



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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## SOMALIA

# U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION Fiscal Year 2009

### FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The political and security situation in Somalia showed signs of improvement and renewed hope in early 2009, after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops and the change of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) leadership, as a result of the Djibouti Peace Process. However, by May 2009, the security situation had deteriorated considerably in much of south-central Somalia with the escalation of attacks on the TFG by various armed anti-government groups. As a result of the increased fighting and insecurity, thousands of Somalis experienced renewed displacement and the disruption of trade. While there are efforts by the TFG to reach out to the opposition, the sporadic fighting and clashes continue in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the south. In Puntland, the selection of a new parliament and president increased hopes for improved political progress in the semi-autonomous region. However, the scourge of piracy continues off its waters. Disputes between the government and the opposition parties in Somaliland led to several delays in the Presidential elections and resulted in heightened tensions and threats to stability. A major push by the international community to find resolution to the political crisis in Somaliland led to improved dialogue and hopes for a presidential election in early 2010.

In this fluid and unpredictable environment, U.S. resources were focused on piloting a youth employment initiative; supporting national, regional, and local reconciliation efforts; supporting the development of stable, legitimate, and durable government institutions; increasing access and quality of basic education; and providing critical humanitarian assistance. These efforts have made significant progress. The United States is maximizing the impact of its assistance by working closely with other donor governments and the United Nations.

The United States Government (USG) continues to support efforts to improve the capacity of Somalis – government, state, and civil society – to develop and manage security sector reform. With U.S. assistance, over 450 police recruits are currently being trained at the Armo Police Academy in Puntland. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supported civil society and other partners to increase access to justice and legal aid for vulnerable groups. Over 115 individuals were provided legal assistance and representation while in custody. Critical capacity-building

support was provided to local institutions, such as the Association of Somalia Women's Lawyers and the law faculty at the Somali National University.

In April 2009, USAID completed a three-and-a-half year program that supported the strengthening of civil society organizations. As a result, 762 journalists were trained in professional journalism, 22 quick impact projects were supported benefiting 21,492 Somalis, 2,008 people were trained in conflict mitigation and resolution, 34 non-state media outlets received technical and financial support, and 24 civil society organizations and media advocacy campaigns were supported. USAID will continue to support the engagement of civil society, including the constitutional process in South Central, the elections in Somaliland, and peace-building opportunities throughout the country.

Despite the numerous security challenges in south central Somalia, some modest progress was made towards supporting the transitional process and strengthening the TFG. The USG strengthened the capacity of the TFG by providing substantial support towards rehabilitating and equipping offices, transportation, and communications. In Puntland and Somaliland, the USG supported the Ministries of Finance and Planning to set up Economic Management Units, which are providing technical support to their respective Ministries, and to the Cabinet on the formulation of fiscal policy, and to the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance on budget preparation.

With U.S. support, the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), despite its many challenges, has proven to be a key actor in maintaining the stability and continuity of institutions and, at times, has served as a guardian of the Transitional Federal Charter. As a result of U.S. support and technical assistance, the TFP undertook 8 consensus-building activities, and trained 26 groups in inclusive consensus-building techniques.

In Somaliland, the USG contributed to mediation efforts, behind-the-scenes consultations, and bilateral discussions to broker an agreement and contain peace. The USG funded an external assessment of the development of the final voter list that identified some immediate solutions to the process of "scrubbing" the voter list to remove duplications. The USG promoted citizen advocacy through support to a series of public dialogues and TV debates to provide education specifically targeted to Somaliland's traditionally marginalized communities, encouraging them to participate in the voter registration process.

Limited access to education is a serious challenge faced in Somalia. The primary gross enrollment rate in Somalia is only 28 percent. Ongoing fighting in southern Somalia resulted in many new displacements, leaving children and youth without opportunities for education. Drought throughout the country continues to have a negative impact on the education system as schools close, and teachers and families move out of areas in search of water. An estimated 63 percent of students in primary schools are boys, while only 37 percent are girls. Equal access to education by both boys and girls remains a big challenge. Despite the ever-changing security and political context in Somalia, the USG has made critical progress in extending access to basic education services for thousands of families and children in Somalia. The USG-funded School Environment and Education Development for Somalia program continued to target construction and rehabilitation of 441 classrooms throughout Somalia, providing access for 41,301 students to safe and quality learning environments. The USG trained 3,103 teachers, of which 426 were women, and formed 1,330 Community Education Committees in a wide range of skills that include leadership, community mobilization skills, school development plans, financial management, conflict management in schools, and gender equity in education. USG support through the Somali Interactive Radio Instruction Program (SIRIP) resulted in the establishment of 245 learning centers, recruitment of 245 internally displaced teachers, and enrollment of 23,746 out-of school learners in

Somaliland, Puntland, and the South Central Zone. In addition, SIRIP continued to support over 352,824 students attending 1,643 regular schools in the 3 zones.