street children and IDPs.
- No child-friendly detention center/children are incarcerated with adult criminals. Also, there is no child rehabilitation center hence children are susceptible to re-offending or being sentenced to long-term imprisonment.

## Recommendations/Solutions

- More CICL currently in detention centres need to be enrolled in diversion program in 2022
- Need to establish rehabilitation centre in Garowe, that will provide rehabilitation and reintegration programs for the children in conflict with the law,
- The SCOPE of the program should be expanded to cover more children reintegration needs , e.g. the vocational skills should be done at the rehabilitation facility and start-up kits after the program period
- More capacity building for task-force members/staff i.e. to visit or to be connected with countries with more established diversion programs in order to learn more through firsthand experience
- There is urgent need to establish police units that are specialized in Juvenile justice and subsequent development of their capacity including lack of detention centres for juvenile offenders and need for their establishment in major towns in Somalia.

## Lessons Learned and Best Practices

- Compensation – cases involving compensation are quite complex and might justify prolonged detention, specifically when the child perpetrator and his/her parent/caregiver are unable to settle the compensation.
- Reintegration – some children need long-term reintegration support (e.g. schooling), while others with no parental care require fostering care – the project did not envision such support.
- Lack of required knowledge and capacity on DIVERSION program by the police, prosecution, courts and custodial corps. Training and outreach for communities is needed
- Reintegration costs for children seeking Family Tracing and Reunification was not factored in the current project.
- There is urgent need to establish police units that are specialized in Juvenile justice and subsequent development of their capacity including lack of detention centres for juvenile offenders and need for their establishment in major towns in Somalia

## Human Interest Story

Ahmed Mohamed is a 15-year-old juvenile in conflict with the law. He is an orphan who comes from a dysfunctional family. He was separated from his older brother and lived sometimes with his mother and at times with his sister. After associating and hanging out with juvenile gangs in Waberi, he started involving himself in petty crimes ranging from fights and stealing mobile phones. The first time Ahmed came in contact with the justice system was when he was caught stealing mobile phone and for the second time is recently when he stole money which led him to be arrested, during the interrogation; he mentioned the reason he steals was because he owned friends money and the debts forced him to steal in order to repay his friends who had threatened him of unknown consequences.



The diversion task force team came in contact with him during one of the visit at the police station and succeeded to free him after cautioning and advising him including persuading him to join diversion program.

The process entailed structured discussion between the offender, parents, police officer and the diversion team. Ahmed willingly signed the consent and agreement form which he pledged and promised to not repeat the offenses again. After the process he was enrolled into the diversion programs and underwent the entire program's prerequisite procedure such as screening, assessment, emotional support, psychosocial support as LSBE classes.

As he was school dropout, he was enrolled in formal educational and PSA did several follow ups in the school to ensure he gets all the support and assistance that will enable him perform well academically. Apart from the class work, Ahmed has transformed so much and he is one of the disciplined students as conformed by his class teacher, he has also made many friends in the school.



The diversion program team visited him at school to assess his rehabilitation and they receive positive feedback from the teachers and his classmates. He has also made study buddies and his guardians reported that he comes home early and cooperates much better.

*"I am now a better person thanks to the PSA and the diversion team. They saved my future and assisted me to have a good relationship with my parents and leave the bad friends who were misleading me."* He says gratefully.











