

SOMALIA

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2006)	8.4 million
Proportion of population living in urban areas	36%
Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)	2.1 / 1.7%
Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)	14,000
Under age 5 mortality rate	225/1000 live births
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000)	18.7%

SECTOR OVERVIEW

Since 1991 when Siad Barre's government fell, Somalia has been a largely stateless society. Parts of the country such as Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, Maakhir, and Southwestern Somalia are internationally "unrecognized" autonomous regions. The remaining areas, including the capital Mogadishu, are divided into smaller territories ruled by competing warlords. Although the north of Somalia has some functioning government institutions, conflict prevails in many parts of South-Central Somalia. Instability and natural disasters have forced many Somalis to abandon their rural homes for peri-urban areas. However, rural flight is due not only to conflict, but is also part of a larger trend of permanent urbanization as rural Somalis seek better economic opportunities.

Somalia's water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector hardly exists outside of the relatively stable Somaliland and Puntland regions. The remaining two-thirds of the country (South-Central Somalia), including rural areas, is devoid of any real WSS institutional organization or oversight. Most Somalis obtain water from boreholes and shallow wells.

Shallow wells are typically located within settlements where the water quality is often polluted due to nearby latrines seeping their contents into the groundwater. This causes frequent outbreaks of water related diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. The latest estimates suggest that less than 29 percent of the total population in Somalia has access to a clean, sustainable water source.

SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Before the civil war, urban WSS was managed by the public sector, but the systems were financially stressed and water supply systems in many cities were inadequate even before the breakout of conflict. Now, most WSS infrastructure either is damaged or has been poorly maintained during and after the conflict, rendering it inoperable. The continuing conflict and lack of organized governance have resulted in a virtual absence of public funding for the WSS sector except through limited allocations in Somaliland and Puntland. In these areas, most funding for WSS is provided through the United Nations and other humanitarian donors.

UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources in Somaliland in the development of a Water Policy, National Water Strategy and a Water Act. The Somaliland government has endorsed

WATER AVAILABILITY IN SOMALIA	
Renewable water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (1960-2007)	1,620
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2000)	401
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	888
Note: 2015 projected water resources per capita is a straight-line regression calculation based on population growth rates with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes	

the 2004 Water Act.

In the absence of a central government, a local private sector has developed to fill the void in services. Entrepreneurs throughout the country are building cement catchments, drilling private boreholes, or shipping water from public systems in the cities. Remarkably, some water supply operations have shown a slight improvement over pre-war conditions, suggesting that 'local knowledge for local problems' may be more true than not. Somaliland and Puntland have attempted to re-organize their urban water sectors and have established basic local level WSS agencies and domestic public-private partnerships (PPP) to manage water sector development. Private sector participation has enabled some investment in basic water infrastructure expansion, but the domestic private sector is severely constrained. Typically, if a PPP exists, then a private operator manages services under a long-term concession.

No national or municipal institutions exist to handle sanitation, much less sewerage in Somalia. There is also no way for a sanitation service provider to recoup costs if one were to exist. For instance, Mogadishu's operational sewerage system is only a fraction of its pre-war sewerage network. In the absence of a public sector provider, individual collectors have assumed the role and recover costs by charging households directly. Waste from the few functioning sanitation facilities and the waste gathered by the collectors are commonly deposited in wadis and landfills without consideration of public health or environmental degradation.

THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Public water service is only operational in Somaliland and Puntland. Most operational water companies are local investor-owned operations with local business people as shareholders. Some companies have performed better than expected (with Borama, Bosasso and Jowhar leading). Where water companies provide service, government authority over water planning, policy, and regulation remains virtually nonexistent.

These investor-owned water companies do not typically function well without considerable outside

donor assistance. However, one company has had success in transitioning from a municipal agency to a public-private partnership. Jowhar, a town of 40,000 in Southern Somalia, is served through a management company named "Farjanno", which operates under a concession from the regional Middle Shabelle Authority and includes representatives of key clans. The Farjanno has provided water services throughout much of the civil war and other newer PPPs have been able to reproduce similar arrangements with success. Similar arrangements were successfully facilitated in 2000 in Bossaso, Northeast Somalia ('Puntland'); in 2003 in Galkayo, Puntland and Borama, Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland') and most recently in Garowe, Puntland in 2005. All companies are operating successfully.

Sanitation facilities have a high number of users since no piped sewerage systems exist. In addition, migration from rural areas has placed added pressure on the few facilities found in peri-urban areas where migrants are settling. To some extent, temporary facilities have become permanent investments. To maintain these facilities, local organizations and the humanitarian community de-sludge using vacuum tankers. However, de-sludging in this case does not avoid water table contamination because infiltration is not stopped as in a septic tank. On average, it is estimated that 51 percent of the urban population has access to sanitation facilities. Few latrines are equipped with septic tanks and two-thirds of these are not managed. In areas where displaced people have settled, almost no sanitation facilities exist. This forces most to resort to open defecation on the periphery of peri-urban areas and refugee camps.

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

Somalia is a water scarce country and precipitation variability appears to be increasing. Many of its regions have experienced severe droughts followed by severe flooding. In both cases, rural populations are particularly vulnerable, because of their limited resources or adaptive capacity. In addition, brutal conflicts have erupted in localized areas as water scarcity has increased. Multiple humanitarian agencies have had to implement major water trucking operations and other measures to provide water to drought-affected communities on more than one

occasion. When drought conditions have subsided, humanitarian agencies, NGOs, and the donor community significantly scale-up WASH efforts to improve access to water through boreholes in rural areas. However, rural efforts are limited due to security problems caused by the ongoing conflict.

In most of the rural communities, traditional Somali law and Sharia Law continue to be upheld. The ownership of land and water is based on traditional Somali social structure where each clan is associated with a particular territory.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Donor involvement in Somalia's WSS sector is primarily a humanitarian operation. Very little focus has been devoted to WSS financial, managerial, and technical issues. Somalia receives aid from several multilateral and bilateral sources. The United States is the largest bilateral donor while the European Union is the largest multilateral donor to Somalia. Other major donors include the World Bank, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Britain and Denmark. Minor donors include Canada, Finland, Germany and Egypt. Several UN agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Program and United Nations Children's Fund, provide assistance as well. Most humanitarian operations are coordinated through UN – Somalia.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH operations • Drought disaster response • Donor aid coordination 	Lilian Nduta (OCHA) lilian.nduta@undp.org Tel: 254-20-4448434
USAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Sanitation assistance • WASH activities • Drought disaster response 	
The Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sanitation access development 	

Additional information and sources: Statistics were compiled from the WHOSIS database, WRI-Earthtrends Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems database, and the UN MDG Indicators database. Other sources included the United Nations and World Bank Somali Joint Needs Assessment – Infrastructure Cluster Report, September 2006, UNICEF - Urban water and sanitation in Somalia Profile (2007), UN-OCHA Monthly Cluster Report on Humanitarian Response in Somalia, September 2008.

This Water and Sanitation Profile was prepared under the **Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI)**. ABRI is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and addresses some of the most challenging water issues in the Middle East and Africa including the lack of access by the poor to improved water and sanitation services, inefficient and nonproductive water use, and transboundary river basin management. ABRI works closely with host country governments, actively pursues co-investments from the private sector, reaches out to like-minded foundations, and partners with regional institutions.