

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

Brett Collins, Country Desk Officer for Somalia



November 13th – November 20th, 2013

Headlines:

- Returning Refugees from Kenya will Destabilize Somalia
- Somalia Cyclone Kills at least 115 People; Homes, Livestock swept into the Ocean
- Thriving Sport Shows Somalia is Back on Track, says President, Kicking Off Football Match in Mogadishu
- Lower Shabelle Fighting Threatens Gains Against Al-Shabaab

Returning Refugees from Kenya will Destabilize Somalia

November 16, 2013 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Somalia, Kenya, and the UNHCR signed an agreement this week outlining the return of over half a million refugees from Kenya.
- There is an increasing fear being expressed by refugees, the UN and international aid organizations that an “induced repatriation” will occur where protection violations, increased insecurity in Dadaab refugee camp, and decreased food aid will lead refugees to return to Somalia.

- Security is still tenuous, especially in the South-Central region where Al-Shabaab still control large portions of the countryside.
- Although the number of refugees has continued to increase, budgets to support them are declining. The international community must reverse this trend. Otherwise, host countries may decide to roll up the welcome mat.
- A portion of the funding should be invested to support enhanced opportunities for education and skills development.
- Ensuring protection and services for refugees now should not come at the cost of planning for the day when conditions will be more conducive for dignified, voluntary returns.

Lower Shabelle Fighting Threatens Gains Against Al-Shabaab

November 19, 2013 Sabahi Network (Foreign Media)

- Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has called for an end to clashes between government soldiers and local militia members that broke out Sunday in the Lower Shabelle region, Somalia's RBC Radio reported Tuesday (November 19th). Shirdon called the fighting "unfortunate" and said it threatens to stymie gains against al-Shabaab in the area.
- "I am very upset about the ongoing battle in KM-50 location over the past two days," he said. "I call for the immediate halt to the fight and the warring forces to allow access to the road."
- "[I] am calling upon the government to investigate and bring those responsible whether government officials or civilians to face trial [for] their heinous act," said lawmaker Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail. He added that Somali government forces in the area should be replaced with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops.

Thriving Sport Shows Somalia is Back on Track, says President, Kicking Off Football Match in Mogadishu

November 19, 2013 Dalsan Radio (Domestic Media)

- President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud today kicked off a football match in Mogadishu in Somalia's new Serie A league. In a landmark visit to the recently renovated Benadir Stadium in the Abdulaziz district of Mogadishu, the President watched the Elman against Jenyo fixture in Somalia's Serie A, loosely modeled on the Italian league.
- The president claimed the stadium was a powerful symbol of the transformation of Somalia from terrorism to peace.

- "I salute you players here today as living proof of the great progress Somalia has made in recent times," the President said. "Only two years ago this stadium was an Al Shabaab militia base from which atrocities were planned and launched. Today it is back in the right hands, allowing young Somali men and women to play the world's most popular sport entirely peacefully."
- The President paid tribute to the "heroic efforts" of the Somali Football Federation and FIFA, who together had brought football back to the heart of the Somali capital after renovating the stadium.