



Trócaire

Somalia Education Programme

A case for urgent support

Pupils in Waaberi Primary School, one of the 15 schools supported by Trócaire in Somalia. Photo: A.Gichigi (2013)

Somalia Overview

Somalia is one of the world's poorest countries, beset by clan-based conflict and violence, drought, food insecurity and the mass displacement of its people for over 20 years.

The country's instability led to the crippling of its social, economic and political structures, limiting the (then) government's ability to provide basic services. In 2011, the country suffered a major drought and famine, impacting over 4 million people. Today, the humanitarian situation remains stark with approximately 870,000 people in need of life-saving assistance.

The establishment of a national federal government in 2012 has revived hopes for Somalia's ability to move towards stability and improved governance. The government is notably working towards reviving its public institutions to help ensure access to services for its citizens. However, the country still faces major challenges, including food insecurity, violent conflict, disease, as well as climate-related shocks.

Population	10.2 million
Life expectancy	54 years
GNI Per Capita	\$107
Infant mortality rate	108 deaths per 1,000 live births
Number of children acutely malnourished	206,000
Rural population with access to improved water source	7%
Number of Internally Displaced Persons	1,122,559
Literacy rate (est.)	37.8%

Data sourced from: World Bank, UNdata, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNHCR, and UNESCO



Former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, accompanied by Trócaire staff, meets with mothers and children who are attending Trócaire's Dollow Health Centre in Somalia. Photo: Jennifer O'Gorman (2011)

Key Humanitarian Challenges in Somalia

- Food insecurity remains a major concern in Somalia. While the situation has improved since the 2011 Famine, approximately 870,000 people are currently unable to meet basic food requirements without assistance, and a further 2.3 million only barely meet their food needs and rely on much needed support.
- Somalia has one of the world's lowest enrolment rates for primary school aged children. Approximately 42% of children are in school. Of those, only 36% are girls. The number of out of school and at risk children and youth (aged 6-18 years) is estimated at 4.4 million.
- Health status in the country is extremely poor, with rates of maternity and infant mortality amongst the worst in the world. In 2013, Polio resurfaced in the country after a six year absence, enabled by gaps in vaccination provision, and exacerbated by poor sanitation and mobile populations. By October 2013 an estimated 600,000 children in the least accessible parts of southern and central Somalia were at high risk of contracting the disease. Currently 206,000 children under five years old are acutely malnourished, 41,000 of whom suffer from severe acute malnutrition.
- Somalia continues to experience sporadic conflict, which coupled with increasing poverty and the effects of the 2011 famine, has led to the mass displacement of women, men and children. Insurgency by anti-government forces, most notably the armed group *Al-Shabaab*, has increased insecurity in the country. Civilian populations are often caught up in battles for the control of territory and the numbers of civilian casualties are high.
- Somalia remains one of the most challenging and difficult environments in the world to deliver humanitarian assistance. Access to assist vulnerable communities is very limited due to the ongoing security situation and to the targeting of humanitarians by certain groups.

TRÓCAIRE IN Somalia

Trócaire has been working in Somalia since 1992, providing humanitarian and livelihood assistance to vulnerable communities. It has also been at the forefront of raising awareness in Ireland and abroad about the humanitarian situation in the country, and calling for a strong international response to crises.

Trócaire's geographical focus in Somalia is the **Gedo** region, in the south-west of the country, where major programme activities focus on the provision of primary health care and education, including nutritional rehabilitation for severely malnourished children.

Trócaire's programmes in Somalia are implemented in partnership with local communities but have more operational elements than Trócaire would normally undertake. These programmes adopt a long-term development approach to addressing the widespread humanitarian needs in the region.

An integrated Health Programme has been in place since 2001, supporting health service provision to approximately 220,000 people, through three district hospitals, five maternal health centres, three TB centres, 50 health posts and five outreach teams.

As a result of working for over 20 years with local communities, Trócaire is trusted and well accepted as a neutral and impartial actor in this often volatile region. This has allowed Trócaire to continue to operate in areas where other international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have been expelled.



Gedo Region circled in red. Image based on UN map 3690 Rev.10



Little Ubah enjoys her lunch at the Belet Amin Primary School. School feeding is part of Trócaire's approach to providing primary education in Somalia, by ensuring children get a daily nutritious meal as part of their learning. Photo: A.Gichigi (2013)

Trócaire's Education Programme

Trócaire has been supporting education provision in Somalia for the past twenty years. Throughout this period, access has been limited due to insecurity and violent conflict. School infrastructure has been badly damaged and many of the schools now operate in temporary structures. In addition to this, conflict and drought have contributed to food insecurity, high levels of malnutrition, as well as mass displacement among vulnerable communities.

Despite these challenges, there is considerable demand for education opportunities in the districts supported by Trócaire. Many parents view education as the only hope of a sustainable future for their children and for their communities.

Who are Trócaire's Partners?

Community Education Committees (CECs) are groups established by local communities and tasked with the management of schools and teachers. The committees are made up of parents and elders from the localities.

Nomadic Assistance for Peace and Development (NAPD) is a non-profit, non-sectarian, local organisation. NAPD's mission is to facilitate livelihood improvement through emergency relief, recovery and developmental programmes.



Ahmed Hassan Amin teaches English at the Waaberi Primary School. Photo: A. Gichigi (2013)



THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAMME IS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BASIC QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR DROUGHT AND WAR AFFECTED CHILDREN.

What is the Goal of the Programme?

To improve access to basic quality primary education for drought and war affected children.

How will this be achieved?

The Education Programme is carried out through two main initiatives:

1. Emergency Education Intervention

This initiative supports enrolment of primary school children by providing quality education and improving school infrastructure, including the construction of temporary classrooms and the provision of hand washing facilities. It also contributes to school functionality through the supply of basic school and learning materials, the provision of salaries and skills training to 100 teachers, and the strengthening of management capacities through school management training.

2. School Feeding

This initiative helps to maintain school attendance and enrolment by providing one basic nutritious meal to children per day during school. It also helps to reduce the extent of worm infections in school-going children and ultimately, improve their health, learning capacity and growth.



Pupils at Belet Amin Primary School line up to wash their hands before lunch. Photo: A. Gichigi (2013)

What are the benefits?

- **5,000** children will access basic quality primary education through this programme.
- **15** schools will receive support in strengthening infrastructural, teaching, and management capacities.
- By promoting girl's enrolment in school and creating an environment whereby girls continue education, this will help reduce early marriages¹ and thereby increase life choices.
- The opportunity to go to school creates for these war affected children a sense of permanency, normalcy and structure, which is often missing from their lives.
- By keeping children in school, the risk of boys joining militia groups is reduced.
- The families of these children can look forward to a better future and increased opportunities.

What will this programme specifically achieve?

- School enrolment is at least **5,000** by 2016.
- Girl's enrolment in each of the schools is at least **40%** by 2016.
- Attendance rates in all schools are maintained at **70%** by 2016.
- At least 5,000 children receive **one nutritious meal** daily in school.
- **Hand wash facilities** and **latrines** are available and utilised in schools.
- Teachers are **using modern pedagogical methods** and teaching aids.
- Assessment records show a measurable **improvement in learning outcomes**.

¹ According to UNICEF (2011) the percentage of children married in Somalia by the age of 15 is around 8%, with 45% married by the age of 18.

We urgently need your support!

Trócaire has been running this programme since 2011 from money raised through an Emergency Fund Appeal. These funds are fast depleting, and therefore Trócaire urgently needs to raise €500,000 / £412,000 towards the next three years of the programme.

We are now asking for contributions from donors, which will ensure that Trócaire can continue to improve access to basic quality primary education in Somalia. Updates will be forwarded to donors in order to provide feedback on the programme activities and the impact of funding provided.

Your contribution would make a real difference to the lives of drought and war affected children.

Khalid's Story

The 2009 Trócaire Lenten campaign was focused on the needs of people in the developing world who have been forced to leave their homes due to conflict.

Khalid and his sister Asma from Somalia, were featured on the Trócaire box that year. They moved to Mandera town on the Kenya-Somalia border in 2008 after fleeing their Mogadishu home, having been caught in crossfire between government forces and militants.

For the past four years, **Trócaire has supported Khalid's education.** Trócaire also supports the education of two of Khalid's siblings.

KHALID SAYS:

"I can't imagine not going to school. I wake up each morning at four o'clock and read for two hours. I want to be a surgeon so I can help people get well whenever they fall sick."

"I promise to build you [his mother] a house better than we have ever had. Just wait and see."

KHALID'S MOTHER SAYS:

"I can't measure my happiness when I see these children getting ready for school every morning. They can write and speak much better than I do and that makes me very proud and thankful to all who have helped us this far."



Khalid and his sister in 2009. Photo: Kim Haughton



Khalid doing his school work in 2013. Photo: A.Gichigi