

Introduction

Reliable statistical data on demographic and socio-economic indicators is needed for planning, programming and informed decision-making. A number of international initiatives to improve the coverage, quality and comparability of statistical data and to build the capacity of national statistical institutions in developing countries have helped to improve both the quality and timeliness of the statistical data available. Countries such as Somalia, which have been undergoing prolonged conflicts did not participate in these initiatives and therefore has not been included in most of the international publications that compare national and regional statistics on development. Provision of reliable data on Somalia has been limited for over one and a half decades. The exception has been limited sectoral statistics collected by international agencies in

collaboration with functional administrations or other local partners. Lack of data has been a major constraint in preparing documents such as the Common Country Assessment (CCA). Baseline socio-economic data is also needed to formulate development plans and a poverty profile and mapping.

Statistical systems in Somalia had already started to deteriorate before the collapse of the state in 1991. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been supporting, to a limited extent, collection of secondary and primary data in Somalia in collaboration with planning and statistical departments of functioning Somali administrations, NGOs and other development partners since 1995. These efforts resulted in the compilation of population and selected socio-economic statistics for nine out of 18 regions and a review and



revision of population estimates with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and US Census Bureau. The UNDP has also been assisting functional administrations, to a limited extent, to strengthen their statistical capacity and to collect and compile some economic and administrative data. Given its recent re-engagement in Somalia, the World Bank decided to partner with UNDP in collecting key data to better understand the macro-economic situation and allow for more informed assistance within the Somali context.

Somalia Watching Brief

This statistical report, compiled from an integrated household survey undertaken during November 2001 to July 2002, has been prepared under the Somalia Watching Brief programme.

The Watching Brief is used as a monitoring mechanism by the World Bank to keep track of socio-economic developments in conflict/post conflict countries by collecting critical macro-economic and socio-economic data. The Watching Brief Programme for Somalia was jointly formulated and cost-shared by the World Bank's Post Conflict Fund and UNDP following consultations with Somali administrations. The main objectives of the programme include:

- i) Identifying critical data needs and gaps;
- ii) Establishing systems and procedures for collection and compilation of statistics;
- iii) Build capacity of functional statistical institutions;
- iv) Establishing a baseline socio-economic database to support policy formulation, planning and monitoring

The programme is implemented by UNDP in collaboration with Somali administrations and international partners involved in the collection and compilation of data. It is currently under implementation in Garowe, Hargeisa and Mogadishu in collaboration with the respective administrations. The macro-economic data collection and analysis and the statistical capacity building under the ongoing Watching Brief Programme will be further strengthened under the joint Bank/UNDP re-engagement strategy for Somalia, with the collaboration of other development partners. This programme is currently being implemented by UNDP with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO) and other partners.

This report presents selected socio-economic data from a household survey. It is the first in a series of statistical reports that will appear under the Bank/UNDP Somalia Watching Brief Programme. A medium-term plan for collection and compilation of statistical data and building statistical capacity of functional Somali statistical institutions is under formulation.

Objective and Scope

The objective of the survey was to collect and compile baseline demographic and socio-economic data at a household level in order to address some of the critical data needs and gaps and to establish a socio-economic database for policy formulation, planning and monitoring of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. Furthermore, it is hoped that the survey will lay the foundations for compiling baseline data for Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicators, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Indicators and poverty statistics. In addition to standard modules normally covered under socio-economic household surveys, sections were included on the availability of basic services, modes of communication, women's participation in decision-making, access to the justice system, possession of selected household items and awareness about HIV/AIDS and environmental concerns

in order to gain a greater understanding of the prevailing socio-economic conditions in Somalia.

Design of the Survey

Details on the methodology, concepts and definitions, sample size determination, survey organisation and implementation, data processing and the survey schedule are provided in a separate document, currently entitled the "Technical Report on Socio-Economic Household Survey of Somalia – 2002". However, a brief summary on the methodology and other aspects of the survey is detailed below to facilitate a better understanding of the statistics provided in this report.

Survey Methodology

Establishing a sampling framework to carry out the survey was a challenging task, second only to implementing such a survey in a conflict country. The sampling framework was designed for urban and other population segments termed as non-urban or rural and nomadic as it proved too complicated to add a specific framework for the nomadic population.

A multi-stage stratified random sampling was followed to select the sample households. The sample size consists of 3,600 households or 300 clusters with 12 households per cluster. Clusters from each region were selected from the list of settlements/water points for non-urban and sub-districts (*laantas*) for urban. All regional and district capitals were treated as urban as was the procedure before the civil war. Settlement level surveys previously undertaken by UNDP had yielded a comprehensive listing of settlements and water points for nine out of 18 regions. For the remaining regions, the pre-war listing was updated and used. Survey supervisors were provided with the list of settlements to enable them to replace a cluster randomly in exceptional cases. This was caused predominantly by inaccessibility of a settlement or by migration of its inhabitants. Identification and selection of households was undertaken in the field following random sampling procedures. The inverse of the sample probabilities were used as weighting factors for estimating national statistics.

Survey Questionnaire

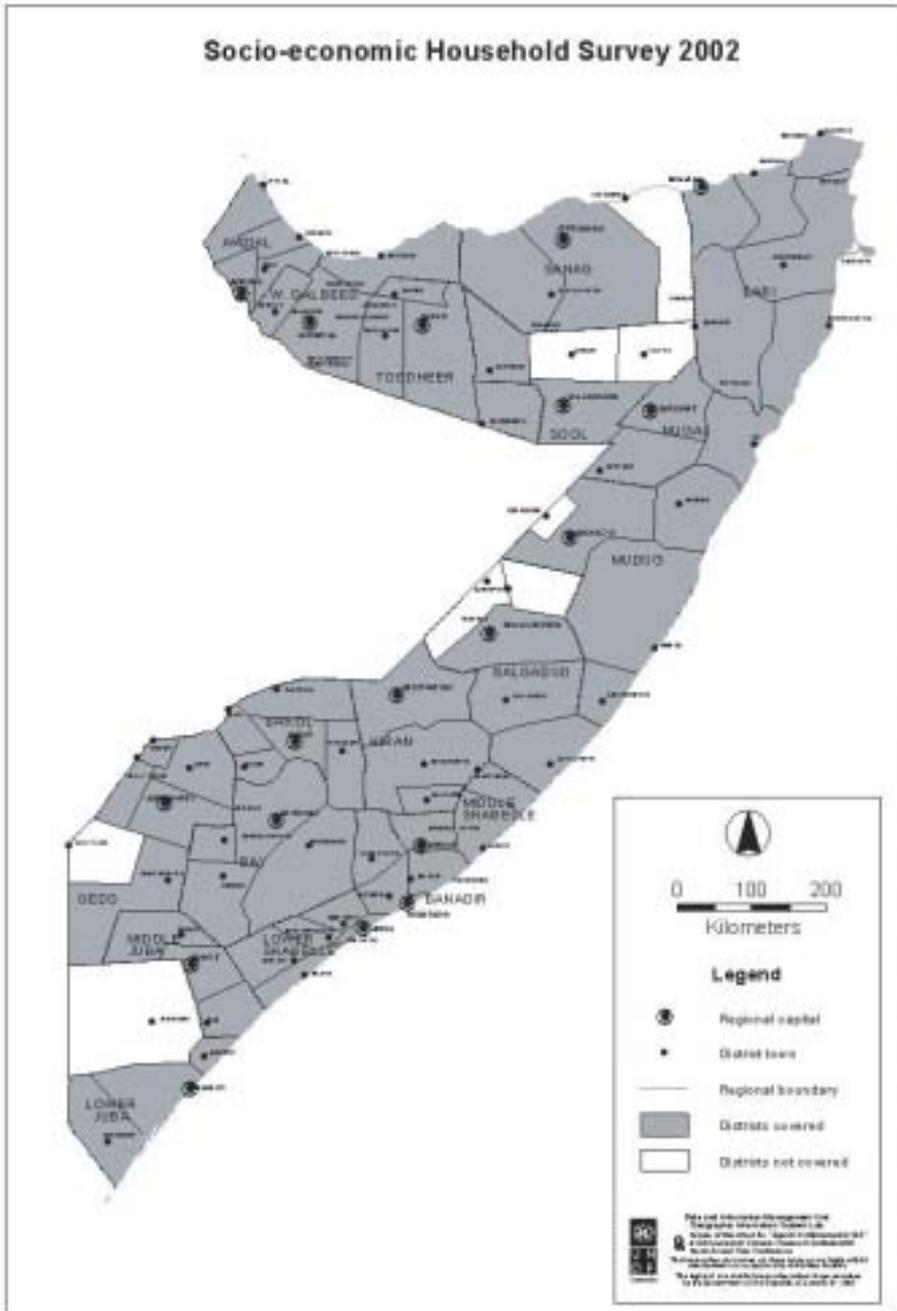
Five questionnaires were used in the survey:

- a) One main questionnaire for the household survey;
- b) One short questionnaire for the crop sector to be administered at community level in selected agricultural settlements linked to the clusters;
- c) One short questionnaire to be administered for the livestock sector at community level in selected nomadic settlements linked to the clusters;
- d) One questionnaire for collection of consumer prices from markets linked to the clusters; and
- e) One questionnaire to collect exchange rates for the prevailing currencies in the clusters.

Several development agencies, including international and local partners, as well as statistical staff of functional administrations have contributed to the formulation of the household schedules. Field testing of the questionnaires was undertaken at zonal level.

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Organisation of the Survey

The survey team consisted of one technical coordinator, one national coordinator, four field coordinators, four international consultants, 10 supervisors and 41 enumerators. Of the total 61 staff, 56 were Somali professionals. In addition, two elders (on average) from each of the regions were included in the team to locate the clusters, introduce the survey team to the community and facilitate the sampling of the households and the survey. Other important roles played by the elders included helping the survey team to avoid land-mined and insecure areas and advising on utilisation of local resources in a neutral and transparent manner, especially important when economic gains for the local community are involved. Training programmes and pilot surveys were organised by Somali coordinators, with the support of technical/national coordinators and international consultants for supervisors and enumerators at zonal and regional levels. Field testing of the questionnaires was undertaken at zonal (group of regions) level.

Due to the prevailing security conditions in Somalia, the survey was conducted in two phases between November 2001 to January 2002 and March 2002 to July 2002. The survey teams for the

sake of completion, clarification and correction revisited selected clusters. The geographical coverage of the survey in terms of districts is given in the following map.

Some of the districts did not have the sample clusters. The clusters which could not be surveyed were replaced by a sample of new clusters from the same region. The clusters involved were small in number to have any serious bias on the estimation of national statistics.

Survey Results

This report summarises socio-economic results and is the first in a series of four reports carried out under the Somalia Watching Brief Programme. The three reports planned are as follows:

- (a) Demographic and reproductive health statistics
- (b) Household income and expenditure pattern
- (c) Statistics on vulnerable population

Major Challenges

The lack of peace and security was one of the major constraints faced during the implementation of the survey. In certain areas in central and southern Somalia, as many as five separate survey teams had to be organised to carry out

work which could have been undertaken by a single team in more stable conditions. The main problems appeared to be conflicting claims of control and the prominence of factions. Other challenges included:

- 1) multiple currencies in circulation in Somalia (e.g. there are three types of Somali Shillings, Somaliland Shillings, US Dollar, Djibouti Franc, Ethiopian Bir, Kenya Shillings and Saudi Rial);
- 2) multiple conversion rates for some of the units of measurements (e.g. *tin* varying from 3 to 5 litres, *gadac* varying from 1 to 1/8 litre, *shood* varying from 1 to Ω kg);
- 3) economic expectations among local communities (employment and vehicle hiring) leading to conflict of interest and inefficient use of resources;
- 4) raised expectations of international assistance;
- 5) the need to negotiate with multiple authorities in a settlement/district/region;
- 6) the lack of statistical legislation.

Limitations of the Data

A major limitation of the data from household surveys is due to memory lapse of the respondents. Secondly, some of the answers provided by the respondents are influenced by their perceptions which in turn depend on their understanding and interpretation of the relevant terms (e.g. "good", "fair", "poor", "participation", "problem").



CHAPTER 1



Chapter 1

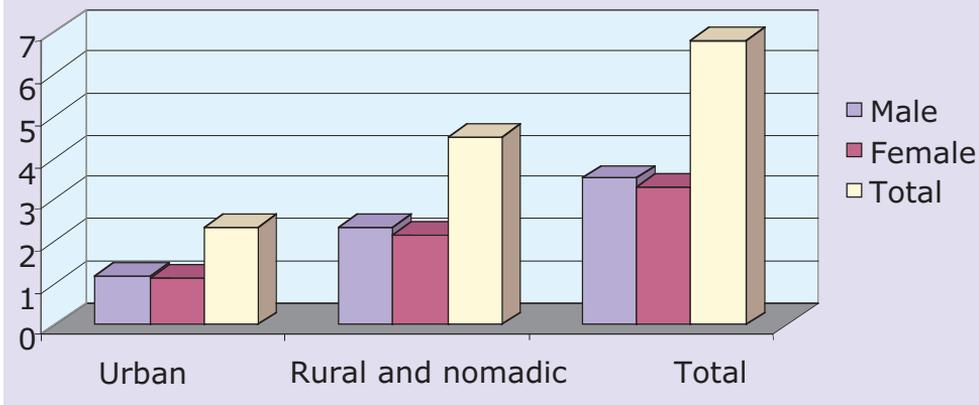
Demographics and Housing

Demographic data for Somalia is scarce. The current population figures used by international agencies for planning and programming purposes are those estimated by UNFPA in 1997 (5.76 million) after reviewing the estimates made by UNDP and the US Census Bureau. UNDP subsequently reviewed the UNFPA projected population for 2002 (6.56 million) to take into account the number of refugees repatriated to Somalia and the growing

urbanisation, especially in the North. The mid-year population of Somalia for 2002 is estimated as 6.8 million with an urban population of 2.3 million, representing 34 per cent of the total. Traditionally, the national, regional and district capitals are treated as urban in Somalia even though some of them are quite small and lack urban characteristics. The same classification was followed for the present survey.

The average household size is estimated as 5.8 giving a total number of 1.17 million households. The majority of the households (65.8 % in urban and 70.7% in rural and nomadic areas) comprise 4 to 7 members.

Chart 1.1 - Population Distribution - 2002 (million)



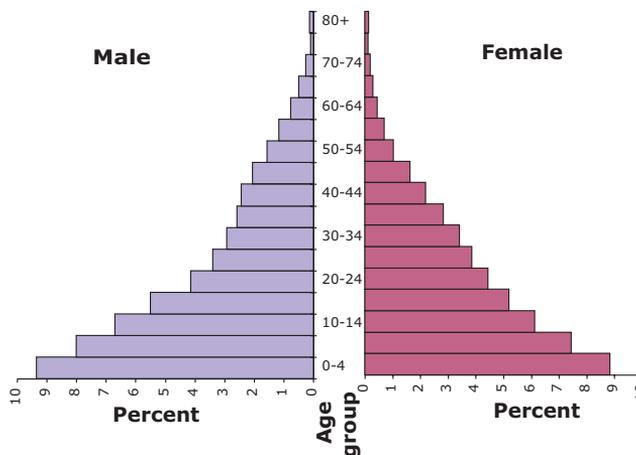


Age Distribution of Population

Household surveys and censuses are the two main sources used to estimate population in different age brackets. However, data on age from such sources is prone to error known as *digit preference*. In some cases, people may not know their age thus respondents or enumerators make an approximation. Often, the preference is to round it to a number with a digit ending in 0 or 5. Some

others may misreport their age even when they know their actual age due to digit preference. Percentage distribution of age data by single age group has shown misreporting of age for Somalia. The *strong smoothing method* was used to correct this problem¹. The following charts 1.2 to 1.4 describe the age-structure of the population. The shape of the pyramid is consistent with the typical demographic structure of the population of developing countries with high fertility and mortality rates.

Chart 1.2 - Age wise distribution of total population (%)



¹There are different methods suggested by Carrier Farrag, Karup-King Newton, Arriaga and United Nations. A strong smoothing technique is used if serious irregularities are noticed in the age distribution. All these methods were used to smooth the age distribution and the strong smoothing method was selected based on the accuracy index.



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Chart 1.3 - Age wise distribution of urban population (%)

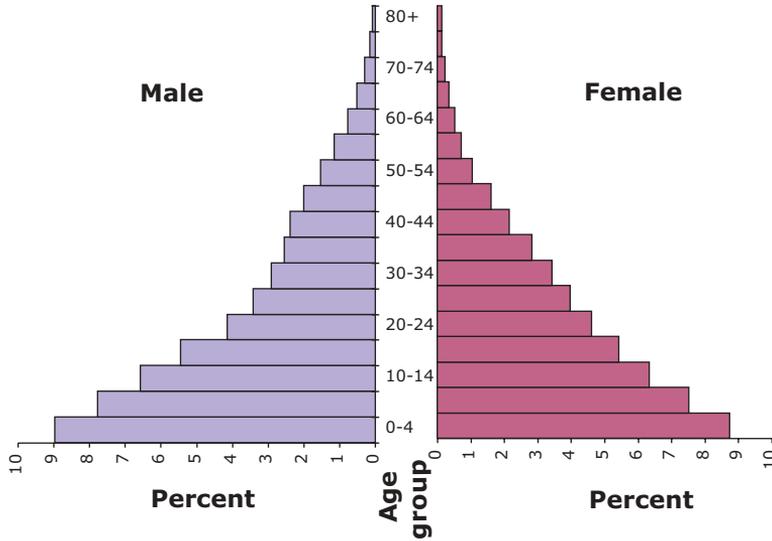
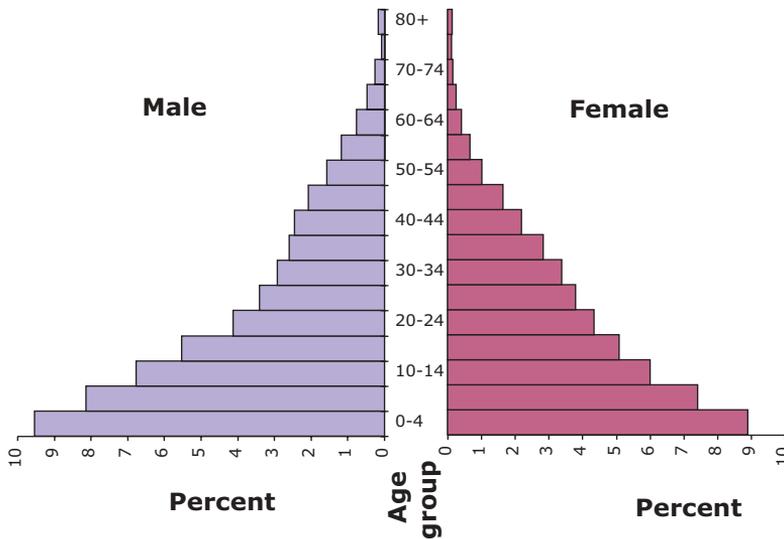


Chart 1.4 - Age wise distribution of rural and nomadic population (%)



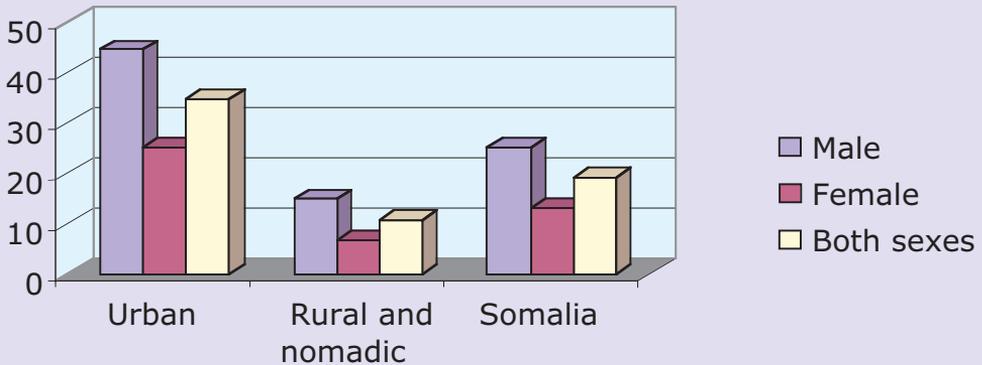


Adult Literacy Rate

The adult literacy rate refers to the ability of the population aged 15 years and above to read and write a simple message. Enumerators were advised to administer a simple test to determine the reading and writing skills of the respondent. The survey results show that Somalia continues to have one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. The adult literacy rate varies from 34.9 percent for

urban to 10.9 percent for rural and nomadic areas giving an overall rate of 19.2 percent for Somalia. The adult female literacy rate for rural and nomadic areas is as low as 6.7 percent. This partly reflects the lack of educational opportunities after the civil war, particularly in rural and nomadic areas, where a large proportion of school-aged population missed out on opportunities for basic education. Though some Koranic schools teach Arabic, many of the students become functionally illiterate later.

Chart 1.5 - Adult literacy rates (%)



Age at first marriage

The mean age at first marriage for females and males is estimated to be 20 and 25 years respectively. There was only a marginal difference between urban and non-urban

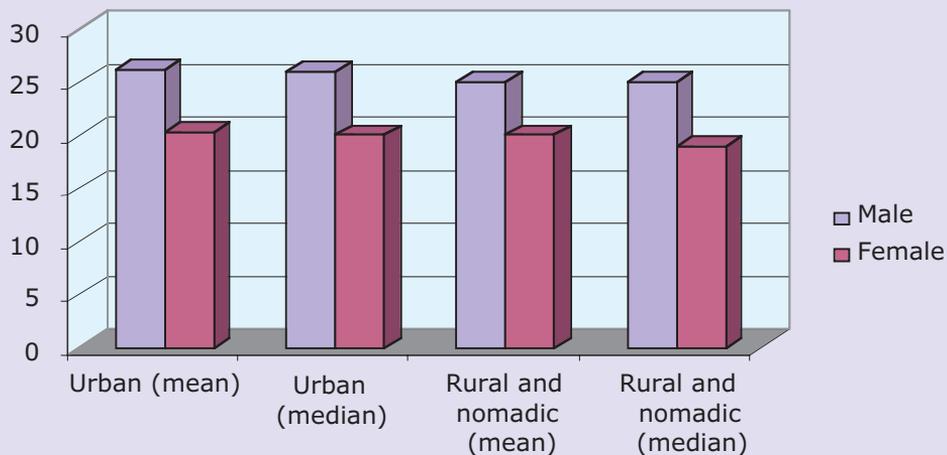
areas. The median age at marriage also gave similar results. This result proved contrary to the widely held view that Somalis get married at an early age, especially in rural and nomadic areas.



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Chart 1.6 - Age at first marriage



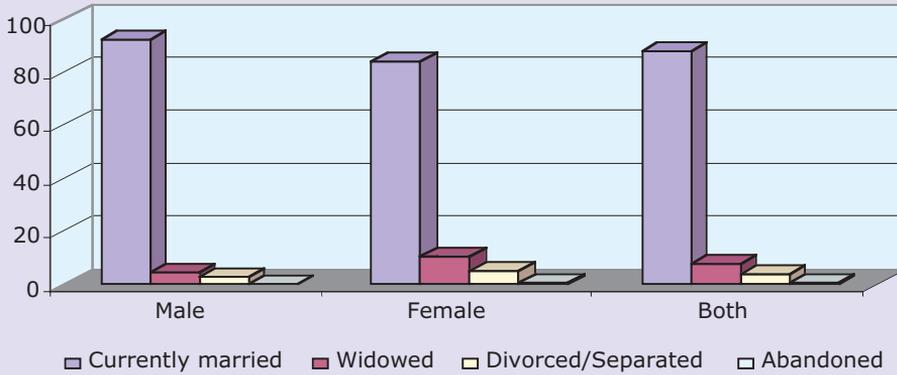
Marital Status

The share of the population “ever-married” is 36.8 percent, consisting of 33.3 percent of males and 40.5 percent of females. The proportion is similar for urban and non-urban (rural and nomadic) populations. The relatively higher share of ever-married women in Somalia is mainly explained by the fact that at any point in time, men can have up to four wives but women can have only one husband. Subject to this, men and women can remarry. Despite the fact that divorces and remarriages are common for both men and women, remarriage is not that frequent among women, especially after they reach their thirties. The culture of marrying one’s husband’s brother (who could be currently married, but

with less than four wives) or one’s wife’s sister (who is not currently married) by the survivor - in the case of the death of the husband or wife - is not frequently practiced though culturally permissible. The civil war and the widespread conflicts have also contributed to the growing share of widows in the population. The share of widowed population is 1.5 per cent for males and 4.2 percent for females. The corresponding figures for divorcees are 0.9 percent and 2.0 percent respectively. A small proportion of the population falls under the category abandoned by their spouses (0.1 percent males and 0.3 percent females). The percentage distribution of ever-married population by their current marital status is illustrated in the following chart.



Chart 1.7 - Distribution of ever married population (%)

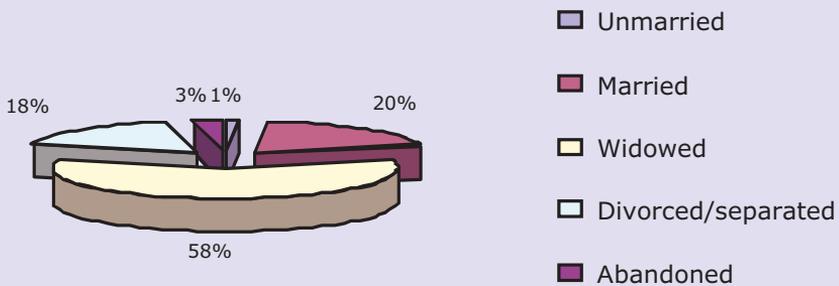


Male and Female Headed Households

The share of female-headed households is estimated as 14.3 percent in urban and 11.7 percent in rural and nomadic areas. Only about 20 percent of these women are currently married, the rest are

mainly widows or divorcees. The pattern is the same in urban, rural and nomadic areas. Women have been playing an increasing role in supporting their families during the post civil war period. Women also play a prominent role within their households in terms of their participation in decision-making (see Chapter 5).

Chart 1.8 - Marital status of females heading households





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Stated Causes of Death

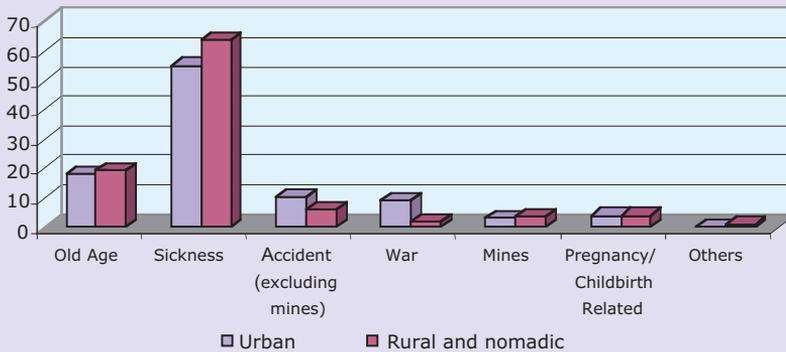
During the survey, one of the questions put to the respondents was the number of deaths occurring during the past one-year and the perceived causes of death. About 61 percent of all deaths were stated to be due to sickness, followed by old age (19%), accident excluding mines (7.4%), war (4.3%), pregnancy/childbirth related (4%) and mines (3.6%). The perceived

causes of death² have similar proportions in urban and non-urban areas except for deaths caused by sickness, accident and war. The urban and non-urban variations in the stated causes of death are shown in the following chart.

Housing Characteristics

About 24 percent of houses in Somalia are constructed with

Chart 1.9 - Distribution of deaths by stated causes(%)



durable materials. They are classified as permanent structures. Slightly over 56 percent have walls or roofs constructed utilising semi-durable materials. The remaining 20 percent fall under the category of temporary, as they are makeshift houses utilising twigs, plastic sheets and similar materials. There is a marked difference in the quality of houses in urban and other

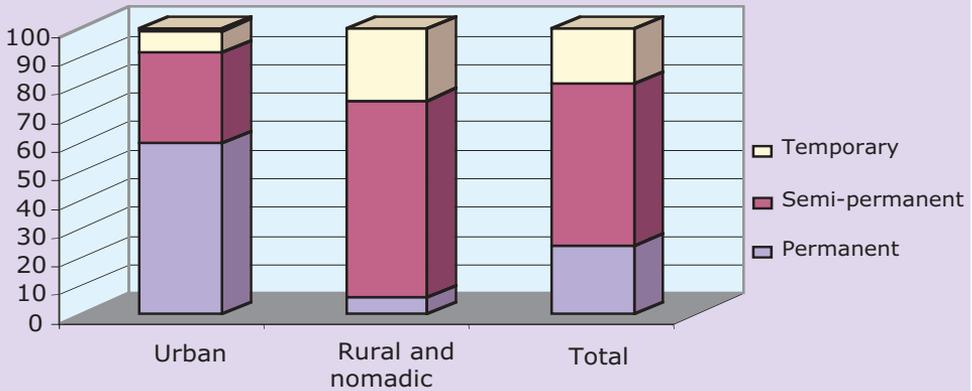
settlements. Only 6 percent of the houses in rural and nomadic areas could be classified as permanent compared with 60 percent of the houses in urban areas. Such differences also exist for other categories of housing units.

There are two rooms on average per house in Somalia: 2.5 rooms per house in urban and 1.7

²The stated causes of death should be taken as indicators only, as old age is subjective and not really a cause of death.



Chart 1.10 - Distribution of households by type of dwelling units (%)

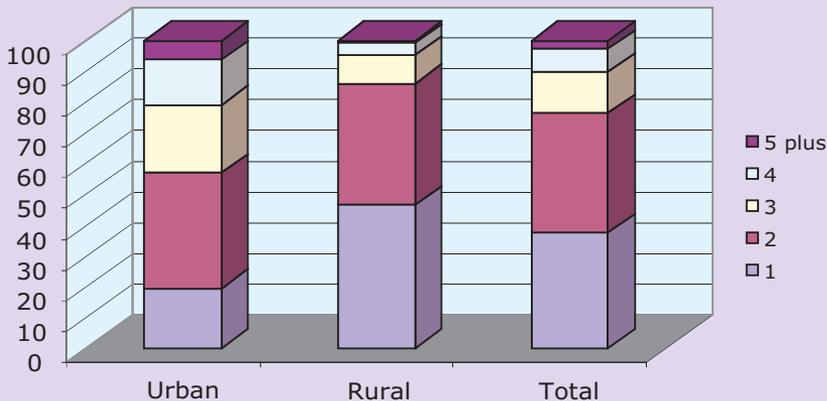


in rural and nomadic areas. One fifth of the houses in urban areas and half in rural and nomadic areas consist of one room only. About one-third of the houses have two rooms both in urban and non-urban areas. About 43 percent of the houses in urban areas have three or more

rooms compared to 14 percent in rural and nomadic areas.

The housing problem in urban areas is accentuated by the growing migration from rural to urban areas, displaced persons and returning refugees. One third of the

Chart 1.11 - Distribution of houses by no. of rooms (%)





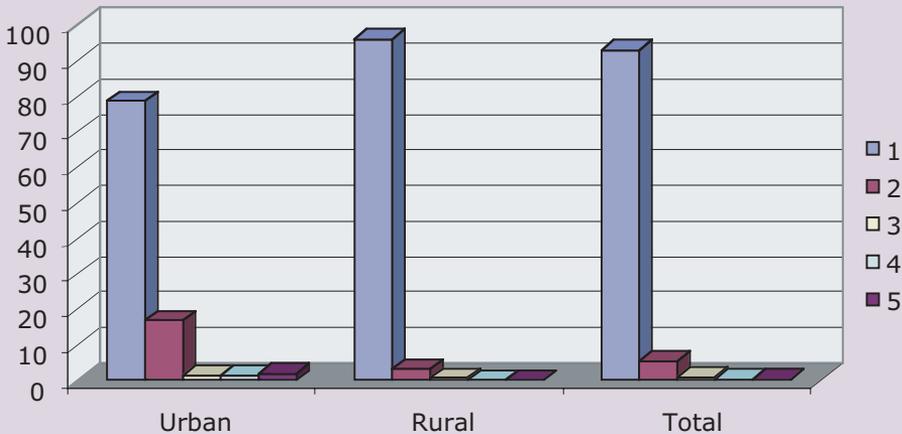
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households in urban areas have two or more families staying in the same house. Slightly over half of them share single roomed houses. In rural and nomadic areas, two or more

families occupy only about 10.5 percent of the houses, of which one-third live in single roomed houses.

Chart 1.12 - Distribution of one-roomed houses by number of families occupying them (%)



There are also significant differences in the ownership pattern of houses between urban and non-urban settlements. Whereas the inhabitants in urban areas own less than 60 percent of houses, over 90 percent of them are owner occupied in rural and nomadic areas. One in every four houses is rented in urban areas, corresponding to one in 25 houses in rural and nomadic areas.

The current ownership pattern of houses indicates there may be possible housing shortages in urban areas as about 18 percent of the families occupy either rent free houses, vacant houses or public places. This is likely to be a potential source of instability.