

REGIONAL REPORT: G E D O R E G I O N

INTRODUCTION

Gedo region lies to the west of Mogadishu. It is bordered on the East by Bay and Bakool regions, on the West by Kenya with Middle Juba and Ethioph to the South and North, respectively. It is made up of six districts: Bardera, Garbaharey, El Wak, Belet Hawa, Dolo and Luuq, with a population estimated around 590,000. It is dominated mainly by the Marehan clan, but includes also the Rahanweyn, Ogaden, Harti clans and some Bantu. The majority of the population are nomad-pastoralists. Livestock production and farming constitute the main economic activity.

EDUCATION

In July, the Gedo region had 27 formal schools. Formal secular education has seen a sharp decline, while impromptu Koranic schools have mushroomed in almost all the major towns, villages and IDP camps. Even before the civil war, secular schools were beset by problems of proper school infrastructure, supplies and educational materials. There are no regional tertiary institutions.

Virtually all rehabilitation of school infrastructure has been carried out by NGOs and UN agencies. UNHCR rehabilitated the Bardera Primary School. The American Refugee Committee (IRC) did the same for the secondary school. The International Relief and Rehabilitation of Educational Services (IRRES), a Kenyan NGO, restored educational services and training for 82 teachers with UNICEF assistance. According to UNHCR, Bardera, in January 1994, 3,624 children from ages 6 - 14 were enrolled in seven different schools in Bardera. The same source also estimates that 4000 children are still awaiting classroom space.

Some schools function, but not on a regular basis. However, UNESCO/Baidoa donated 1,000 textbooks for Bardera, to be distributed through SOS-Children. The Schools in Garbaharey were reported to be functioning by the District Council, but the UNESCO representative who recently visited the area reported that the textbooks issued for the Garbaharey schools were not distributed and that the schools were not open on the day of the visit. There are no reports of schools in other districts. NCA has returned to Garbaharey after a two-month absence.

FILE NAME: GEDO. SOURCE: PLANNING AND INFORMATION UNIT,
UNOSOM 2. DATE: FEBRUARY 1994. PLACE: SOMALI.