



SOMALIA

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	8.95 million ^a
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	37% ^a
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	2.7 / 1.0% ^a
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	142/1000 live births ^b
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	19.1% ^b
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided. ^a World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database. ^b World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Somalia has been a largely stateless society since the fall of the Siad Barre government in 1991. Roughly two-thirds of the country, consisting of Somaliland in the northwest and Puntland in the northeast, are internationally “unrecognized”, although they each have governments and have been relatively peaceful compared to the south-central region. South Central Region includes the capital Mogadishu and is currently headed by a Transitional Federal Government (TFG), formed in 2004. The TFG is recognized by the United Nations (UN), the United States, and others as the official representative government of Somalia. In 2009, extremists, led by al-Shabaab, took control of most of the south-central region, and the TFG maintains a limited presence in Somalia, largely operating out of Djibouti.

Major population shifts have occurred throughout the country since 1991. Fighting between the TFG and al-Shabaab in 2009 has exacerbated the migrations. In October 2009, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported 1.5 million internally displaced persons in Somalia, in addition to 515,000

Somali refugees in Kenya, Yemen, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Uganda.¹

In addition to political instability, Somalia has faced recent natural disasters, including a 2004 tsunami which destroyed several villages and contaminated fresh water supplies; severe ongoing drought; and torrential rains and localized flooding. In August 2009, UNHCR estimated 100,000 persons were recently displaced due to drought in eastern Somaliland.²

Somalia’s water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector hardly exists outside of the relatively stable Somaliland and Puntland regions, and estimated total coverage rates are low for both drinking water and sanitation, particularly in rural areas. South-central Somalia is devoid of truly effective 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 placed up-gradient of the water sources. This has caused frequent outbreaks of water-related diseases, including cholera and diarrhea. Recent estimates

WATER AVAILABILITY IN SOMALIA	
Renewable freshwater resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (2008)	672 ^c
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2007)	378 ^c
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	605 ^d
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided. ^c UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i>. “Freshwater resources” refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries. ^d Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from <i>World Bank WDI Database</i> (population) and <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i> (water resources).</small>	

¹ UNHCR. *Somali Civilians Bearing Brunt of Latest Upsurge in Fighting* (2009).
² UNHCR. *Somalia: Desperate Water Shortage in Somaliland* (2009).

suggest that only 30 percent of the total population in Somalia have access to a clean, sustainable water source and only 23 percent have access to improved sanitation.³ Due to recent mass migrations, the numbers are likely to have changed.

WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Before 1991, 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 conflict. Presently, most WSS infrastructure is either damaged or has been poorly maintained, 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 UN and other humanitarian donors. For example, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided support to the Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources in Somaliland in the development of a Water Policy, National Water Strategy and 2004 Water Act.

In the absence of a central government for much of the last two decades, a local private sector has developed to fill the void in providing WSS services. Entrepreneurs throughout the country have built cement catchments, drilled private boreholes, or shipped water from public systems in the cities. Remarkably, some water supply operations showed a slight improvement over pre-war conditions.

Somaliland and Puntland have attempted to reorganize 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 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.

Mogadishu's operational sewerage system is only a fraction of its pre-war level, and sanitation has received much less attention among government

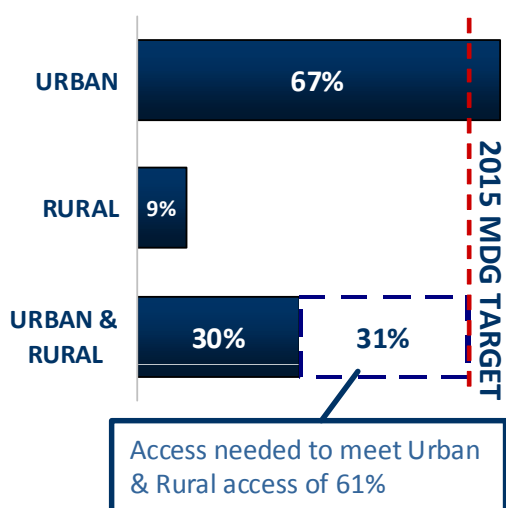
³ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update.*

KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

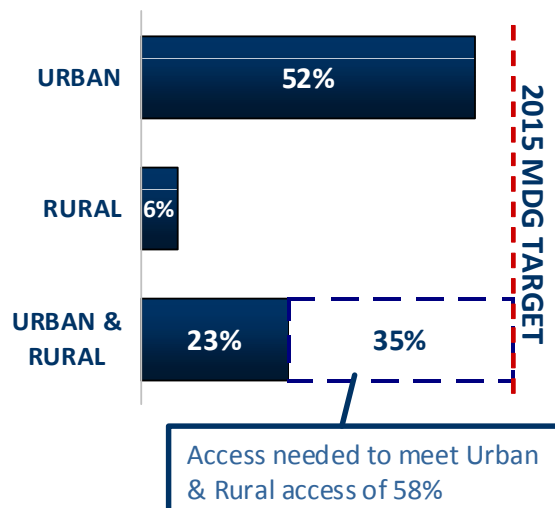
Agency	Description	Contact Information
The Ministry of Mineral and Water Resources, TFG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFG ministry overseeing management of water resources. 	Mr. Muhammad Abdullahi Omar Minister
The Ministry of Public Works and Housing, TFG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFG ministry overseeing management and development of infrastructure. 	Mr. Mohamed Abdi Yusuf Minister
The Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources, Somaliland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somaliland ministry overseeing management of water resources. 	Mr. Qasim Sheekh Yusuf Minister Tel: 252-225-8766
The Ministry of Public Works, Somaliland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somaliland ministry overseeing management and development of infrastructure. 	Mr. Siciid Sulub Minister 252-225-3431/3496
Consortium of Somaliland NGOs, Somaliland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO coordination in Somaliland. 	Mr. Mohamed Elmi Aden Executive Director Tel: 253-22-5415
The Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, Puntland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puntland ministry overseeing management and development of infrastructure. 	Mr. Abdullahi Ali Hersi Minister
The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puntland ministry overseeing rural development. 	Mr. Ali Awaare Minister
Baidoa Water Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runs water system for portion of Baidoa. 	Mr. Corde Hussein Mohamed
Mumin Global Service Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates water system serving section of Baidoa. 	Mr. Aden Musa
Farjanno Water Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates the Jowhar Water System. 	
Golden Utilities Management Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates the Bossaso Water System. 	

institutions than other issues. In the absence of a public sector provider, individual waste 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

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2008



Data Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*. Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

landfills without consideration of public health or environmental degradation.

THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Public water service is only operational in Somaliland and Puntland. Most water companies are local investor-owned operations with local business people as shareholders. Some companies have performed better than expected, particularly in the cities of Boroma, Bosasso and Jowhar. Where water companies provide service, government authority over water planning, policy, and regulation has been limited and is virtually non-existent in the south-central region.

Investor-owned water companies do not typically function well without considerable outside donor assistance. However, some companies have had mild success in transitioning from a municipal agency to a public-private partnership. For example, Jowhar, a town of 40,000 in Southern Somalia, has been served by the Farjanno Water Company, which operated under a concession from the regional Middle Shabelle Authority and included representatives of key clans. In addition to Farjanno, other PPPs were able to reproduce similar arrangements with success. PPPs were developed in 2000 in Bossaso, the largest city in Puntland; in 2003 in Galkayo, Puntland and Borama, Somaliland; and more recently in Garowe, Puntland in 2005.

A high number of persons use community latrines since sewer systems servicing individual households are limited. Migrations from rural areas have placed added pressure on the few systems 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. Few latrines are equipped with septic tanks and most 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

Much of Somalia's rural areas are water-scarce, experiencing severe droughts followed by severe flooding. Local populations are particularly vulnerable because of their limited resources and adaptive capacity. Brutal fighting over the control of water sources has erupted in localized areas where water scarcity has increased further. For example, fighting over a watering hole in Rabdore in northern Somalia resulted in hundreds of deaths in what became known locally as the War of the Well.⁴

⁴ Washington Post. *Dying for Water in Somalia's Drought* (2006).

Humanitarian agencies have had to implement major water trucking operations and other measures to provide water to drought-affected communities on multiple occasions. Humanitarian agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the donor community significantly scaled-up efforts in the past few years to improve access to water in rural areas through the creation of boreholes. However, these efforts are limited due to security problems caused by the ongoing conflict.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Donor involvement in Somalia's WSS sector is primarily a humanitarian operation. According to the UN, total available humanitarian funding stood at US \$571 million as of November 2009. Very little focus is 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. Other major donors have included 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 UNICEF, provide significant assistance as well.

Humanitarian aid has been increasingly stressed since 2007, with several humanitarian aid workers being killed and the al-Shabaab militia taking over and looting humanitarian assistance compounds. In addition, in November 2009, al-Shabaab announced a ban of all aid bearing the United States flag within their areas of control.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION ^e
United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water, sanitation and hygiene support; ▪ Drought disaster response; ▪ Donor aid coordination. 	Lilian Nduta lilian.nduta@undp.org Tel: 254-20-4448434
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large in-country presence, providing humanitarian and development assistance. 	Christian Balslev-Olesen Tel: 254-20-7623950/53/55/70 Cbalslev-olesen@unicef.org
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water projects financial support. 	Georges-Marc Andre
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water and sanitation access development. 	

^eContact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.

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Additional information and sources that aided in the completion of this report include: the UN and World Bank *Somali Joint Needs Assessment – Infrastructure Cluster Report* (September 2006); UNICEF, *Urban water and sanitation in Somalia Profile* (2007); UN-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Monthly Cluster Report on Humanitarian Response in Somalia* (September 2008); and UNICEF – *Public-Private Partnerships Bring Sustainable Safe Water to Somali Communities* (September 2009).

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