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SOMALIA'S PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



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Research, Analysis and Forward Thinking

Somalia's Public Healthcare System



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Healthcare system prior to the 1990 civil war:

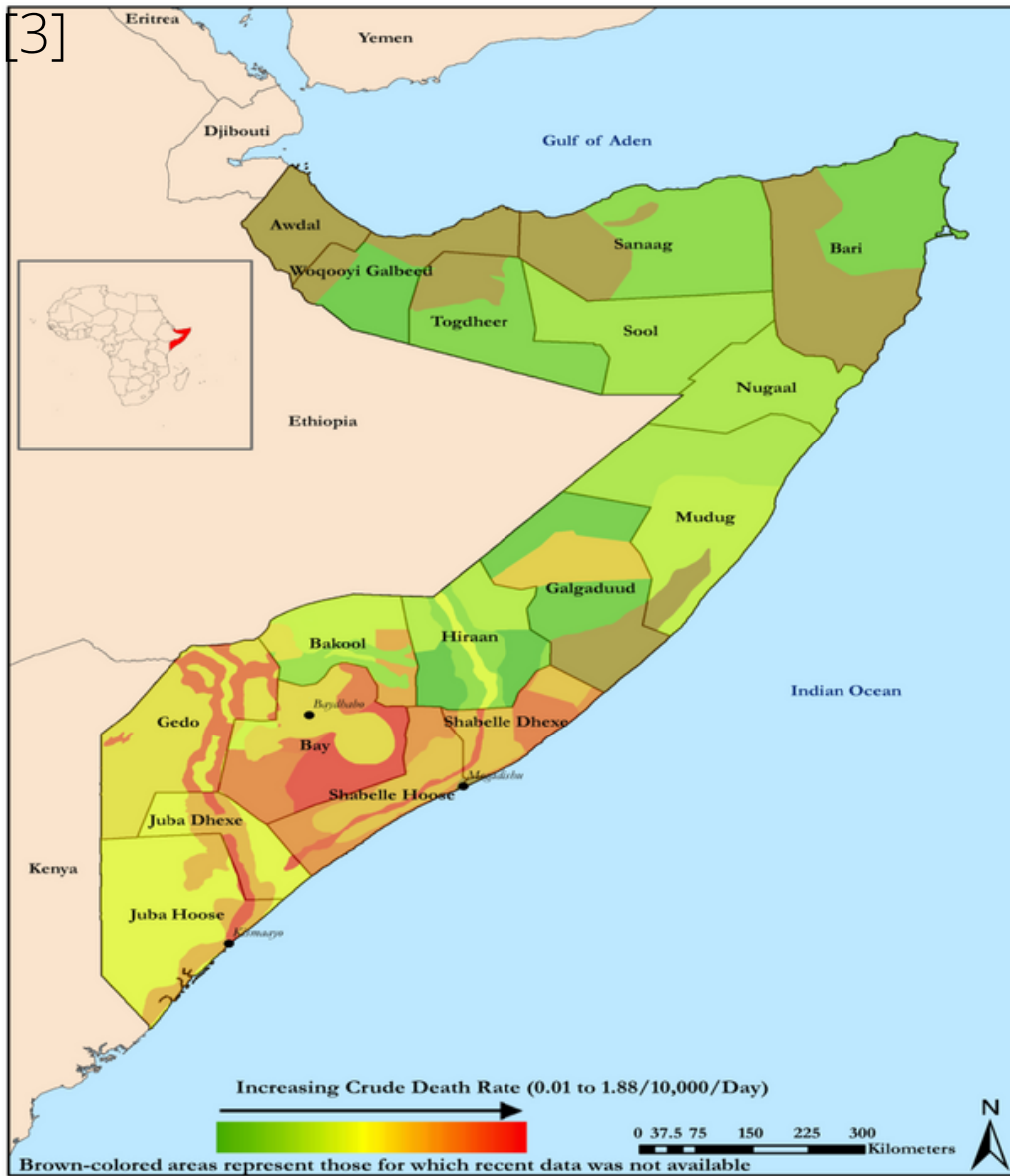
From the early 1980s to 1990, the healthcare system was stable. There were around 367 Doctors in various fields, the majority of them studied in Russia and were trained in countries such as Austria, Germany, Italy, the United States, and Canada. Somalia's healthcare system was at the same level as South Africa's, Egypt's, and Morocco's. Many individuals from neighboring nations, such as Ethiopia and Kenya, traveled to Somalia to receive medical care.

Child mortality and morbidity rates from 1985 to 1990:

- The percentage of one-year-olds who were fully vaccinated against measles increased from 30% to 40%. During the same time span, the prevalence of tuberculosis increased by almost 20%, from 31% to 50%. [2] [3]
- Consistent with the trend, the number of newborns with low birth weight decreased from 16 per 1000 to 0.3, a drop of 15 percent over the same time period. [2]
- The infant mortality rate per one thousand births decreased dramatically from 108 to 85.

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Life Expectancy in Somalia

- Life expectancy climbed from an average of 47 years for men and women in 1975–1980 to an average of 54 years for men and 57 years for women in the half-decade just before to the commencement of the conflict (1985–1990). [2] [3]
- Today, males live an average of 44 years and women live an average of 49 years. [2] [3]

Post Conflict period Somalia

- Due to war and political instability over the past three decades, healthcare has broken down and disintegrated. Various groups of looters have taken control of the entire health care system, meaning that standards have been dismantled.
- The lucrative private healthcare industry is rising.



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The Number of Medical Universities in Somalia[4]

- Mogadishu 24
- Puntland 7
- Somaliland 21
- Kismayo/Gedo/Hiiraan/Galmudug no data
- Not listed are Baidoa Medical Institute (BMI)
- Colleges and Midwifery-Schools.

Compare this to the United States, where sixty medical schools serve a population of ten million. The 37 medical schools in Germany serve a population of 83 million people. Three medical schools exist for every eight million people in Austria.



Dr. Hassan Ibrahim with the eldest and oldest employee of the Baidoa hospital. Employee since 1963

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Quality & Quantity

- *Each year over one thousand medical students graduate in Somalia and become physicians.*
- *Every year, the number of low-quality services increases.*
- *There are no competent doctors/trainers for Defective Control Systems.*
- *No one is aware of the number of physicians and specialists because there is no register in existence.*
- *There is neither a governmental nor an independent regulatory body for doctors.*

Shortage of Specialists

- *OB/GYN\ Labs*
- *Radiologist Pediatrician etc.*

As expected, post-traumatic stress disorder is prevalent in all countries that have experienced a civil war (PTSD). There is not a single Psychiatrist or Psychologist in all of Southwest-Somalia.

Consequences of the ongoing civil war in SWS include weak transportation linkages between urban and rural areas, the depletion of skilled physicians, regular bombardment, lack of security, and inadequate medical access.

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2020 visit to Baidoa Hospital



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South-West Somalia's health sector strategic plans and aid

- Co - ordination of local and global efforts (Diaspora).
- Strengthen the amount of time spent in conversation between specialized disciplines at conventions and conferences.
- Engage in and contribute to numerous events communities devoted to exchanging knowledge and resources, such as the RSF's Power Talk Platform.
- Encourage and highlight the significance of diaspora physicians connecting with their local counterparts.
- Create a knowledges exchange electronic platform to assist local physicians.
- Gather a team of doctors from the diaspora who are willing to spend two to four weeks per year traveling to the southern region of Somalia to participate in theoretical and practical training. Specialists, midwives, nurses, logopedists, physiotherapists, and psychologists are all types of physicians that are most needed.

Lang gunding yaa tiing Gergaaree

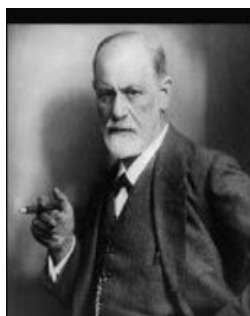
(Someone who is ready to be helpded can be helped)
Af Somali Maay Proverb

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References

- [1] United Nations Population Fund, 'Project Embera-wera: An experience of culture UNFPA, December 2015, <<http://unfpa.org.co/> United Nations Children's Fund, A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change,
- [2] New data on male HIV prevention: policy and programme implications: conclusions and recommendations. WHO/UNAIDS Research Implications for Policy and Programming.
- [3] New WHO Clinical Handbook for Women and Girls Living with Female Genital Mutilation. 2018
- [4] Somali health minister Archive
- [5] Conversations with retired somali Medical officers.



Wenn wir die Gründe für das Verhalten der anderen verstehen könnten, würde plötzlich alles einen Sinn ergeben.

(Sigmund Freud)

Restore Somalia Foundation (RSF) utilizes community resources, conducts research, campaigns for change, and supports and shares study results for implementation in order to provide attainable answers to the challenges faced by the Somali people. Using research-based solutions and mediations, promote the rule of law, good governance, and state-building. Additionally, empower the people through education, workshops, and conferences. Establish legitimacy through democratic processes in order to construct trust and peace as a leading civic society. RSF supports advocacy and reconciliation through dialogue. The initiatives are built on the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals.

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