



CHAPTER 6



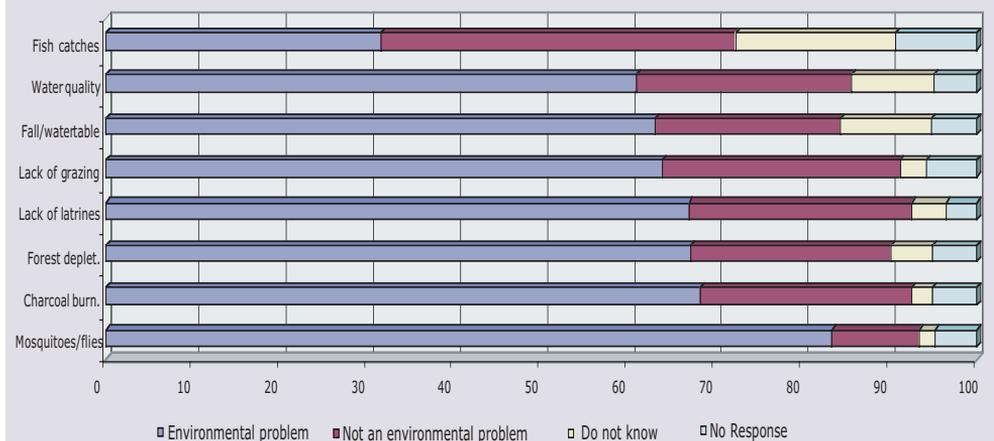
Chapter 6

Environmental Concerns

Environmental degradation in Somalia has been attracting local and international attention for quite some time. Due to the absence of appropriate national institutions, there is no mechanism to assess environmental damage and monitor the situation. Therefore, the survey sought to assess local perception on the factors causing environmental problems. The respondents were asked to state the most important factor that they perceived to be causing or contributing to major environmental problems. In order to get a true perception of environmental awareness, the factor identified by each household was tabulated and processed without modification or aggregation.

Drought was identified by 28.5 percent of the households as the most important factor followed by mosquito/tse-tse fly infestation (14.3%), lack of sanitation (8.5%), soil erosion (8.2%), charcoal burning (7.8%), deforestation (6%) and uncollected garbage (4.8%). Other factors identified include lack of security, decline in water quality, famine, flooding, crop pests, landmines, pollution, and a fall in the water table. A major concern expressed under deforestation refers to clear felling of forest for temporary and new settlements or expansion of current settlements. Charcoal burning was compiled as a separate factor to assess the perception of urban and non-urban population as this is considered to have been a major environmental issue since the civil war. There are considerable differences in the

Chart 6.1 - Linking selected factors to environment (%)



Somalia

Socio Economic Survey 2002



perception of urban and non-urban populations on factors causing environmental problems, except for mosquito/tse-tse fly infestation, deforestation and landmines. The low percentages of some of the factors such as landmines (0.6%) do not reflect their overall importance. The responding households were asked to name the most important factor perceived by them.

After stating their answers, respondents were asked to give their views on how they relate some selected factors, such as infestation of mosquitoes and flies, charcoal burning, depletion of forests, lack of latrines, lack of grazing areas, fall in water table, decline in water quality and decline in catches of fish, to the environment. Though both urban and non-urban populations

linked most of these factors to the environment, environmental concerns were more evident in the response of non-urban respondents for all the factors except for infestation of mosquitoes and flies. For example, charcoal burning was identified as an environmental problem only by 56.5 percent of the households in urban areas, compared to 74.3 percent in non-urban areas. The impact of infestation of mosquitoes and flies was equally felt in urban and non-urban areas. The impact of all other factors on the environment is relatively more evident in rural and nomadic areas.

