

## Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

December 12<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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### Headlines:

- Somalia appeal seeks \$928 million for 3.2 million Somalis in need
- Somalia defense minister says the Government will eradicate Alshabab by 2014 from the whole country
- Insecurity and Lack of Access Continues to Hamper Aid Efforts in Jowhar
- Somaliland Police Attack and Close Independent Newspaper

**Somalia Appeal Seeks \$928 million for 3.2 million Somalis in Need**

December 17, 2013 Shabelle News (Domestic Independent Media)

- A three-year appeal for Somalia was developed for the 2013-2015 period to respond to humanitarian needs, build resilience and dovetail with the recently developed New Deal development framework. One year after the Somalia appeal was launched in Mogadishu, humanitarian agencies have revised the plan to reflect the changes in need and operational context.
- According to the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there has been some improvement in the humanitarian situation.
- Somalia is nowhere near the famine conditions that devastated the country in 2011. For the first time in five years, the number of people in need of life-saving assistance reduced from just over 1 million to 870,000 reflecting modest gains in food security in Somalia in 2013.
- Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia Philippe Lazzarini said “Aid organizations in Somalia responded rapidly to humanitarian emergencies in 2013, vaccinating millions in response to polio, responding to people devastated by floods and the tropical storm and advocating for protection of survivors of abuse.

**Somalia defense minister says the Government will eradicate Alshabab by 2014 from the whole country**

December 17, 2013 Shabelle News (Domestic Independent Media)

- Somalia’s Defense minister Abdihakim Haji fiqi has announced that the Somali Government will eradicate Al-shabab militants from the entire country by 2014.
- The Minister’s announcement came during a hand over ceremony by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in which they were holding a change of command, December 16th 2013, in Mogadishu Somalia.
- Mr. Fiqi added that the Somali federal Government troops aided by the African Union mission (AMISOM) are well prepared to face the militants after receiving a full training and a well laid plan to tackle their opponents.
- “The Somali federal Government and the AMISOM troops will carry out heavy operations in the coming Months after receiving full training and a well laid plan to liberate the remaining parts of our country which are under the rule of Al-shabab” said Mr. Fiqi During a well attended handover ceremony attended by both the representatives of the federal Government, AMISOM troops and other diplomats from neighboring countries.

## Insecurity and Lack of Access Continues to Hamper Aid Efforts in Jowhar

December 18, 2013 Dalsan Radio (Domestic Media)

- About 66,000 people have been affected by localized flooding in 33 villages in the Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle, according to local authorities' reports and a multi-cluster rapid assessment carried out from 7-10 November.
- Despite challenges, aid organizations have managed to scale up response in recent weeks and continue to reach as many people as possible with emergency supplies such as food, water and shelter.
- The large majority of those who fled their homes are staying at the airfield in Jowhar. Humanitarian access to eight villages housing some 2,000 households has been hampered due to flooding or insecurity. Gaps have been reported in health, shelter and household items, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and education.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator visited the still flooded area on 3-4 December and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has since allocated nearly \$1.2 million to support emergency health activities and access to clean water and sanitation in the area. For the long term, investing in river management is key to avoid recurrence of large scale floods and the cycle of emergency and response.

## Somaliland Police Attack and Close Independent Newspaper

December 17, 2013 Dalsan Radio (Domestic Media)

- Police in the semi-autonomous republic of Somaliland on December 13 raided the Hargeisa offices of the critical independent daily Hubaal, arrested two staff members, and ordered the publication to be shut down, according to news reports. This is the third time the paper has been targeted this year.
- Police told Hubaal staff to turn off their cellphones, and ordered them to leave the offices, according to news reports. Mustafa Mohamed, a reporter, and Osman Ahmed, an IT specialist, were arrested, but were released today with no explanation.
- Mohamed Ahmed Jama, managing director of the paper and the owner of Hubaal Media Network, which publishes the paper, has gone into hiding, a representative of the Somaliland Journalists Association told CPJ. The offices were closed today. It is unclear if the paper will resume publishing.
- Somaliland Police Commissioner Gen. Abdullahi Fadal told local journalists that police had a court warrant allowing them to close the offices because Hubaal had recently published stories that were dangerous to the country's internal security.
- "Authorities must put an end to this repeated harassment of journalists at Hubaal," said CPJ East Africa Representative Tom Rhodes. "Somaliland will never achieve its democratic aspirations if the press does not feel empowered to report critically on the government."
- There have been significant threats to Hubaal in the past where two masked gunmen raided the Hubaal offices on April 24 and fired at Mohamed, whose arm and finger were broken in the attack, according to news reports. The gunmen were later identified as police officers. The attack followed a series of critical articles published in Hubaal that accused the government of nepotism and misuse of office.

- Authorities arrested one of the gunmen implicated in the April raid on Hubaal, but he was released without being charged and without a court hearing, local journalists said. The Military Court Chairman Brigadier-General Yusuf Farah claimed the gunman, Ahmed Hassan, could not be held for more than 180 days since the complainants had not followed up with the case, according to news reports.