



CHAPTER 8



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Conclusions

The household survey results provide an overview of the current state of socio-economic development in Somalia. It shows at a glance, among other things, how the Somali community has been adapting in the absence of a government (or weak governance structures when they are present) and responding to meet the needs of some of the basic services traditionally provided by government and public sector. The survey results are by no means comprehensive. They should be seen as snap shots of different sectors which call for more rigorous and disaggregated surveys and further studies of different sectors and sub-sectors to aid planning of rehabilitation and development activities.

The private sector is currently supplying most of the basic services provided by public institutions pre-war. On the negative side, they are concentrated mostly in urban areas due to commercial considerations. There is a sizable population who are unable to afford such services. Although there are substantial gains in many of the critical sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, a comparison with pre-war socio-economic indicators reveal that most of them are still

below the pre-war existing levels. However, the growth of some sectors, in particular telecommunications, has exceeded pre-war levels mainly due to the collapse of the state monopoly and *de facto* entrance of the private sector. Despite the collapse of the state institutions and postal services, internal and international communication and mail transfers continue unabated. Remittance from diaspora seems to be an important source of household income. Money transfers to Somalia take place mostly through Somali remittance companies.

There appears to be significant awareness among Somalis on environmental issues, especially among the rural and nomadic communities. The survey results also show basic awareness on HIV/AIDS at a household level. The role of women in society appears to be quite prominent compared to pre-war situation. They are playing a crucial role in supporting their families economically. Their participation in family decision making seems to be important. The traditional system of justice is contributing to the sustenance of the prevailing peace and security in a large part of Somalia.

The low level of literacy and education; lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, health facilities and low per capita income

Somalia

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sum up the low level of development in Somalia. The modest gains made on the socio-economic front by Somalia are important considering the prevailing conflict situation and the low level of international assistance.

It is proposed to compile socio-economic statistics disaggregated geographically and by social groups. Informal sector surveys are underway in some urban areas. Trade statistics are compiled from two major ports and efforts are being made to expand the coverage to other major ports, airports, as well as to estimate cross border trade. Attempts will also be made to estimate national specific poverty

statistics. It is envisaged that these initiatives will accelerate the compilation of a poverty profile and mapping of poverty in Somalia. Efforts are under way to strengthen the sampling framework and to formulate a medium-term plan for collection and compilation of statistical data and building statistical capacity of functional Somali statistical institutions. All these efforts will contribute to rebuild critical macro-economic and socio-economic data over time which is essential to understand and monitor the macro-economic situation and for informed policy formulation to best meet the Somali needs.