

USAID/Somalia

Annual Report

FY 2004

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Somalia

Performance:

The conflict in Somalia dates back to 1989, when growing discontent with President Siad Barre's regime resulted in a general civil war. The regime collapsed in 1991, and the country descended into an extended period of inter-clan warfare, which destroyed most of the country's remaining infrastructure and exacerbated a widespread famine that claimed the lives of more than 250,000 Somalis, prompting from one to two million people to flee to other parts of the country or across the border. Twelve years after the collapse of the central government, and more than a dozen failed peace initiatives later, the country remains extremely complex. The lack of national reconciliation and consequent insecurity have remained the main problems faced by the people of Somalia.

Hopes were high in 2003 that the Somali National Peace Conference (SNPC) convened in October 2002 under the auspices of a regional organization of States in the Horn of Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Kenya would bring about some change. While several major breakthroughs were achieved, including agreement on the composition, based on clan, of a transitional government, the selection of a parliament and the process of nominating a president, a cloud of uncertainty hangs over the process. The talks have been repeatedly stalled and the commitment of several key leaders is still in question, with many intractable issues yet to be resolved. The situation is further complicated by the expiration on August 26 of the mandate of the Transitional National Government. In addition, the talks are also complicated by the governments involved in the region, which have their own agendas.

Most of the southern and central regions of the country continued to experience violence and armed conflict throughout the year. By contrast, the northern regions of Somalia moved ever closer to political, economic and social reconstruction. In the self-declared Republic of Somaliland, peaceful multi-party elections in April 2003 marked a milestone in the republic's process of democratization. The level of peace and stability obtained in the area, and the presence of viable government counterparts, has allowed a large number of UN agencies and NGOs to work in an increasingly coordinated manner. The Puntland State of Somalia also made key gains in 2003, ending a two-year political crisis in May with a power sharing agreement.

Somalia remains an extremely poor and underdeveloped country, consistently ranking among the lowest in the world on key indicators of human development such as life expectancy, per capita income, malnutrition and infant mortality. Export earnings continue to drop, following a livestock ban imposed in September 2000 by countries in the Arabian Peninsula because of inadequate animal health control systems and certification procedures in Somalia. This has particularly affected the nomadic population that makes up 44% of the Somali population. Remittances from more than one million Somalis living abroad continue to mitigate the effects of poverty but the Diaspora is finding it increasingly difficult to send money home following the United States closure of al Barakat, formerly Somalia's largest remittance company, further worsening the economic situation.

Somalia also remains exceptionally prone to severe and chronic drought and flooding. Localized armed conflict throughout southern Somalia frequently disrupts farming and seasonal migration patterns. While Somalis possess an impressive range of coping and survival skills, the prolonged combination of these factors has eroded food security and livelihood capacities. More than half of the high infant and child mortality rates can be attributed to diarrhoeal disease-related dehydration, respiratory infections and malaria. Malnutrition is chronic. According to an FAO report, more than 71% of the population is undernourished. Malnutrition appears in acute forms in areas of drought, flooding and localized conflict. Somalia's high maternal mortality rates are caused by poor antenatal, delivery and postnatal care and

limited obstetric facilities. Female genital mutilation, affecting up to 95% of girls, is an underlying cause of maternal death and is a serious violation of child rights. Cholera is endemic and occurs on a seasonal basis. Water availability and access is a critical problem, and a cause for both conflict and migration.

Ever since the disastrous peacekeeping mission of the early 1990s, there has been limited assistance to Somalia. Many Islamic groups from the Middle East have come to fill the gaping holes. Islamic charities have built schools, mosques and hospitals, and many Somalis have abandoned traditional garments for more fundamentalist Arabic-style dress. Somalia's dynamic trade and transportation sectors have helped to keep the nation's economy afloat during years of crisis and civil war, however the absence of effective regulation or systematic oversight, either by Somalia or the countries with whom it trades, has generated multifarious opportunities for trafficking in arms and contraband.

U.S. national interests are clear: stability and security will not be achieved in the greater Horn of Africa region without putting an end to conflict and stopping potential Somali support for terrorism. U.S. policy is to encourage the return of Somalia to the international community as a legitimate and reliable member. The U.S. and our donor partners provide an alternative to extremism in Somalia through our humanitarian assistance and support for long-term economic, social and democratic development, but our contributions are extremely small compared to overwhelming needs.

Donor Relations: Coordination in Somalia is led by the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB), a dynamic group made up of donors, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations that provides a forum for sharing lessons learned, coordinating on complimentary activities, and developing a common framework for assistance. The SACB has provided space for the international aid community to come together to address the challenges of working with numerous regional authorities. In the absence of a government, the SACB has provided a county coordination mechanism that enabled aid agencies to successfully apply for \$20 million from the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization (GAVI) and the Global Fund for TB and malaria. Common strategies have been developed, in collaboration with local authorities where they exist, for health and nutrition, civil society, agriculture, and water and sanitation. Frameworks have been established to support strategy formalization for education, livestock and governance.

Challenges: The northwest self declared country of Somaliland continues to embark on a process of internally-driven political, economic and social reconstruction. A pragmatic response to Somaliland's quest for self determination must be developed by the international community to insure its current peace and stability is not jeopardized. The development environment in Somaliland was recently shaken in October by the murders of three expatriate humanitarian workers for reasons yet unknown. The events underpin the fragility of Somaliland, and remind us of the pressing need for the international aid community to recognize the achievements of Somaliland and support its efforts towards reconstruction and democratization.

Continuing political instability and insecurity in the rest of the country pose the greatest constraints for providing development assistance and humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable populations. The events of September 11, 2001 and the November 2003 Mombassa bombing brought reprisals by the international community that have negatively affected the economy. They brought Somalia into focus as a haven for terrorists, but also identified the need for the international community to address its status as a failed state.

Various regional administrations, faction leaders, and warlords continue to vie for power. Along with the insecurity this generates for the Somalia people, this insecurity also creates an obstacle to donor access for the implementation of development and humanitarian assistance programs throughout many areas of the country. Roads are unsafe in many areas due to sporadic fighting and cannot be used at all in other areas due to mines. Hundreds of thousands of Somalis remain vulnerable, subjected to the political whims of warlords, banditry and drought.

PL 480 food resources strengthen the impact of USAID's program in Somalia and are linked to the mission's objective for improved infrastructure for productive services as well as the mission's objective to target food aid at vulnerable groups. The majority of our food assistance is targeted at southern and central Somalia, where an estimated 500,000 people are food insecure due to several consecutive years of drought and failed harvests, as well as continued conflict and displacement. However USAID also provides resources in northern Somalia through support to WFP for its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). WFP and CARE are the two partners receiving Title II funding.

Key Achievements: The FY 2003 Somalia program recorded important achievements, in spite of the debilitating conditions plaguing the country.

1) **Strengthened Civil Society:** Under this Strategic Objective USAID assists in the development and training of civil society organizations and supports activities to enhance the rule of law. As a result of USAID's program, NGOs demonstrated a greater influence on government decisions and USAID's capacity building activities achieved a number of important results. (1) A higher level of confidence in the legitimacy of Somali NGOs by local authorities, the general public, and the international community was achieved. This was particularly evident when three predominant Somali NGOs took on a significant role in monitoring the Somaliland local and presidential elections. (2) An increased advocacy role by civil society organizations in supporting and providing a conducive environment for both political and economic development, targeting policy formation and change at the national level. Issues addressed this year ranged from initiatives to end conflict over water points and vehicle routes in farming areas, advocacy for policy formation over training of nurses, health issues such as FGM, meat inspection and formation of coordination/umbrella bodies at regional level. (3) USAID funding contributed to the passage of an enabling act establishing the Somaliland Lawyers Association and contributed to the establishment of the first public legal clinic, based at the Hargeisa Faculty of Law, which offers free and low cost legal representation to economically deprived individuals.

2) **Productive Livelihoods:** This SO supported basic education for the first time this year and significant results were achieved. Targets were exceeded in the education program due to increased community contributions, and USAID increased enrollment rates by more than 2,800 students at 13 secular schools in two regions of Somalia, through the training of teachers, school administrators and community education committees, the distribution of training materials and the construction of 47 new classrooms and provision of latrines for girls and water tanks. Through USAID's support to economic diversification, fifty-eight businesses in Puntland and Somaliland increased their capacity to trade in, install and maintain conventional and alternative energy systems. USAID improved infrastructure through the rehabilitation of a major urban water facilities providing access to clean water to 120,000 beneficiaries. The capacity of local construction companies was enhanced and employment opportunities created, both in the construction of water systems and the long-term maintenance operations. Regulations have been established that have opened the path for private sector management of public water supply.

3) **Humanitarian Assistance:** The timely and accurate dissemination of early warning information led to a tailored UN assistance program for the drought-affected Sool Plateau region assisting 1200 households and the development of a water rehabilitation program by an international NGO. Improved vulnerability analysis in the conflict-ridden Buale region led to an effective humanitarian response by the ICRC. USAID Food Aid distribution in southern Somalia helped avert starvation. A total of 27,900 metric tons of food reached more than 650,000 beneficiaries. Through our OFDA program, 140,000 children under five years of age were immunized against preventable diseases in drought-affected areas of central and southern Somalia; 41,000 insecticide-treated bed nets were provided to pregnant women and children at subsidized prices to combat malaria; cholera reduction activities provided supplies, chlorinated wells and educated people about how the disease is transmitted; 100,000 sachets of re-hydration salts were distributed through health centers; 11,000 malnourished children were provided with fortified supplementary food every month; and 333,000 people were provided with access to clean water following the repair of 151 rural bore-hole wells and hand dug wells.

Gender: Attention to gender is key to development work in Somalia, particularly given the new risks and responsibilities that women have been forced to bear in the aftermath of the civil war. USAID has

supported research on gender issues as a major pillar in prompting new thinking about the future of Somali society. USAID addresses gender by increasing women's participation in civil society, promoting women's legal advocacy, increasing primary school retention for girls and involving mother's in community education committees and increasing the number of female teachers. In addition, the participation of women in USAID's economic diversification program is strong and the most active business partner in the program is composed of three women from the Somali Diaspora that have returned to live in Somaliland. Humanitarian assistance supports maternal and child health and thereby includes gender concerns across the board.

Country Close and Graduation:

Results Framework

649-001 Improved foundation for food crop production in target areas

649-002 Critical needs met for targeted vulnerable groups

649-003 Increased community capacity to meet its own needs

649-004 Strengthened Capacity for Local Governance and Conflict Mitigation

SO Level Indicator(s):

4.0. Number of policies changed in accordance with CSOs advocacy agenda

Number of policies changed in accordance with CSOs advocacy agenda

IR 4.2 Increased Partnerships among Private sector, Public sector and Civil Society

IR 4.3 Enhanced Institutional Foundation for rule of Law

IR.4.1 Broader More effective Participation of Civil society Organizations in Local Governance

649-005 Increased Opportunities for Productive Livelihoods

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of businesses started or expanded as a result of having new or improved access to energy sources

IR 5.1 Improved Infrastructure and Services for Productive Enterprises

IR 5.2 Economic Targets of Opportunity Exploited

IR 5.3 Increased Productive Areas Where UXOs Are No Longer a Threat

649-006 Critical Needs Met for Vulnerable Groups

SO Level Indicator(s):

Percent of beneficiaries with access to basic health care.

IR 6.1 Improved Quality and Availability of Health Care Services

IR 6.2 Increased access to Safe Water and Sanitation

IR 6.3 Effective Targeting and Delivery of Food Aid to Vulnerable Groups

IR 6.4 Improved Capacity for Disaster Preparedness and Response