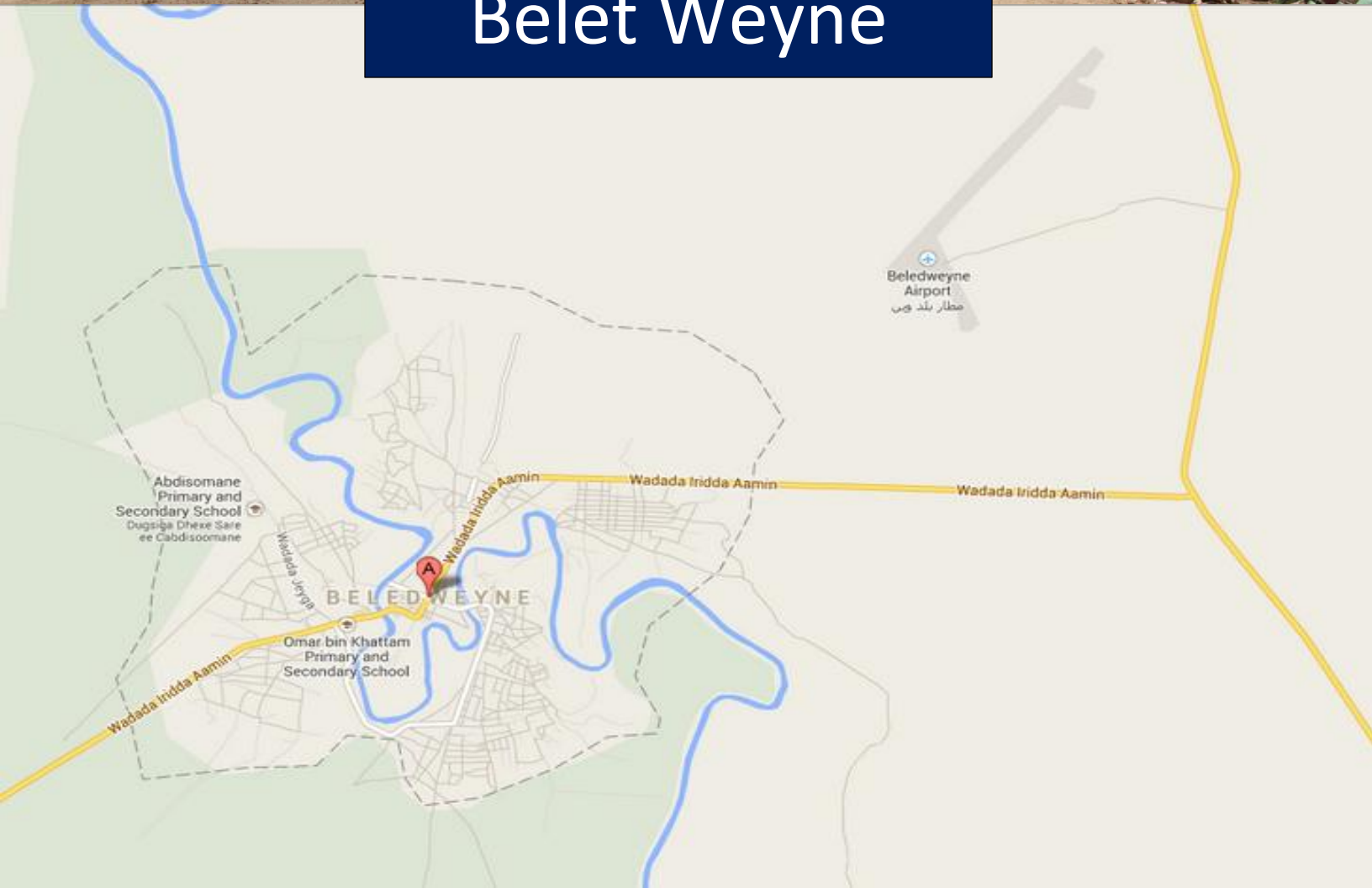


Sector IV Profile



Belet Weyne



Overview

Belet Weyne, located 335 kilometers North of Mogadishu is Somalia's fifth largest city and the capital of the Hiraan region. Neighboring eastern Ethiopia, the Hiraan region has the famous Shabelle River flowing through its three main districts of Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte and Jalalaqsi.

The Shabelle River streams through the entire Belet Weyne city creating its eastern and western neighborhoods which are joined together by the Liiq liqato Bridge. Four smaller districts including Buundoweyn, Howlwadaag, Kooshin and Haawotaako represent the entire regional capital separating its major clans and sub-clans who inhabit the area.

In the past two decades, the people of the Hiraan region like other areas of Somalia have suffered continued instability, war, poverty and a lot of internal displacement. After the fall of the Siad Barre regime, the Hiraan region fell into major inter-clan conflict with warlords and faction leaders fighting over the control of Belet Weyne. In 2006, the area was liberated from the Islamic Court Union movement (ICU) by the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) alongside the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) who have been present in the area ever since.

In 2012, The Djiboutian contingent of the African Union Mission in Somalia joined the leadership over the security of Belet Weyne as well as the wider Hiraan province alongside the Federal Government of Somalia and its National Security forces.

Fact Box

- Distance from Mogadishu: 335 km - North
- Major languages: Somali and Arabic spoken by Hawadle and Gaal Je'el clans
- Major religion: Islam
- Population: 329,811 with a 79/21 percent rural/urban divide
- Life expectancy: 50 years (men), 53 years (women)
- Monetary unit: Somali shilling (SSh)
- Key industries: Livestock production (Camels, Cattle, Goat), Agriculture production (maize, sesame, rice, fruits and vegetables, oil seeds).
- Internet domain: .so
- International Dialing code: +252
- Major clans in the district: Hawiye clans- Hawadle, Galjecel, Jejele, Makane.

Political Actors

1. Hiraan Governor - Abdi Farah Laqanyo (As of July 2013)
2. Hiraan Deputy Governor - Mohamed Ibrahim Ali
3. Mayor of Belet Weyne - Abdi Bishar Adan (Colonel Roha)

Security

AMISOM's military presence has had a huge impact on the security of Belet Weyne and the wider Hiraan region. The Djiboutian contingent with troop strength of 1,000 personnel has managed to resolve inter-clan disputes and facilitate the integration of local clan-militia into the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF).

In a bid to tighten security and maintain peace throughout the Hiraan region, AMISOM's Djiboutian contingent has developed mentoring and trainings schemes for newly recruited security forces and police personnel. So far, the Djiboutian troops have trained over 150 Somali police officers and 800 military troops with another 250 military personal currently under training. The trained soldiers and police personnel are participating in the maintenance of security throughout the entire Hiraan region.

Since the improvement of security in Belet Weyne, the number of defectors from Al-Shabaab has increased dramatically. To further strengthen the security of the region, the AMISOM Police Contingent deployed in Belet Weyne to develop the capacity of the Somali police.

Political persons



Figure 1 Hiraan Governor

The administration of Hiraan is composed of a Governor, a Deputy Governor, Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Governor of the region is Abdi Farah Laqanyo (pictured) who is the overall head of the region. His deputy is Mohamed Ibrahim Ali.

Bashir Aden, commonly known as Colonel Roha is the Mayor of Belet Weyne. The region's Somali National Army Chief is Colonel Tawane Ahmed.

All the above-mentioned persons are acting administrators and a permanent administration is yet to be elected.

Economic Activities:



Figure 2 Beletweyne Market

Located in the fertile Hiraan region, Belet Weyne has a significant importance to the country's national economic income. The regional capital is strategically located on a major trade gateway and social crossroads that connect the country to the north and south as well as eastern Ethiopia. Besides being a transport hub for inter-regional trade, the region is also a breadbasket for agricultural and livestock production.

Due to its locality, Belet Weyne serves as a core supplier of Livestock and agricultural products to the local and international markets via the Berbera and Bosaso seaports. Small size farmers cultivate maize, soybeans, ground nuts, sesame and sunflower seeds while large scale farmers cultivate a large variety of vegetable and fruits for export including mangoes, water melons, papaya, grapefruits and more.

The region also has a large Livestock market that brings together trades men from all corners of South and Central Somalia. Camels, cattle and goat are distributed daily throughout the country bringing in much needed trade.

Local Media:



Figure 3 Media house in Beletweyne

Radio: Radio is by far the largest media in the Hiraan region (as everywhere in Somalia). There are five main radio stations currently active in Belet Weyne, each having their headquarters across the Hiraan province. Radio Mustaqbal (HQs Mogadishu) has recently installed a new FM station in Belet Weyne (89.5 FM), which retransmits its programs from the Mogadishu branch but also has slots for local productions that are listened to across the wider Hiraan region.

Radio Bulsho 85.6FM
Radio Beledweyne 88.0FM
Radio Codka Hiiran 99.9FM

Radio Dhuusamareeb 88.8FM
Radio Galgadud 97.7FM

Online: The Hiraan region also has a growing online media presence that provides round the clock news on developments in politics, security and social change.

www.hiiraan.com
www.hiranweyn.com
www.hiiraan-gov.com
www.hiiraanblogs.wordpress.com

www.hiiraantimes.com
www.hiiraanka.com
www.hiranstate.com

Humanitarian:



Figure 4: AMISOM troops delivering medicine to Beletweyne market

Humanitarian projects in the Hiraan region have suffered due to continuous armed clashes and violence. Limited access to remote areas of the region has also limited much needed humanitarian response.

In 2009, Al-Shabaab banned humanitarian agencies from working in the region leaving many people in crisis. Before the ban, numerous local and international agencies provided projects that assisted drought affected pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, farmers, IDPS, returnees and hosting communities in the region.