

**ISSUE No. 2**

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Welcome to the Somalia newsletter of the Department for International Development - the Government Department leading the UK's fight against global poverty.

This newsletter is designed to keep those in the UK with an interest in Somalia informed of the work we are doing to reduce poverty. This edition gives an overview of what the UK is doing to help.

# NEWSLETTER

## ON UK DEVELOPMENT IN SOMALIA

It has been a busy six months for the DFID Somalia programme, with our funding increasing to over £23m for 2009/10. Our engagement with civil society has also increased. And we provided £9.5 million to deliver humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable. We continue to seek ways to improve access to health and education for all Somalis. We are designing a new health programme to deliver emergency health care to women and children across Somalia, and support improved delivery of health services by the Somali authorities. We are also building on previous work to increase jobs for young people, make it easier to do business in Somalia, and improve governance.

We were delighted that so many UK Somali diaspora groups actively participated in the launch events of the new DFID-funded Common Ground Initiative set up to fund diaspora projects in Africa. Applications are currently being considered.

### In 2009, with DFID support.....

- 650,000 people received basic health treatment in South-Central Somalia
- 144,000 children under-five and 100,800 women of child-bearing age across Somalia received a basic health package
- 120,000 children were treated for acute malnutrition in South-Central Somalia
- water points and sanitation facilities for 47,500 people and 274,000 livestock in South-Central were repaired
- 32,600 young and internally displaced people in South-Central received vocational training
- 12,000 girls in Puntland received locally made low-cost sanitary towels
- residents of 4 districts in Puntland and 6 in Somaliland are now demanding greater accountability in delivery of basic services.



*A trader at Hargeisa market. DFID is designing a new programme to help support businesses and create jobs.*

They include non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, youth and women's groups and professional associations.

The support includes training, exchange visits and meetings with international donors. The involvement of civil society organisations is particularly important in Somalia. They have wide public support and have contributed significantly to local peace-building initiatives. They are heavily involved in service delivery (which the state is often unable to provide), and possess a wealth of experience and expertise. Until now, civil society has had few regular opportunities to work alongside Government.

This support helps improve accountability and responsiveness in Somalia. Civil society networks have the potential to hold Somali leaders and politicians to account. For example, the Somaliland Non-State Actors Forum will be involved in observing the Somaliland elections in 2010.

### Partnership for change

Together with the European Commission, DFID is helping civil society organisations (CSOs) work more closely with government in Somalia.

The three year programme is being delivered through the international NGO Saferworld, with DFID providing £550,000.

Over a thousand CSOs are being supported in all three zones of Somalia.



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Or visit: [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

For more information about the Common Ground Initiative visit the Comic Relief website  
[www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com)



*A child is immunised against measles during the Child Health Days in Hargeisa. Photo courtesy of UNICEF*

### This might hurt...

At least 46,000 children under five and 37,000 women of child-bearing age benefited from an immunisation programme in November 2009. For the first time, 'Child Health Days' reached displaced communities during a five-day campaign in Afgoye, south Somalia.

The Child Health Days Campaigns are held across Somalia by local authorities and NGOs, with support from UNICEF and the World Health Organization. The nation-wide campaign aims to immunise every child under five against measles, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. It also provides Vitamin A, de-worming tablets, nutritional screening and the referral of malnourished children to feeding programmes.

DFID contributed £750,000 and plans to provide an additional £1 million in 2010.



*Children happy to be back at school*

## Parent power in Puntland

In Somalia, even where there is no formal school, there is always a Qur'anic school. Sometimes these schools operate in people's houses or even under trees. Working with the Puntland Ministry of Education, and with financial support from DFID, UNICEF has been supporting an innovative pilot of four Qur'anic schools in Puntland as part of its Somalia-wide work to improve quality and standards of education.

Said Mohamed is one of the elders in Karin village, 35 km from Bossaso, Puntland. He is well travelled, having been a seaman, and values education. But Karin village did not have a primary school. So he migrated with his family to Bossaso in the hope that his five children would have access to education there. But town life was not all he had hoped for. They struggled to survive.

In early 2009, Said moved back to Karin village. He heard that the newly-renovated Karin Qur'anic School was now offering Qur'anic education alongside other subjects. In addition to learning the Qur'an, children in the school are taught mathematics, Somali and Arabic by trained teachers, and textbooks are provided. The school has been extensively renovated and extended to include running water and toilets.

Said is now part of the community education committee which monitors teacher recruitment and attendance. Parents on the committee help to maintain the school and lobby other parents in the community to enrol their children.

These parents are helping to transform their own community. All of this has resulted in more boys and girls going to school and completing their education, and better results in the target schools.

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### Message from Gareth Thomas, the Minister of State for International Development



The attack in early December at a medical graduation in Mogadishu was horrific; particularly as those targeted were working to improve the lives of ordinary Somalis. I want to convey my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. The UK remains committed to supporting overall peace and reconciliation. We await elections in Somaliland in 2010; for which we have provided financial and technical assistance. Should the elections be successful we shall consider widening UK support to Somaliland to help develop the economy, improve governance and access to basic services.

