

## Somalia Human Development Report 2012

### Empowering Youth for Peace and Development

#### Human Development in Somalia

- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of development, which takes into account average achievements in three basic dimensions of human development — a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living — for any country.
- Somalia's HDI is 0.285 out of 1.0, which shows how low the country ranks in terms of health, income and education and development in general.
- Somalia would rank 165 out of 170 countries in the 2010 Global Human Development Report if internationally comparable data were available.
- Life expectancy in Somalia is 50 years, up from 47 in 2001.
- Out of the three key dimensions used to measure a country's development, in Somalia, education is the lowest at 0.118 out of 1, followed by income at 0.253 out of 1 and health slightly higher at 0.486 out of 1.
- Humanitarian assistance for Somalia per capita (per average per person) was US\$ 80.10 in 2008, four times the per capita aid for development.

#### Poverty

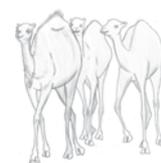
- The multidimensional poverty index (MPI) identifies multiple deprivations in the form of ten indicators of health, education and standard of living for each person surveyed. The MPI, which more specifically focuses on more aspects of poverty than the HDI does, uses household data to reflect the proportion of population who are poor in various dimensions and the depth of poverty.
- About 82% of Somalis (99% of the nomadic population) are poor across multiple dimensions.
- Somalia's MPI is 0.47 out of 1, placing Somalia at 94 out of 104 countries if ranked in the 2010 global Human Development Report.
- Somalia's low MPI can be mainly attributed to low standards of living (50%), followed by low levels of education (32%) and dismally low access to good health (19%).
- Overall, 73% of Somalis live on under US \$2 per day.

#### Somali Youth

- Youth in Somalia (14-29 years)<sup>1</sup> comprise 42% of the population.
- The youth population in Somalia may continue to swell due to high fertility rates, estimated at 6.2 births<sup>2</sup> per women between 2010 and 2015.
- Youth exclusion, resentment and grievances are fuel for conflict escalation and risky behaviours — a formidable social cost.
- Conflict, poverty, being jobless and voiceless leave youth frustrated. The overall frustration index that captures the nine socioeconomic and political factors among Somali youth surveyed for the HDR scores as high as 3.96 out of 5. The highest levels are 4.3 in south central Somalia, followed by 3.7 up north.
- The unemployment rate for youth is 67%—one of the highest rates in the world; women lose out more, with unemployment rates at 74%, compared to men at 61%.
- Over 60% of youth have intentions to leave the country for better livelihood opportunities.
- Almost four-fifths of youth respondents in south central Somalia, compared to less than half in Somaliland and Puntland, strongly agreed that youth suffer more social, economic and political exclusion than other groups.
- The HDR recommends that empowerment, particularly of youth, serves as the centrepiece of human development for an inclusive and productive society.

<sup>1</sup> The survey conducted for the Somalia Human Development Report used 14-29 years as a parameter for youth following consultations with various Somali stakeholders, including young Somali men and women.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF Somalia. Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2007.



## The plight of women in Somalia

- Somalia ranks second to Afghanistan as the worst country worldwide for women.<sup>3</sup> Gender-based violence and discrimination against Somali women is widespread, cutting across all social and economic strata, and is deeply embedded in the Somali culture.
- Women suffer more exclusion and inequality than men in the health dimension, followed by empowerment and labour market participation.
- The Gender Inequality Index (GII) shows the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity. The GII varies between zero (when women and men fare equally) and one (when men or women fare poorly compared to the other in all dimensions).
- Somalia's GII is alarmingly high, at 0.773, close to the maximum value of 1, which shows extreme gender inequality.
- Women and children comprise 70-80% of refugees and internally displaced people in Somalia.
- Almost one-third (27%) of the young women interviewed were neither in school nor employed, compared to 15% of their male counterparts.

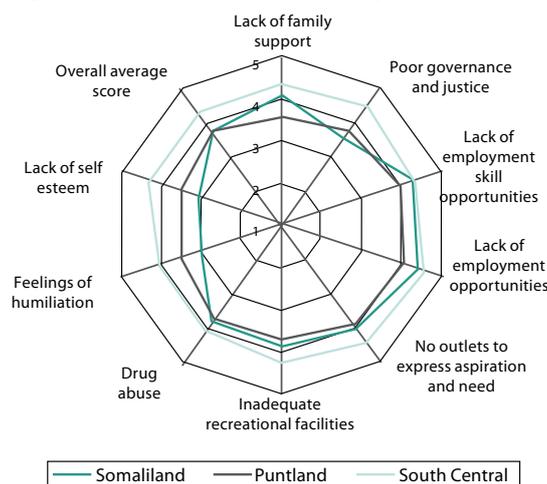
## Health

- About 73% of youth rated the quality of health facilities they had access to as poor.
- Eight percent of youth respondents chew khat, a narcotic that is known to contribute to psychosocial problems, crime and poverty;<sup>4</sup> 11% smoke; and less than 2% use illicit drugs, although under-reporting is common in most surveys on these issues.
- Four percent of youth surveyed were living with disabilities. Among them, 47% had physical disabilities and the rest mental disabilities.
- Although approximately 90% of youth have heard about HIV and AIDS, only 11.1% of young women and men aged between 15-24 can correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and correct major misconceptions about HIV transmission (8.7% of men and 13.4% of young women).<sup>5</sup>

## Youth Charter

- The Youth Charter for Somalia emanated from the extensive consultations with youth in Somalia during the production of the HDR.
- The Youth Charter presents the aspirations, perceptions and needs of young Somalis, while serving as a guiding set of principles that the government, development agencies and civil society can abide by to engage, include and empower youth positively while designing and implementing development programmes effectively.

Figure 3: Youth Frustration and Underlying Causes



This illustration shows the frustrations that young Somali women and men have and their causes. The lack of employment opportunities seems to be the major cause for frustration, followed by the lack of employable skills and no outlets to express their needs and aspirations.

<sup>3</sup> CARE International 2010. A report shedding light on the greatest challenges women face on a global scale. Southern Times Writer 12-03-2010, [www.southerntimesafrica.com/article.php](http://www.southerntimesafrica.com/article.php)

<sup>4</sup> World Bank. "Conflict in Somalia: Drivers and Dynamics," January 2005.

<sup>5</sup> IOM and Somaliland, Puntland and South Central AIDS Commissions Youth Behavioural Study 2011.



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### Note:

- Somaliland reference is to the unilateral self-declared Northwest regions of Somalia - since 1991. Puntland reference is to the Puntland State of Federal Somalia, which represents parts of Northeast regions of Somalia - since 1998.
- For elaborate sources and calculations for the indices presented, kindly refer to the UNDP Somalia Human Development Report 2012.