

## **Somalia: A Risk Assessment Brief**

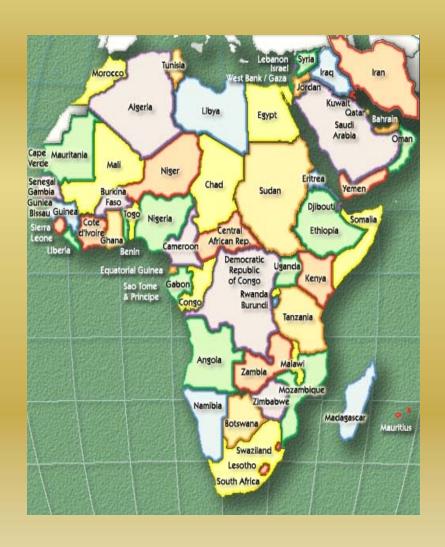
Presented by:
Shohreh Naji
Iman Ibrahim
Shrishma Dave
Gilbert Cabiles

February 2009



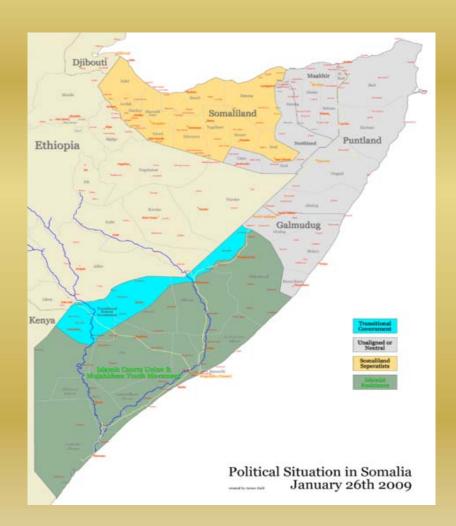
# **Agenda**

- Background &Stakeholders
- History of Armed Conflict
- Governance & Political Instability
- Militarization
- Economic Performance
- Environmental Stress
- Human Development
- Population & Demographic Heterogeneity
- International Linkages
- Scenarios



# **Background on Somalia**

- No effective government since 1991
- Declaration of independence by Somaliland
- Transitional federal government (TFG) and Ethiopian troops threw out Islamists from the capital, Mogadishu in 2006 but Islamists seized Baidoa on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 09 when Ethiopians left.
- International efforts to tackle piracy of the Somali coast
- Presidential elections running



# **Main Actors: Internal**

Key Actors / Stakeholders	P/N/M Effects	Interest / Grievance
Transitional Federal Government (TFG)	Positive	Prevent insurgency; talk with opposition
Somaliland	Mixed	Functioning government but economic problems
Puntland	Mixed	Stop piracy and corruption
The Alliance for the Re- liberation of Somalia	Mixed	United with TFG and opposes Al- Shabab; ARS leader aims for presidency
Diaspora leaders and Islamist groups	Negative	Trying to control Mogadishu; already seized Baidoa; some accused of terrorist links and imposing Sharia law

# **Main Actors: External**

Country / Organization	P/N/M Effects	Interest
Ethiopia	Mixed	Stability/troops pull out/war crimes
Kenya	Mixed	Transit way, refugees
Djibouti/ Yemen	Positive	Receive refugees
Egypt	Undetermined	Somali piracy devastated Suez Canal income
African Union	Positive	AMISOM preventing the escalation of violence, refugee assistance
The United Nations	Positive	UN aid and resolution/no forces
The United States	Mixed	Support transitional government and some fighting groups/counter-terrorism operations
The European Union	Positive	Fighting piracy/receive refugees

# **History of Armed Conflict**



#### **Stabilizing Factors**

- In 2008, peace deals between TFG and some opposition including ARS
- UN authorized use of force against piracy
- Ethiopian troops left Mogadishu Jan 2, 09

- 2006 Ethiopian invasion intensified fighting with Islamist groups; complete Ethiopian withdrawal Jan 09 created power vacuum.
- TFG holds only Mogadishu; it lost Baidoa
- Since 2007, 16,000+ civilians killed, 30,000+ injured, 1million+ displaced



Somali and Ethiopian Soldiers



Somaliland Flag



Sheikh Sharif Ahmed (C) leader of ARS

## **Governance and Political Instability**

#### **Stabilizing Factors**

- ARS leader Ahmed won presidency elections and Adde withdrew; constitution is being drafted
- Puntland President fights corruption and piracy
- Somaliland has functioning government

#### **Destabilizing Factors**

- There is no central government (TFG lacks power and unity, war crimes)
- No institutions, social services, security and journalists are attacked

### **Militarization**

#### **Stabilizing Factors**

- Moderate Islamists fight extremist al Shabab
- African Union military presence

- No army, military, security or equipment since 1991, which led to group rivalry
- AU forces insufficient.



Sheikh Adan "Madobe", Interim President



Former President Abdullahi Yusuf



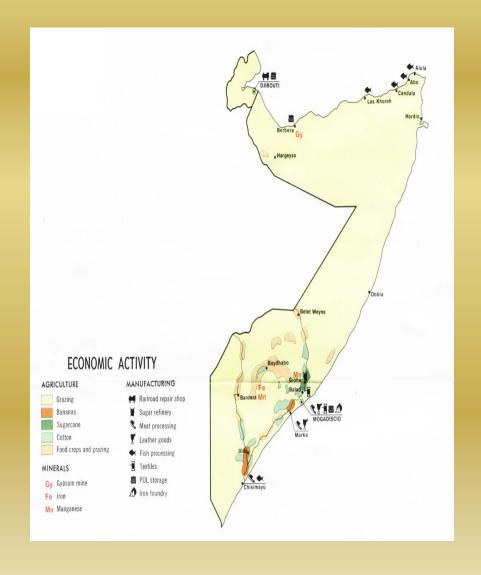
Somalia's former prime minister Nur Hussein Hassan, "Adde"

## **Economic Performance**

## **Stabilizing Factors**

- Strong informal economy
- Steady GDP

- Destruction of infrastructure
- Dependency on agricultural production
- No formal economic policy
- Lack of data



## **Environmental Stress**

### **Stabilizing Factors**

- Rich Coastline
- 60% of country covered in Savannah woodlands

- Constant threat of drought
- Depletion of marine resources
- No significant reconstruction since 2004 tsunami



Somalia landscape



Somali woodlands area

# **Human Development**

### **Stabilizing Factors**

- Low prevalence of HIV/AIDS
- NGOs assisting local administrations run primary schools

- Very little access to safe drinking water. Water-borne diseases a major killer
- High maternal and infant mortality
- No national education system
- Since 2006 more than 2.1 million people affected by drought



A home in Mogadishu shelled by US



Mother and child in Somalia

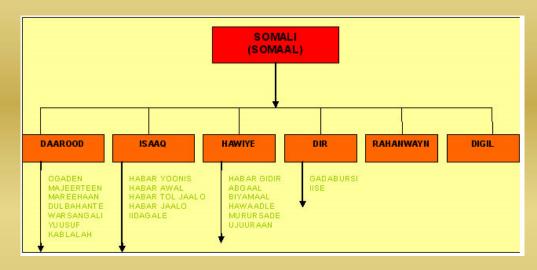
## **Population Heterogeneity**

#### **Stabilizing Factors**

- Religiously homogenous:
   Sunni Muslims
- Nearly ethnically homogenous

### **Destabilizing Factors**

 Underlying problems stem from genealogical clanbased conflicts



## **Demographic Heterogeneity**

#### **Stabilizing Factors**

Somalia has a moderate population estimated to be 9 558 666

- 1.1 million internally displaced, 457 000 refugees, 3.2 million needing humanitarian aid
- Population projected to more than double by 2035
- Large youth bulge

# **International Linkages**

### **Stabilizing Factors**

- International aid agencies providing services
- Some countries and their navies interested in safeguarding sea lanes against pirates

- Initial intervention supported by the US led to more than a million Somali casualties
- UN Security Council refuses to send U.N. peacekeepers
- Restricted humanitarian access to certain areas due to attacks on staff



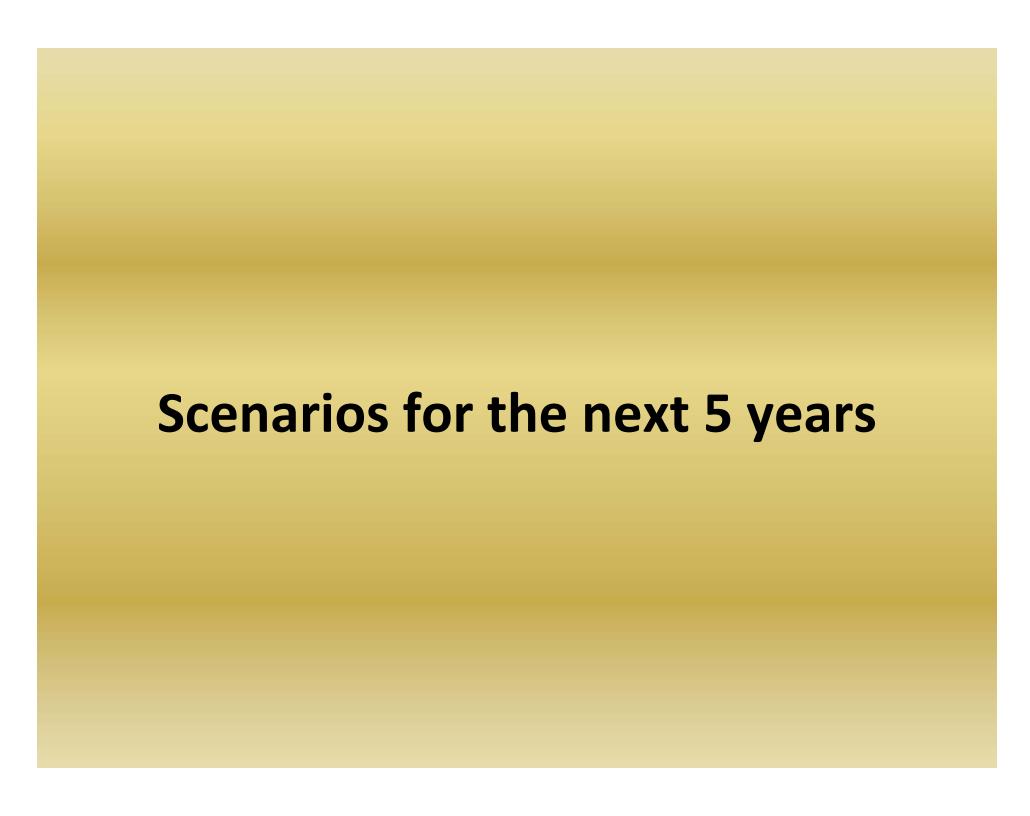
African Union



Intergovernmental Authority on Development



**UN Aid** 



## **Best Case Scenario**

- Unity government based on power sharing, Ethiopians will not return, enhanced AU troops
- Some state building and transformation of life conditions in Puntland, Somaliland and Federal area.
- Regional diplomacy + reconciliation + improved media
- Secure trade routes lead to economic revitalization
- Stringent environmental regulations reduce the depletion of resources
- Protection of aid workers/improved humanitarian access



## **Worst Case Scenario**

- Intergovernmental conflicts lead to worse anarchy, No UN forces, insufficient AU forces
- No institutions or security, war crimes, corruption, piracy continue
- Neighbours' problems spill over
- Islamist clampdowns on informal economy
- Increased drought and famine due to environmental degradation
- Reduced aid



# **Most Likely Scenario**

- Transitional Period extended; limited talks between TFG and opposition groups
- Continuation of external interference, limited reconciliation
- Corruption and piracy continue
- Limited institutional development to provide basic service but not security
- The strong informal economy will continue to sustain the population

