



# CHAPTER 4



## **Chapter 4**

### **Communication**

Traditionally, oral communication in Somalia has been the main form of communication. However, little is known about access to, and application of, modern technology for communication. Therefore, the survey attempted to collect data to assess the sources and frequency of different communication media.

#### **Utilisation of Different Media**

It is estimated that at least one male member in 78 percent of households and one female member in 63 percent of households in urban areas listen to the radio regularly. The corresponding figures for rural and nomadic areas are 44 percent and 31 percent respectively. In 19 percent of the households in urban areas, at least one male member reads the newspapers regularly. The corresponding figure for females is 9 percent. Though newspapers or news-sheets are published in major cities, their size, contents and periodicity vary considerably and

hence perception of regularity also varies from place to place. About half of the households in urban areas and over 90 percent in rural and nomadic areas have never read a newspaper or news bulletin. This is mainly due to the relatively high rate of adult illiteracy and partly due to non-availability of news publications in non-urban areas and smaller towns.

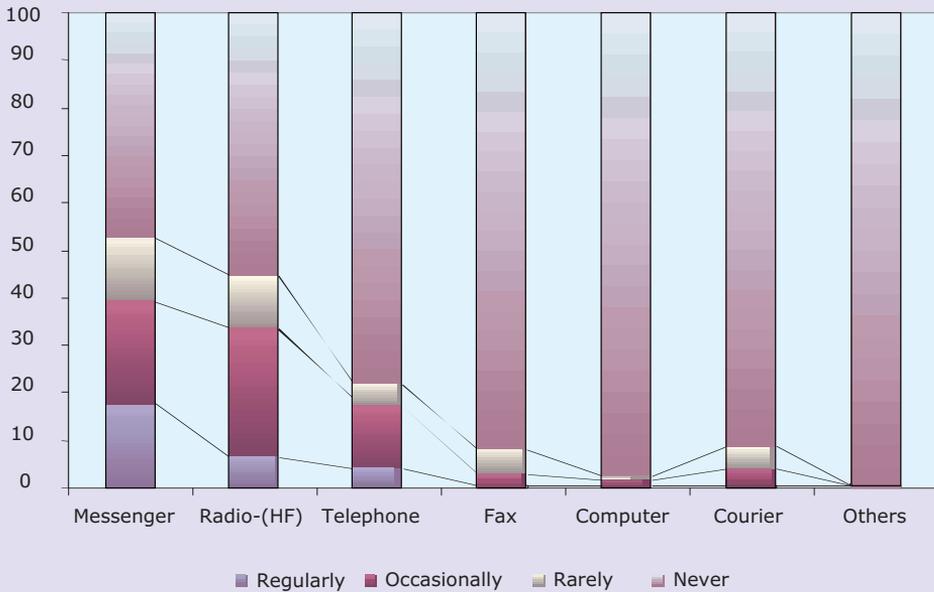
About 8 percent of the households in urban areas watch TV/video regularly and less than one per cent browse the Internet. The Internet is practically non-existent or insignificant in non-urban areas.

#### **Mode of Communication**

Telephone (18.7%), HF radio (33.4%) and messenger (39%) are the major sources of regular or occasional communication in Somalia (Chart 4.1). The pattern is similar in urban and non-urban areas, the main difference being the significant rate of utilisation of telephone in urban areas. This is because telephone facilities are not generally available in rural and nomadic areas, unlike messenger and radio services.



**Chart 4.1 - Mode of Communication (%)**



## Inland and International Mail

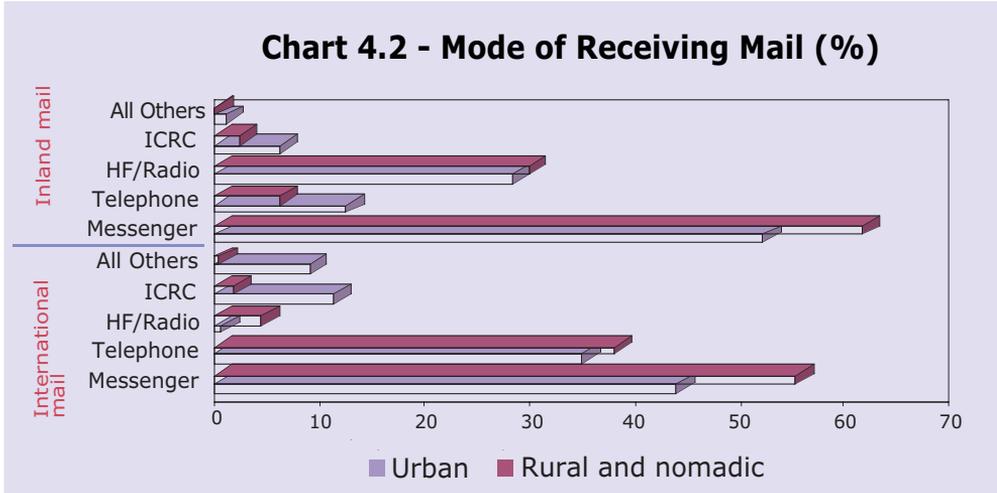
In a state without a postal system, it is interesting to examine access to inland and international mail (including voice mail). Accordingly, the survey incorporated specific questions on receiving inland and international mail. About 48 percent of the households confirmed receiving inland mail and 40 percent receiving international mail during the one-year period

prior to the survey. The pattern is quite similar in urban and non-urban areas. The main source of mail transfer is messenger which varies from 44 percent (urban – international mail) to 61.6 percent (non-urban inland mail). This is followed by radio (28-30%) for inland mail and telephone (35-38%) for international mail. ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) also assists in transferring mail, but this is mostly confined to urban areas.



## Somalia

### Socio Economic Survey 2002



### Modes of Transport

About 44 percent of the households in Somalia use motor vehicles regularly for transportation purposes. The utilisation of motor transport is twice as large in urban areas (67.9%) compared to rural

and nomadic areas (32.3%). Travel by foot is more common in rural and nomadic areas (34.4%) than motor transport. Donkeys are also used extensively in rural and nomadic areas for transportation (25.9%) followed by camel (6.6%).