



COUNTRY PROFILE



J. SHANOR/ADRA

A master mechanic, Shariif Butaan (far left) teaches the mechanics of solar-powered engines in a USAID-sponsored program to bring electricity to parts of Somalia whose infrastructure have been destroyed by years of fighting.

OVERVIEW

Somalia has been without a central government since 1991. After numerous failed attempts at state-building, a five-year interim Transitional Federal Government (TFG) began work in 2004. The President, Prime Minister, and Parliamentarians reflect a delicate balance of representatives across most clans and sub-clans. The current situation is extremely fragile, with sharp divisions within the TFG and the emergence of the rival Islamic Court Militias. Somaliland, in the northwest, and Puntland in the northeast, maintain autonomous and relatively stable governments. In addition, chronic food insecurity and extraordinarily high malnutrition levels persist throughout the country. USAID focuses on humanitarian assistance, conflict mitigation, civil society expansion, and broader access to education and health services.



PROGRAMS

REINFORCING CONFLICT-MITIGATION CAPACITY

USAID and other donors are encouraging Somali peace processes, both nationally and locally. USAID supports peace and reconciliation efforts at national, regional and local levels. The work, carried out by three local affiliate 'think tanks', contributes to internal conflict resolution efforts, creates space for political dialogue, empowers the public to speak out regarding key issues, and increases pressure on Somali political leaders to respect the rights and concerns of the people.

PROMOTING CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society organizations perform a critical role by providing access to social services such as education, income-generation activities, health, potable water and food distribution, as well as promoting peace. USAID is a staunch supporter of civil society development, which is reflected in the flourishing civil society environment at present. USAID also supports political party development which led to successful legislative elections in Somaliland on September 29, 2005. By electing a new parliament, Somaliland is completing its formal transition to elective democracy and now has a constitution that was overwhelmingly approved by popular referendum, a democratically elected president and municipal governments, and a parliament that is directly accountable to the people.

SOMALIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960
Population: 9.6 million (estimate)
Income per person: n/a

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

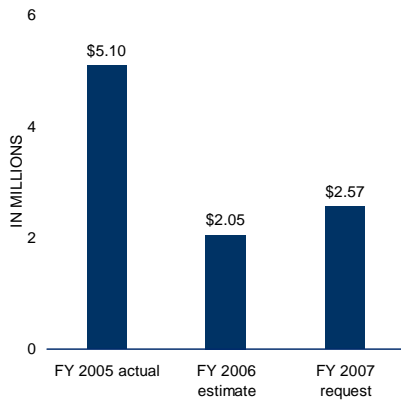
USAID IN SOMALIA

www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/countries/somalia

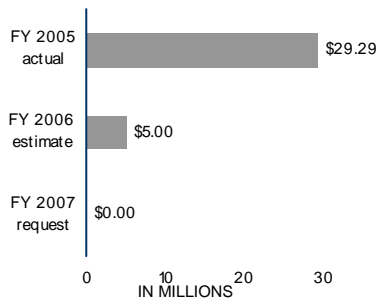


COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA



USAID FOOD AID TO SOMALIA



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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IMPROVING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Estimated primary school enrollment rates in Somalia are only 20 percent. USAID has rehabilitated 15 schools, increased enrollments, and provided scholarships to young women from three different regions of Somaliland to attend a teacher education college. USAID visited these young scholars' home villages to encourage parents there to send their daughters to school.

An interactive basic radio education program was launched in October 2005 that aims to reach 65,000 primary school students throughout Somalia in the first year. The program broadcasts carefully developed and tested interactive radio programs in English, math, and life skills for grades 1-2 along with developing and distributing supplemental learning materials. A girls' scholarship program under the African Education Initiative was launched in Somaliland and Puntland in late 2005 and is providing scholarships to 600 female students.

USAID supports urban water and rural water development and is in the process of developing a program that contribute to increased and sustainable access to water services for the populations of Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba, particularly the urban and rural poor and other disadvantaged groups such as displaced people and to contribute to improved household hygiene and better sanitation.

In response to the ongoing drought in Somalia USAID is providing of emergency food aid supplies including cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend. The program includes drought response, food for work, food for teachers, school feeding, maternal and child health activities and support to Tuberculosis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus patients. USAID also supports humanitarian assistance programs focused on health and nutrition, asset and livelihood recovery, water and sanitation programs.