

Somalia

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About Somalia

- Collapsed institutions of state have led to decline in security and social development. However, the private sector has been remarkably resilient to the conflict.
- Population, mainly nomadic pastoralist, estimated at between 6 and 9m¹ with a population growth of 4.2%.²
- Annual GNI per capita is \$130³ and 43% of the population have incomes below \$1 per day.⁴
- Primary school enrolment rate has slumped to 28%⁵ and only 1/3 attending are girls.
- Average life expectancy is 47,⁶ and 225 children per 1,000 live births, die before the age of five.⁷
- WHO estimates maternal mortality as 1 per 100 live births (1 in 3800 in UK).⁸
- Average HIV prevalence level from a 2004 survey was estimated at 0.9%.⁹
- 29% of the population has access to improved drinking water sources.¹⁰
- Somalia suffers routinely from climate-caused and conflict-exacerbated emergencies. The UN estimates 2.5m in need of humanitarian relief in 2008, compared to 1.5m last year. Main needs continue to include specialised and emergency feeding and medical care, water and sanitation, and protection.

Political Background

- No functioning national government since 1991 when country descended into civil war. North West region declared independence as the "Republic of Somaliland" but is not recognised internationally. Puntland (North East) sees itself as part of a Federal Somalia, but has own governing institutions.
- The Somalia Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) led by interim President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, was appointed late '04/early '05 for 5 year term under a Transitional Federal Charter.
- TFIs have lacked support among clans, and continue to face fierce opposition from the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC). The UIC showed increasing signs of militancy and in Dec 06 were pushed back by Ethiopian and TFG forces. However, the ICU re-grouped and waged a war of insurgency throughout 2007 and early 2008. In February 07 an African Union Stabilisation Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) was authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1744. To date approx 1300 Ugandan troops have been deployed to Mogadishu and around 192 Burundian troops joined them early this year.
- Talks in Djibouti in June 08 resulted in a Peace Agreement between the TFG and the Alliance for Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS). The deal remains to be signed but it is hoped to bring an end to armed confrontation.

DFID: Working to save lives and reduce poverty in Somalia

Somalia has received on average \$200m per year since 2000 from the International Community. DFID's programme framework has increased from **£3.1m** in 2002/03 to **£16.6m** in 2006/07. Our budget for 08/09 is **£25m**. DFID focuses on governance, security, health, education, livelihoods and emergency humanitarian relief.

Making aid effective

DFID is working closely with other donors and UN agencies to improve coordination of development assistance, through the Somali Support Secretariat and other mechanisms. DFID ensures that all assistance adheres to the OCED DAC Principles for Engagement in Fragile States. DFID has played a leading role in developing the UNDP and World Bank led Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and the EU/Norway 2008-2013 Joint Strategy Paper (JSP) for Somalia (which takes the RDP as its starting point).

¹ There has been no census since 1975. This range is used in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) for Somalia and produced by the TFG Minister for Planning.

² UNFPA Report 2005

³ "The State of the Worlds Children" UNICEF 2006

⁴ FAO recently reported that in 2002, 43% of the population have incomes below \$1 per day.

⁵ UNICEF PES 2005/06

⁶ UNDP Human Development Indicators, 2001

⁷ "The State of the Worlds Children" UNICEF 2006

⁸ "Maternal Mortality", estimates by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA

⁹ WHO sero-prevalence study in 2004

¹⁰ "The State of the Worlds Children" UNICEF 2006

Governance & Rule of Law (Pillar 1 of RDP)

- DFID is providing institutional support through a partnership with UNDP which includes logistical costs, capacity building to key ministries and local administrations and support to a new constitutional process. This partnership also focuses on Rule of Law, including police and judiciary. To date 2777 men and women have been selected to undergo training in community policing and human rights, over 1000 of which were trained in 2007.
- We have co-funded Interpeace to advance and underpin peace building across Somalia; as well as democratic presidential, parliamentary and local elections in Somaliland and Puntland.
- DFID is also funding UNIFEM's Somali Women's Platform for Action to improve female civil society involvement in politics and development.

Service Delivery, including HIV/AIDS (Pillar 2 of RDP)

- **Health:** DFID is currently shifting towards a more strategic, sector-wide approach to health issues whilst continuing to support emergency services to the most vulnerable through organisations such as ICRC, IMC and UNICEF. A 2-year programme has been developed with a group of British organisations to channel funding into health systems strengthening in Somaliland as a pilot for the rest of the country. In Amoud village vaccination rates have increased from 10% coverage to 87%, with expectations that this pilot will be rolled out to other villages. Funds have also been committed to support the Gedo Regional Health Programme in South Central Somalia which has tripled utilisation rates.
- In Somaliland we are piloting a social marketing scheme for insecticide treated bednets, to reduce malaria prevalence, using public and private sector infrastructures.
- **Education:** Support channelled through UN and International NGO partners, including a 3 year £6 million partnership agreement with UNESCO and UNICEF to strengthen education systems, increase access and enrolment to schools and reduce and eventually abolish user fees. Our support focuses strongly on girl's education. We support basic education services in Hiraan through Save the Children which has helped to increase enrolment rates by 56% since the end of 2004. Through the Formal Assessment and Certification of Somalia and Somaliland (FACSS) programme (Africa Educational Trust) DFID is also working to develop primary and secondary education structures through the strengthening of a valid and reliable examination system.
- **HIV/AIDS:** DFID support has assisted the establishment of AIDS Commissions in Somaliland, Puntland and Central South and DFID central funding is provided to Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). HIV/AIDS activities are integrated into our broader service delivery programmes.

Humanitarian Assistance

DFID are funding emergency humanitarian interventions in the worst-affected areas of South Central region to target the most vulnerable populations in regions with large numbers of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and severe malnutrition. In 2006/07, DFID spent £8m through INGOs and UN agencies. So far in 2008, we have pledged £20.5m in new commitments, including £12m to WFP. We will continue to respond to needs on the ground in 2008 and beyond.

Trade & Growth

- The economy is surprisingly robust with strong exports of live animals (to Kenya and the Gulf) and growth of new economic activities (e.g. telecoms). The economy includes about \$1bn of remittances from the Diaspora, which also support a strong remittance (known as *hawallah*) financial sector. DFID has committed £3m to the 2006-9 Somalia Employment, Enterprise and Livelihoods (EEL) Programme to contribute to sustainable economic growth and diversification in Somalia and Somaliland.

Making progress against the Millennium Development Goals...

- There is insufficient data to plot progress but Somalia is likely to be seriously off track. With the current political instability it is unlikely that Somalia will reverse this pattern in the near future.

For more information about DFID's work in Somalia please visit www.dfid.gov.uk. If you are a journalist and wish to know more about DFID and its work to reduce poverty in Africa please call DFID press office: 0207023 0600.