



ATMIS

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Message from the SRCC and Head of ATMIS

dedication of our forces in delivering on the ATMIS Mandate and working collaboratively with Somali Security Forces (SSF) and local communities to provide security and stability in their respective Areas of Responsibility (AoR).

In line with our Mandate and commitment to the transition process, we concluded and handed over seven Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to the SSF and closed two others. As part of the drawdown, we reduced our troops by 3000 forces.

The FOBs transferred to the SSF included State House and Parliament from ATMIS Uganda People's Defence Forces in Sector One; Bio Cadale, Raga Ceel, and Qorillow from ATMIS Burundi National Defence Forces in Sector Five; Burahache from ATMIS Kenya Defence Forces in Sector Two; and Old Airport from ATMIS Ethiopia National Defence Forces in Sector Six. The FOBs in Sarille and Old Kismayo Airport were closed, both from ATMIS Kenya Defence Forces in Sector Six and Two, respectively.

With the completion of Phase Two drawdown, our focus has been on planning for Phase Three. The Sector Commander's Conference in February kick-started the planning process for the implementation

of Phase Three Drawdown. The Tripartite Committee, which includes representatives from ATMIS, FGS, and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), is diligently working to ensure a successful handover.

While planning for Phase Three, we remain committed to supporting the SSF in operations to defeat Al Shabaab. Joint planning, information gathering, intelligence sharing, and providing both air and ground support in furtherance of our shared goal of a secure and stable Somalia remain our priority. Our joint military offensives and capacity-building efforts facilitated by our partners, have significantly improved our efforts. Our valiant forces, working in close collaboration with the SSF, remain steadfast in fulfilling the key objective of degrading Al Shabaab.

The recent deployment of additional air assets in the Mission, is significantly enhancing our operations.

I want to assure all stakeholders that ATMIS remains deeply committed to our Mandate and ensuring a smooth transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces. We will continue to collaborate with all parties to deliver on this.

I am grateful to the entire senior leadership team of the mission and all our partners and stakeholders for their continued support and cooperation.

Amb. Mohamed El-Amine Souef
*Special Representative of the
Chairperson of the African
Union Commission for Somalia.*

Welcome to the latest edition of the ATMIS Quarterly Magazine. In the first quarter of the year, we made significant progress in fulfilling our mandate. I extend my gratitude to all ATMIS Partners, stakeholders, and ATMIS personnel for their continued support.

In February, we strengthened our leadership in ATMIS with the arrival of Mr. Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam as the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (Deputy SRCC). Mr. Bam's extensive knowledge and experience in peace and security, gained from his previous role as Head of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) of the African Union Commission, will be invaluable to our mission. We are honoured to have him in ATMIS.

During this reporting period, I visited the sectors extensively and witnessed firsthand, the unwavering commitment and



**Building a solid foundation
for post-ATMIS security arrangements
is crucial in ensuring Somalia progresses
towards long-lasting peace and security**



SRCC Engagements

JANUARY



14 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, and the ATMIS senior leadership with Somalia's Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Ibrahim Sheikh Muhyidin, the Somalia Police Commissioner, Brig. Gen. Sulub Ahmed Firin, and officials from the UN.



15 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, with the new Italian Ambassador to Somalia, Pier Mario Daccò Coppi. They discussed the Somalia security and political landscape, including the ATMIS drawdown.



17 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, met with Somalia's Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism, Daud Aweis at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters.



18 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, hosted the British Ambassador to Somalia, Mike Nith. They discussed the ATMIS mandate and the ongoing security transition.



18 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, with Somalia's National Security Adviser, Hussein Sheikh-Ali, Head of UNSOS, Dr Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, and the UN envoy to Somalia, Catriona Laing, met in Mogadishu to kick-start planning for post-ATMIS in 2025. They discussed the implementation of the Somalia Security Sector Development Plan and the ongoing security transition.



22 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, hosted Evelyne Habonimana, Ambassador of Burundi to Somalia. Ambassador Souef commended ATMIS Burundi contingent for the commitment to Somalia's peace and stability.



24 January 2024 – Head of ATMIS Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, and the mission's senior leadership team with the Commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), Gen. Michael Langley at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters.



25 January 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, attended a farewell ceremony in honour of 45 ATMIS military staff officers who concluded their tour of duty in Somalia.

FEBRUARY



27 January 2024 – The Director of Conflict Management at the African Union, Dr. Sarjoh Bah, led a delegation on a working visit to Somalia. During the visit, the delegation held discussions with officials of the Federal Government and foreign diplomats.



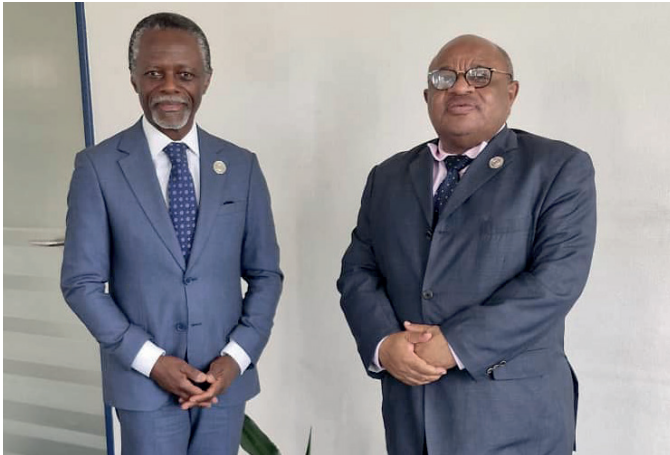
10 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, met with foreign diplomats in Nairobi and briefed them on progress in implementing ATMIS mandate and the drawdown. Diplomats from Canada, EU, Horn of Africa, Hungary, Czech Republic, Spain, Denmark, Japan, Italy, France, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland were at the meeting.



10 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, visited ATMIS troops recovering in various hospitals in Nairobi, Kenya.



14 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, attended the African Union 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



17 February 2024 - The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, the UN envoy to the African Union, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, in Ethiopia



17 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef attended a cultural event (Soirée) hosted by the Secretary-General of Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Mme. Louise Mushikiwabo at the Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa.



19 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, briefed the UN Security Council on the situation in Somalia.



19 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, with Japan's ambassador to the African Union, Nakagawa Tsutomu.

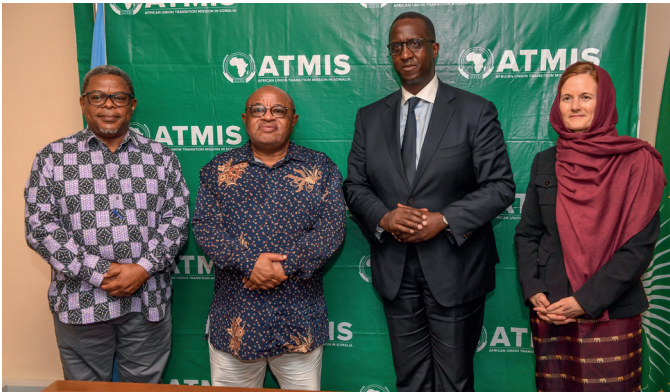


21 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, with Vincent Frerrio Bamulangaki, Uganda's Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs in Mogadishu.



28 February 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, with the Chargé d'Affaires of the American Embassy in Somalia, Shane Dixon at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters.

MARCH



02 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, met a delegation from Interpeace led by the President, Itonde Abraham Kakoma. Discussions focused on fostering collaboration and human-centred approach to peace and stability in Somalia.



04 March 2024 – The Commander of Uganda's Land Forces, Lt. Gen. Kayanja Muhanga paid a courtesy call on the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters.



05 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, met Tutku Inam, the Deputy Director General for East Africa at the Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed ATMIS mandate, ongoing plans for the drawdown, and post-ATMIS security plans.



05 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, met and held discussions with members of the Panel of Experts on Somalia led by Sana El-Hakim in Mogadishu. The discussions focused on politics, security, and human rights in Somalia.



10 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, met with the deputy UN envoy to Somalia, Raisedon Zenenga. They discussed the phased drawdown of ATMIS troops, post-ATMIS security arrangements and engagements with the Federal Government of Somalia and the African Union.



13 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef and Somalia's Information Minister Daud Aweis, briefed journalists on joint security operations during Ramadan and Phase Three ATMIS troop drawdown in June.



17 March 2024 – Japan's ambassador to Somalia, Shinsuke Shimizu, paid a courtesy call on the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, to discuss regional security and Japan's support to Somalia and the African Union.



18 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, with the Deputy Force Commander for Support and Logistics Maj. Gen. Peter Muteti and ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu, visited Dhobley to meet ATMIS troops in Jubaland State.



19 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef met Somalia's Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hassan Sheikh Ali. They discussed the constitutional review and ATMIS support to Somalia's stabilisation efforts.



19 March 2024 – The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef met Kenya's Ambassador to Somalia, Cyprian Kubai Iringo. The officials discussed the security situation in Somalia, ATMIS drawdown and Kenya's support to peace and stability in Somalia.



23 March 2024 – ATMIS hosted Ramadan Iftar dinner for partners in Somalia. At the event, the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef called for unified support to secure and stabilise the country. The dinner was attended by officials from the Federal Government of Somalia and diplomats.



ATMIS recognises outgoing military staff officers

Late January, forty-five ATMIS military staff officers were recognised for their distinguished contribution to peace and security in Somalia.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El -Amine Souef presents a certificate of recognition to an officer during a medal ceremony.

to the Somali Security Forces and contributed to their success against Al-Shabaab. We are grateful for your contribution to peace and security in Somalia,” he added.

Lt. Gen Okiding urged the outgoing officers to continue supporting the mission even after returning to their home countries. He also encouraged them to use the Somalia experience to foster global peace and security.

“I urge you to be ambassadors for the mission. The bonds you have built here should not fade away. Let us stay connected,” he told the staff officers.

The officers who completed their tour of duty in Somalia received AU medals and certificates of appreciation. This was at a ceremony presided over by the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef.

ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, Deputy Force Commander in charge of Logistics and Plans, Maj. Gen. Peter Muteti and other senior military officers attended the event held at ATMIS Force Headquarters in Mogadishu.

The senior military officers are from Benin, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Military staff officers provide expert advice to the ATMIS Force Commander in their various administrative fields of specialisation. This includes intelligence, logistics, planning, operations, and coordination towards implementing the mission’s mandate.

“Your contributions during your service with ATMIS have been instrumental in advancing our mission objectives. You have played a vital role in the successful completion of the drawdown of 5,000 ATMIS troops under phases one and two,” said Ambassador Souef.

He thanked the officers for demonstrating professionalism, competence, and unwavering dedication in their various roles.

“You also provided crucial mentorship and support



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef and other senior ATMIS military officers in a group photo with outgoing military Staff Officers.

Completion of Phase Two drawdown

At the end of January, ATMIS with support from UNSOS, completed Phase Two of the drawdown, which involved the withdrawal of 3,000 troops.

ATMIS also transferred seven Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and closed two others.

The FOBs transferred included State House and Parliament, Bio Cadale, Raga Ceel, and Qorillow. Others included Burahache and the Old Airport, Kismayo. Sarille and Old Kismayo Airport FOBs manned by ATMIS KDF troops were closed.

At a ceremony in Mogadishu, the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, and Somalia's National Security Advisor, Hussein Sheikh Ali, signed an agreement to mark the transfer of control from ATMIS to the Federal Government.

The OIC Head of UNSOS, Qurat-UI-Ain Sadozai, signed the Gifting Certificate for UN-owned equipment within the FOBs to the FGS. UNSOS gifted generators, solar panels, and water treatment plants and handed over FOBs in working condition.

In addition, UNSOS committed to providing technical training for Somalia Security Forces designated by the government. This was to ensure sustainable equipment operation and maintenance.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef exchanges transfer documents with the Somalia National Security Advisor Hussein Sheikh Ali.

acknowledged Somalia's progress in bolstering its security.

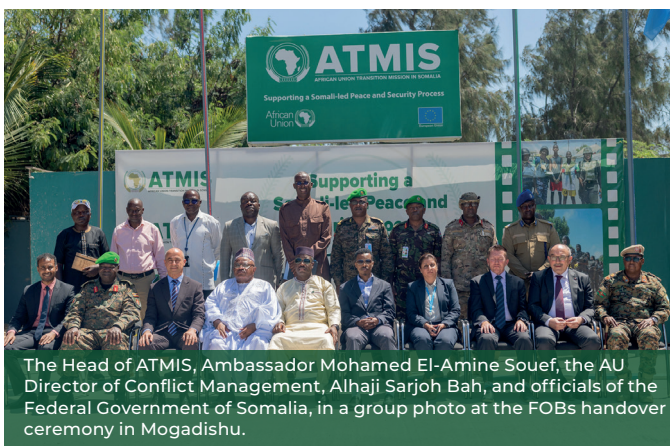
He commended Somali security forces for their bravery and dedication to combating Al-Shabaab, while also recognising their primary responsibility for the country's progress.

He reaffirmed the African Union's commitment to ongoing efforts towards Somalia's lasting peace, security, and stability.

Somalia's National Security Advisor, Hussein Sheikh-Ali, thanked the African Union, United Nations and international partners for their sacrifice and dedication in pursuit of peace and security in Somalia.

"We thank the African Union for its sacrifices for Somalia. To the international community and partners, we thank you for standing with us in the fight to keep our country safe and secure," said the National Security Advisor.

The OIC Head of UNSOS, Qurat-UI-Ain Sadozai, reaffirmed UNSOS' commitment to supporting ATMIS and the FGS throughout the transition process.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, the AU Director of Conflict Management, Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, and officials of the Federal Government of Somalia, in a group photo at the FOBs handover ceremony in Mogadishu.

The African Union Commission Director for Conflict Management in the Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department, Dr. Alhadji Sarjoh Bah,

AU - HQ delegation visit Somalia to discuss drawdown

Early February, the African Union Commission's (AUC) Director for Conflict Management, Dr. Alhadji Sarjoh Bah, wrapped up a five-day working visit to Somalia.



The Director of Conflict Management Division of the AU Commission's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, Alhaji Sarjoh Bah inspects a guard of honour in Mogadishu.

He led a high-level delegation from the Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department including the newly appointed Head of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), General Cheick Dembele.

The engagements outlined the modalities for a seamless transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to Somali Security Forces and post-ATMIS security arrangements.

On arrival in Mogadishu, the delegation was welcomed by the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef; Somalia's acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Omar Balad; the Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism, Daud Aweis; and the ATMIS leadership team.

They held key discussions with officials from the Federal Government of Somalia including the State Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hirsi Gaani, and the National Security

Advisor, Hussein Sheikh Ali. The delegation also engaged with UN officials, international partners, Ambassadors from ATMIS Troop Contributing Countries, and representatives from Civil Society.

Discussions focused on the lessons learned from Phase One and Two drawdowns, the forthcoming Phase Three in June 2024, which requires a further drawdown of 4,000 troops, and the final phase leading to ATMIS' exit on 31 December 2024.

“We remain committed to sticking to the drawdown timelines. Of course, we’ve had two extensions in the last two drawdowns. And so, except in situations of force majeure, we remain determined and resolute in ensuring that by 31st December 2024, we will have completed the drawdown,” he said.

For a seamless transition and to ensure no security gaps, Dr. Alhadji Sarjoh Bah stated that the African Union will be flexible and consider any challenges that may arise.

“We want to ensure that the configuration, whatever it looks like, whatever its posture, whatever its mandate, is informed

by a very comprehensive security assessment that focuses on threats and other variables. This will allow us to determine the strength, the mandate, the posture, the composition, and the overall architecture that will replace ATMIS”, Dr. Bah noted.



The Director of Conflict Management Division of the AU Commission's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, Alhaji Sarjoh Bah (left) in a meeting with Federal Government of Somalia officials

Sector commanders plan troop drawdown in June

On 8 February 2024, top ATMIS military commanders concluded a four-day conference to map out strategies for the final offensive operations against Al-Shabaab and plan for the next phase of the drawdown of an additional 4000 troops in June, ahead of ATMIS' exit from Somalia.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef in a group photo with ATMIS sector commanders and other senior officers at the end of the conference held at the Force Headquarters in Mogadishu.

The discussions at the Sector Commanders conference focused on the political situation in Somalia. They also focused on security threats assessment, the conduct and impact of Phase 1 and Phase 2 drawdown, reconfiguration capabilities for offensives, environmental protection, and management, and the post-ATMIS security posture.

"This meeting is taking place at a very critical time. We will consider your recommendations. You did a good job during Phase One and Two and I am sure that Phase Three will also be a success," said the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, in his remarks at the meeting.

Ambassador Souef emphasised the magnitude of the task ahead of the Phase Three drawdown. He urged the ATMIS commanders to work closely with the Somali Security Forces (SSF), to ensure civilian safety and protection during the transition period.

ATMIS withdrew 5,000 troops and handed over 13 military bases to the Somali Security Forces during the first and second phases of the drawdown.

"We are now moving into the most critical stage of the mission. This is because by June we will draw down additional troops and you have to consider force protection. It's not easy, but we must face the challenges by remaining on high alert," added Ambassador Souef.

The ATMIS Force Commander Lt Gen. Sam Okiding chaired the sessions assisted by Maj. Gen Peter Muteti, the Deputy Force Commander in charge of Support and Logistics and Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka, the Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans.

"We have deliberated on a wide range of issues. We examined Somalia's security situation and considered the current Al-Shabaab posture as well as our mandate and the post-ATMIS security situation," said Lt. Gen. Okiding at the close of the conference attended by all Sector Commanders from the six ATMIS Areas of Responsibility (AoRs).

The sector commanders' conference is held every quarter to plan the Mission's security priorities in implementation of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), a document that alongside the Somali Transition Plan, provides a roadmap for military operations against Al-Shabaab and the gradual transfer of security responsibilities to SSF.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef (centre) speaks during the opening of the ATMIS Sector Commander's Conference at the Force Headquarters in Mogadishu.

African Union strengthens its leadership in Somalia

On February 25, 2024, Mr. Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam assumed office as the newly appointed Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) to Somalia.



African Union Mission Start-Up Team for the Multi-National Joint Task Force on Boko Haram, and the African Union Observer Mission in Burundi.

Prior to joining the African Union Commission, Mr. Bam held several strategic roles in the Department of Defence, South Africa.

He holds an Honours BA degree in Politics from the University of South Africa, Pretoria, and has participated in several training programmes on International Security, Global Defence, and Conflict Resolution from prestigious institutions, including the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education.

With his extensive expertise and dedication to promoting peace and stability on the African continent, Mr. Bam has written and presented extensively on Peace and Security in Africa.

Mr. Bam, a South African national, has a distinguished career in Peace and Security on the African Continent and brings a wealth of experience to ATMIS.

From 2008 to 2021, Mr. Bam served as the pioneering Head of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) of the African Union Commission (AUC). In this capacity, he provided strategic and operational support and guidance to AU Peace Support Operations across Africa, including developing the AU Peace Support Operations Doctrine.

His leadership and significant contributions included planning, launching, monitoring, directing, managing, sustaining, and liquidating Peace Support Operations (PSOs) approved by the African Union. Mr. Bam supervised missions such as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Regional Cooperation Initiative on the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI LRA),

and the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). Additionally, he contributed significantly to the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (AFISMCAR), the African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA), the



African Union Deputy Special Representative for Somalia Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam presents a certificate of appreciation to the outgoing Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding during a farewell ceremony at the ATMIS Mission Headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia on 1 April 2024

Deputy SRCC commends ATMIS troops

Early March, during an official visit to the Force Headquarters, the deputy Head of ATMIS, Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam, commended the African Union troops for their commitment and role in peace and stability in Somalia.



Operations and Plans, Maj. Gen. Marius Ngendabanka expressed confidence in the troops' abilities to stabilise Somalia.

"The African Union peacekeepers have made many sacrifices in Somalia by conducting successful operations against Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups," he said.

Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka, noted that joint operations with SSF across the Federal Member States have also been instrumental in fulfilling the Mission's mandate.

Mr. Sivuyile who toured the headquarterstofamiliarisehimself with the Force's operations, urged the troops to continue the good work of helping Somali Security Forces (SSF) secure the country.

"I am proud of the work you have done and keep up the good work. I am proud to be among a team of men and women dedicated to finding a solution," he added.

Mr. Sivuyile also toured the Joint Operations Centre (JOC), which plays a crucial role in enhancing coordination and planning between ATMIS and SSF.

"Since 2007, it has been a long road for us all. There has been great sacrifice and effort from you in ensuring the mission runs successfully and optimally," he said.

He assured that ATMIS was focused on formulating a withdrawal plan that would not compromise security gains.

Additionally, the centre facilitates collaboration and operational planning in accordance with the ATMIS Concept of Operations (CONOPS).

The ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of



Deputy Head of ATMIS, Sivuyile Thandikhaya Bam in a group photo with senior ATMIS military officers during a familiarisation visit at the Force Headquarters in Mogadishu.

Celebrating women in peacekeeping

On International Women’s Day, female peacekeepers serving with ATMIS called for a renewed commitment to gender equality and the inclusion of women in decision-making forums.



ATMIS female peacekeepers marching during celebrations to mark the International Women's Day in Mogadishu.

women in peacekeeping have played an instrumental role in shaping our society,” said CP Kanu. She underscored the need for gender equality and creating an environment where women and girls can exercise their rights to education, healthcare, and economic empowerment.

“Let us continue to empower women, promote gender equality, and shape a future where everyone can realise their full potential,” urged CP Kanu.

ATMIS marked the day under the theme ‘Inspiring Inclusion: Celebrating the leadership and resilience of female peacekeepers.’

The event was presided over by the deputy Head of ATMIS, Sivuyile Bam, and was attended by the Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kano, and the two deputy Force Commanders Maj. Marius Ngendabanka and Maj Gen. Peter Muteti.

Sivuyile praised ATMIS female peacekeepers for fostering trust, dialogue and reconciliation in communities and facilitating transfer of security responsibilities to Somali Security Forces.

“As we honour ATMIS female peacekeepers today, let us also recognise the critical role they will continue to play in the ongoing transition process. Their expertise, insights and commitment are invaluable assets as we work with the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure a seamless and sustainable transition,” said Sivuyile in his address.

In her remarks, CP Kanu commended Somali women and ATMIS female peacekeepers for breaking societal norms and entering previously male-dominated domains.

“Somalia like many other countries affected by war has witnessed the incredible tenacity and resilience of its women who together with

Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka highlighted that this year’s global theme ‘Count her in: Accelerate Progress’ resonated with the goal of promoting women’s equal participation in peace and security processes.

“ATMIS has over the years registered tremendous progress in the deployment of women in peace operations. Our female peacekeepers have been critical in enabling the force to adjust to culture-specific gender realities of Somalia,” said Maj. Gen Ngendabanka who represented the ATMIS Force Commander.



ATMIS female peacekeepers and senior ATMIS officials, in a group photo during celebrations to mark the International Women's Day in Mogadishu.

Training on medical logistics

Early March, thirteen ATMIS medical officers completed a three-day training focused on providing effective medical support in conflict zones.



ATMIS military medical officers attending a Medical Logistics and Planning training in Mogadishu.

As ATMIS prepares for phase two of its Concept of Operations (CONOPS), which anticipates increased mobility and casualties, Lt. Col. Dr. Gwande stressed the need for proactive medical professionals to manage logistics effectively.

“Medical logistics and pharmacy are extremely critical to troop morale. You play a very pivotal role in ATMIS as it strives to achieve its mandate,” said Lt. Col. Dr. Gwande.

Participants expressed gratitude to ATMIS for organising the training, recognising its potential to improve medical services within the mission’s areas.

A participant, WO2 Stephen Lodengo highlighted the impact of the training on casualty planning and rationing.

The training, backed by the United Kingdom Mission Support Team (UK-MST), aimed to equip officers with skills in planning and ensuring a sufficient supply of essential medicine and equipment during military operations and handling battlefield casualties.

ATMIS Force Medical Officer Lt. Col. Dr. Joseph Gwande emphasised the importance of training in enhancing medical planning and logistics within ATMIS’ tactical area of responsibility.

This training, targeting newly deployed medical officers, is part of ATMIS’ efforts to decentralise services for efficient delivery in its operational areas.

Another participant, Sergeant Stephen Sifuna appreciated its timeliness and significance in advancing the mission’s objectives.

“I will now ensure that at my point of service delivery, I have the right equipment and essential supplies available at the right time. This will enable me to provide quality service to personnel, and reduce complications and delays in the facility,” said Sifuna, a nurse at Level Two Hospital in Dhobley.



The ATMIS Force Medical Officer, Lt. Col Dr. Joseph Gwande (left) presents a certificate to a participant at the end of the training on Medical Logistics and Planning in Mogadishu.



ATMIS military medical officers in a group photo at the end of the Medical Logistics and Planning training in Mogadishu.

ATMIS commits to a smooth transition

On 13 March, ATMIS assured all stakeholders a seamless transfer of security responsibilities.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef (right), addresses a joint press briefing with Somalia's Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, Daud Aweis at Villa Somalia in Mogadishu.

"ATMIS is fully committed to the transition process, which will culminate in the transfer of full security responsibilities to the Somali Security Forces (SSF) by the end of December 2024," Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef told journalists.

Ambassador Souef, however, emphasised that the progressive transfer of security responsibilities must be accompanied by adequate support to secure the gains made in securing Somalia.

"It is therefore imperative that all partners align their efforts and support Somalia to ensure smooth coordination and a successful transition that promotes long-term stability and development," noted Ambassador Souef.

As part of the transition process, ATMIS pulled out 5,000 troops from Somalia and handed over 13 military bases to the Somali Security Forces. This was during the first and second phases of the drawdown concluded last year.

The third phase, targeting 4,000 troops, is scheduled for June 2024.

"As part of the planning process, open and constructive discussions have already begun with the Federal Government taking into consideration the lessons learned from the previous phases," Ambassador Souef observed.

He commended the Federal Government and the people of Somalia for making significant progress on recovery as demonstrated by the country's recent admission to the East African Community trade bloc.

During the joint press conference in Mogadishu, Somalia's Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Daud Aweis, said the Government was in the process of concluding a review of the country's constitution to guarantee equal representation and good governance.

"The conclusion of the constitution review will enable us to find a competent system to guarantee the country's political stability and have a constitution that responds to the current need to build a united, peaceful and prosperous Somalia," added Minister Aweis.

Let's collaborate for peace, says Ambassador Souef

On 18 March, the Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, visited Dhobley, in Jubaland State, to reinforce ongoing peace support operations and uplift the spirits of the troops.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, inspects a guard of honour mounted by ATMIS Kenya troops during a visit to Dhobley.

Ambassador Souef was accompanied by senior ATMIS officials including the Deputy Force Commander in charge of Support and Logistics, Maj. Gen. Peter Muteti, and Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu.

The delegation was received by the commander of the ATMIS Kenya contingent, based in Dhobley, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid.

During the visit, the delegation was also briefed on a programme initiated by the ATMIS Kenya contingent to train and mentor Somali health workers.

The initiative aims to build the capacity of health workers at the Dhobley General Hospital in midwifery, operating room and surgical procedures, and other essential healthcare protocols.

The sector commander took the delegation on a tour of the base, including the Level Two Hospital in Dhobley. The Sector Two Area of Responsibility (AoR) covering Middle and Lower Jubaland is manned by ATMIS Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) troops.

Ambassador Souef confirmed that ATMIS would exit Somalia in December 2024, but the African

Union is considering a follow-on mission.

“Somalia’s formal request for a follow-on mission underscores the need for continued international support in stabilising the region,” said Ambassador Souef in his address to the troops.

ATMIS is preparing for the drawdown of 4,000 troops from Somalia. The AU mission withdrew 5,000 troops during phase one and phase two concluded in June and December last year.

Ambassador Souef commended the Kenyan troops for their dedication to implementing the ATMIS mandate and urged them to remain vigilant against Al-Shabaab terrorists.

He also praised them for preparing the Somali Security Forces to take over security responsibilities from ATMIS.

“We are proud of the good work you do in degrading Al-Shabaab. I commend you for the sacrifice and professionalism which has and continues the march towards peace and stability in Somalia,” noted Ambassador Souef.



The Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef (middle-front row) in a group photo with other senior ATMIS military, police and civilian officials during a visit to the ATMIS Sector Two Headquarters in Dhobley.

Public engagement on Somalia's constitutional amendments

On 23 February, a public consultation to review the first four chapters of the constitution concluded in Mogadishu. The consultation concluded with a plea to parliament to adopt a document that reflects the views and aspirations of the Somali people.



Hussein Sheikh Mohamud, Senior Advisor to the President on Constitutional Affairs (left), speaks during a two-day public engagement event on constitutional amendments held in Mogadishu.

The two-day meeting, organised jointly by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and ATMIS Political Unit, brought together over 200 representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The objective was to gather insights on proposed constitutional amendments, complementing ongoing federal parliament debates.

Somalia President's Advisor on Constitutional Affairs, Dr Hussein Sheikh Mohamud emphasised the crucial role of public involvement in the constitution-making process, stating that such forums align political representatives with the public vision.

"These forums are important as they will align the vision of the political representatives with that of the public. The government intends to engage far and wide on these constitutional amendments to help come up with a better document," Mohamud said.

On his part, Somalia's Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister, Hassan Maalim Mohamud, thanked civil society representatives for their active engagement in the discussions. He promised to share their views with parliament for consideration. "Such engagements complement parliament debates and provide linkages between the public and parliament," Minister Mohamud observed.

ATMIS Political Officer, Sayid Abdi Hersi underscored the constitution's vital role in achieving peace and stability and guiding Somalia's security architecture, both during the transition phase and post-ATMIS.

"The constitution is the backbone of state building and will support the peace and stability of this country. It promotes reconciliation and social cohesion, crucial for strengthening governance and the successful Somali transition plan," Hersi added.

Participants welcomed the engagement and urged the federal government to organise more meetings in various parts of the country. This was to

gather additional views and seek clarification on the review process.

Mariam Taqal Hussein, a civil society member, expressed satisfaction with the discussions. She saw it as an opportunity for civil society to share their views and seek clarifications on the constitution review process. “Discussions here were helpful. I am happy that our recommendations

will be presented to parliament. I really hope all our concerns will be heard and incorporated into the constitution,” Mariam said.

Participants discussed the four chapters on the declaration of the Federal Republic of Somalia, fundamental rights and duties of the citizen, land, property and environment and representation of the people.

Somalia’s provisional constitution was approved in 2012. In January, 2023 parliament resolved to initiate the process of constitutional amendments to ultimately produce a final document crucial for Somalia’s nation building and political stability.



Civil society representatives take part in a two-day public engagement on constitutional amendments held in Mogadishu.



Civil society representatives take part in group discussions during a two-day public engagement on constitutional amendments held in Mogadishu.

Marking ‘Tarehe Sita’ Day

On 6 February, Uganda ATMIS troops held a medical camp and community cleaning exercise as part of activities to mark ‘Tarehe Sita’ Day.



ATMIS Uganda medical officers conduct an eye check up on a woman as part of the events to mark Tarehe Sita Day in Mogadishu.

‘Tarehe Sita’ is observed on 6 February every year, to commemorate the day President Yoweri Museveni led the National Resistance Army (NRA), to launch an armed struggle against oppressive dictatorships in Uganda in 1981.

The 43rd Tarehe Sita anniversary was themed “Celebrating the People’s Struggle for Peace and Security for Social-economic Transformation.”

ATMIS Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Okiding, participated in the clean-up exercise at the Marine market area in Mogadishu’s Hamar Jajab district.

The event was also attended by other senior ATMIS Uganda officers including deputy contingent commander, Col. Griffin Kantinti.

“Every year we celebrate this day, as a sign of appreciation and giving back to the people and remembering the people. UPDF is the people’s force, and it is against this background that we provide free medical treatment like we have done today. This is in response to people’s pressing needs,” said Col. Kantinti, who represented Lt. Gen. Okiding.

He said celebrating ‘Tarehe Sita’ was a way of giving back to the people of Somalia for their support to the ATMIS Uganda peacekeeping troops in the fight against Al-Shabaab.

During the two-day medical camp, patients were provided with free specialised treatment, including eye checks, dental treatment, and treatment for other general ailments.

“We started the medical camp yesterday, the 5th and attended to more than 250 patients with different health conditions. We expect even more people to turn out. We urge the community to take advantage of the free medical services offered,” said Capt. Dr Ojok, Commanding Officer of ATMIS Level 2 Field Hospital in Mogadishu.

Katra Abdullahi, was among the hundreds of residents of Hamar Jajab district, who attended the free medical outreach event.

“I decided to take advantage of the free medical services and seek treatment for an infection and persistent heartburn I have been suffering from for a long time. Ugandan doctors prescribed some medicines, and I am grateful for their assistance,” said Katra.



An ATMIS Uganda medical officer during a consultation with a patient as part of the events to mark Tarehe Sita Day in Mogadishu.



Officers from ATMIS Uganda contingent and the Somali National Army (SNA) take part in a community clean-up exercise as part of the events to mark Tarehe Sita Day in Mogadishu.

Thank you and goodbyes

In late January, ATMIS celebrated Uganda troops' significant contributions to the peace and security process in Somalia.

At a ceremony chaired by ATMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, 41 soldiers from Battle Group-37 received certificates and commemorative medals.

Lt. Gen. Okiding commended the outgoing soldiers for their dedication in contributing to the mission's mandate of degrading Al-Shabaab, fostering relations with the local population, and supporting the local administration through several Quick Impact projects (QIPs) and Civil-Military-Cooperation (CIMIC) initiatives.

"Battle Group-37 have proven themselves invaluable in the fight against Al-Shabaab right from their commanders to the troops," said Lt. Gen. Okiding in his address to the soldiers who had completed their one-year tour of duty.

Deployed to Somalia in December 2022, Battle Group-37 advanced the ATMIS mandate operating from various bases in Buufow, Shalambood, Ceel Jaale, Qoryooley, Janaale, Barire as well as KM 50 and KM 67 in the Lower Shabelle region of Southwest State.

Working jointly with the Somali Security Forces, ATMIS Ugandan soldiers conducted successful operations to disrupt and degrade Al-Shabaab and participated in reconciliation dialogues with local



leaders and communities to foster peace in their Area of Responsibility.

The troops also cleared and secured Main Supply Routes (MSRs) linking neighbouring towns to the capital Mogadishu and provided security to local communities.

"We acknowledge the exceptional work they executed including countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), clearing Main Supply Routes (MSRs), conducting joint patrols and ambushes with their Somali counterparts as well as securing population centres," said the ATMIS Uganda contingent commander, Brig. Gen. Anthony Lukwago Mbuusi.



ATMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding in a group photo with ATMIS Uganda Battle Group-37 soldiers after a medal ceremony in Mogadishu.

Kenya troops get a new commander

In February, the new ATMIS Kenya contingent commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid, officially assumed duty taking over from Brig. William Kamoiro.



Outgoing contingent commander Brig. William Kamoiro (left) hands over an AU flag to the incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Seif Salim Rashid, during a handover ceremony held in Dhobley.

The outgoing commander also praised ATMIS KDF troops for their support of the Somali-led transition process including capacity building and integration of SSF.

“We have supported capacity building and integration of SSF by conducting training, mentoring and planning joint operations. In addition, we have provided operation support and strategic advice to SSF,” he observed.

On his part, Brig. Seif reiterated his commitment to upholding his predecessor’s legacy.

“We reaffirm our commitment to the mission objectives outlined by the African Union and the international community. We also commit to the Somali people whom we are entrusted to protect,” stated Brig. Seif.

He urged troops to remain vigilant, considering evolving security challenges. He echoed the call by the Kenya Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Francis Ogola, for unity and determination in restoring regional peace and stability.

During the handover ceremony at ATMIS Kenya headquarters in Dhobley, Brig. Kamoiro, who completed his tour of duty, commended troops for their efforts in countering Al-Shabaab and other illegal armed groups within the Area of Responsibility.

“During my tenure as commander of Sector Two, we have operated within the ATMIS mandate in line with the Somali Transition Plan (STP),” said Brig. Kamoiro.

He highlighted the successful pacification of the Jubaland area and the protection of the civilian population as one of his major achievements.

“KDF ATMIS troops and Somali Security Forces (SSF) have pacified the Jubaland area under our control and protected the civilian population. This is through operations to disrupt and degrade Al-Shabaab’s capability with our partners in the theatre,” he added.



Outgoing contingent commander, Brig. William Kamoiro, and incoming commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid, in a group photo with other ATMIS Kenya officers during a handover ceremony in Dhobley.

Female peacekeepers celebrate achievements

On 8 March, female peacekeepers serving with ATMIS in Dhobley celebrated International Women's Day by reflecting on the challenges and progress made in including women in leadership and decision-making roles.



ATMIS female peacekeepers and women residents of Dhobley, marching during celebrations to mark the International Women's Day in Dhobley.

International Women's Day is observed annually on March 8 to highlight women's empowerment progress and celebrate their achievements. This year, the day was held under the theme "Inspire Inclusion."

To mark the day, the female peacekeepers serving in Dhobley also held a medical camp and an exhibition.

Women, youth, elders, local leaders, soldiers from ATMIS and Somali security forces and UN officials attended the day's celebrations.

The ATMIS Kenya Contingent Commander, Brig. Seif Salim Rashid, hailed female peacekeepers for their contributions to Somalia's peace and stability. He also praised their dedication to implementing the transition plan.

"Your resilience, leadership and dedication to the realisation of the mission's objectives and promotion of peace and security in Somalia cannot remain unmentioned," said Brig. Gen. Seif.

The ATMIS Gender Officer in Dhobley, Capt. Valerie Shikuku, highlighted the role of female peacekeepers in fostering dialogue, reconciliation and stability in Somalia.

"It is also critical to acknowledge the challenges we face such as discrimination, harassment, and violence. As we celebrate International Women's Day, we call on men to commit to empowering and supporting female peacekeepers," said Capt. Shikuku.



ATMIS Kenya medics provide free medical check-ups during celebrations to mark the International Women's Day in Dhobley.

Mentoring Somali Police in Dhobley

On 6 January, ATMIS launched a mentorship programme on crime prevention strategies for Somali Police Force officers in Dhobley, southern Somalia.



ATMIS Police officers examine record-keeping procedures at Dhobley Police Station in Somalia.

The initiative, spearheaded by ATMIS Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and personnel from the Reform, Restructuring and Development Unit (RRD), aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the officers in addressing and preventing violent crimes while maintaining law and order in communities.

“Our core mandate is to mentor Somali Police Force officers. We are carrying out this programme to equip them before the end of the Mission’s mandate in December 2024,” said the ATMIS Police Team Site Leader in Dhobley, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) French Sylvester.

He emphasised that equipping SPF officers with skills in law and order and crime prevention would be one of the main tasks for IPOs ahead of the Mission’s exit.

“We want them to be equipped to conduct policing activities professionally when ATMIS departs,” he added.

The Dhobley Police Station Commander, Lt. Col. Mohamed

Abdi Omar, expressed gratitude to ATMIS for implementing the mentorship programme.

He acknowledged the programme’s significant role in enhancing professionalism and building SPF capacity in the region.

“The mentorship program is a brilliant idea, as it contributes to the plan of Somali Security Forces taking control of the country’s

security after ATMIS exits,” explained Lt. Col. Mohamed.

Topics covered during the mentorship session included neighbourhood watch, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and surveillance, community patrols and beat operations among others.

Similar training sessions will be conducted at other team sites as part of an ongoing initiative by ATMIS Police component to enhance service delivery of the SPF.

During the session, the IPOs conducted an inspection of the Dhobley police station, documenting daily operations and adherence to established protocols. The approach aims to promote best policing practices.

Part of the ATMIS Police mandate includes supporting the SPF through specialised training, advising and mentoring, and providing operational support such as joint patrols and protection of vital installations.



ATMIS Police Gender Officer Superintendent of Police (SP) Priscilla Mulenga, speaks during a mentoring session on crime prevention for Somali Police Force officers in Dhobley.

Ethiopia troops train on child protection

On 23 March, thirty ATMIS military officers completed a two-day intensive training on safeguarding children’s rights and welfare in conflict situations.



ATMIS Ethiopia soldiers attending a two-day training on child protection in Baidoa.

Participants covered various topics, including mainstreaming child protection, children’s rights, legal standards, regional and global frameworks and Somalia’s national framework for child protection.

Ferdinand Nintunze, the Senior Case Management, Processes and Database Officer for ATMIS at the AUCF, reiterated the Mission’s commitment to safeguarding vulnerable populations, particularly children.

“Children are integral to the civilian population, and thus, the training aims to equip Ethiopian troops with skills to protect and advocate

for children’s rights,” said Nintunze.

Organised by the ATMIS Protection, Human Rights and Gender (PHRG) cluster in collaboration with the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF), the training was attended by Ethiopia National Defence Forces (ENDF) personnel stationed in Baidoa, Southwest State.

Maj. Aman Wako, ATMIS Chief of the Joint Operations Centre in Baidoa, described the training as informative and interactive. He expressed gratitude to ATMIS for organising such valuable training sessions.

ATMIS Senior Protection and Human Rights Officer, Gloria Jaase, highlighted the critical nature of the training.

One of the participants, Lance Corporal Atsede Hailu Tulu, acknowledged the knowledge gained and called for similar training sessions in other ATMIS sectors.

She stated, “This training is critical in conflict areas and Somalia is not an exception. We all know that children suffer in armed conflict situations. Therefore, it is critical for us to implement measures and structures to safeguard children during times of conflict.”

Jaase emphasised the importance of prioritising child protection issues during ATMIS military operations.

“Training our troops in child protection will enhance our ability to monitor and report incidents. With the information gathered, we can develop effective child protection programmes,” added Ms Jaase.



ATMIS Senior Protection Officer, Gloria Jaase, makes a presentation during a two-day training on child protection for ATMIS Ethiopia soldiers in Baidoa.

Improving healthcare in the Southwest State

Every Wednesday and Sunday, patients stream to the ATMIS Level-II hospital in Baidoa, southwest of Mogadishu to benefit from a weekly free medical camp organised by ATMIS Ethiopian troops stationed in the Southwest State of Somalia.



An ATMIS Ethiopia medic examines a patient in the dental room during a free medical camp at the ATMIS Level II Hospital in Baidoa)

Among the beneficiaries is Rukia Mohamed Issack, a middle-aged mother who nurses a recurrent kidney infection.

"I came here because I experienced kidney pain. After tests, it was determined that I had an infection. I've been prescribed medication, and I'm hopeful of recovering soon," says Rukia, who is returning to the facility.

Dozens of patients have been treated at the hospital since the ATMIS ENDF troops launched the weekly Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) initiative in February this year.

ATMIS medics say free medical care is offered simultaneously in

Baidoa and other ENDF Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Diinsoor, Bardhere, Qansadhere, Burdhubo, Garbaharey, and Berdale spread across the Bay, Bakool, and Gedo regions of Southwest state.

The patients are mostly women and children from IDP camps. Somali National Army (SNA) personnel and local administration officials also benefit from free medical treatment.

During a recent free medical camp, Adan Nishow, a resident of the Masika IDP camp in Baidoa brought in his wife who could not afford treatment for a severe toothache.

"My wife had a severe toothache after a botched extraction. We visited several other medical facilities, but were only given painkillers. After coming here, ATMIS doctors extracted the molars and gave us medication. We are grateful to ATMIS doctors," he said.

Nishow says many members of his community desperately require dental services but cannot afford high treatment costs. He asked ATMIS to hold free dental camps to alleviate their suffering.

Community leaders hail ATMIS efforts

Mohamed Issack Ali, the Deputy Commissioner of Security and Policing in Baidoa district, who



Dispensing prescription drugs to patients during a free medical camp at the ATMIS Level II Hospital in Baidoa.

heads the team tasked with identifying needy patients, said the weekly medical camp is a welcome relief.

“We have qualified doctors who treat many people, especially the internally displaced. Many patients have been diagnosed and treated,” he said.

ATMIS medics and commanders pledge continued support

The Head of the ATMIS Level II hospital in Baidoa, Maj Solomon Kassa Getahun, said they prioritise women and children, who are the most disadvantaged.

“Today we treated close to 23 patients with various conditions ranging from cholera, diabetes, and hypertension. We will continue to do so twice a week,” said Maj Getahun.

“The hospital is well-equipped with medicines and equipment. We have no excuse not to provide quality treatment. So far, we have treated many people with various

ailments. ATMIS is willing to help the community, especially the less fortunate,” he said.

ATMIS Ethiopia deputy contingent commander, Col Seboka Bekelle, said ATMIS Ethiopia troops provide security and contribute to people’s well-being.

“We have treated the less privileged members of society

and the Somali National Army troops. We will continue to offer free services to those in need,” said Col. Bekelle.

He attributed the success of the CIMIC activities to the positive working relationship between ATMIS troops and the Southwest State administration.



ATMIS Sector Three Deputy Commander Col. Seboka Bekelle, looks on as ATMIS ENDF medical personnel attend to a patient during a free medical camp at the ATMIS Level II Hospital in Baidoa,

Supporting flood-affected families in Beletweyne

On 9 January, continuing our commitment to humanitarian relief in Hirshabelle State, ATMIS handed over food and non-food items to vulnerable families in Beletweyne, central Somalia.



An ATMIS Djibouti soldier assists a resident during a food distribution exercise for flood affected families in Beletweyne

More than 650 families displaced by El Nino-induced floods received wheat flour, sugar, rice, cooking oil, blankets, and plastic sheets. The beneficiaries included people with disabilities, displaced families and orphans.

“We are here to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the recent flooding after the river Shabelle burst its banks following heavy rains,” noted Col. Said Waaberi, the ATMIS Djibouti contingent commander.

Highlighting the significance of humanitarian efforts, Col. Waaberi called upon international partners and aid agencies to increase assistance to mitigate the effects of recent floods.

Abdullahi Ahmed Sufurow, the governor of the Hiraa region thanked ATMIS Djibouti troops for assisting households impacted by climate change-related disasters.

“We are grateful for the emergency support you provided for our people. The Djibouti troops have distributed water as well as various food and non-food items that will alleviate the suffering of those affected by the floods,” said Governor Sufurow.

Khalif Abikar Aden, a beneficiary, expressed gratitude for ATMIS support towards vulnerable communities.

“ATMIS has been benevolent to the community, particularly with their regular and impactful interventions,” said Khalif.

Nadifo Ahmed Abdullahi also thanked ATMIS and other humanitarian agencies for their unwavering support.

“We are grateful for the food, blankets and plastic items delivered to us and thank ATMIS and other humanitarian agencies for their continued support,” added Nadifo.



Men offloading food during a food distribution exercise for residents affected by floods in Beletweyne.

Assisting flood-affected families in Buloburde

On 4 January, as part of ongoing efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance, ATMIS handed over relief food to flood-affected households in Buloburde, south central Somalia.



Buloburde District Commissioner Hassan Mohamed Abdi (left) receives food donation from the ATMIS Djibouti commander, Col. Said Waberi Harour (right) in Buloburde.

The ATMIS Djibouti troops provided food items including sugar, rice, wheat flour and cooking oil.

Col. Said Waberi Harour, the Djibouti contingent commander who handed over the food items, lauded the soldiers for their commitment to supporting the community.

“I commend Djibouti troops for their sacrifice and compassion in sharing a portion of their food rations with the Somali people devastated by the floods along River Shabelle,” noted Col Said.

He said that the food donation would help mitigate food insecurity due to flooding in the Hiraaan region.

Hassan Mohamed Abdi Buloburde District Commissioner, who received the donation on behalf of the community, complimented the Djibouti troops for their support.

“In addition to maintaining peace and stability in the region, ATMIS

Djibouti troops have made a commendable decision to share what they have with the flood victims,” said Hassan.

The relief benefitted individuals affected by El Nino-induced floods, including vulnerable families, the elderly and individuals with special needs.



A Djibouti peacekeeper assists a man and a boy carry a bag of rice during a food donation conducted by ATMIS Djibouti soldiers in Buloburde.

Promoting peace through sports in Jowhar

On 4 January, Issak Ahmed Hussein, the captain of a football team at the Towfik Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Jowhar, looked forward to a friendly match against ATMIS soldiers.



ATMIS Burundi soldiers in a friendly football match against Towfik IDP Camp Football Team in Jowhar.

When the match kicked off, despite the pulsating, end-to-end encounter that left partisan supporters yearning for more, it ended in a barren draw.

Although no goals were scored, Issak expressed satisfaction with the outcome and commended the players of both teams for their dedication and sportsmanship.

“We have previously played friendly matches with the Burundians, and we are delighted to continue playing to enhance cooperation between civilians and the military,” he said.

The deputy chairperson of the Towfik IDP camp, Abdikadir Aden Haji, who doubled as team manager, commended the players for their footballing skills.

“In 2018, we had a similar encounter that ended in a tie. This time around, both teams competed and ended in a tie,” said Haji.

Maj. Michael Ndikuriyo, the ATMIS Burundi deputy Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) officer, praised both teams and pointed out that this had contributed to enhancing the relationship

between AU troops and local communities.

“Our objective is to alleviate people’s suffering during or after a conflict. To achieve this, we must establish and maintain positive relationships between the community and ATMIS,” said Maj. Ndikuriyo.

ATMIS Burundi officers said the match aimed to foster cordial relations between ATMIS troops, the local community, and promote sports as a tool for conflict resolution.



Maj. Michael Ndikuriyo, the ATMIS Burundi deputy CIMIC officer, greets players of Towfik IDP Camp ahead of a friendly football match against the ATMIS Burundi team in Jowhar.



ATMIS Burundi and Towfik IDP Camp players line up for introductions ahead of kick-off of a friendly football match in Jowhar.

Celebrating International Women’s Day in Jowhar

To mark the International Women’s Day, ATMIS troops based in Jowhar reflected on the contribution of women in uniform to the ongoing peace process in Somalia.



ATMIS female peacekeepers marching during celebrations to mark the International Women’s Day in Jowhar.

The Deputy Commander of the ATMIS Burundi Contingent in Jowhar, Col. Oscar Hatungimana, emphasised the need to empower women to contribute to sustainable peace in Somalia.

“Women must be supported through education and should be provided with adequate opportunities to decide what is right and appropriate,” said Col. Hatungimana.

The female troops also organised a procession and performed cultural dances.

The ATMIS Police Gender Focal Point in Jowhar, Charity Saluna, urged women to join peacekeeping and public offices to enhance service delivery.

“More women in peacekeeping means more effective peacekeeping. We urge our male counterparts to support female peacekeepers to improve overall peacekeeping performance” she said.

The Deputy Commander of Jowhar

Airfield Police Station, Ahmed Abdulle Madobe, highlighted the growing number of women enlisting in the Somali Security Forces.

“The number of women serving in the Somali Security Forces has increased. We hope the number will continue to grow, and pave way for equal opportunities in economic participation and decision-making,” said Ahmed Abdulle.



ATMIS female peacekeepers attending celebrations to mark the International Women’s Day in Jowhar.

Troops provide water to IDPs in Jowhar

In early January, ATMIS Burundi soldiers opened their base to residents of Towfik Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Jowhar so they would access potable water.



A female Burundi peacekeeper assists a woman to carry a jerrycan of water during a water distribution exercise in Jowhar

An acute water shortage due to prolonged dry conditions forced thousands of families to leave their homes and search for water.

Maj. Daniel Hahorimana, the ATMIS Burundi Deputy Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) officer in Jowhar, announced that ATMIS would continue distributing water every week until a permanent solution is found.

“Residents of the Towfik IDP camp have been without water for an extended period, which is why we decided to support them. We will provide them with water twice a week, on Saturdays and Sundays, totalling 7,000 litres daily,” stated Maj. Hahorimana.

In addition to water supply the ATMIS Burundi contingent also provides medical support to address ailments associated with the living conditions in the camp.

The camp residents expressed appreciation for ATMIS support describing the water supply as timely.

Muawiye Osman Omar, the Chairman of Towfik IDP camp, confirmed that the residents grapple with water shortage due to lack of water sources in the area.

While ATMIS provides water to residents twice a week, the quantities are inadequate due to the increasing number of new arrivals at the camp.

“We urgently request the Federal Government, the Hirshabelle State and other agencies to support us by drilling a well,” explained Muawiye.



Residents of Towfik IDP camp queue for water distributed by the ATMIS Burundi contingent in Jowhar

Supporting displaced families in Jowhar

In January, ATMIS and the Government of Italy worked with the Hirshabelle State authorities to deliver emergency relief to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



A beneficiary during the food distribution exercise by the ATMIS Burundi contingent in Jowhar.

The relief items provided to flood-affected families included rice, wheat flour, sugar, beans, edible oil, blankets, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, and buckets.

Maj. Gen. Jean Niyiburana, the ATMIS Burundi contingent commander, led the distribution exercise. He praised the Hirshabelle State administration for helping displaced families.

He reassured the beneficiaries that ATMIS and the Federal Government of Somalia would seek to improve the welfare of communities affected by natural disasters.

According to Omar Mohamed Gaabow, the Hirshabelle deputy Minister of Humanitarian and Disaster Management, the relief benefited at least 600 households in Jowhar.

Muawiye Osman Omar, Chairman of the Towfik IDP camp, appreciated the Hirshabelle State government and ATMIS for assisting flood victims.

Flooding induced by El Nino rains, caused widespread damage in Somalia, impacting millions, displacing households, destroying infrastructure, and cutting off access to Main Supply Routes (MSRs)



Hirshabelle Deputy Minister of Humanitarian and Disaster Management Omar Mohamed Gabow and ATMIS Burundi contingent commander, Maj. Gen. Jean Niyiburana hand over food to a beneficiary in Jowhar.

Sierra Leone FPU train on child protection

On 8 March, thirty ATMIS police officers from the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit (FPU), concluded a five-day capacity building training on child protection in armed conflict.



ATMIS Senior Protection and Human Rights Officer Gloria Jaase addressing Sierra Leone FPU personnel during the training in Kismayo.

Conducted in the port city of Kismayo, Jubaland State, the workshop was organised by ATMIS Protection, Human Rights, and Gender (PHRG) cluster. The training aligned with the Federal Government of Somalia’s (FGS) broader objectives of bolstering efforts to promote the rights and welfare of affected children in conflict zones.

“This training is for the Formed Police Unit (FPU) to know the legal instruments that protect children during conflicts,” said Gloria Jaase, ATMIS senior Protection and Human Rights officer.

“We have also touched on the global legal frameworks because it is also critical to synchronise both the regional and global instruments for the protection of children in armed conflicts,” added Jaase.

Jaase also stated that the training was vital in analysing significant legal instruments, such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

“With all these instruments being unpacked and passed on

to participants, we are confident that they will integrate this knowledge to protect children during operations,” said Jaase.

Some of the topics covered included sexual and gender-based violence, gender mainstreaming, youth, peace, and the security agenda, among others.

SP Samuel Abu Bakarr Kargbo, the Sierra Leone FPU contingent commander, underscored the significance of the training in creating a safe and conducive environment for children.

“This is basic training for the promotion and welfare of children in conflict areas. So, this course equips participants with the requisite knowledge and techniques to identify issues affecting children,” said Kargbo.

Kargabo expressed satisfaction with the training, noting that it would enable ATMIS police personnel to fulfil the mission objective.



ATMIS Senior Protection and Human Rights Officer Gloria Jaase addressing Sierra Leone FPU personnel during the training in Kismayo.

We salute your contributions to peace and security

On 22 February, ATMIS honoured the Ghana Formed Police Unit (FPU) officers for their exceptional contribution to peacebuilding in Somalia.



ATMIS Police Commissioner CP Hillary Sao Kanu, pins a medal on the commander of the Ghana FPU, SP Eric Van Kofi during the ceremony in Baidoa

The personnel, having completed their tour of duty, were awarded medals in recognition of their service at two separate ceremonies held in Baidoa and Beletweyne.

ATMIS Police Commissioner (CP) Hillary Sao Kanu, presided over the ceremony in Baidoa and commended Ghanaian police officers for their selflessness and dedication to restoring peace and security in Somalia.

“We honour and appreciate the commitment and resilience of our gallant officers gathered here. You have done a lot and we will not take it for granted,” said CP Kanu.

CP Kanu also acknowledged the cooperation between ATMIS Ethiopian troops and the Somali Police Force (SPF) saying it had enabled ATMIS Police to deliver on its mandate.

The ATMIS Ethiopia contingent commander, Brig. Gen. Besfat Fente Tegegn, expressed appreciation for Ghana’s long-standing tradition of contributing to global peace, particularly on the African continent.

“The medals you have been awarded symbolise the success and gallant completion of your one-year

tour of duty. You have made the mission and your country proud,” said Brig. Gen. Tegegn.

This marks the third Ghanaian contingent to serve on the AU mission. Though based in Baidoa, the administrative capital of Southwest State, the unit also had a platoon of 33 police officers in Beletweyne. This platoon provided operational support to the Somali Security Forces.

In Beletweyne, ATMIS Police Operations and FPU Coordinator, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Ahmed Lateef, praised Ghanaian police officers for their outstanding performance and support provided to the Somali Security Forces (SSF).



ATMIS Police Operations and FPU Coordinator, DCP Ahmed Lateef, pins a medal on a Ghana FPU officer during the ceremony in Beletweyne

Celebrating Ghana at 67

On 7 March, ATMIS commended Ghanaian peacekeepers for their contribution to peace and security in Somalia.



ATMIS and UNSOS officials cut a cake with ATMIS Ghana peacekeepers during the 67th Independence anniversary celebrations in Mogadishu.

Ghana's legacy of promoting peace and stability through the deployment of peacekeeping personnel and civilian staff in African Union and UN missions.

"Ghana's unwavering commitment to peace has elevated it to the ranks of the top 10 contributors to UN peacekeeping missions with nearly 3,000 personnel currently serving in eight missions," noted Ms Sadozai in her remarks.

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, gained independence from colonial rule on 6 March 1957, becoming the first African country

At an event to commemorate 67 years since the West African country gained independence from Britain, ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of Operations and Plans Maj. Gen Marius Ngendabanka, lauded Ghana's commitment to global peace and African unity.

"Your contribution to peace efforts around the world particularly in countries experiencing conflict such as Somalia cannot be overemphasised. Ghana has deployed personnel to the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia to help achieve the ATMIS mandate," said Maj. Gen. Ngendabanka. ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu emphasised Ghana's commitment to peace, security, and justice in Africa. She attributed the enhanced stability in Somalia to Ghanaian peacekeepers' sacrifices, professionalism, and outstanding performance.

"It is a testament to your unwavering commitment, dedication, professionalism, and outstanding performance in the pursuit of peacekeeping and humanitarian support over the years," said CP Kanu.

The UNSOS Director, Qurat Ul-Ain Sadozai, praised

to do so.

This year's Independence Day celebrations focused on the theme "Our Democracy, Our Pride," emphasising the reinforcement of democratic values and the promotion of peace.



Ghana has made significant contributions to peace and security in Somalia through the deployment of a Formed Police Unit, Individual Police Officers (IPOs), military personnel and civilians.



‘Thank you for your service’

On 20 March, ATMIS commended members of the Uganda Formed Police Unit (FPU) for diligently implementing the Mission’s mandate and supporting capacity building for the Somali Police Force.



ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu, presents a certificate to the Uganda FPU-11 commander, SSP Juventine Euku.

Presiding over a medal parade ceremony, ATMIS Police Commissioner CP Hillary Sao Kanu commended the Ugandan police contingent for their sacrifice and commitment to peace support operations in Somalia.

160 UFPU personnel who completed one year of service with ATMIS received AU medals of honour and certificates of recognition. This was during an event at Al-Jazeera II basecamp in Mogadishu.

“You have supported the Somali Police Force in operations, escorting, and mentoring. They have learned a lot from observing the way you carry your weapons, your presentation, and the high level of discipline you display. Your attitude is one way of passing knowledge on to them,” said CP Kanu in her address to the personnel.

She also commended the government of Uganda and the leadership of the Uganda Police

Force for providing logistical support and guidance to the officers deployed to ATMIS.

“The work you have done here will be remembered when the history of Somalia’s path to peace and recovery is told,” said ATMIS Deputy Police Commissioner, CP Martin Amoru.

In Somalia, Uganda FPU are deployed alongside their counterparts from Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. They escort Individual Police Officers (IPOs) on mentorship duties, secure strategic government installations, and conduct joint patrols with the Somali Police Force.

“Our FPU has been successful due to teamwork, cooperation, and timely coordination with other security forces. I want to reiterate our commitment to performing our assigned tasks to achieve the ATMIS Police mandate in supporting a Somali-led security process in Somalia,” said SSP Juventine Euku, the contingent commander of the outgoing Formed Police Unit-11.



ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu, and senior commanders of the outgoing Uganda FPU-11, cut a cake during a medal award ceremony.



ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu, presents a certificate to the Uganda FPU-11 Deputy Commander, SP Julian Asaasira.

Training personnel to protect vulnerable groups

During the month of January, ATMIS continued to demonstrate commitment to protecting the vulnerable by bolstering ATMIS police capacity to protect children in conflict situations.



Nigeria Formed Police Unit personnel attending a training on child protection in armed conflict.

Separate training sessions were organised by ATMIS Protection, Human Rights, Gender (PHRG) cluster for personnel of the Uganda and Nigeria Formed Police Units (FPU).

The training contributed to ongoing efforts by the Federal Government of Somalia in safeguarding and advancing children's rights and welfare.

The training covered a range of topics including children's rights, international humanitarian law, human rights law and national legal standards protecting children's rights in armed conflict among others.

Dr. Omar Alasow, ATMIS Acting Head of the PHRG cluster noted

that the training would have a major impact as ATMIS gradually withdraws its forces from Somalia.

He therefore urged the participants to share the knowledge acquired and train their counterparts in the Somali security forces.

"The training emphasised the importance of capacity building as a valuable tool for effectively promoting and protecting children's rights in Somalia," added Dr. Omar.

The ATMIS Senior Protection and Human Rights Officer, Gloria Jaase, emphasised the significance of protecting the rights of women and children and other vulnerable groups as ATMIS

continues to hand over security responsibilities to Somali Security Forces.

"We did this training to enhance the knowledge of our peace support operations personnel on mainstreaming child protection and promoting their rights and welfare," said Jaase.

Participants described the training as timely coming at a time when ATMIS has intensified its efforts of helping the Federal Government of Somalia develop a strong security force capable of securing Somalia after ATMIS exits.

"Children in conflict regions face challenges that are largely overlooked; their voices are



Uganda Formed Police Unit personnel attending a training on child protection in armed conflict.

seldom heard. It is imperative to address their needs, especially regarding their rights,” said Corporal Bidok Phoebe from the

Uganda Formed Police Unit. Another participant, Elizabeth Yakubu Amay from the Nigeria Formed Police Unit, said the

training would enable her to mentor counterparts in the Somali Police Force in child protection.



Senior ATMIS Protection Officer Ms. Gloria Jaase presents a certificate to a participant at the end of a training on child protection in armed conflict situations for ATMIS police.

Improving police relations within communities

Early January, officers in the Somali Police Force (SPF) successfully completed training on how to tackle violent extremism and terrorism in communities.

The Training of Trainers course was part of a series of initiatives organised by ATMIS Police to enhance the knowledge, skills, and improve the attitude of Somali Police towards community policing.

“I want you to use these skills as a yardstick when you go out to fight Al-Shabaab militants and other criminals because community policing is all about inclusivity, cohesion, and working together to combat crime,” said ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu at the close of the training held at General Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu.

CP Kanu reassured the SPF of ATMIS’ commitment to support the enhancement of police capabilities. This will enable them to assume security responsibilities ahead of ATMIS’ exit from Somalia.

The Somali Deputy Police Commissioner, Gen. Osman Abdullahi Mohammed, commended ATMIS for its support in bolstering the police force’s capabilities.

“The training will help improve the efficiency of police services in the community as well as bolster cooperation between the police and the community,” said the Deputy Police Commissioner.

ATMIS Police Training and Development Coordinator, ACP Samuel Okanta highlighted the significance of community policing in complementing traditional methods such as patrols and guard duties in preventing violent crime.

“We believe that community policing if well implemented will reduce radicalism and prevent terrorism. This is because persons involved in violent extremism activities are in communities,” ACP Okanta said.

During the training, participants were taken through the role of police and media in community policing, the legal framework of policing in Somalia, community safety volunteers (CSVs) and introduction to intelligence gathering among others.

“These trainings will make SPF more professional and capable of handling security responsibilities in a collaborative and proactive approach with the community,” noted Captain Kali Ahmed Adan, SPF Director of Community Policing.

One of the participants, Chief Inspector Sabirina Dahir, thanked ATMIS for organising the workshop and pledged to ensure her community’s security.

“Somalia will eventually be safer and rejuvenated. Somalia will reform and prosper again,” said Dahir.

Since last year, ATMIS police has successfully trained 1,101 SPF officers across the Federal Member States including 193 female officers.



Senior ATMIS and SPF officers in a group photo at the end of a training on community policing and crime prevention in Mogadishu.

Fighting financial crimes

On 21 March, twenty-five Somali Criminal Investigation officers completed an intensive training on investigating financial crimes to combat terrorism financing.



An ATMIS Police officer addressing participants during the Financial Intelligence training in Mogadishu.

The five-day training organised by ATMIS Police, imparted the police officers with skills on how to detect crimes ranging from money laundering, terrorist financing and other illegal transactional activities.

“This training provides a significant opportunity to deepen our understanding of financial intelligence methodologies, tools, and investigation techniques,” said ACP Samuel Asiedu Okanta, ATMIS Police Training and Development Coordinator.

“As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and complex, the ability of Somali Police personnel to understand and effectively analyse financial transactions has become more indispensable than ever before,” added ACP Okanta.

The training was held at the General Kahiye Police Academy, Mogadishu. It was part of ATMIS’ efforts to capacitate the Somali Police to assume full security responsibilities.

The SPF Deputy Director of Training and Planning, Maj. Nur

Gedi Mohamed, emphasised the significance of training in disrupting the financing systems of criminal networks.

“This Financial Intelligence training will strengthen your knowledge and skills in criminal investigations. The training is timely given the challenges in fighting financial crimes such as money laundering, and terrorist financing,” said Maj. Nur.

The course conducted by ATMIS police trainers, included both theoretical and practical sessions to deepen participants’ understanding and capacity of financial intelligence, investigation methodologies,

procedures in combating economic crimes, the financial intelligence cycle, among other topics.

Participants also underwent intensive training on basic fingerprint techniques. This was to enhance their understanding of the role of fingerprints in upholding justice, safeguarding communities, and ensuring the rule of law.

“Learning about financial crime is relevant in the Somali context, where financial malpractices remain a big challenge,” said Col. Abdirahman Koronto, the head of training at General Kahiye Police Academy.



Participants during the closing ceremony of the Financial Intelligence training in Mogadishu.

Supporting children of fallen police officers

To commemorate International Women’s Day, ATMIS police female peacekeepers held a medical camp and donated items to an orphanage run by the Somali Police Force (SPF).



The ATMIS Police Commissioner, CP Hillary Sao Kanu hands over a bag of detergent to the Commander of the General Mohamed Abshir Muuse Primary and Secondary School and Orphanage, Gen. Ali Hersi Barre.

The medical camp was held at the General Kahiye Police Academy, and the items were donated to the General Mohamed Abshir Muuse Primary and Secondary School and Orphanage, in Mogadishu.

The donations included essential food items such as rice, spaghetti, cooking oil, powdered milk, juice, soda and salt. Additionally, sanitary pads and learning materials like books, pens and pencils were also provided.

Established in 1962, the school currently hosts 264 orphaned children – 200 boys and 64 girls – whose parents, former Somali police officers, died in the line of duty.

ATMIS Police Commissioner CP Hillary Sao Kanu handed over the items to the commander of the school and orphanage Gen. Ali Hersi Barre.

The commander of the school and orphanage expressed gratitude for the donations and praised the cordial working relations between ATMIS and the Somali Police Force.

During the medical camp held at General Kahiye Police Academy, CP Kanu highlighted the significance of the event in strengthening

the partnership between ATMIS police and their SPF counterparts.

The Somali Police Force Gender lead, 2nd Lieutenant Ubah Bashir Ibrahim, expressed appreciation for the medical assistance.

“We are grateful for your support. The Somali Police Force appreciates the medical assistance you provided us,” said 2nd Lt. Ubah.



ATMIS medical personnel attend to patients during a free medical camp for SPF officers in Mogadishu.









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