

REGIONAL PROFILE - BARI

OVERVIEW OF THE REGION

1. The coastal region of Bari is the largest of the three North East regions, covering an area of approximately 65,000 square kilometres. It consists of six recognized districts: Gardo, Bender-Beyla, Ishkushuban, Alula, Kandala and Bosasso. The regional capital is Gardo, although as home to the port and economic centre of the region, Bosasso is perhaps the more important town. Bari, like the rest of the North-East, is not densely populated. The region is heartland of the Majerteen Clan, and is dominated by the major sub-clan of Osman Mahamud. The other subclans in the region are: Siwakroi, Obeneya, Beshsihe, Ali Jibrahail, K.Tahle and Suletmaji.

2. Being fairly homogeneous, the region escaped most of the ravages of the civil war. With a few exceptions, there was little destruction of buildings or looting of property. There are large numbers of new urban poor in the region, displaced from the southern and central Somalia as a result of the civil war. Many of their families are originally from the Northeast. In addition, many members of the Mogadishu elite originally from the North-East who fled the city during the civil war and settled in Bari. In a number of areas, especially Bosasso, the new urban poor outnumber established residents: something like 75% of the population of Bosasso (pre-war estimated population 30-40,000) are thought to be new urban poor.

EDUCATION

24. The presence of large numbers of new urban poor has a double impact on the provision of education. Many new urban poor families are occupying public buildings including many former schools, which makes refurbishment of the buildings impossible until alternative arrangements for housing them can be found. The large numbers of new urban poor also mean that there are many more children to educate such that even if all former schools were restored, there would still be insufficient capacity to meet the education requirements of the region.

25. Those primary and intermediate schools currently operating, both public, which rely upon voluntary community contributions, and private, are doing so with the support of international organizations with staff working on a volunteer basis. There are no secondary schools currently operating. The pre-war curriculum and text books are widely used. The curriculum usually includes Somali, Arabic, English, Arithmetic, Reading, Religion and Social Studies. Somali Women's Association in Bosasso is presently supporting a number of public schools and is planning to establish a program of Adult Education. There are also home economics schools which teach handicrafts, sewing and cooking, a number of private language schools and a computer training school.

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