

1. INTRODUCTION

Preamble

This Background Paper highlights the relationships between conflicts, peace, and human development¹ in Puntland. Among the pertinent issues addressed are the dynamics of transition taking place in Puntland as well as available opportunities for engaging youth in conflict resolution, peace building, and inclusive development. It examines the key drivers and structural factors perpetuating recurrent conflicts and youth exclusion; and maps out a holistic approach to empowering and engaging Puntland's youth in realizing lasting peace and sustainable development. The objective of the paper is to provide well researched inputs into the preparation of the National Human Development Report (NHDR) for Somalia by collating useful information on the state of human development in the Puntland State of Somalia, The theme of this HDR is 'Empowering the Youth for Peace and Development.'²

Drawing on the available literature on conflict drivers in the north eastern region of Somalia (World Bank - 2005), the 2010 Puntland Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report, United Nations Development Programme, *Youth and Violent Conflict; Society and Development in Crisis*; UNDP - *Capacity Development: Empowering People and Institutions*, studies on local peace initiatives by the Puntland Development and Research Centre (PDRC), the Puntland State of Somalia Five year and Annual Development Plans, the Puntland State of Somalia National Youth Policy, and many other extensive studies by international experts, this Background Paper retraces how political and socio economic factors have interplayed to escalate/de-escalate conflict, promote peacemaking and affect overall human development in the state. The Paper draws on examples from youth involvement in inclusive development in Puntland s well as initiatives by the youth to promote peace and development. It takes cognizance of growing concerns about the relationships between conflicts, peace building, and human development³.

¹ Development actors have paid growing attention to the interlocking problems of poverty, conflicts, complex emergencies and human insecurity. There has been heightened appreciation of the interplay between security and development as the costs and consequences of violence, conflict and insecurity on development outcomes have become apparent. ...a strong correlation between low levels of economic development and conflict has been convincingly established. (Necla Tschirgi (2009), Centre for International Policy Studies University of Ottawa "The Security Politics Development Nexus: The Lessons of State Building in sub-Saharan Africa A paper prepared for the European Report for Development Workshop Florence, Italy 16-17 April 2009 ")

² The HDR theme was selected in consultation with Somali stakeholders, including the governments, civil society and research organizations, and presented to a broad group during the launch of the process in Puntland and Somaliland. The theme was also discussed at the UNCT. The evolving concept notes and working outline was discussed at length with senior level government counterparts from the three administrative zones at a workshop in Kampala. In order to ensure broad national ownership from the very beginning, three local national institutions have been selected to conduct the survey and prepare background papers for the three regions – Somaliland (Admas University), Puntland (Consortium headed by Puntland State University) and South Central (Centre for Research and Dialogue).

³ Development actors have paid growing attention to the interlocking problems of poverty, intra-state conflicts, complex emergencies and human insecurity. There has been heightened appreciation of the interplay between security and development as the costs and consequences of violence, conflict and insecurity on development outcomes have become apparent. Conversely, there has been increasing understanding of the role of development processes and strategies on generating insecurity and conflict. Importantly, the strong correlation between low levels of economic development and conflict has been convincingly established. The countries that are at the bottom of the human development index also tend to be the countries that face persistent violence, conflict and human security challenges. (Necla Tschirgi: Centre for International Policy Studies University of Ottawa "The Security Politics Development Nexus: The Lessons of State Building in sub-Saharan Africa A paper prepared for the European Report for Development Workshop Florence, Italy 16-17 April 2009 ")

It reaffirms that Puntland youth are integral stakeholders in public policy making and development. Yet the youth have widely excluded from policy making and all aspects of social and economic processes that are necessary to enhance their capacities and harness their full potential to build and sustain peace and development. The Paper draws on selected examples of good practices around the world regarding how perceptions about youth around the world have changed from largely regarding them as victims and perpetrators of conflict, to viewing them as peace makers and development agents⁴.

In order to update available information on the realities facing the youth in Puntland, the Paper has drawn extensively on the information generated by the Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) conducted by a Consortium led by the Puntland State University (PSU), as well the results of a field survey on youth empowerment and participation in the state. Based on these sources a major focus is on highlighting the plight of Puntland's youth who, like the youth in the rest of Somalia, are trapped in a vicious cycle of violence, fear and poverty, generated by intermitted civil conflicts thereby eroding their potential for personal development. The youth in the region represent a pool of potential recruits for ethnic, religious, and political extremists seeking to promote and sustain violence. Many of these young people have been forcibly removed from their traditional homelands, being rendered jobless, with very limited opportunities for earning a decent livelihood.

The Puntland State of Somalia at a glance

The Puntland State of Somalia was formed as an autonomous regional administration on 5th May, 1998. Puntland is situated in the north east (horn) of Somalia, its administrative capital being Garowe. Other major towns include Bossaso, Galkayo, Garowe and Gardho. It covers an area of 212,510 square km. Puntland's population is estimated at 3.9* million⁵, out of which 70% is below the age of 33 years⁶ and nearly 52% of the population are nomads.⁷ Puntland's population density is estimated at 11 persons per km². The main sources of livelihoods and income are livestock, agriculture, fishing and remittances. Livestock exports contribute around 80 percent of foreign exchange earnings, 40 percent of the GDP and 60 percent of employment opportunities⁸. To the State's credit, promoting peace and reconciliation as well as preventing resource-based conflicts continues to rank high in Puntland's priorities. In the final analysis, it is the commendable efforts of

⁴ The ILO introduced the life-cycle approach in recognition of the fact that the opportunities and risks, advantages and disadvantages faced at one stage in life frequently influence the transition to the next. When this involves poverty, discrimination or absence of economic opportunity, the risks and disadvantages all too often are perpetuated in successive stages of life. (ILO, Employment Sector Employment Working Paper No. 7 2008)

⁵ There has been no census in Somalia since 1975, when the population was estimated to be 3.3 million. This calls for a well organized Census to accurate demographic information for purposes of planning. In 2003 the UNDP estimated the population of Somalia to be approximately 6.8 million (out of whom around 350,000 were considered internally displaced). Puntland population was estimated at 1.5 million and South-central Somalia at 5 million. Nonetheless, Puntland's population has grown rapidly in recent years due to (reported) in migration from neighbouring regions of Somalia and Ethiopia. The rate of urbanization is increasing rapidly, with groups migrating to the more developed areas in search of employment.

⁶ Puntland State of Somalia (Dec 2008), *National Youth Policy of Puntland State of Somalia*

⁷ Puntland Facts and Figures 2007-2008, 4th Edition

⁸ World Bank October 15, 2007, Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme, *Deepening Peace and Reducing Poverty: Volume iii: Puntland*

the state to develop public institutions that have contributed significantly to preventing total anarchy in the region⁹.



⁹ World Bank October 15, 2007, Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme, *Deepening Peace and Reducing Poverty: Volume iii: Puntland*

1.1. THE TRANSITIONAL CHALLENGES FACING PUNTLAND

After several years of civil conflict and inter-clan violence, Puntland is still facing seemingly insurmountable challenges of maintaining lasting peace and security, achieving sustainable economic and social development, rebuilding service delivery institutions and improving its human development indicators. Although some progress has been made towards establishing peace, developing a democratic system, these gains are as still short of creating an optimal environment for human development in Puntland.¹⁰ Poverty remains acute while provision of basic social services is underdeveloped. Basic infrastructure has deteriorated while women and girls continue to be socially excluded. Human development is lacking behind due to the absence of basic fundamentals for prosperity, namely, a sound macroeconomic management framework, sustainable economic growth, well established basic infrastructure (roads, clean portable water supply, telecommunications, power supply etc), security and effective democratic governance. The state needs to strengthen democracy, consolidate the constitution as the primary instrument for solidifying security, and providing good governance for its people.

The other challenges for Puntland are not only in increasing employment opportunities, in livestock, agriculture and fisheries, but also improvement of infrastructure, environmental management, and financial services. Sustainable income-earning and livelihood opportunities are an essential foundation for poverty reduction besides maintenance of peace, and the generation of resources for providing basic social services. Although nomadic populations constitute a large part of Puntland's population, they are very disadvantaged due to lack of access to education, health and other basic services. There is widespread unemployment which stands at 65.5 percent in urban areas and 40. However, urban centres have been better endowed with health services; for example, nearly half of all Puntland health personnel work in Bossaso town, while Eastern Sanag region has only one doctor.

In order to achieve a full comprehensive socio-economic development of Puntland it is very important that the interventions in all of the areas mentioned above take into account the needs and priorities for youth and women, to finally ensure a gender balanced society with equal representation of women in key decision making political and economic sectors and to build the basis of a stable and prosperous society¹¹.

1.1.1. The Multi multi-faceted Crisis

Puntland is a typical state in post-conflict crisis and recovery. The civil war from 1989 – 92 had a direct devastating impact on its economy and physical infrastructure. During the civil war, roads, telecommunication infrastructure, schools, hospitals, etc in the region were destroyed. While most of Puntland has remained relatively stable and peaceful, the continuing civil conflict in South and Central Somalia has led to a massive influx of people from the South Central regions thus overburdening the State's fragile socio-economic fabric. The prolonged violence, recurrent droughts and high unemployment in South-Central Somalia have led to extensive population movements to Puntland, mainly of nomadic or rural agricultural populations. The recent estimates of the number of IDPs is 60,000, of which 22,000 live in Bossaso, 12,600 in Garoowe, 10,000 in Gaalkacyo¹², and the

¹⁰ EU/Norway) Somalia Joint Strategy Paper for the period 2008 – 2013;

¹¹ World Bank: Somali reconstruction and development programme: deepening peace and reducing poverty- volume iii: Puntland draft –October 15, 2007.

¹² Source: OCHA, 22 November 2005, unless otherwise stated. Numbers are rough estimates

rest live in smaller towns or in spontaneous settlements along major roads, mostly in unplanned and overcrowded temporary settlements, and have limited or no access to employment or basic services.

The authorities are increasingly concerned about their absorption capacity in meeting the needs of the huge influx of IDPs and returnees. They are therefore imposing stringent policies with regard to local integration for non-Puntlanders, unless they demonstrate clan or family linkages to Puntland. Where local integration is not a viable option, refugees who cannot prove such linkages are recommended for resettlement. IDPs and the urban poor usually face very poor living conditions, such as severely inadequate shelter. Land and property issues, including restitution, are the main obstacle for displaced households, who are vulnerable to harassment, extortion and eviction because government institutions have little or no authority to protect or assist them.

Young people's rights to education and employment have been diminished by civil war and the collapse of state infrastructure. Lack of jobs, coupled with limited access to basic social services including clean water, education and basic health services, generate more tension and leave civilians with limited options for a sustainable livelihood. This places the youth population in a particularly vulnerable position¹³, as they are the group most targeted for recruitment, and more likely to turn to uncivil means for survival and use armed conflict as a way to vent their anger. Many young men who joined the militias in areas where fighting took place, are involved in consumption of *khat*, chewed in some regions by more than 90%¹⁴ of male adults. Given the level of idleness associated with khat chewing, there is a heavy social and economic price to pay, in terms of an unproductive generation.

Although the state does not have major outstanding internal disputes, the potential for further conflict¹⁵ lies in communities' rivalry over control its natural resources, including minerals, fishing, land, grazing, and watering. Besides the perennial problem of overgrazing, a major concern in certain areas is deforestation related to firewood and charcoal production, an increasing amount of which is being exported to the Gulf States. There have also been reports of toxic waste disposal along Somalia's extensive coast, which is a particular threat to coastal communities and marine life. The coast of Puntland has particularly rich fishing grounds, which have attracted predatory fishing vessels from around the world. This illegal fishing threatens one of Puntland's most important resources. The situation has created tremendous strain in enforcement of international laws and treaties, access to capital, and international recognition. Poor surveillance and weak enforcement of the law of the sea (in the absence of coast guards) have led to over fishing and the illegal exploitation of the rich marine wealth by foreign vessels, posing a serious challenge to growth.

This is further complicated by the piracy menace off the coast of Puntland illustrates the multifaceted nature of challenges facing the state. The Somali piracy problem is a consequence of fishing exploitation by foreign vessels yet the issue was overlooked for so long it became an international menace. Puntland thus needs to place a premium on creating an enabling environment for the

¹³ ,,,,,, There seems to be a shared understanding that young people are somehow 'in crisis'; but this concept is often used inconsistently, as an a priori assumption, and seldom defined... by identifying two different (and potentially contradictory) meanings of the expression: (i) a crisis of society impacting on youth; and (ii) a crisis originating from youth and impacting on society at large. In the contemporary discourse on youth, these two meanings are often confused or used interchangeably, and 'youth crisis' is often seen as leading to violence of various sorts – including the participation of young people in violent conflict, gang warfare, criminality and other kinds of violent behavior. Once again, this relationship deserves closer attention as the linkage between youth and violence is far from being pre-determined or automatic. Which factors can explain what makes young people resort to violence or refrain from it (UNDP, Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis)

¹⁴ Canadian International Development Agency; August 1999: *Peace and Development in Northern Somalia Opportunities and Challenges*.,

¹⁵ While conflict tends to be understood as synonymous with violence, a broader approach to conflict can be multidimensional phenomenon that is typically indicative of change within society, if managed peacefully {(United Nations Development Programme: Conflict-related Development Analysis (CDA)}

sustainable use of natural resources and protection of its environment for economic recovery aimed at rebuilding livelihoods and reducing poverty. The Puntland State of Somalia also is facing an identity crisis due to lack of international recognition.

Key Issues and Obstacles to Human Development in Puntland

Civil conflict is the single most critical factor explaining the persistence of low human development indices in Puntland. Other major obstacles to human development include inadequate infrastructure and social services; depletion of household assets; lack of employment opportunities due to low economic growth; as well as overreliance on limited export markets. The state has very low indicators of education and health. The gross enrolment rate (GER) at primary school level was estimated at 24%, with a mere 19 percent of primary school graduates proceeding to secondary level. In addition, female students' enrolment is very poor, especially at secondary and tertiary level. Teachers in the public education system are poorly paid and lack the skills and motivation to perform.

In terms of health care, Puntland's population is served by just 19 hospitals with a total health staff of 1,123, over half of which are not qualified and a very small number are female. This results in, among other outcomes, under-five and infant mortality rates being among the worst in the world at a shocking 225 and 113 per 1,000 children/live births¹⁶. Another factor contributing to these high rates is that 74 percent of Puntlanders lack clean, safe drinking water, which puts both children and adults at risk of often fatal diarrheal diseases. In addition, women's health is affected by the common practice of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/FGC), which is extremely widespread among Somalis with 98 percent of Somali girls and women have undergone FGM. The seemingly uncontrolled expansion of unqualified health workers offering medical or other services threatens the quality of care.

Poverty is widespread, it is estimated that 43 percent of the populations of Puntland live on less than one US\$/day. Geographically, there are disparities between regions: for example the average per capita income in Mudug and Nugaal is 150-200 US\$/annum, while in Bari, Sool and Sanaag it is estimated at 250-300 US\$/annum. There are also some striking inequalities on the urban/rural spectrum, such as with unemployment, which stands at 65.5 percent in urban areas and 40.7 percent in rural areas¹⁷. Conversely, however, urban centres tend to be better provided with services; for example, nearly half of all Puntland health personnel work in Bossaso town, while Eastern Sanaag region has only one doctor.

While nomadic groups constitute the majority, they are highly disadvantaged in their lack of access to education, health, and other basic services, since conventional service provision is less geared towards mobile populations. There is widespread unemployment which stands at 65.5 percent in urban areas and 40.718 percent in rural areas.

¹⁶ UNDP Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 1999

¹⁷ UNDP/WB - Somalia Socio-Economic Survey 2002

¹⁸ Somali reconstruction and development programme: deepening peace and reducing poverty- Volume iii: Puntland draft -October 15, 2007.

1.1.1. Theories and evidences on the role of youth in conflict resolution and peace making

The purpose of this section is to illustrate the youth's unique power and untapped potential for peace building. Around the world many young people are victims of cultural, direct, and structural violence and become carriers of that violence or perpetration. Young people are typically considered a problem to peace and thus are left out or manipulated by decision-making processes especially in societies that have difficulties handling change in constructive ways. When thinking of "youth in conflict" rarely do the thoughts researchers turn to the positive, preventive and transformative role of youth in violent as well as non-violent conflicts. A comprehensive review of theories and evidences on youth involvement in conflict as well as peace initiatives is drawn from a series of articles titled '*The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders*' By Celina Del Felice and Andréa Wisler. One of the other perceptions of youth is as victims since violent conflict situations have devastating effects for young people. The youth are often portrayed in a negative light, either as helpless victims affected by violent conflict due to age, or as criminals or child-soldiers who are inherently violent or easily manipulated by others into becoming perpetrators.

These views are challenged by way of examples which illustrate the power and potential of youth as peace-builders¹⁹. Young people are often ignored or manipulated by adults to meet their own ends²⁰. The positive role of young people in peace-building is exemplified some recent historical examples drawn from Israel, Sierra Leone, West Africa, Kosovo etc. Armed conflict has multiple, long- and short-term impacts on development, and on environmental and human well-being. The affects, even of internal conflicts, can be felt at various spatial levels, within the immediate area of conflict, and often in neighboring countries. Conflict undercuts or destroys environmental, physical, human and social capital, diminishing available opportunities for sustainable development.

The first and second parts of this section describe the perspectives on the role of youth in conflicts, based on existing literature. These views tend to depict youth in a negative light, either as helpless victims affected by violent conflict due to age, or as criminals or child-soldiers who are inherently violent or easily manipulated by others into becoming perpetrators. The last part challenges these views contrasting them with positive examples of youth engagement which illustrate the power and potential of youth as peace-builders, that is, as positive agents of non-violent change. The positive role of young people in peace-building is exemplified by examples. This is supported by extracts of cases studies on the roles of youth as peace-builders²¹ through illustrating their unique power and

19 The word 'peace building' has been loosely used or confused with other terms such as peacemaking and peacekeeping. For example, the UN Peace building Commission established in 2005 considers peace building as actions undertaken in a period of post-conflict recovery. Peace building encompasses all activities which aim to eliminate or mitigate direct, structural and cultural causes of violence. and if sincere and future-oriented processes of healing and reconciliation take place ... (Celina Del Felice and Andria Wisler: *The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders*)

20 When thinking of "youth in conflict" rarely thoughts turn to the positive, preventive and transformative role of youth both in violent as well as non-violent conflicts. These views tend to depict youth in a negative light, either as helpless victims affected by violent conflict due to age, or as criminals or child-soldiers who are inherently violent or easily manipulated by others into becoming perpetrators (Celine Del Felice and Andria Wisler "*The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders*") the authors Journal of Peace Conflict & Development Issue 11, November 2007")

21 The word 'peace building' has been loosely used or confused with other terms such as peacemaking and peacekeeping. For example, the UN Peace building Commission established in 2005 considers peace building as actions undertaken in a period of post-conflict recovery. Yet, peace building involves a full range of approaches, processes, and interventions needed for the transformation of violent relationships, structures, attitudes and behaviours.the creative and simultaneous political and social processes for finding transcendent solutions to the root causes of conflicts and efforts to change violent attitudes and behaviour. Peace building encompasses all activities which aim to eliminate or mitigate direct, structural and cultural violence. Peace building and conflict transformation can only be possible if diverse needs, Interests and expectations are addressed, and if sincere and future-oriented processes of healing and reconciliation take place (Celina Del Felice and Andria Wisler: *The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders*)

untapped potential. The positive role of young people in peace-building is exemplified some recent historical examples drawn from Israel, Sierra Leone, West Africa, Kosovo etc. These are numerous examples in which young people have taken the lead in shaping the future in which they desire to live. This section also refers to cases of peace youth organizations or groups working on different types of peace work and addressing all forms of violence²².

Youth as victims

Conflict has had devastating effects and shattered the lives of young people in Puntland. Many have been forcibly recruited into clan based militias, and separated from their families²³. They have remained unemployed, and their traditional livelihoods disrupted. Their future is uncertain leading to hopelessness as they confront realities of limited livelihood choices. In war situations, many young Puntlanders have been subjected to forced labour, recruitment into armies or militias, and child prostitution. Many more are displaced, separated from their families, or orphaned, and must undertake a long, painstaking processes to rebuild their lives after war. The attention paid to child soldiers has translated into a powerful advocacy effort, leading to a number of concrete outcomes. These include the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which raises from 15 to 18 the minimum legal age for the involvement of children in combat, the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of a number of resolutions on the protection of children's rights³³, and the inclusion of special provisions for child protection in the mandate of recently established peacekeeping missions.

Box 1: Young people as victims

*As Angela McIntyre puts it, horror stories of rape, abduction and systemic violence from the mouths of the children did serve their purpose – to mobilize and galvanize sentiments about the use of children as soldiers. But delivered by bewildered child-victims, far from home, to groups of policy makers and activists, they became irrational emotional appeals, stripped of their political meaning and ultimately alienating an important issue from broader discussions on human security.... new research reveals that there is an important element of volunteerism that should be more closely considered when looking at young combatants. Rachel Brett has observed that large numbers of young people volunteer for the armed forces, rather than being forced or coerced. She states: While children rarely go looking for a war to fight . . . for adolescents, war is also an opportunity: for employment, to escape from an oppressive family situation or humiliation at school, for adventure, or to serve a cause. (UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*)*

Extensive evidence of youth is available about the youth not only as peace builders but also as agents of positive social change. Experiences suggest that there are many youth who are peace-builders. They are pro-active agents in their communities, in their schools, work places, sports teams, youth groups and universities. This section refers to example from Israel, Sierra Leone, West Africa and the Scout Movement to illustrate how various youth organizations have worked for peaceful co-existence

²² The Youth (around the world), more than ever, are at the forefront of global social, economic and political developments.² Young people, as members of a dynamic group in society, play a crucial role in positively transforming conflict situations and in building the foundations of democratic and peaceful societies. This is documented in several statements and reports of governments, international inter- governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations³. However, there is limited data to back up these statements which are more rhetorical than substantive. Academic research has yet to focus on youth's positive role in peace-building, as Siobhan McEvoy states

²³young people fight because; they are forced to – either by physical abduction, or because of a lack of other alternatives for survival. The corollary of this is that young people are not really responsible for their choice to fight, and should be treated as victims rather than as perpetrators of violence.

among nations and communities. Extensive evidence of youth is available about the youth not only as peace builders²⁴ but also as agents of positive social change. Experiences suggest that there are many youth who are peace-builders. They are pro-active agents in their communities, in their schools, work places, sports teams, youth groups and universities. This section refers to example from Israel, West Africa and the Scout Movement to illustrate how various youth organizations have worked for peaceful co-existence among nations and communities.

Box 2: Youth as Peace makers: Example: Conscious objectors in Israel, Shministim

Shministim was created to resist compulsory conscription in Israel. In principle, all Israeli citizens and residents are required to perform military service. Men are required to perform three years and women two years of "regular service." Thereafter, the law requires both men and women to perform a period of "reserve service" each year. There is no alternative civilian service in Israel²⁴. The new High-school Refuseniks movement was originated in October of 2004. More than 300 Israeli high-school students signed a letter declaring that they will refuse to take part in the occupation. On March 13th, 2005, the letter was sent to the Prime-Minister, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Education and the Military Chief of Staff. In their words their aims were "We are here to end to the occupation and bring freedom, security and peace to all Israelis and Palestinians. We refuse to take part of the occupation, which is against our basic values. In order to keep working against the occupation and in favour of peace,...the methods they used were imprisonment, letter writing and media outreach as ways to inform society about their choice. ... Alex Cohn told reports on April 2005: "I will spend time in prison so that society will be a better place and so that there will be greater awareness about the Occupation and its repercussions for the Israeli and Palestinian societies. The Occupation is the cause of all the terrorist acts and the frustration directed against Israel. We want to tell the youth –think for ourselves, be independent and free."²⁶ Alex as well as other conscious objectors realised their power as soldiers when needed to continue an unjust occupation. They decided to refuse following the non-violent principle of non-cooperation. Their specific power was also that they could reach out to many high school students and get media attention due to their numbers. Celina Del Felice and Andria Wisler "The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders) the authors *Journal of Peace Conflict & Development* Issue 11, November 2007"

Youth as perpetrators

Most academic literature on children, adolescents and youth has been undertaken from a psychology or public health perspective, studying how a violent family environment or up-bringing affects youth and adult behavior. It portrays youth in conflict as violent actors. It has been argued and observed that youth who are reared in and into a culture of violence and especially those who have been direct victims of violence will likely use violence as way of dealing with conflict. Among the few options available to these youth is to fight back. Considering the level of maturity and ability to reason, the youth are most often easily brain- washed in a manner that negatively did incite them towards triggering incidences of conflict where they engage in mass action, murder, riots, piracy and many other activities that cause situations of unrest.

In Puntland, the ideas, opinions and views of the youth are most often ignored in major decision making processes thus creating a spirit of rebellion in them and as a result they tend to go against the rules and regulations set aside by elders, a situation that can trigger conflict. Due to lack of adequate employment opportunities, most of the youth are idle and lack means to cater for their essential needs a reason that gave them a reason to accept any incentives given to them to indulge in acts of conflict because they have vast time and energy at their disposal²⁵. Customs and traditions

²⁵ During the conflict in Puntland youth were forced into being principal perpetrators while those who tried to escape from forceful recruitments to war groups and their allies, risked exposing themselves to untimely deaths in the process of running away from their motherland. This was exacerbated by the state government failure to offer youths no hope in formal job placements and capacity development. It offered no protection from evil and offers no youth leadership that is devoted to show youth that their government cares for them or at least try to establish hope where there was none. Such a scenario can easily ignite youths towards conflict and

that view the youth as protector's and warriors of their communities especially for the male youth skews the youths mind-set toward fighting back in case of any slight provocation or sign of attack rather than resorting to peaceful resolution, because it is impacted in them that not fighting for their community would imply that they are weak and thus will have betrayed their people. This may be the underlying notion that makes the youth be seen as perpetrators of conflict.

Box 3: Youth as peace makers: example: Peace Links, Sierra Leone

Peace links is a non-governmental youth-led organization founded in 1990 in Sierra Leone with the aim of empowering marginalized young people to step forward for positive change in their communities. Their programmes reach approximately 500 young people per year. Peace-links works to ensure that young people, especially those in extremely difficult circumstances, acquire the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to make positive contributions to society. Their activities include: music and dance workshops, peace education, sports, awareness raising campaigns, vocational skills training, youth leadership training seminars and camps. One of the keys to the success of Peace-links is the use of music and dance drama as a vehicle of expression and as a means of healing the wounds of war. Their songs' lyrics and messages challenge a culture of violence and propose a culture of peace. Their special power is reaching out to marginalized youth and ex-child soldiers using arts and sports . Through music young people can express not only their pain but also their hope for a better future. Songs and group activities help reconcile communities, built trust among participants and boost the personal self-esteem of young people (Celina Del Felice and Andria Wisler "*The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders; Journal of Peace Conflict & Development* Issue11, November 2007"

Youth as social, economic actors and peace builders

Extensive evidence of youth is available about the youth not only as peace builders, but also as agents of positive social change²⁶. They are pro-active agents in their communities, in their schools, work places, sports teams, youth groups and universities. The youth should be empowered in policy formulation and inclusion of youth representatives in government ministries. The government should provide a platform for the young people to air their views. The youth should also be included as youth delegates in meetings. As agents of change, youth can use media to promote peace and address their age groups. Young journalists can be used to produce programs on topics that affecting the youth. The youth radio can provide information about what is happening on the ground and pertinent issues, teach the youth about their rights, help youth understand the root causes of conflict as seen earlier on education basis, create a platform where youth share their views and are empowered and take up action on society issues. You realize that when two conflicting sides share their experiences, they learn that all of them suffered regardless of who was on the wrong and they work together to prevent such a thing from recurring. Governments need to improve access to information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making.

other criminal / antisocial activities. Changing their mind-set must be most urgent to anyone that is genuinely interested in nation building and put Somali suffering to rest. Somali youth are daily deceived or forcefully recruited in wars with tribal/ clan or religious leadership.

²⁶ Around the world many young people are victims of cultural, direct, and structural violence and become carriers of that violence or perpetration... however, many youth are peaceful and peace-builders. Equally affected by various forms of violence, they decide to act constructively towards building a culture of peace. Youth are underestimated as positive agents of change and key actors in peace-building (Celina Del Felice and Andria Wisler "*The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders*) the authors *Journal of Peace Conflict & Development* Issue11, November 2007".)

Box 4: Youth as Peace Builders - example: United Network of Young Peace builders (international)

The United Network of Young Peace builders (UNOY) are a global network of young people and youth organizations active in the field of peace building and conflict transformation. It was founded in 1989 in the Netherlands after a meeting of approximately 40 idealistic young people from various parts of the world. The UNOY Peace builders as a network organization contributes to the work of its 29 member organizations in 17 countries and hundreds of affiliates worldwide in two fundamental ways: Capacity building and advocacy. It works to enhance the capacities of young people as peace builders through regional training seminars and to advocate for the role of youth in peace building before institutions such as the United Nations and its agencies and the European Union. It also engages in a range of additional activities such as networking, sharing of information via e-groups and publications, peer-to-peer support through a pool of resource persons, fundraising and administrative support for small youth peace organizations. This network shows the capacity of youth to organize in a trans-national network, both to help each other to improve their peace building skills through peer-to-peer learning and exchange as well as to advocate for the inclusion of youth in peace processes Celina Del Felice and Andria Wisler “*The Unexplored Power and Potential of Youth as Peace-builders*” the authors *Journal of Peace Conflict & Development* Issue 11, November 2001.

Box 5: Youth Peace Initiative in the Mano River Union-2001

WAYN was established in response to the recruitment of youth across the region to perpetuate violence and fuel conflicts. Statistics compiled from these conflicts revealed that a large percentage of fighting forces in the conflicts in the Mano River Union (Sub regional body grouping Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) were young people aged 15-25 who bear the highest brunt of these conflicts. The Mano River Union was established in October 1973 to promote economic ties and regional integration between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Guinea joined the union in 1980. The crisis in the Mano River Union started in 1989 with the outbreak of a civil conflict in Liberia. This conflict later degenerated into Sierra Leone and then briefly into Guinea plunging the entire sub region into one of the most gruesome conflicts ever witnessed in Africa. Notably amongst these efforts was the effort by the Mano River Union Women Peace Network. Inspired by the activities of the Women Network, WAYN decided to infuse a new level of dynamism into the process. The network organized a hunger strike action in Monrovia before the Guinean Embassy and the Parliamentary Building in Monrovia. This bold but defiant action was intended to captivate the attention of the leaders of the sub-region to meet and resolve their difference through dialogue. The action proved to be successful as a delegation from WAYN visited Guinea and Sierra Leone and met with officials of the two countries. A Sub-regional Youth Delegation also visited Liberia and met with the then Liberian Leader.

Definition of youth

Youth is a transitional stage in life between childhood and adulthood. The definition of youth depends on a variety of cultural, socio-economic and opportunities contexts. The perceived age range of youth in Puntland is 14 – 33 years. The most common challenges the youth in Puntland face include exposure to violence, lack of opportunities for participation in the economic, and political processes, and drug abuse especially khat and the looming risk of HIV/AIDS.

Why focus on the youth

Based on the results of a sample survey conducted in 2010, the proportion of youth in Puntland (14-29 years) was 44.7%. If the youth age bracket were expanded to 15 – 33, the proportion of youth rises to 52 %. Overall, the persons below 33 years of age constitute was estimated at 79 % of the total population of Puntland. These young people are important stakeholders in the development of Puntland. They need to be appreciated for their potential contributions to the society's wellbeing. However, they face immense challenges in every aspect of their lives.

The Youth participation Survey and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted among the youth in 2010, by a Consortium led by the Puntland State University revealed that the youth aspire to

enjoy productive lives, and engage in national development. The FGDS points to a feeling of hopelessness among the Puntland youth which account for extreme negative antisocial and criminal outcomes as reflected in the increase in the number of youth (particularly among young males) engaging in Piracy, khat-chewing, and radical Islam. Many have either rejoined local militia groups, or involved themselves in other illegal activities due to frustrations as earning decent livelihoods gets increasingly elusive due to limited or lack of education/skills, coupled with limited employment opportunities in the region. In addition, women in the region face barriers with many getting forced into early marriages, widespread FGM and among others. Their choices and opportunities are se limited by several factors including lack of education, poor health services, fewer employment prospects, the ever present threat of conflict etc. Many of these young people lack the basic education that would make them employable in the labour market²⁷.

By 2004, a total of 2,500 students attended 10 secondary schools in Puntland with girls constituting only 20% of the total secondary enrolment. A mere 10 percent of the eligible youth (15 – 18 year olds) males were in school while 5% females²⁸ were in schools. Besides lack of access to basic education, the youth did not enjoy much space for civic participation, and being heard. Based on the youth poll conducted by UNICEF in 2006 some of the most common challenges the youth in the region faced include exposure to violence, lack of opportunities for participation and good governance, drug abuse especially *khat* and the risk of HIV/AIDS.

Harnessing the Untapped Potential of the youth in Puntland

This section addresses the need for harnessing the existing potential of youth in Puntland to minimize recurred of civil conflict and hasten the pace of economic recovery and human development. In order to harness the full potential of young women and men in Puntland, they need to be made aware that taking part in conflicts exposes them to various risks such as injuries or permanent disability. They need to set up strong youth organizations to take part in advocating peace policies and carry out public campaigns that are designed to bring young people out of conflicts. The youth in Puntland have the potential to build participatory democracy and undertake disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts. It is therefore important for the Puntland Government to invest in building the capacity of the youth (especially the ones in youth groups) in peace building skills. Developing opportunities for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, investing in civic education in schools both in rural and urban areas, promoting their social, political, developmental and environmental participation, removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society and respecting and freedom of association are among important aspects of building the capacity of youth in peace building efforts and in general community development.

Youth should be mobilized in their homes, communities, schools and regionally in areas of human rights protection, promotion of awareness and empowerment. Peer to peer education is very important as the people from same age group can interact well and share information. The government should also promote student unions in schools. This will enable the youth to learn about leadership roles in schools and later on be vocal and be able to advocate for positive things in the society. Among the key roles of youth in bringing about stability and prosperity are elimination of gender discrimination and acts of violence against women, mainstreaming of youth issues within national policies and program initiatives; development of youth programs and services, regardless of gender, physical ability, geographical location, social economic or cultural circumstances.

²⁷ Peace and Development in Northern Somalia Opportunities and Challenges: Canadian International Development Agency August 1999

²⁸ Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC) -, (April 2004, *Draft Report on Socio-economic Assessment in Puntland*

Creating and providing employment opportunities to the young people decreases the risk of them being recruited into armed conflict, succumbing to drugs. Special attention may be paid to vocational training and skills development to the actual labour market needs of the region. It is important to assess the employment needs of the labour market. Developing opportunities for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, investing in civic education in schools both in rural and urban areas, promoting their social, political, developmental and environmental participation, removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society and respecting and freedom of association are among important aspects of building the capacity of youth in peace building efforts and in general community development.

The authorities in Puntland have recognized the need for youth empowerment and participation in national development, by preparing the current Puntland Youth Policy that stresses the need for collaboration between all stakeholders in youth development, including government ministries, civil society organizations, international development organizations, the private sector and young people. The current Puntland State of Somalia, National Youth Policy represents a message of hope for young Puntlanders. It recognizes that the young people of Puntland face immense challenges in every aspect of their lives. Equally the Policy acknowledges that young people are a significant resource that needs to be mobilized for their positive contribution and creativity for community and national development. The Policy provides a vision, framework and set of critical interventions that targets all 15 – 30 years of age. It acknowledges the need for collaboration between all stakeholders in youth development, including government ministries, civil society organisations, international development organisations, the private sector and young people.

The Puntland Youth Policy reflects the direction of a variety of international declarations and documents spanning 45 years that have stressed the importance of, and given directions regarding the development of specific youth policies. The Puntland Youth Policy also responds to the thrusts of several key international developmental statements that are relevant to youth development and protection, namely; the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – this Convention is the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history. The CRC spells out the basic human rights for all children – without discrimination. It emphasises that all children have the right to survival; to develop to their fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family culture and social life.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

This Paper is divided into three parts:

The first part of the Introduction chapter provides an overview of the multi-faceted transition challenges facing Puntland in its early years of rebuilding a state shattered by civil strife. The second section reviews literature on current theories and evidences on the role of youth in relation to violent conflict both as negative (victims and perpetrators) and positive agents of change and underscore the rationale for investing in youth empowerment to harness their unexplored power and potential for societal transformation. The chapter develops the concept of youth empowerment as a platform for achieving sustainable human development in Puntland. It provides a preamble for the subsequent analysis of the complex relationships between youth empowerment and human development.

Chapter 2 covers; (i) the socio-economic transition/dynamics taking place in Somalia, (ii) the key drivers and dynamics of conflict and its subsequent impact on human development, (iii) the rationale for investing in youth empowerment as a strategic entry point for conflict transformation, peace building and human development. It identifies various drivers which will be broadly grouped into

structural causes, proximate causes and triggers as well as the key state building actors contributing to conflict or being affected by it in a positive or negative manner²⁹.

Chapter 3 presents an in-depth analysis of the situation of the Youth in Puntland and critical options for engaging and empowering them for inclusive development. It draws on the results of a representative sample survey of both young men and women in the Puntland supplemented by focus group discussions, key informant interviews and other secondary sources of information; to re-examine the situation of youth empowerment in Puntland. It contains four main sections. It addresses the state of youth in terms of their entitlements, in terms of their autonomy, education, rights, participation, decent employment and social protection, freedom of expression, juvenile justice, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, sexual and reproductive health and awareness of youth rights from a gender perspective. It unveils the realities of youth exclusion (e.g., displaced youth and children, youth in Diaspora and armed militia, gender-based violence, HIV/AIDs, socio-economic deprivation etc.. The third section highlights youth voices and choices of the youth based on their perceptions of multiple exclusions, joblessness, frustration, survival strategies and priority needs.

Chapter 4 - examines the role that youth in Puntland have played as social and economic actors at the community and national level (including the role of Diaspora), identifying the key barriers and explores innovative ways and support mechanisms to involve youth in local development decision-making, giving them voice and influencing power, with socio-economic benefits for themselves and their communities.

The last Chapter on Strategic policy options and recommendations pulls together the main findings of the preceding chapters and draws conclusions and their implications for strategic policy and program options. It will develop an integrated, holistic policy framework for engaging and empowering youth as a strategic entry point of intervention to address the larger challenges and opportunities and offer specific recommendations for agenda setting and programming.

²⁹ Literature cites three types of state building actors/spoilers operating in Somalia mainly: a) those undermining peace accords to perpetuate armed conflict; b) those acting to undercut local efforts to improve law and order and c) those (many business people) supporting peace building but blocking efforts to revive an effective central government from fear that a revived central government will become repressive at their expense. See

CHAPTER 2: CONFLICT DYNAMICS AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Chapter 2: is devoted to the analysis of conflict dynamics and development transition challenges facing Puntland. The Chapter also explores the state of human development in Puntland³⁰. The Chapter also explores the state of human development in Puntland by collating and presenting information/data on various aspects of Human Development as defined by UNDP³¹. The Chapter also illustrates how the economic structures created by conflict are among the most powerful blockages to making peace, and how violent conflicts coupled with the collapse of state institutions has led to poverty with long-term political, economic, environmental and social costs beyond their direct consequences (e.g. civilian deaths, displacement and disability). It expounds on the links between youth exclusion, poverty and conflict as well as to identify key constraints and opportunities for addressing multiple exclusions of youth. More importantly it analyzes the links between youth exclusion, poverty and conflict as well as to identify key constraints and opportunities for addressing multiple exclusions of youth.

The objective of conflict analysis in this Chapter is to create awareness of the conflict dynamics in the Puntland State of Somalia and guide further policy formulation and positive interventions. A better understanding of conflict dynamics in Puntland paves way to formulation of more effective conflict prevention strategies. Existing and potential drivers of conflict as well as the possible factors contributing to peace through are examined taking into account the context, causes, actors, and dynamics and triggers of conflict³².

The various conflict drivers are broadly grouped into structural causes, proximate causes and triggers as well as the key state building actors contributing to conflict or being affected by it in a positive or negative manner³³. It illustrates how economic structures created by conflict are among the most powerful blockages to making peace³⁴ and how violent conflicts coupled with the collapse of state institutions has led to poverty with long-term political, economic, environmental and social costs beyond their direct consequences (e.g. civilian deaths, displacement and disablement of populations). It will help to understand the links between youth exclusion, poverty and conflict as well as to identify key constraints and opportunities for addressing multiple exclusions of youth.

³⁰ Conflict arises when two or more societal groups pursue incompatible objectives. It leads to discontent, and confrontation. The nature and impact of conflict varies with the means employed: A conflict is predominantly violent when the use of violence outweighs the use of arbitration or other means.

³¹ The various components of the Human Development Index (HDI), include the Human Poverty Index (HPI), the Gender-related Development Index (GDI), and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM). However data on these measures is very scanty and generally outdated.

³² the UNDP recommends various stages of conflict analysis as follows, stage 1 -analysis of conflict • background situation, • causes, • actors, • dynamics, • scenarios; stage 2: - analysis of current responses, • mapping of current responses, • development and conflict, • development and formal peace processes; and stage 3 : - identification of way forward, • strategic conclusions , • programme and advocacy strategies, The aim of Stage 1 aims to provide an analysis of the situation in a given context, in particular from the perspective of identifying conflict causes and dynamics. {(United Nations Development Programme: *Conflict-related Development Analysis* (CDA) Bureau for Crisis Prevention and recovery (BCPR)..

³³ Literature cites three types of state building actors/spoilers operating in Somalia mainly: a) those undermining peace accords to perpetuate armed conflict; b) those acting to undercut local efforts to improve law and order and c) those (many business people) supporting peace building but blocking efforts to revive an effective central government from fear that a revived central government will become repressive at their expense.

³⁴ While many conflicts are understood to have their origin in an unaddressed “grievance”, for example clannism or religious discrimination, horizontally unequal distribution of resources and dramatic increases in unemployment, particularly of youth, there can be a shift over time from “grievance” to “greed” if there is no early treatment of grievances.

2.1. SETTING THE CONTEXT

2.1.1. State Building in Puntland

Following the overthrow of Siyad Barre's regime in early 1991, Somalia was plunged into civil war. The civil war caused social and political disintegration along clan lines, creating a wave of large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Hundreds of thousands fled from the Southern regions of Somalia to the present Puntland regions, leaving behind their property, and escaping from clan-cleansing and eventual genocide. One consequence of the disintegration of the Somali State was a return to clan-based animosities. In the absence of the state, local traditional mechanisms re-emerged as the basis of local governance to address social, security, administrative and political affairs. In contrast, owing the homogeneous nature of clan composition in the north east, the region was spared the fragmentation and violence that gripped the most of Southern and Central Somalia after 1991. The stabilization of the northeast regions was aided by the immigration of people with professional experience from the south, many of whom had professional backgrounds, including military officers and civilian technocrats in the Barre administrations. They brought a wealth of administrative expertise and public service management experience to the northeast regions.

With the exception of this violent confrontation between the forces of Abdullahi Yusuf, then President of Puntland, and Jama Ali Jama's militia in 2001–02, and an earlier religious uprising by Al-Itihad in 1992, Puntland, in general, has experienced stability. Following previous internal attempts to set up functioning regional administrations in the north-eastern regions, and the failure of various external national reconciliation efforts (in particular the 1996 Soddere process and the 1997 Cairo initiative), the State of Puntland was formally established in August 1998. This was the outcome of a nearly three-month-long consultative conference, involving both political and traditional leadership from the three regions of the north-east as well as the regions of Sool and Sanaag. The State was set up as an autonomous self-governing entity - albeit with the objective of cooperating in the restoration of South-Central Somalia and, ultimately, the long-term goal of being part of a federated Somalia³⁵. In August 1998, the strong will of Puntland's people to begin creating a modern, democratic system of governance, led to the creation of a single administrative body, the Puntland State of Somalia. This was envisaged as part of a future federal state of Somalia.

One of the factors in the successful formation of Puntland State may be the dominance of the northeast regions through the 1990s by a single military political faction, the SSDF, and the consequent relative security and stability of the area after the collapse of the State. A second related factor is the strong tradition of respect for the authority of the titled traditional elders, which originates from and is fostered by the relative homogeneity and common lineage of the communities in the northeast regions. This enabled the traditional leaders to manage community-based disputes (and maintain relative security) as well as support mediation of the long-standing power struggles within the SSDF sufficiently to sustain it as a single faction. And, third, the communities in the northeast regions are perceived to share a sense of common identity, which was reinforced by the impact of the civil war and by the dominance of other communities in the national level reconciliation processes. All of these factors appear to have contributed to sustaining the long evolution of the process that culminated, after a further ten months of dedicated preparation, in the Garowe

³⁵ Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC) – 2007; *the search for peace, Peace Initiatives in Puntland 1991—2007*

Constitutional Community Conference and the establishment of the Puntland State. While this was a substantial achievement that brought considerable benefits to the area, to date the political system of Puntland State has not been fully democratized. In order to avoid the stalemate of “permanent transition”, the next steps in the democratisation process will have to be fully grasped.

At a broadly representative community conference in Garowe, an interim charter was promulgated with basic provisions for the creation of the legislative, judicial and executive arms of a state government. A transitional administration, comprising a President and Vice President, a nine-member cabinet, and a 66-member House of Representatives, was duly sworn in on August 1st 1998 for an initial three-year term – after which elections for local councils and a state parliament would be held. However, by the end of its first term, the new administration was already facing allegations of mismanagement and nepotism – leading to widespread public protests, and several incidents of armed conflict. The Garowe constitutional community conferences were fundamentally community-driven initiatives, founded on the inter-related needs to go beyond the paralysing stalemate produced by the power struggle within the SSDF leadership, ensure common security, and to reach an effective agreement for the shared management of the economic resources of the northeast regions from Boosaaso port to the trading centre of Galkacyo.

In spite of such constitutional arrangements, the Puntland Government opted for a different approach by calling some titled leaders to a conference in Garowe (June 13 2001) to decide on one of two options (a) to extend the mandate of the government or (b) accept the dismantling of Puntland administration, which may lead to uncertain political and security situation. The government’s argument for opting proposal (a) was based on economic and financial consideration and lack of resources. The chairman of the parliamentary election committee argued in his report (June 14, 2001) that in order to hold political elections the resource needed amounts to US\$ 91 Million, which the administration could not provide³⁶. As the Constitutional Court, stipulated in the expired Charter, was not established during the government term –1998-2001 to resolve such constitutional and legal conflicts, a political stalemate between the two contending factions became immediately apparent.

Box 6: towards a Constitution crisis in Puntland

Traditional and religious leaders were weakened during Siyad Barre’s regime, with their powers being limited to the rural areas. In the face of state collapse, traditional and religious institutions filled the void by performing conventional government functions and maintaining peace and the rule of law.⁴⁰ In 1998, at the Grand Community Conference, the main clans in the region established a power-sharing arrangement, which formed the basis of a regional administration of Puntland. The key Darod clans were satisfied with this governing structure, which was accorded a three-year term. Minority groups, however, claimed that they were discriminated against and excluded from the regional administration. At the end of the three years, the administration unilaterally extended its tenure, causing much resentment in Puntland because it had failed to achieve its programs, propped up self-serving politicians and mismanaged governance. More important, this decision led to violent clashes with the opposition led by Jama Ali Jama, politically and financially supported by the TNG, which refused to abide by the decision. The crisis was sorted out when the government’s forces, strengthened with light arms and ammunition, prevailed and the two groups brokered an uneasy peace. With the exception of this violent confrontation between the forces of Abdullahi Yusuf, then President of Puntland, and Jama Ali Jama’s militia in 2001–02, and an earlier religious uprising by Al-Itihad in 1992, Puntland, in general, has experienced stability. For stability to continue and peace to be consolidated, the Conflict Analysis Regional Report on Puntland emphasizes that it is imperative for the administration to accelerate the economy; support inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency; provide basic services; and prevent corruption. (Wakillo) includes another 82 members distributed by clans (The Beel 39 ICG Report, May 4, 2004; *Conflict Analysis Regional Report – Puntland, 2004*).

³⁶ Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC) – (2007 , *the search for peace, Peace Initiatives in Puntland 1991—2007*

A group of Clan leaders from Abdullah's camp, then recommended extension of the government time-mandate to the House of Representatives, and the latter accepted the proposal and extended the government term for another three years. The constitutionality and legality of this decision was challenged by another group of elders and opposition groups, who called upon the Chief Justice to assume a Care-taker Presidency, as provided by Charter. The crisis was sorted out when the Puntland government's forces, strengthened with light arms and ammunition, prevailed and the two groups brokered an uneasy peace.

Nonetheless, there are three critical ingredients for peace and prosperity: political leadership with vision; a committed bureaucracy to catalyze and turn the vision into reality; and a hard-working population. The state needs transformation, re-engineering, and institutional reforms at all levels. The rich cultural heritage, Islamic value systems, and social capital will act as the foundation for growth. Under the strong guidance and active involvement of traditional leaders (isims) Puntland has managed to maintain the levels of peace and security which has enabled it to establish political and administrative institutions, deliver some limited basic social services, encourage an active civil society and promote a thriving private enterprise community. The comparatively favourable security situation has further attracted economic immigrants from both South-Central Somalia and Ethiopia, who have settled in urban centres and engaged in low-income activities.

An critical analysis of peace building initiatives in Puntland

An analysis of and Local peace initiatives and state building in Puntland since the outbreak of the civil war reveals intrigues that resulted in a mix of traditional system of governance under the guidance of senior traditional elders and *Isimo*. However, Puntland has witnessed two episodes of violent internal conflict: in 1992 the Al-Ittihad al-Islamia was defeated after an attempt to seize Bossaso port, and in June 2001 the failure to agree on a transfer of power at the end of the previous administration's term led to a constitutional crisis and a brief bout of factional fighting. This was resolved by an internally negotiated provisional settlement in 2003. The transfer issue was then resolved peacefully in July 2004, with an extension of the mandates of the parliament and the government by six months - instead of the two years originally proposed - and the appointment of a new, leaner cabinet.

The long journey to peace was characterized by military clashes involving the Somalia Salvation Defense Forces (SSDF) in Gaalkacyo and north Mudug region, intermittent, internal SSDF leadership wrangles, and the arrival of UNOSOM with plans for national dialogue as well as the Mudug Peace Agreement, which ended the de facto 'state of emergency' that had underpinned SSDF rule. Efforts were made to establish regional and district administrative structures but internal dynamics within the senior leadership of the SSDF limited their effectiveness, leaving the northeast regions in a state of suspense.³⁷ The leadership struggle was characterized by differences in approach between those associated with the military wing of the SSDF allied with former ministers from the Barre regime and politicians and officials from the former civilian government of the 1960s. Eventually the failure of successive national level peace talks prompted both factions to turn their attention to the agenda for the northeast regions.

Along Puntland's southern borders, the Mudug peace agreement, albeit fragile, is still holding. It has greatly contributed to creating the largely peaceful situation. This success story in reconciliation and

³⁷ WSP, 2001

peace-building merits to be studied adapted and applied to the more insecure parts of Somalia such as the South-Central. Along its western border, however, Puntland was involved in a dispute with Somaliland over the control of the border regions of Sool and Sanaag, where loyalties of the inhabitants themselves are divided to either side. While Puntland aspires to be part of a federal Somalia, it can be argued that its relative success in maintaining stability has in large part been due to its homogeneity and also its de facto separation from the political developments of South-Central Somalia, for which Puntland's progress towards peace and democracy can serve as valuable lessons.

The next phase dates from the community-based consultative process that led to agreement on the formation of the Puntland federal government in 1998 up until the constitutional crisis in 2001 characterized by recovery and rebuilding of administrative systems. The early achievement of the administration in clearing the numerous roadblocks along the main trade route built public confidence and a constructive period of relative political stability followed. Peace and conflict resolution. Under the strong guidance and active involvement of traditional leaders (isims) Puntland has managed to maintain the levels of peace and security which has enabled it to establish political and administrative institutions, deliver some limited basic social services, encourage an active civil society and promote a thriving private enterprise community.

The other phase was marked by political crisis at the end of the mandate of the administration in 2001³⁸ resulting in serious armed confrontation and concerns that Puntland would descend into chaos. Many of the clan-based conflicts over pastoral resources and associated cycles of revenge killings occurred during this period of political turbulence. A number of factors, internal and external, contributed to the eventual negotiated resolution of the crisis, in which members of the Puntland Diaspora as well as influential figures in Puntland played a part.

The final phase, from the peace agreement reached in 2003, was characterized by political transition, increased insecurity, and outbreaks of clan-based conflict. The Puntland president was largely absent, attending the national reconciliation talks in Kenya where he was subsequently appointed president of the TFG. The ensuing political vacuum in Puntland created serious tension and uncertainty but was managed 30 The Search for Peace effectively with the help of traditional leaders and other influential figures, resulting in the election of a new Puntland president, General Adde in 2005³⁹.

The above events portray a complex interplay of the roles of traditional leaders, politicians, intellectuals and members of the Diaspora, and of national and local level political agendas in the northeast regions and Puntland. After the collapse of the Somali state and the ensuing power vacuum, the traditional elders resumed responsibility for managing peace and security in the northeast regions and addressing local community based disputes, working in collaboration with other leading figures. Conflicts were resolved through interplay of the political elite together with the traditional leaders, intellectuals and members of the Diaspora who all contributed to mediation of clashes, crises, and facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance by international agencies.

In most cases, the traditional conflict management structures and the modern system of governance worked in a complimentary way that provided for the application of law and order. Many of the peace

³⁸ Puntland Development Research Centre, Recovery and rebuilding: the Puntland State of Somalia

³⁹ Puntland Development Research Centre, Recovery and rebuilding: the Puntland State of Somalia

initiatives aimed to build a structured system to tackle conflict through establishing administrative structures and systems of governance. This appears to reflect the recognition by the key stakeholders and communities that peace would only be sustained through effective governance capable of applying the rule of law. From 1991 onwards, efforts have been made to establish local and regional administrations and it is notable that, in the vast majority of cases, the local governance systems were established through a consultative approach that ensured a level of community ownership.

Emerging governance structures in Puntland

Puntland's first Charter, ratified and implemented in 1998, was replaced by the current provisional Constitution in 2001. Puntland has a three-tiered structure of government, consisting of the state executive, regional administrations and district councils. The Puntland Provisional Charter (Article 28) stipulated that within the mandate period (July 1988-June 2001), the administration should have undertaken and completed (a) population census, (b) Draft Constitution, (c) organized a referendum on Draft Constitution, and (d) produced the law for holding elections. However over time, the interim administration failed to implement any of these covenants, but drafted a constitution document, which coincided with the termination of the administration's time mandate. Whenever such a constitutional crisis emerged, the charter provided dissolution of the Government (cabinet) and House of Representatives, and calling upon the Chief Justice to assume the presidency of a caretaker administration for a period of 30 days, during which he would organize a constitutional conference similar to, or designed on the model of 1988 Conference where the traditional leaders would make decisions to form a new government.

There are three critical ingredients for peace and prosperity: political leadership with vision; a committed bureaucracy to catalyze and turn the vision into reality; and a hard-working population. The state needs transformation, re-engineering, and institutional reforms at all levels. The rich cultural heritage, Islamic value systems, and social capital will act as the foundation for growth. Under the strong guidance and active involvement of traditional leaders (isims) Puntland has managed to maintain the levels of peace and security which has enabled it to establish political and administrative institutions, deliver some limited basic social services, encourage an active civil society and promote a thriving private enterprise community. The comparatively favourable security situation has further attracted economic immigrants from both South-Central Somalia and Ethiopia, who have settled in urban centres and engaged in low-income activities.

However, several major challenges still face Puntland's emerging democracy. The House of Representatives has had limited expertise in constitutional matters, while the state's provisional constitution was initially regarded as having several flaws and has yet to be harmonized with the Transitional Federal Charter that emerged with the formation of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004. Three systems of law – traditional, *sharia* and secular judicial systems have continued to operate in parallel. Power still passes through clan lineage ties rather than an elective democratic process. Citizens lack basic knowledge of their constitutional rights and obligations.

Puntland's identity is kinship and its territory is consequently defined by the living space of the Harti clans. Although attractive to many, this version of ethnic federalism is not without its drawbacks. To the west it has the potential to generate dangerous tensions with Somaliland over the territory inhabited by the Harti sub-clans of Dhulbahante and Warsengeli; to the south it risks a confrontation with the Habar Gidir who contends that the living space claimed by the Harti infringes upon their own lands. Optimists thus see in Puntland a brave new ethnic model for Somali self-government;

pessimists see a newly built house with two walls already on fire⁴⁰. However, the State's provisional constitution is widely seen as having several flaws and has yet to be harmonized with the Transitional Federal Charter that emerged with the formation of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004. Three systems of law – traditional, Sharia and secular judicial systems continue to operate in parallel.

Decentralization

The people of Puntland have expressed a strong desire for a decentralized system of governance where there is devolution of power and service delivery to district and local levels. There are currently seven administrative regions - an increase of three from 2004 - namely Nugaal, Bari, Mudug, Cayn and Karkar, Sool and Sanaag. Puntland's structure of government harmonizes with the decentralized system of administration based on federalism. The key construct of a decentralized federal Somalia, specified in the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) is a proposed four-tiered administration: federal institutions, state governments, regional administrations and district administrations. The TFC articulates a division of functions and powers of the federal and state governments but does not identify specific responsibilities for regional or district authorities, which are specified in Puntland's Constitution. This would also ensure that people are more actively involved in decision making and make the government more democratic, transparent and accountable. Consequently, Puntland is proceeding with a decentralization of financial and administrative functions. However, this change had been introduced without making the necessary fiscal transfer to enable the districts to provide much needed basic social services. Most districts are under fiscal stress, facing significant challenges in finding the resources to pay for their legally mandated responsibilities.

2.1.2 The socio-cultural context

A great deal of conflict in Puntland stem from discontent over the right to pastures, and other natural resources such as minerals, fishing and land. In addition, scarce resources such as grazing and water are also potential causes of conflict. Clannism and clan affiliations are often a source of conflict, used to divide Somalis, fuel endemic clashes over resources and power, mobilize militia, and render reconciliation very difficult to achieve. Civil clashes since 1991 have been waged in the presumed interest of various clans, often as a result of political leaders manipulating clannism for their own purposes. Yet traditional clan elders can play a critical role in negotiated conflict settlement. Economic interests, too, have had an ambiguous relationship with conflict in Somalia. War economies have perpetuated violence and lawlessness, while in other instances business interests have been a driving force for peace, stability, and rule of law. Understanding under what circumstances these and other variables serve as promoters of diffusers of violence, or both, is the subtle challenge conflict analysis faces in the Somali context.

Clan identities are often manipulated by leaders to pursue control of resources and power. However, clan identities are not the basis for conflict; rather, their deliberate manipulation creates and exacerbates inter-clan conflict. Warlords and divisive leaders emphasize differences among clans and formulate demands that play on those differences. Clan groups can serve as destructive or constructive forces as well as traditional conflict moderators. Different clan identities are used as a tool to mobilize clan members when in conflict, and cleavages are drawn upon to wage war. In this way, clan and sub-clan differences can be a force for division and fragmentation, particularly when manipulated for political purposes. Simultaneously, clan leaders are a source of deterrence and traditional conflict management for clans, providing protection and support during periods of crises.

⁴⁰ Bryden, Matt, *New Hope for Somalia: The Building Block Approach*, March 1999.

In fact, traditionally, the clan system was a moderating force used to bring about reconciliation and cooperation.

Religious courts

Puntland is a predominantly Muslim country, Islam having been absorbed from coastal Persian and Arab immigrants and traders in the 13th century. Islam was a dominant force in pre-conflict Somalia and interpretations of it were specific to Somali cultural society rather than any import of 'fundamentalist' interpretations. However, there were major differences between governmental legislation and customary practice which governed women's lives and gender relations. Overall, there appears to have been a turnaround in recent years, with traditional (clan-based) and Religious (*Sharia*) structures providing protection and social insurance, and increasingly being relied on to resolve disputes and create stability. These courts, funded by businessmen and controlled by clan elders, provide increased law and order, although there have been charges that the *Sharia* courts were not accountable and women did not receive equal justice.

Coping strategies and social networks

Individuals and communities employ their intimate knowledge of the environment, or political and social relations to mitigate and cushion themselves against disaster. Households in Puntland resort to diversification of sources of livelihood through seasonal migration, changes to dietary intake, or the consumption of famine foods. In the absence of any formal welfare system in Somalia, resource transfers and wealth redistribution within social networks play a crucial role in the maintenance of livelihoods. Informal networks can account for 25-60 % of the household economy during stressful periods. Migration is a critical coping strategy in a risk prone environment. Migration, resettlement through adoption into another clan (*sheegata*), and exogamous marriage mean that most Somali families have relatives spread among clans and over a large geographic area. These personal and familial networks can be drawn on in times of conflict or drought. Clan affiliation and identity with a place of residence form a system for the sharing and co-operative control of resources at the level of the household, compound, community and clan. Other forms of assistance include the loan of farmland (*hoors*) or a milking animal (*irmaans*), the restocking of live-stock, and the giving of credit (*amaa*). Helping those most in need is also integral to the religious and social obligations of Islam, institutionalized in the giving of zakat and sadaqa. Within the community, co-operative forms of labour, such as temporary assemblies of kin and acquaintances (*goob*) to perform a specific agricultural task or water-user groups (*fatiir*) are commonplace.

The system of social protection in Somalia involves the extended family and the clan based on social capital, is by far the most important. The successful growth of remittance companies that channel large transfers from migrants and refugees abroad to their relatives left in the country has been almost completely dependent on the cohesiveness and trust within sub-clans. A recent survey also confirmed the wide variety of civil society institutions that provide various forms of social protection and that are playing a major albeit secondary role as substitutes for government. The most important civil society organizations (CSOs) that have emerged are the religious organizations that undertake substantial social services, largely in health and education, and social protection programs outside the SACB coordination mechanism.

Localised drought can normally be dealt with by seeking assistance from relatives, friends or the clan. But more widespread drought places greater demands on the system as a whole. Initially expanding

to meet needs, the networks contract as drought continues and assets are eroded. When widespread conflict and drought are combined, as witnessed in the early 1990s, the impact can be devastating. Production systems and household and community assets, such as food stores and livestock, were destroyed or looted and the option of migration was constrained by warring militia. As livelihood options were reduced and trust within and between clans was eroded, the geographical spread of the resource networks contracted, and families retreated to the reassuring safety of the community. However, in some instances, the migration of individuals abroad served to extend these networks.

Economic opportunities and resource base in Puntland

Three major sectors dominate domestic income generation in Puntland: livestock rearing (goats, sheep, and camels), fisheries, and frankincense production. The Diaspora also contributes substantial remittances, which are converted into augmented consumption and investments in the local economy. Around 60–65 percent of the population is employed in the livestock sector, which also accounts for about 40 percent of the state's gross output and 80 percent of its foreign exchange earnings⁴¹. Livestock exports contribute around 80 percent of foreign exchange earnings, 40 percent of the GDP and 60 percent of employment opportunities⁴². The fishing sector has huge potential for expansion; the Puntland coastline is around 1,640 km long, and has extremely rich grounds for fish and lobster.

In addition to these sources of livelihood, remittances from the Diaspora provide a large part of household incomes. Puntland has enjoyed substantial remittances from the Somali Diaspora. Internally, a proxy for the importance of this trust-based income source is underpinned by the results of the 2002 Socio-economic Survey, which sought data across Somalia on household incomes and expenditures. Based on these sources, remittances are much more important today than the much smaller amount (US\$272 million) in official development assistance (ODA) provided mostly for humanitarian purposes. Remittances from abroad into Somalia was estimated to be at least US\$825 million in 2004 (about US\$113 per capita, or about 60 percent of current GNP, which was estimated in 2001 at US\$1.3 billion) and quite possibly more than US\$1 billion. This amount is about three-four times the value of total exports recorded by the IMF. It also is equivalent to about half of total pre-war GNP.

These remittances provide substantial community funding, for small businesses and basic service provision, especially in and around towns. Puntland has a rapid urbanization rate, and it is estimated that 30 percent of the population live in the capitol of Garoowe and the other major towns of Bossaso, Galkayo and Qardho. Growth and economic recovery in Puntland have been propelled by economic remittances, construction, and the influx of internally displaced persons from war-torn southern Somalia and neighboring countries such as Ethiopia. This influx has created fast-growing urban settlements and an increased demand for employment, food supplies, infrastructure, social services, housing, and urban amenities. Most urban Puntlanders live in the main centres: Bossaso, Gardo, Badhan, Garowe, Las-anod, Buhodle, and Galkayo.

⁴¹ Puntland State of Somalia, *Five Year Development Plan (2007 – 2011)*

⁴² *Somali reconstruction and development programme; Deepening Peace - and Reducing Poverty Volume iii: Puntland*

There is also an extensive network of regional airports that handle some international and inter-regional flights. The private sector, although limited, is thriving in the stable social and political conditions that have been created in most of Somaliland and Puntland. There seems to be no shortage of consumer goods throughout the regions. The absence of a central government, together with much of the infrastructure taken for granted in other countries (such as an official banking, telephone and postal systems), has led to innovation. An example of this is the deregulated satellite-based telecommunications sector.

Agro- pastoralism

Pastoralism remains a key driver of Puntland's economic activity. The livestock sector is dominated by sheep and goats, which have a niche market in the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. The sector not only provides livelihoods but also a strong food market for rural and urban areas. Yet the sector operates in a fragile environment with no permanent rivers, severe droughts, and a poor infrastructure that badly serves the burgeoning exports of livestock and livestock products. Pastoralists surviving in the arid and semi-arid environment have for centuries managed seasonal migratory patterns governed by prolonged dry seasons and the droughts that occur with intervals of five years, causing wells and water points to dry up. Still, the drought of 2001–2004 exposed pressing problems for the sector: shrinking pastoral land, diminishing forest cover, overgrazing resulting from the lack of rangeland management, etc.

Fisheries

Fishing along a rich 1,300-km coastline is ranked as the second largest source of income of the people of Puntland, but the same constraints as mentioned above apply here as well as along the southern coast. Less than half of the potential output—mostly naturally growing—of frankincense and myrrh is harvested. Studies have shown that the fisheries potential has never been tapped beyond 7 percent. The 2006 annual artisanal fisheries harvest alone (for export to neighbouring countries) was 342.39 tons, revealing the potential of the industry. However, both the artisanal and the commercial fishery subsectors face longstanding constraints. Infrastructure and proper storage to service local and hinterland markets have not improved. Markets for fish products remain limited locally. The 2004 tsunami meanwhile severely damaged the sector, with an estimated loss of US\$23.6 million; it rendered about 16,720 families homeless⁴³.

The Private sector

The private sector, although limited, is thriving in the stable social and political conditions that have been created in most of Puntland. There seems to be an ample supply of consumer goods throughout the regions. Cheap and reliable international communications have strengthened the links with the Somali Diaspora and greatly facilitated the crucially important system of remittances from abroad. Although remittances tend to be used for immediate needs, there are indications now that such resources are increasingly being invested in construction⁴⁴. Urban centres are seeing a boom in

⁴³Puntland State of Somalia, *Five Year Development Plan (2007 – 2011)*

⁴⁴ Institute for Research and Development and Partnership Africa Canada, two Canada-based NGOs, challenges the assumptions behind these policies (particularly as they relate to northern Somalia) *Peace and Development in Northern Somalia Opportunities and Challenges*

construction, particularly for housing, shops, restaurants and some hotels. The private sector, has invested strongly in the provision of basic services such as education and health, and delivery has actually improved since state collapse in the early 1980s. However, such services are generally concentrated in urban centres and do not cater for the needs of the poor. The private sector has also partially filled the gap in infrastructure provision left by conflict and lack of government, and has been involved in the management of various infrastructure facilities such as roads, airports/airstrips, ports, water supply and sanitation, and power generation and supply. The private sector also offers essential social services, including health and education. The private sector is also involved in court services—dispute resolution, contract enforcement, property rights protection, and law and order⁴⁵.

The role of Civil Society

Since the mid-1990s, moreover, civil society—with many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) headed by women have played an increasingly important role in the supervision and delivery of public goods and services. The private sector has, to a significant extent, mitigated the impact of state collapse and war on the Somali people. Prior to 1991, the economy was led by the public sector, but with government collapse the pattern has been reversed. Private investment in commercial ventures, such as money transfer services and transport and communications, has been robust, and this in turn supports other economic activities, notably those of traders doing business with the Middle East and Asia. With the collapse of the repressive central government there was a mushrooming of with a majority of them being concentrated in Bossaso. However, their numbers have seen a decline since then, as the majority have had to struggle hard with mostly volunteer staff to carry out projects, for which funding has often been scarce. Too many donors have compounded this situation by concentrating funding in the hands of expatriate NGOs. In spite of these constraints, Somalia NGOs continue to develop and mature and there are now several NGO coalitions.

The state of infrastructure

The current infrastructure comprises some 22,000 km of roads, four major ports and airfields, four of which have paved runways. There is no national electricity grid or legal and regulatory framework in place; most energy is provided by the private sector from privately owned generators at a relatively local level. Urban infrastructure in general is in poor condition. Infrastructure in Puntland State of Somalia is limited to an international port, a paved road, some airstrips, and a network of access routes to the seashore, where fishing communities have settled⁴⁶. Puntland State of Somalia has good international airline connections to its main urban centres – Bosasso, Garowe, and Galkayo. Only the Galkayo airport (a former military airport) is equipped with a tarmac airstrip. It is not yet intensively used, despite the existence of a well-known slaughterhouse there that exports chilled meat to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Natural resources

Puntland's natural resources are under severe pressure because of the transformation of production and consumption patterns and massive rural to urban migration, which has changed natural resource use. Environmental degradation is accelerating, manifested by the desertification of rangeland,

⁴⁵ World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management 2, Country Department for Somalia, Africa Region, January 11, 2006: Somalia: From Resilience; Towards Recovery and Development; A Country Economic Memorandum for Somalia -

⁴⁶ Puntland State of Somalia, *Five Year Development Plan (2007 – 2011)*

exhausted aquifers, depleted biodiversity, and increasing public health hazards. This is mainly due to the absence of effective regulations, irresponsibility on the part of powerful groups and individuals exploiting the fragile environment, and the desperate search for livelihoods by the poor. Soil erosion is common and areas that were once tree-covered rangeland have been reduced to treeless plains – wildlife has all but disappeared.

Deforestation:

It was estimated that charcoal output in Puntland State of Somalia in 1996 was 4.5 million sacks (each sack of 25–30 kg). This charcoal required the cutting and burning of 1.2 million acacia trees, equivalent to a land area of 35,000 ha per year. The search for alternative energy sources should therefore be prioritized. Marine Conservation: Fishery statistics indicate rich marine resources in both quantity and species, with an abundant stock of small pelagic fish. Foreign vessels have concentrated their efforts on unsustainable intensive lobster fishing, giving no attention to females carrying eggs or issues of size and age. 7.3.1 Disaster Management for Livelihoods and Food Security. Natural disasters are a regular phenomenon in Puntland State of Somalia. One in every five years is a drought year. Often such droughts extend for longer periods, assuming famine and disaster proportions. The recent and continuous drought between 2001 and 2004 has resulted in the decline of the livestock population by 55 percent. While nomadism is one of the drought-coping mechanisms traditionally, it is increasingly becoming an ineffective strategy due to increased resource pressures and widespread resource degradation.

2.2. THE CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

2.2.1. Dynamics and Drivers of Conflict and Poverty

This section explores the drivers of conflict⁴⁷ in Puntland in terms of major drivers or catalysts and inhibitors of conflict, as well as analyzes factors that tend to amplify, neutralize, or even transform the impact of conflict drivers. It identifies various drivers of conflict including structural causes⁴⁸, proximate causes and triggers⁴⁹. The focus is on reviewing certain factors that fuel conflict or

⁴⁷ Conflict is often used as a synonym for violence and thus it bears negative connotations. It can be defined negatively, as a fight or struggle, as a disagreement between people with different ideas or beliefs or as an incompatibility (or perceived incompatibility) of goals (Galtung, 2000). Conflict can also be defined positively as an opportunity for actors to express their differences, become aware of others' perceptions, interests and needs, and thus, be an opportunity for change and growth. Conflict can also be seen as a natural process, part of life and relationships. According to the approach of Galtung, although conflict may lead to violence, it is conceptually totally different. At the core of a conflict, the root, there is always an incompatibility between goals, referred to as 'contradiction'. While conflict means an incompatibility of goals, natural and necessary for human and social development, violence oppresses, destroys and hinders this development. Violence is only one way of dealing with a conflict; it is destructive and rarely transforms the conflict

⁴⁸ Structural factors are pervasive and long-standing factors that become built into the policies, structures, and the culture of a society and may create a pre-condition for violent conflict. It is widely believed that societies that live under endemic corruption, political repression, and dominance by the executive are more susceptible to extremism. Unresolved historical grievances and periods of insecurity can provide the environment for radical groups to operate. Persistent economic crises and instability may fuel extremism as they cause growing discontent and perhaps economic disparities.Socioeconomic factors may also include lack of economic and social opportunities, unequal distribution of resources, poor governance, and a culture of violence (USAID, Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), *Yemeni Cross Sectoral Youth Assessment Report*, November, 2008).

⁴⁹ Triggers are single acts or events that may escalate a problem related to structural factors. Some triggers can be anticipated, but others cannot. Examples of triggers include growing discontent in the military, flawed elections, and violent repression of peaceful demonstrations by the government, coup attempts, assassination of key opposition leaders, economic collapse, and foreign invasion. ... Once structural factors exist (USAID, Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), *Yemeni Cross Sectoral Youth Assessment Report*, November, 2008)

promote peace⁵⁰. In conflict analyses, a distinction is made not only between factors that cause conflicts versus those which perpetuate them, but also between underlying and precipitating causes of conflicts. The underlying or structural factors which render a country vulnerable to armed conflict are relatively easy to identify. The underlying or structural factors which render a country vulnerable to armed conflict are relatively easy to identify. However, identification of the specific precipitating causes (or combinations of causes) that can suddenly trigger armed violence on a large scale is far more difficult to achieve.

Potential sources of conflict in Puntland

While Puntland remains largely peaceful, key areas for potential conflict are (a) the right to explore and use the rich natural resources such as minerals, fishing and land, and (b) the above mentioned disputed border with Somaliland. Without transparent, accountable management and equitable distribution of revenue from these resources among communities, there is a possible risk of destabilization and conflict. In addition, scarce resources such as grazing and water are also potential causes of conflict. So far, however, the use of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, known as *xeer*, has helped to maintain considerable stability within Puntland. There is growing interest to strengthen these traditional conflict reconciliation mechanisms especially to resolve traditional conflicts. In addition to *xeer*, there are other methods of settling disputes, *shari'a* and a secular justice system. Ideally, the close links between these justice systems mean that they can provide appropriate resolution mechanisms, thereby helping to maintain peace and stability. The secular court system has undergone institutional and physical rehabilitation, but is still in poor shape and covers only an estimated 25 percent of Puntland.

Puntland's identity is kinship and its territory is consequently defined by the living space of the Harti clans. Although attractive to many, this version of ethnic federalism is not without its drawbacks. To the west it has the potential to generate dangerous tensions with Somaliland over the territory inhabited by the Harti sub-clans of Dhulbahante and Warsengeli; to the south it risks a confrontation with the Habar Gidir who contends that the living space claimed by the Harti infringes upon their own lands. Optimists thus see in Puntland a brave new ethnic model for Somali self-government; pessimists see a newly built house with two walls already on fire⁵¹. Three systems of law – traditional, Sharia and secular judicial systems continue to operate in parallel. Power still passes through clan lineage ties rather than an elective democratic process. Citizens lack basic knowledge of their constitutional rights and obligations.

⁵⁰ Proximate factors are the tip of the iceberg while structural factors are deeper, larger, and not immediately visible. The factors that trigger armed conflict are often distinct from factors that help to perpetuate them. The wider literature on protracted conflict suggests that over time interests develop in perpetuating conditions of war and lawlessness; these “spoilers” (both local and external) can become additional impediments to peace-building and state-building. That same literature also reminds us that spoilers come in many varieties, including both situational as well as “total” spoilers. More broadly, this line of inquiry rightly emphasizes the fact that good conflict analysis must include an interest inventory of the key actors, recognizing that some may actually have an interest in perpetuating conditions of “durable disorder” (Ken Menkhaus; *Conflict analysis: Somalia*)

⁵¹ Bryden, Matt, March 1999; *New Hope for Somalia: The Building Block Approach*.

Box 8: Key questions for conflict analysis

Profile/Context

1. What is the political, economic, and socio-cultural context?
2. What are emergent political, economic and social issues?
3. What conflict prone/affected areas can be situated within the context?
4. Is there a history of conflict?

Causes

1. What are the structural causes of conflict?
2. What issues can be considered as proximate causes of conflict?
3. What triggers could contribute to the outbreak/ further escalation of conflict?
4. What new factors contribute to prolonging conflict dynamics?
5. What factors can contribute to peace?

Actors

1. Who are the main actors/perpetrators?
2. What are their interests, goals, positions, capacities and relationships?
3. What capacities for peace can be identified?
4. What actors can be identified as spoilers? Why? Are they inadvertent or intentional spoilers?

Dynamics

1. What are current conflict trends?
2. What are windows of opportunity?
3. What scenarios can be developed from the analysis of the conflict profile, causes and actors

Sources: FEWER, International Alert and Safer world, 2004

Box 9: Drivers of Conflict in Somalia

The 2005 World Bank report "Conflict in Somalia: Drivers and Dynamics," outlines major factors affecting conflict escalation and de-escalation in Somalia. The following common patterns and common drivers of conflict were identified:

Clannism: Clan identities are a double-edged sword, acting as both conflict escalators and de-escalators. Nearly all armed conflicts in contemporary Somalia break out along clan lines. Yet clan identities are not the basis for conflict; rather, their deliberate manipulation creates and exacerbates divisions. Countering the conflictual aspect of clannism is the potential of clans to act as constructive forces and traditional conflict moderators. Clan elders use traditional laws to settle disputes in non-confrontational ways.

Governance: Governance, if effective, can serve as a potent conflict de-escalator, yet experience of Somalis with a repressive state under Mohamed Siyad Barre made them generally suspicious of centralized governance, considering it an instrument of accumulation and domination, enriching those who control it.

Resources: Competition among clan groups over access to and control over resources has been a key driver of the conflict in all parts of Somalia. Clashes over crop production, animal grazing, and the use of water points have been most common. Negotiations over return of property and land are thus an integral part of achieving peace but could also potentially further escalate conflict.

Militarization: Continued proliferation of small arms from neighboring countries has made small-scale conflict more lethal and has strengthened the militarization of a society in which violence is a norm and guns are an accepted form of conflict resolution. Lack of accountability creates a culture of impunity, which further exacerbates conflict.

Regional Disputes. Sool and Eastern Sanaag remain disputed by Somaliland and Puntland.

Inhabitants of the regions are torn over their allegiance, which acts against conflict de-escalation. Mudug region remains disputed by South Central Somalia and Puntland.

International Involvement: International actors exert both positive and negative influences on the complex Somali conflict. With external actors sometimes propping up clans that are willing to broaden their sphere of influence, Somalia has often been the battleground for divisions between its African and Arab neighbors.

Source: World Bank 2005. "Conflict in Somalia: Drivers and Dynamics," World Bank, January 2005.

Conflict is often a tool by which specific groups secure advantages for themselves. They may deliberately undermine the institutions of governance and thereby limit the social pressures that

would tend towards economic and social equity. Persistent economic crises and instability may cause growing discontent and perhaps economic disparities. In this regard, it is important to look at access to or exclusion from, for example, employment opportunities, education, and services. This increases the possibility of the “formation of grievance-driven movements founded on shared experience of exclusion or discrimination.” Socioeconomic factors may also include lack of economic and social opportunities, unequal distribution of resources, poor governance, and a culture of violence⁵².

Competition among clan groups over access to and control of pastures leads to conflict in Puntland. One of the most chronic forms of conflicts occurs when pastoral communities clash with each other and with agricultural communities over grazing land and water points. Struggles to control scarce fertile land and water points often result in brutally violent clashes between clans. Clan groups lower or raise their level of identity in competition over resources to mobilize their clan-kin to acquire economic benefits necessary for survival or for increased power⁵³. Land and property rights are often a subject of court cases and arbitration. Thus land is a source of conflict since there is no comprehensive legal framework for land and property management, but a mix of dispositions and practices stemming from the three sources of law⁵⁴.

The successful resolution and prevention of land based conflicts will require the reinforcement of the various forms of justice systems⁵⁵. Besides conflicts over land, during drought a water crisis ensues leading to migration, unemployment, and impoverishment. Moreover, pastoralists challenge illegal enclosures that prevent them access to fertile grazing land, thus producing violent conflicts. On the other hand, overexploitation of land and excessive harvesting of trees for commodities such as charcoal lead to deterioration in the environment and rapid desertification. This, in turn, reduces the available fertile land, a key requirement for a primarily pastoral-based economy. Such resource scarcity is a harbinger of worsening conflict.

Clan based Conflicts

Most civil conflicts in Puntland invariably assume the character of clan affiliations. The most significant types of armed conflicts in Puntland has been triggered by struggles over valued resources – pasture, wells, markets, airstrips, seaports, and international humanitarian or development aid and contracts. Others have been fuelled by disputes over political control of towns and districts. Others have been manipulated and instigated by political elites. Different clan identities

⁵² USAID, Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), Yemeni Cross Sectoral Youth Assessment Report,

⁵³ Clan groups can serve as destructive or constructive forces as well as traditional conflict moderators. In lineage-based Somalia where clans define relationships, clan identity is not static and fixed but is shaped and manipulated according to changing situations. Warlords and divisive leaders emphasize differences among clans and formulate demands that play on those differences. Different clan identities are used as a tool to mobilize clan members when in conflict, and cleavages are drawn upon to wage war. In this way, clan and sub-clan differences can be a force for division and fragmentation, particularly when manipulated for political purposes. Simultaneously, clan leaders are a source of deterrence and traditional conflict management for clans, providing protection and support during periods of crises. In fact, traditionally, the clan system was a moderating force used to bring about reconciliation and cooperation. It appears that it is mainly in the post-independence period, particularly under Siyad Barre's regime, that manipulations of clan identities for economic and political ends became prominent. (WB: Conflict in Somalia: Drivers and Dynamics, January 2005)

⁵⁴ Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme: Deepening Peace, and Reducing Poverty, Volume III: Puntland - Draft – October 15, 2007

⁵⁵ The secular law pertaining to land considers all land to be government land which can be leased by individuals for specific uses over a defined period of time. While these laws are out of phase with the practices of the land market, and run the risk of being difficult to enforce, they could improve land management in terms of assigning land titles and settling land disputes. The legislation needs to be codified to determine women's rights to land and property in marriage, divorce, inheritance, in general in accordance with Puntland's legal framework (World Bank (2007): *Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme: Deepening Peace, and Reducing Poverty, Volume III: Puntland - Draft –October 15, 2007*

are used as a tool to mobilize clan members when in conflict, and cleavages are drawn upon to wage war. In this way, clan and sub clan differences can be a force for division and fragmentation, particularly when manipulated for political purposes.⁵⁶ Poverty and scarcity do not cause war, political violence, or extremism, but can make a society more susceptible to certain kinds of armed conflict, especially communal clashes over resources.

Box 10: clan based conflicts

Clans continue to vie for dominance over a region because they see political control of a region as converting into gains for their clan. Regional competition often overlaps with clan competition, producing internal regional conflicts. Given the fluid demarcation between the regions, there are also simmering tensions tempered by a fragile peace in the Mudug region lying on the borders of South-central Somalia and Puntland. Perhaps no conflict threatens the future of Somalia as much as the contest between Puntland and Somaliland over Sool and Eastern Sanaag, claimed by both administrations as integral to their territory. Within the Majerten, which is numerically and politically the most dominant of the Harti clans, rivalries between clans and sub clans struggling for political dominance in the regional administration and economic control of Bosasso port often manifest themselves in violent conflict. Clashes for control of disputed areas potentially could breed violent conflict and unleash a chain of retaliatory events that could pose yet another threat to peace and human development. The Juba Valley Alliance (composed of the Marehan/Darod and the Hawiye/Habargidir) currently controls Lower Juba, but it is likely to be challenged by the Majerten/Harti/Darood who have the support of the Puntland regional administration, potentially resulting in conflict. If the conflict is not resolved, it could spread to border areas in the north.

Conflict driven by extreme poverty and horizontal inequalities:

An important factor that differentiates the violent from the peaceful is the existence of severe inequalities between culturally defined groups⁵⁷. But of greater consequence is the argument that where there are such inequalities in resource access and outcomes, coinciding with cultural differences, culture can become a powerful mobilizing agent of clashes⁵⁸. While the effects of conflict on poverty levels normally are relatively easy to establish, it is harder to show how characteristics of

⁵⁶ Clannism and clan alliances are a primary source of conflict and clashes over resources and power. Clannism is used to mobilize militia, and make broad-based reconciliation very difficult to achieve. Paradoxically traditional clan elders are a primary source of conflict mediation, clan-based customary law serves as the basis for negotiated settlements, and clan-based blood-payment groups serve as a deterrent to armed violence. Understanding under what circumstances these and other variables serve as escalators or de-escalators of violence—or both—are the subtle challenge conflict analysis faces. With few exceptions, armed conflicts today are more local in nature, pitting sub-clans against one another in an increasingly fragmented political environment. This devolution of clan warfare means that armed clashes tend to be much shorter and less lethal, in part because of limited support from lineage members for such internal squabbles, in part because clan elders are in a better position to intervene, and in part because some clans have successfully consolidated their occupation and control over territory and for the moment meet little resistance. Money and ammunition are scarcer as well, limiting the duration of conflict. Atrocities against civilians still occur but are less common than in the past, as combatants and their clans are more likely to be held accountable for such crimes via blood compensation payments. Pillaging and looting (WB January 2005, *Conflict in Somalia: Drivers and Dynamics*.)

⁵⁷ Inequality between groups is defined as horizontal inequalities ... to differentiate with the normal definition of inequality which lines individuals or households up vertically and measures inequality over the range of individuals ... vertical inequality. Horizontal inequalities are multidimensional. It is my contention that horizontal inequalities affect individual well-being and social stability in a serious way and one that is different from the consequences of vertical inequality. Unequal access to political/economic/ social resources by different cultural groups can reduce individual welfare of the individuals in the losing groups over and above what their individual position would merit, because their self-esteem is bound up with the progress of the group. (Frances Stewart: Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford

⁵⁸ Frances Stewart, *Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development* *Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development*

the poverty situation may impact potential violent conflict in a country⁵⁹. An important factor that differentiates the violent from the peaceful is the existence of severe inequalities between culturally defined groups⁶⁰. But of greater consequence is the argument that where there are such inequalities in resource access and outcomes, coinciding with cultural differences, culture can become a powerful mobilizing agent of clashes⁶¹. Poverty and scarcity do not cause war, political violence, or extremism, but can make a society more susceptible to certain kinds of armed conflict, especially communal clashes over resources. Poverty generates large numbers of unemployed young men, making easy recruits for criminal gangs and militia

The many years of violent conflict in Puntland exacerbated already high poverty levels in Puntland. The 2002 UNDP and World Bank socioeconomic study estimated the proportion of the population that is living in extreme poverty (on less than US\$1 per day) to be above 43 percent.¹¹⁰ The survey also found considerable inequality of household income: While 30 percent of the population gets less than 8 percent of total income, the top decile is estimated to get more than 35 percent. Not surprisingly, the survey also found that regions that have relatively peaceful conditions experience higher income levels than regions undergoing violent conflicts. While the effects of conflict on poverty levels normally are relatively easy to establish, it is harder to show how characteristics of the poverty situation may impact potential violent conflict in a country⁶².

⁵⁹ There is global evidence that poverty, especially low income and economic decline, makes countries more vulnerable to violent conflict.¹¹¹ However, the concrete ways that the different aspects of poverty interact and articulate with other factors to create a situation of risk for conflict escalation differ from country to country. A future poverty reduction strategy developed by a future Somali government needs to take the different conflict factors and drivers into account, assess how they link with poverty and poverty reduction, and consider the potential impact that alternative poverty reduction policy measures may have on the conflict environment. Integration of conflict sensitivity is best executed during all stages of a poverty reduction process, including the poverty diagnostics, consultation processes, development of policy measures, and implementation and monitoring.

⁶⁰ Inequality between groups is defined as horizontal inequalities ... to differentiate with the normal definition of inequality which lines individuals or households up vertically and measures inequality over the range of individuals ... vertical inequality. Horizontal inequalities are multidimensional. It is my contention that horizontal inequalities affect individual well-being and social stability in a serious way and one that is different from the consequences of vertical inequality. Unequal access to political/economic/ social resources by different cultural groups can reduce individual welfare of the individuals in the losing groups over and above what their individual position would merit, because their self-esteem is bound up with the progress of the group. (Frances Stewart: Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford

⁶¹ (Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development by Frances Stewart)

⁶² There is global evidence that poverty, especially low income and economic decline, makes countries more vulnerable to violent conflict.¹¹¹ However, the concrete ways that the different aspects of poverty interact and articulate with other factors to create a situation of risk for conflict escalation differ from country to country. A future poverty reduction strategy developed by a future Somali government needs to take the different conflict factors and drivers into account, assess how they link with poverty and poverty reduction, and consider the potential impact that alternative poverty reduction policy measures may have on the conflict environment. Integration of conflict sensitivity is best executed during all stages of a poverty reduction process, including the poverty diagnostics, consultation processes, development of policy measures, and implementation and monitoring.

Box 11: Conflicts driven by poverty and inequalities

When people in rich regions perceive the central government's policies as unfair and authoritarian, they may see greater autonomy, or even secession, as a better alternative than the status quo. As Aristotle said, 'Inferiors revolt in order that they may be equal, and equals that they may be superior' (quoted in Sigelman and Simpson 1977: 106). For example, privileged groups that are geographically concentrated may demand independence, such as the Basques in Spain. In line with this logic, the initiative for conflict may come from the richest and most privileged groups as well as the poorest and most deprived groups. Both types of reactions point to the conclusion that a society of high horizontal inequalities has a higher risk of civil war than societies without such inequalities. It is easier to maintain group cohesiveness and motivation for rebellion if the elite can draw on ethnic, religious, or regional differences to construct a well-defined identity group with a common enemy. However, what may matter more than the identity bases between which the cleavage is created is whether the groups are systematically different in terms of economic and social welfare (Frances Stewart: *Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development*, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford)

Economy-based drivers of conflict escalation and de-escalation

A key outcome of the looting militias was violent conflict and entrenchment of vested economic interests that benefited from the lawlessness. Economic performance interplay with conflict escalation or de-escalation in two main ways: the manner in which different economic drivers influence the relationships between groups, especially in terms of cooperation or competition; and the extent to which different economic activities finance violent behavior. Since 1995, economic developments have seen a positive transformation. Remittances and private sector activities (although unregulated in most cases⁴⁸) in the form of telecommunications, *hawala* or money transfer companies, and international transit trade have provided a boost to the economies of the three regions. These positive developments need to be seen in tandem with the disastrous impact on the traditional modes of production such as the livestock ban, given that livestock is the mainstay of the pastoral economy. The previous livestock ban, coupled with environmental degradation and drought, has increased the fragility of the economy, created large-scale poverty, with long-term detrimental consequences.

Given that livestock export is the backbone of the economy, the ban had serious economic repercussions and created extreme suffering. It increased pressure, and hence disputes, over grazing land because of high animal stocks and competition over alternative livelihood sources. In addition, importation and trade in *khat* severely affects income and productivity levels. This addiction is beneficial to warlords who monopolize the qat trade and earn vast revenues. In turn, they have substantial funds to purchase weapons and vested interests in increasing the longevity of conflict.

Although remittances are primarily destined for relatives to assist them through bad times, remittances also provide a boost to private sector activities such as construction, money transfer companies, and airlines, thus generating employment and allowing cross-clan businesses to take root. By facilitating money transfers, hawala companies sustain families and strengthen businesses. The freezing of hawala companies like Al-Barakaat, for instance, has rendered many unemployed and could push them into rejoining militias. Control of seaports, airstrips (khat flights), and key roadways ensures high rent earnings. Hence, warlords, supported by business groups and often clan and sub-clan kin, clash to acquire dominance

Domestic triggers and spoilers

Protracted civil wars often generate a host of interests which find ways to thrive and benefit from conditions of warfare, division, and lawlessness. Many of these are economic in nature, and contribute to the rise of war economies and spoilers who earn a livelihood, and sometimes fortunes, off of criminal activities that can best be pursued in a state of war and collapse. Examples range from illegal charcoal exports to lucrative militia roadblocks to piracy, which is now netting over \$80 million annually in ransoms. Others are political – warlords and other conflict entrepreneurs whose power base depends on heightened social fear and tensions. Still others are war criminals who fear the prospect of revived systems of justice, jihadists who fear they will be arrested or killed by the US, or those who fear a return to peace and central governance will marginalize them (Ken Menkhaus; 2011)

Proliferation of small arms

Conflict in Puntland, like the rest of Somalia has been triggered by easy access to small arms and lack of accountability for human rights violations. Small arms are purchased on the open market. These arms flow in from neighboring states and make minor conflicts among communities readily escalate into lethal violence. People still feel unsafe and retain arms for personal protection and to ward off attack on property and clan. The impact on youth of trade in small arms and light weapons is well-known. Procedures must be implemented to ensure that efforts towards disarmament are not hampered by harmful business practices, including the sale and distribution of small arms and landmines and exploitative diamond mining. Adopting measures such as the Kimberley Process, which monitors the diamond trade so that revenues cannot be used to purchase arms and thus fuel conflict, help to deter illicit commercial activities. During the conflict, lack of accountability coupled with easy access to weapons as have served as escalators of conflict⁶³.

The piracy menace

Piracy in Puntland has been based in the fishing villages that face the major shipping lanes of both the Gulf of Aden (leading to Suez) and the Indian Ocean. Puntland is that part of the former Republic of Somalia that has jurisdiction over the largest part of the country's coast 1600 km. Puntland has jurisdiction over an exclusive economic zone of its surrounding waters, as provided for in the relevant provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention with regard to the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The issue of piracy off the coast of Puntland, on the north-east horn of Somalia, illustrates the complexities facing weak states and the mixed role members of the international community play regarding them. Pirates are hampering relief efforts in Puntland. Since 2005, many international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization and the World Food Programme, have expressed concern, as piracy has contributed to an increase in

⁶³ The regional administrations in Puntland are giving increasing importance to preventing the flow of weapons from neighboring countries, demobilizing militia members by providing opportunities and incentives for their disarmament and reintegration into society, and punishing law violators by subjecting them to customary, Sharia, and secular law courts. This is not an easy task given that an entire generation has not had access to proper education and is accustomed to seeing brute force used to address disputes. Even today, human rights continue to be violated, with members of powerful clans escaping punishment and enjoying protection for their crimes.⁷⁵ Civilians are often caught in the cross fire of opposing parties and suffer from the indiscriminate fighting. Groups determined to undermine the fragile peace and stability attack international aid workers, affecting normal assistance.⁷⁶ In some instances, even the regional administrations have employed force to deal with political opponents. The dismembering of the state and the ensuing militarization of society had the most dangerous manifestations in South-central Somalia, where lack of a functioning government enabled marauding armed militias to fight over resources and power, displace indigenes from the homelands (World Bank, *Conflict in Somalia: Drivers and Dynamics*, January 2005)

shipping costs and impeded the delivery of food aid shipments⁶⁴. Although the piracy is entirely criminal and totally unjustifiable, it is understandable, given the political and economic background. Somalia also provides a case study of brazen violations of international law, both by the locals and by foreigners, who have taken advantage of the absence of effective government, to wreak environmental havoc on the weakened nation.

Although the pirates can be termed ‘predators,’ it must be appreciated that their country has suffered at the hands of predators from many nations who have polluted their waters with toxic and even nuclear waste and looted their oceans of fish. Arguably, by addressing the basic problems that plague Somalia, by providing alternate forms of ensuring a decent economic lifestyle, and by cleaning up the terrible environmental oceanic devastation caused by the dumping of toxic waste by foreigners, the world may ensure safe and secure shipping in those waters. Allegations of the dumping of toxic and hazardous waste, as well as illegal fishing, have circulated since the early 1990s. The original sources of piracy were not just the weakness of the Government of Puntland, however, but were international as well. Whatever the registration of the ships violating the sovereignty of Puntland by factory fishing and the dumping of toxic wastes, many clearly have owners from within the European Union, including Italy and Spain, India and the Philippines. While money is the primary objective of the Somali hijackings, environmental destruction off Somalia's coast initiated them It's almost like a resource swap. Somalis collect up to \$100 million a year from pirate ransoms off their coasts and the Europeans and Asians poach around \$300 million a year in fish from Somali waters (Lehr 2008b quoted in Wikipedia, 2010)⁶⁵.

The consequences of *khat* chewing

The chewing of the leaves of the plant called *khat* (*Catha edulis Forsk*) is a common habit in some countries of East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Khat-chewing has a stimulating effect on the central nervous system, which is the reason for the widespread abuse of this plant. With its adverse social, economic and medical consequences it has become a problem of grave national concern⁶⁶. *Khat-chewing* is recognized as a real national problem with adverse consequences for the health and socioeconomic development of the country. A law prohibiting the use, importation, cultivation and trade of khat was enacted in 1983, and it has been strongly enforced by a comprehensive national programme that has mobilized the whole country to achieve its objectives. These difficulties have only been partly solved. Although small amounts of khat are still smuggled into the country and clandestinely consumed, the level of khat-chewing and its associated problems have been substantially reduced. Nevertheless, in order to ensure the complete success of the prohibition law, international cooperation appears to be essential.

⁶⁴ Mohamed Samantar and David Leonard, Draft of 20 August 2010. Puntland and the Quandary of Somali Piracy

⁶⁵ Mohamed Samantar and David Leonard: *Puntland and the Quandary of Somali Piracy*; Draft of 20 August

⁶⁶ In 1982, Somalia spent \$US 57 million⁶⁶ on direct khat imports, in spite of the current difficult economic situation [2, 3]. In addition, the economic problems associated with khat-chewing include the spread of corruption, the theft of public and private property to support the habit, damage to people and to property caused by accidents that occur under the euphoric state induced by the use of the drug, and the loss of many working hours among civil servants and private employees. The chewing of khat is reported to cause health impairment, which has been described elsewhere [1, 5-10]. The types of impairment include stomatitis, oesophagitis, gastritis, increased blood pressure, tachycardia, palpitation, increased body temperature and respiratory rate, constipation, anorexia, decreased sexual potency in men, insomnia and migraine. Myocardial insufficiency, cerebral haemorrhage, pulmonary oedema and hepatotoxic effect have also been described [5], but these findings need further confirmation.

INVESTING IN THE YOUTH; THE MISSING LINK

Why are youth drawn in conflicts?

The civil war in Puntland has created internal youth crisis. The youth have remained without guidance and direction and facts of war became part of their ordinary life of every day directly or indirectly. Clan warlords and clan politicians have seized the opportunity to mobilize the youth for their political ambitions as a formidable army for the conflicts they have been waging. War situations are part of the local culture whether in defence of personal/clan honour, livestock (Camel), and territory or for the sake of political power... or attack as retribution of perceived offences. Courage and strength displayed by men against rivals is the most prestigious way to gain respect and it is as well as means of deterrence. Mobilization of the youth by their clan, parents or families as defending force against other hostile clans is the most important role for youth in the clan system. It seems that politicians and elders need youth only in war but not in peace process; in fact the warring

Displacement, lack of education services, widespread unemployment...can be considered the primary culprits that make youth inclined to engage in conflicts as option; Lack of awareness in preventing conflicts, marginalization in peace building and negotiations, prolonged situation of lawlessness and anarchy contributed as well to youth attraction to conflict situations. War situations are part of the local culture whether in defence of personal/clan honour, livestock (Camel), and territory or for the sake of political power... or attack as retribution of perceived offences. Courage and strength displayed by men against rivals is the most prestigious way to gain respect and it is as well as means of deterrence.

The impact of social exclusion on the youth

Social exclusion is a situation where some members of society are marginalized and prevented from participating fully in its affairs by virtue of their poverty, lack of basic competencies or as a result of discrimination. It is a process whereby certain individuals are pushed to the edge of society and prevented from participating fully by virtue of their poverty, lack of basic competencies and lifelong learning opportunities, or as a result of discrimination⁶⁷. This removes them from job, income and education opportunities as well as social and community activities. They have little access to power and decision-making bodies and thus often feel powerless and unable to take control over the decisions that affect their day-to-day lives⁶⁸.

⁶⁷ Social exclusion is a process whereby certain groups are systematically disadvantaged and discriminated against because of who they are, for example on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, age, descent, gender, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live.¹⁹ As a result, they are denied access to resources and services, and lack opportunities open to others. Social exclusion can be perpetuated by formal institutions (laws, policies, etc) and informal ones (traditional systems, cultural practices, social attitudes, etc). Social exclusion can include lack of access to employment, to justice and to markets and a lack of political participation. It is multidimensional and interactive.²⁰ It is often the case that in poorer communities, the majority of young people operate at the margins of society, and are excluded from the mainstream aspects of life, i.e., 'youth' itself is an (DFID, *Youth Participation in Development: A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers*)

⁶⁸ The effects of marginalization differ for every individual and are linked to personal traits and environmental circumstances. Historically, those who have become rebel leaders have hitherto felt victimized and humiliated during an earlier period of their lives. They may have experienced repression, human rights violations, and deprivation of needed resources and/or alienation. Their aggression appears to be a form of retaliation deriving from past feelings of indignity and degradation. Examples of this are depicted in the Sierra Leone case study below but may also be seen in Colombia, the Philippines and Rwanda. When rebel leaders are in a position to vent their feelings through actions, the majority of the population is made to suffer, with many killed, wounded or exploited.

A major psychosocial cause of conflict is the repeated marginalization of particular persons or groups. As a host of people are excluded from the social, economic and political spheres, tension increases, and marginalization makes it easier for contending parties to cause individuals and groups to engage in extreme actions and mobilize others to act as perpetrators. The effects of marginalization differ for every individual and are linked to personal traits and environmental circumstances. Historically, those who have become rebel leaders felt victimized and humiliated during an earlier period of their lives. They may have experienced repression, human rights violations, and deprivation of needed resources and/or alienation. Their aggression appears to be a form of retaliation deriving from past feelings of indignity and degradation. A theory that closely examines the notion of humiliation underlying structural violence contends that one contributing factor is the absence of recognition and respect, which creates divisions between “masters” and “underlings” and feelings of humiliation.

Studies indicate that uneducated youth and school dropouts are more likely to engage in violence and other behaviours that are detrimental to their health. This is perhaps because they are less secure than their educated peers and feel inferior to or less capable than other members of the community—or, in a word, humiliated. Youth and women are often marginalized in decision-making processes. At the local and national levels, they are expected to obey political and religious community leaders. At the national level, they have little say in the formulation and implementation of policies that are meant to protect their interests and well-being during peacetime and wartime. Nonetheless, they must endure the sometimes brutal socioeconomic effects of these decisions, and their long-term needs are left unmet, as in the case of rape victims who do not receive health and counselling services. During armed conflict, girls and women assume non-traditional roles as heads of households. Although it becomes their responsibility to produce meals for their families, during emergencies these individuals—many of whom are children and adolescents—are seldom consulted about issues related to food aid, nor are they informed when the deliveries they are depending on are delayed or cancelled. These situations may easily be avoided by including them in the planning and execution of humanitarian interventions.

The impact of conflict on women

The available information on gender indicates that there have been some improvements in women’s participation in economic and social affairs of Puntland. Women are now challenging traditional, male-dominated power structures. Women are the backbone of society doing much of the labour required for survival, and play an important role in keeping the peace. Although some changes to gender roles have occurred, the basic values attached to gender identities remain unchanged. Despite their increased economic role, their valued peace-building strategies and contributions to clan activities women have not gained membership of community or clan institutions involved in political decision-making. Women have not achieved the critical mass to effect sustainable social change and are clearly under-represented in the political, economic and social spheres. The diverse and fragmented nature of the legal system does not serve to provide a sound basis for the resolution of gender issues in Puntland. Women are usually excluded from or have a limited role in political decision-making. Women’s capacity of resilience is an important resource in supporting peace processes and rebuilding a more just and equitable society in which women’s rights will be protected and gender equality will become the norm in institutional and social frameworks. Gender-specific human rights abuses which occurred during the conflict took the form of rape and forced marriages. Most at risk were women who lacked the protection of powerful clan structures, or who belonged to ethnic minorities. In particular, they were refugees and displaced women and girls living in camps.

Similarly, youth and adolescents who experienced early aggression and a violent childhood are at the highest risk of perpetrating violence. Unaccompanied children are both victims and sources of violence in Africa and Latin America (World Youth Report, 2003).

Justice for women is governed by community elders. This is a form of negotiation between parties which includes dayeh (blood money). Somali society is exogamous. When a woman marries she moves to, and becomes the property of, her husband and his tribe.

There is a high incidence of female-headed households in Somalia, due to the out migration of males to the Arab world. Since the conflict there has been an increase in the numbers, and the burdens of women's responsibility within them has risen significantly. The fact that women's coping strategies have been successful, especially in the economic sphere, has led to a new level of respect for women in Somalia towards women. Women now have more balanced relationships with their husbands because of their increased responsibilities in subsistence livelihood strategies. At present, this is not translated into any advances in decision-making outside of the family, nor in the legal status of women. Despite the increased role and visibility women have in economic activity, in general, the conflict has led to a greater loss of mobility for women than for men. The threat and fear of rape in particular has reduced mobility and a number of women have adopted Islamic dress codes as a form of protection. This is also related to an increase in conservative attitudes towards women especially with the influx of foreign troops. The extent to which Islamic traditions and interpretations pervade Somali society, will in part be dependent on the extent to which Somali society is open to the introduction of Sharia as from of legal recourse during the conflict.

Why youth empowerment?

The youth (15-33) who comprise a large proportion (52%) of Puntland's population have been historically excluded, unemployed & marginalized with little or no opportunities for developing their full potential - lost opportunity perpetuating inter-generational poverty. It needs to be appreciated that youth exclusion, resentment and grievances are the key driving force for conflict escalation and risky behaviour at formidable social cost. Too often, youth are seen as victims & perpetrators of violent conflict, yet their power & potential as strategic actors and peace builders are poorly recognized & rarely harnessed. The youth challenge is the ultimate human development challenge for Puntland hence investing in youth empowerment can be a powerful driver of human development. Empowering youth is about creating & supporting enabling conditions under which young people gain ability, authority, agency & opportunities to translate their choices in their own lives & the lives of other people. It is about building their capabilities and creating opportunities through the combination of demand and supply side policy support.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN PUNTLAND

External actors have spent much of the past decade trying to re-impose the kind of centralized, unitary government that led to Somalia's civil war and prolonged misery in the first place. Their gradual retreat from 'top-down' solutions and slow collective recognition of the emerging realities on the ground, have opened up a new window of opportunity for external involvement in Puntland. The facts on the ground speak for themselves: regional and local governments are becoming reality the prospects for a, national government remains a mirage. The prospects for a revival of unitary government have been damaged, perhaps irrevocably, by Somaliland's secessionist ambition and Puntland's declaration of a federal 'state'. It is thus somewhat surprising that new hope for a lasting settlement of the Somali crisis should come from the outside, or emerge from external diplomatic efforts. The idea of a more decentralized approach to peace making resurfaced briefly in March 1993 at a reconciliation conference for Somalia organized by the UN in Addis Ababa. The Canadian Ambassador led a group of donor countries in lobbying for greater support to areas of relative peace and stability --an indirect reference to Somaliland and Puntland.

During the last two decades of conflict, international resources have been focused on humanitarian assistance and peace building efforts while maintaining support to the UN, INGOs and local NGOs for basic service provision. However, the sustainability of peace and security in the Puntland depends on support for both civil society organizations and the emerging regional governments, so that policies are adopted that promote good governance, human rights and democratic development. Civil society organizations and regional governments should be helped to participate in the search for dialogue and peace. Patterns of external assistance must respect and reinforce the fragile balance and cooperation between traditional leaders, civil society organizations and emerging government institutions. Above all, the ongoing peace initiatives should be developed in Puntland with the help of government and local organizations. Efforts should be made to strengthen and empower women's NGOs, groups and activists and NGOs supporting young people should be targeted. Reintegration of children and young people who associated with militia should be supported. Training should be given to care givers in order to help children and youth with special needs. The renovation of school buildings, teacher training, student counseling and the provision of books and learning materials are priorities in the education sector.

Multi-donor coordination and planning with other partners, particularly in the governance and security areas, has proved beneficial in providing a coherent programme that 'speaks with one voice' in a politically sensitive environment. Fully functioning state structures are not in place, so innovative and non-traditional avenues have to be explored to build capacity at different levels. Community-driven development is and will remain a international assistance. Capacity-building and institutional strengthening should be embedded as a component in all international humanitarian and economic assistance programmes, thus also reinforcing the "governance dividend" approach. In line with this approach, donor flexibility has proved critically important in exploiting windows of opportunity, particularly in the fields of governance and reconciliation (notably in respect of support to non-state actors). With donors' financial and human resources limited, focusing on fewer areas and committing to long-term support provides a greater chance of sustainable outcomes.

Efforts should be made to strengthen and empower local NGOs. In particular, women are NGOs. As part of its assistance to Somali civil society, the rights of women, children, elders and children with special needs must be protected. An emphasis should be placed on initiatives to combat violence against women and girls, particularly the practice of circumcision. Reintegration of children and young people who associated with militia should be supported. Training should be given to care givers in order to help children and youth with special needs. The renovation of school buildings, teacher training, student counseling and the provision of books and learning materials are priorities in the education sector. Institutions of higher learning should explore linkages with emerging Somali institutions. Linkages in the health sector should be developed with Somali hospitals. Surgical and orthopedic doctors could make short term visits to provide training to Somali medical staff. Material support is also needed, for there are no regular supplies. Vocational training and community-based rehabilitation for the disabled is required.

LESSONS FROM PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVES IN PUNTLAND

There have been generally realistic efforts towards consolidating peace and creating opportunities for stability and development in Puntland, which call for complementary gestures and a supportive international community. Almost a decade after the collapse of the centralized Somali state, northern Somalia has become a haven of peace in a conflict-ridden Horn of Africa. A modest economic recovery fueled by import-export activities through Bossaso and other seaports helped to divert Puntlanders'

energies towards commerce and away from warfare. Although Puntland has experienced its episode of armed clashes in 2001–02 over control of the Puntland state, it has since maintained a tenuous peace between the regional administration and opposing groups. Puntland has also intermittently engaged in proxy wars with Somaliland over disputed border areas, with the potential to both create and worsen tensions and violence in pursuit of their own goals. The two states have also shown the capacity to support peace-building efforts. Along Puntland's southern borders, the Mudug peace agreement, albeit fragile, is still holding. It has greatly contributed to creating the largely peaceful situation. This success story in reconciliation and peace-building merits to be studied reviewed and emulated by the more insecure parts of Somalia.

Overall, Puntland has managed to reconcile its internal differences and has maintained a reasonable degree of law and order. With the active involvement of the civil society and under the firm guidance of the traditional leadership, this has enabled the state to establish and manage political processes and government institutions - providing limited basic services, nurturing an active civil society and a growing private sector. Promoting peace and reconciliation as well as preventing resource-based conflicts continues to rank high in the Government's priorities. While Puntland remains largely peaceful, the main threats or potential triggers of conflict are manifested in rivalry over natural resources such as land, pastures, water, fishing and minerals. Without a transparent and accountable management and equitable of benefits from these resources among communities, there is a possible risk of further destabilization and conflict.

However external actors are ignoring this reality and are reluctant to recognize the realities that regional states are there to stay, they need recognition and development assistance⁶⁹. Any hope for a unitary central government is slowly diminishing and pointing to a possible future federal arrangement. Outsiders have spent much of the past decade trying to re-impose the kind of centralized, unitary government that led to Somalia's civil war and prolonged misery in the first place. Their gradual retreat from 'top-down' solutions and their slow collective embrace what has become known as the 'building block approach' opens a new window of opportunity for external involvement in with the regional states. The facts on the ground speak for themselves: regional and local governments are becoming reality, national government remains a chimera. Mogadishu has lagged behind the rest of Somalia in terms of security, stability, and respect for the rule of law, implying that its leaders may not in fact hold the keys to national reconciliation and recovery. The prospects for a revival of unitary government have been damaged, perhaps irrevocably, by Somaliland's secessionist ambition and Puntland's declaration of a federal 'state'. The idea of a more decentralized approach to peace making resurfaced briefly in March 1993 at a reconciliation conference for Somalia organized by the UN in Addis Ababa. The Canadian Ambassador led a group of donor countries in lobbying for greater support to areas of relative peace and stability --an indirect reference to Somaliland and Northeast Somalia.

2.4.1. Lessons learned from peace building and mediation efforts in Puntland

The process of political development in Puntland since the state's creation in August 1998 has been slow and gradual, at one period relapsing into violent conflict. There are three critical ingredients for peace and prosperity: political leadership with vision; a committed bureaucracy to catalyze and turn the vision into reality; and a hard-working population. Involving a broad range of stakeholders from diverse groups across the territory of Puntland will strengthen peacemaking and democratisation.

⁶⁹ Institute for Research and Development and Partnership Africa Canada; Development in Northern Somalia Opportunities and Challenges - challenges the assumptions behind these policies (particularly as they relate to northern Somalia)

What is needed most is an atmosphere of freedom to discuss and develop consensus on sensitive political issues related to representation, participation and governance reforms.

The main lessons that have been learned from this process so far can be summarized as follows:

1. Strengthening collaboration and trust-building between stakeholders has enabled the provision of effective and timely technical assistance, while lobbying for change in the political system has proved to be an effective tool to gain the ear of the political leadership;
2. Involving a broad range of stakeholders from diverse groups across the territory of Puntland has generated respect for the PDRC's support for the democratization process – although gaining an even distribution of participants from different regions and balancing competing political and clan considerations continues to present major logistical and social challenges;
3. Political leaders are generally more reluctant to accept change than civil society stakeholders. The PDRC's strategy has been to strike a balance between competing and contradictory views by offering a neutral and open environment in which to discuss sensitive issues related to democratic transformation.
4. The clan factor remains an omnipresent political challenge facing all institutions that do not conform to customary law and basic clan social structures, and has to be taken into consideration at all times when discussing politics and development in Puntland.
5. Multi-donor coordination and planning with other partners, particularly in the governance and security areas, has proved beneficial in providing a coherent programme that 'speaks with one voice' in a politically sensitive environment. Fully functioning state structures are not in place, so innovative and non-traditional avenues have to be explored to build capacity at different levels.
6. Community-driven development is and will remain a key mechanism. Capacity-building and institutional strengthening should be embedded as a component in all international humanitarian and economic assistance programmes, thus also reinforcing the "governance dividend" approach. In line with this approach, donor flexibility has proved critically important in exploiting windows of opportunity, particularly in the fields of governance and reconciliation (notably in respect of support to non-state actors). With donors' financial and human resources limited, focusing on fewer areas and committing to long-term support provides a greater chance of sustainable outcomes.

Rebuilding a country after conflict goes beyond reconstruction and humanitarian assistance. Fundamentally, it is about restoring the people's trust and confidence in governance systems and the rule of law, rebuilding relationships at all levels, and providing the population with greater hope for the future. These processes are all critical to the consolidation of peace and security in fragile post-conflict situations. When they are neglected, the threat of conflict re-emerging is very real. The challenge for both national and international peacemakers is to situate reconciliation firmly within the context of state-building, while employing state-building as a platform for the development of mutual trust and lasting reconciliation. Fundamental to peace and security are a credible governance system, while the provision of opportunities for all sectors to grow and develop would add value to the peace process. The underpinning strategy for the government, protecting the lives and property of its people and providing an enabling environment for their peaceful pursuits require proactive machinery as well as a strong state to act as a deterrent to conflict. Puntland is peaceful being

effectively governed by a combination of government and traditional authorities. A priority for the regional government is strengthening the security situation. The demobilization of ex-combatants continues and an emphasis is being placed on training and equipping the police forces. However, the resources at the disposal of Puntland authorities are so limited, being derived mainly from a narrow base import and export duties.

KEY DEVELOPMENT CONSEQUENCES AND CHALLENGES

Assessing the Human Development Situation for Puntland

Since the 1998 when Puntland declared its autonomy, the security environment in the region has improved, leading to a decline in war-related deaths, refugee movements, and internal displacement. However, life expectancy is still very low (estimated at 47⁷⁰), linked to high rates of infant mortality, one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, and the spread of preventable diseases such as TB, malaria and measles⁷¹. The high levels of mortality and low life expectancy are attributed to inadequate curative and preventative health services, the collapse of sanitation and water systems, erratic food security and pockets of chronic malnutrition, all of which increase susceptibility to fatal illnesses. Malnutrition in Puntland is chronic, with a global rate for children under-five of 17.2%, although there is a marked difference between socio-economic groups. A survey by UNICEF in 2001 showed that in some drought prone areas of Puntland, 20% or more of children had severe rates of stunting due to the negative effects of drought.

On an income measure of absolute poverty affects 43% of the population⁷² (less than \$1 per day at PPP). The prevalence of absolute poverty is higher in rural (53.4%) than in urban locations (23.5%). The incidence of general poverty (less than \$2 per day PPP) is 73% (61% urban and 80% rural)⁷³. Household surveys carried out in 2002 indicated that the poorest 30% of the population receives only 7.8% of the total income; whereas the richest 10% of the population receives 35.6% of the total income (a Gini coefficient of 0.4 has been calculated. Thus vigorous improvements are needed to make significant progress in reducing the population living below extreme poverty line by 2015, though it is unlikely to achieve halving it to 21.5 percent by 2015. However, if the current scenario continues conditions might even deteriorate further, or stay unchanged for the best option.

⁷⁰ Somalia, Joint Strategy Paper for the period 2008 - 2013

⁷¹ There is general lack of recent and accurate data on household poverty and other key human development indicators in Puntland since no comprehensive household welfare survey has been carried out since 2002.

⁷² Poverty is defined as the inability of a household to meet costs of basic monthly food basket from the market. Internationally the income of hardcore core is pegged on \$ 1 per day as per the international standard of extreme poverty in measuring of purchasing power parity. (UNICEF: MICS survey in 2006)

⁷³ Somalia, Joint Strategy Paper for the period 2008 - 2013

Box 12: A summary of human development data for Puntland

i.	Total population (million) Puntland -2006) - 1.7 (Based on UN estimates which require confirmation through a census)
ii.	Population growth (annual %) 2006 - 2.9
iii.	Average per capita income (\$ PPP) 2005 -US\$226.0
iv.	Percentage of population living below \$1/day (PPP) 2002 - 43.2%
v.	Percentage of population living below \$2/day (PPP) 2002 - 73.4%
vi.	Income inequality – Gini Index, 2002 - 39.7
vii.	Life expectancy at birth (years) 2006 - 47
viii.	Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births) 2004 - 225.0
ix.	Physicians per 100,000 people ⁵ 2000-2004 - 4
x.	Prevalence of HIV (% of population aged 15– 49 years) 2006 < 1.0
xi.	Population with sustainable access to an improved water source (%) 2004 - 29.0%
xii.	Population with sustainable access to improved sanitation (%) 2004 - 26.0%
xiii.	Primary school gross enrolment rate (% of school age children in school) Puntland 2003-2004 - 24.0%

Sources: Somalia, Joint Strategy Paper for the period 2008 – 2013 - based on other sources indicated below

- World Bank Development Indicators Database <http://devdata.worldbank.org/data-query/>
- RDP – note however that population figures are extrapolations, and are highly contentious
- World Bank Interim Strategy Note for Somalia
- WB/UNDP 2002 Socioeconomic survey of Somalia
- Human Development Report 2007/08

Education

There are 236 primary schools in Puntland, and a very low enrolment ratio of primary school age children. UNICEF (2006) reported that out of an estimated 192,635 children of primary school age group in Puntland, only 46,595 pupils were enrolled in primary schools in the 2004/2005 school year. This represents just 24.2 percent of all primary school age children - 20.3 percent of girls and 28.1 percent of boys. The Puntland National Development Plan acknowledges that "affordability, ownership, gender disparities and unbalanced distribution physical facilities, in terms of urban vs rural are some of the major challenges that Puntland currently faces"⁷⁴. In addition to these challenges, there is also the issue of costs: about 40 percent of primary schools charge fees of more than US\$ 25 per school year; in addition, non-school fee costs per child (stationary, uniform, etc) are around US\$ 30. This is in a context where the average household income is US\$ 250 per year and where families often have several school-age children. At secondary level, even fewer children and youth were enrolled - only 3 percent of primary school students continued to this level. The provision of secondary education is limited, as there are only 12 functional schools, and schools do not yet have adequate teaching, learning facilities and materials. Teachers are mostly under-qualified and inadequately paid, and schools do not manage to attract and retain girls. Financing is mainly through fees and support from parents/community, the Diaspora and the international community. However, the government and communities are increasingly contributing to teachers' salaries. The role of the private sector and communities in supporting education needs to be strengthened further.

⁷⁴ Puntland NDP 2005, p.122

Box138: Key economic and social indicators for Puntland (derived from various sources)

Life expectancy at birth - 47 yrs

Male - 46 yrs

Female 49 yrs

Mortality

- i. Infant (per 1,000 live births) 96 (2006)
- ii. Under 5 (per 1,000 live births) 156(2006)
- iii. Adult (15-59)
- iv. Male (per 1,000 population) 516
- v. Female (per 1,000 population) 452
- vi. Maternal (modeled, per 100,000 live births). - 1,013(2006)
- vii. Births attended by skilled health staff (%) 33 (2006)

Puntland Millennium Development Goals2 Targets for2015

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- i. Population living below \$1/day 43% (2002) , - 22% (2015)
- ii. Poverty gap ratio at \$1/day 18.3%(2002) ... 9% (2015)
- iii. Children underweight for age (% of children under 5) 26.2%(2006)

POVERTY

- viii. (% of population)
- ix. National headcount index - 43.2 (2002)
- x. Urban headcount index - 23.5 (2002)
- xi. Rural headcount index - 53.4 (2002)

Access to an improved water source

(% of population)

- iv. Total - 29 % (2006)
- v. Urban -58.4 % (2006)
- vi. Rural - 13.7 % (2006)
- vii. Nomadic 3.8 % (2006)

Achieve universal primary education

- i. Net primary enrollment ratio (% of school age population) 27.7% (2006)
- ii. Youth literacy rate (% ages 15-24) 20% (2004)

INCOME

- i. GNI per capita (US\$) 226 (2003)
- ii. Consumer price index (1995=100)
- iii. Food price index (1995=100)

Immunization rates

(% of children ages 12-23 months)

- i. Measles - 19 % (2006)
- ii. DPT - 20 % (2006)
- iii. Child malnutrition (% under 5 years) - 35 % (2006)

Promote gender equality and empower women

- i. Ratio of girls to boys in primary & secondary education 0.55 (2000) 0
- ii. Ratio of literate females to males (ages 15-24) 0.52 (2002)
- iii. Proportion of seats in parliament held by women 5/68 (2003)

INCOME/CONSUMPTION DISTRIBUTION

- i. Gini index - 39.7 (2002)
- ii. Lowest quintile (% of income or Consumption) 4.1 (2002)
- iii. Highest quintile (% of income or consumption)35.6 (2002)

Reduce child mortality

- i. Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000) 115 (2006)
- ii. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 73 (2006)
- iii. One-year-olds immunized against measles (%) 19% (2006)

SOCIAL INDICATORS

Net primary school enrollment rate (% of age group)

- i. Total - 19 % (2006)
- ii. Male - 21 % (2006)
- iii. Female - 17 % (2006)

Improve maternal health

- i. Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) 1,013 (2006)
- ii. Births attended by skilled health staff (%) 36.8% (2006)

Ensure environmental sustainability; land, air and water

- i. Proportion of land area covered by forest 12% (2002) ..
- ii. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area 0.01% (2002)
- iii. Energy use per unit of GDP 50.43 kg p.a. (2000-02)
- iv. Proportion of population using solid fuels (%) 99.4 % (2006)
- v. Integrate principles of sustainable development into policies; reverse loss of environmental resources.
- vi. Access to an improved water source (% of population) 25%(2006)
- vii. Access to improved sanitation (% of population) 43.7 (2006)

Sources: Somalia, Joint Strategy Paper for the period 2008 – 2013 - based on other sources indicated below:

- WB World Development Indicators 2006; UNDP MDG Report Somalia, 2004; UNDP and the WB, Somalia Socio-Economic Survey 2002; UNDP Somalia Human Development Report, 2001; Multiple Indicator.
- Cluster Survey, 1999; Conflict Analysis Regional Report: Puntland, 2004; UNICEF Primary School Survey 2004/05; UNICEF, The State of the World's Children, 2004; Ministry of Planning of Puntland, Facts and Figures.
- 2004; WHO Annual World Health Report, 2004. (2006 of education offered to them”.

Social indicators in Puntland

The Draft Report on Socio-economic Assessment in Puntland undertaken by PDRC in 2004 has a detailed analysis of social economic development in Puntland, covering Education, Health, Water and Sanitation etc. Based on this source the two main educational systems that exist in Puntland are the traditional and modern institutions. Each of these has its own ramifications and sub-systems. The first consists of various flexible approaches of Islamic teaching. The inspiring element of this kind of education is learning religious obligations of Islamic religion. This is conducted at Koranic schools, while the modern education consist formal and non-formal approaches of learning. Formal education systems comprehend the classical stratification of standardized schooling systems: Pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education systems. Non formal education consists mainly vocational training and adult education.

The striking feature of the situation of educational accessibility in Puntland is the very low enrolment ratio of the primary school age children. Out of an estimated 465,000 of children within the primary school age bracket only 53,005 pupils were enrolled in different primary schools in Puntland regions in 2002/2003 school year. This consists 11.4% of all primary school children, split into 8.5% girls and 14.3% boys. In a situation of underdeveloped primary education, the achievements in secondary and tertiary educations can at best be symbolic. In fact the enrolments in all secondary and tertiary education institutions in Puntland consisted of 2,868 and 558 students, respectively, in 2002/3 school year.

Table 2.1: Puntland: Selected Basic Social Indicators (derived from various sources)

Key Basic Social Indicators	Puntland baseline
Children underweight for age (percent of children under five)	26.8%
Gross enrolment ratio (percent of school age population)	24%
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000)	225
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	133
Births attended by skilled health staff (percent)	49.2%
Contraceptive prevalence (percent of women ages 15-49)	8.3%
Malaria prevalence (per 100,000)	113
Access to an improved water source (percent of population)	25.9%
Access to improved sanitation (percent of population)	41.5%

Source: WB World Development Indicators 2006; UNDP MDG Report Somalia, 2004; UNDP and the WB, Somalia Socio-Economic Survey 2002; UNDP Somalia Human Development Report, 2001; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 1999; Conflict Analysis Regional Report: Puntland, 2004; UNICEF Primary School Survey 2004/05; Puntland Ministry of Planning, Facts and Figures 2004; WHO Annual World Health Report, 2004.

Puntland's population of was served by just 19 hospitals with a total health staff of 1,123, over half of which are not qualified and a very small number are female. This resulted in, among other outcomes, high under-five and infant mortality rates being among the worst in the world at a shocking 225 and 113 per 1,000 children/live births⁷⁵. Another factor contributing to these high rates is that 74 percent of Puntlanders lacked clean, safe drinking water, which puts both children and adults at risk of often fatal diarrheal diseases. In addition, women's health is affected by the common practice of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/FGC), which is extremely widespread among Somalis with 98 percent of Somali girls and women have undergone FGM. Finally, the use of khat and khat-chewing is extremely prevalent among men at high costs, both in terms of public health and family finances.

Education Status and Trends

Puntland education system adopts 8:4:4 progression ladder to complete all the three successive stages of primary, secondary and university education as in other zones of Somalia. A full course of primary schooling lasts eight years. The statutory age for enrollment in grade 1 is 6 years of age. Hence pupils enrolled at grade one will end primary level of education at the age of 14. Gross enrollments in primary education increased steadily from 12 percent in 1999 to 36 percent in 2005/6 with an enrollment increase of 4 percent per year.

Based on UNICEF sources, while 30 percent of girls enrolled in 2006 in comparison with 41 percent enrollment for boys in the same year, the majority of Puntland regions have the highest proportion of female pupils in Somalia, which reached 40.2 percent in 2006 while the proportion of girls' enrolment in Sool/Sanag was at 37.7%. However and as stated above, it is important to note that the enrolment of girls drops considerably between Lower Primary and Upper Primary from 41.5 percent to 36.1

⁷⁵ UNDP Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 1999

percent in the North East Zone and from 39.1 to 32.9 percent in Sool/Sanag. Worse of all is the alarming figure of completion rate for primary school children who enrolled in grade 1 and survived up to last grade in the primary cycle. Out of pupils who previously enrolled in grade one, only an estimate of 45 percent got through to grade 5 while only half of the latter figure (23 percent) have survived to reach grade 8. The major causes of these huge dropout rates could be either an economical factor which is the inability of households to payment of school fees, or the absence of friendly environment in schools or a combination of both.

Only 37% of the primary schools in Puntland used exclusively subject teaching mode, where a class is taught different subjects by different teachers, while about 5% of the schools used exclusively mode of class teaching where a class is taught all subjects by one class teacher. The remaining 58% of the schools apply combination of both. According to the primary school survey done by UNICEF, North East Zone (Puntland) is the area that substantial decline in the percent of the schools applying subject mode of teaching has been recorded between 2001/2 and 2002/3, as manifestation of deteriorating quality of education. Teaching materials, like text books and other aids, are scarce. Education policy remains stuck to the former approach which has been designed for settled communities, i.e. urban cities. Unlike settled communities, the pastoral society of Somalia conduct different life-style, based on mobile grazing pattern and, as a consequence of that, confronted with difficult choice, vis-à-vis the education of their children. These main challenges include the improving of access to and enhancing the quality of education and training by:

- i. Improving the capacity of education authorities to plan, manage, finance and supervise education and training and to forge an education system accommodating Somali, Arabic and English medium schools under one common curriculum.
- ii. Improving the quality and motivation of teachers.
- iii. Rehabilitating and constructing classroom facilities together with the more intensive use of existing facilities through a double-shift system.
- iv. Provision of accelerated/condensed primary education programmes for youth who missed out on or dropped out of education with prospects for eventual reinsertion into secondary, technical-vocational and professional training.
- v. Narrowing the gender gap in enrolment as well as retention and performance and, more generally providing opportunities to meet the education rights of the most vulnerable – returnees, internally displaced persons and drought-affected nomadic populations.

Table 2.2: Puntland – Education Status in figures

Indicator		1991	1999	2002	2004	2006	2009	2015/6
Net enrollment ratio in primary education (%)		-	12	18	20	36	-	100
	Girls	-	-	-	-	30	-	100
	Boys					42		
Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 8 (%)		-	-	-	-		23.1	100
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds at National level (%)		-	-	-	-	-	-	100
	Women	-	-	13	-	32	-	100
	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

Source: Puntland MDG report 2010

76 Source: MDG target other sources: Enrollment rates (UNICEF,PES99-2006), survival rate (UNICEF PES 2005/6, Examination Board, PL MOE), Literacy rate (UNICEF MICS32006),UNICEF PES survey 2004

Status of the Secondary Schools in Puntland

A total number of 2,868 have been enrolled in 12 secondary schools that operated in Puntland, during 2002/3 school year. The proportion of female students was 535 (18.6%), against 2333 male students (81.4%). Taking into account the regional breakdown, out of all secondary schools in Puntland and total number of students enrolled, in 2002/3. Half of the schools and more than half of the students are concentrated in Bari region, while other three regions have of equal shares in terms of the number of secondary schools. Eastern Sanag has no functioning secondary school. Table 4.5 Distribution of No. of secondary schools and students enrolled by region, within Puntland.

Tertiary Education

Since the collapse the national state of Somalia, there have been many efforts to revive tertiary education. However, the establishment of universities in a country with underdeveloped primary education, so far produced weak results. All Somali's with university education background have either graduated from overseas universities or from the defunct national university. However, the latter was totally sponsored thorough international donations, mainly by the Italian program's aim was to provide institutional support to Bosasso Port. The institute started providing courses on Management, cost accounting and basics of economy and law, in 1998, to limited number of students for two years program. From 2001 the centre introduced three years curriculum on the same subjects and admits only new graduates from secondary schools. The number of students that were enrolled in Bosasso vocational institute reached 198 students in 2002/2003. Puntland Community College (PCC), based in Garowe, is also a new institution of higher education. The college started providing courses for management to junior students and good numbers of its early graduates are recruited by some international agencies based in Puntland and also by different departments in Puntland administration.

The Puntland State University (PSU), known as Bosasso University, is the second tertiary education established in Puntland, and started operating in 2000. Right from the start PSU consisted of two faculties which have provided courses of Business Administration and Sharia Law. By 2003 EAU included in its programs courses of computer science faculty. The overall enrolment capacity of the university for the year 2002/2003 figured a total of 381 students, distributed to 171 registered in the faculty of Sharia Law and Islamic Studies and 177 in the faculty of Business Administration. The new faculty of Computer Science admitted the first year students, consisting of 33 new entrants. The construction of a new Teachers Training Centre is underway in Garowe through

Adult Literacy

Somalia is among the countries which have the lowest adult literacy rates and was estimated at about 24% in 1991, whereby women and men literacy figures reached 14 percent and 36 percent respectively. However, MICS3 Somalia survey conducted in 2006 by UNICEF reported that in Puntland women's' literacy rate reach about 32 percent, in which 40 percent live in urban areas while only 10 percent belong to rural communities. On the other hand, even we assume men's literacy rate as double of women's figure i.e. 60 percent, adult literacy rate will only reach 45 percent which is far to achieve MDG target by 2015

Health

Puntland in 2004 there were only 62 doctors and 33 midwives working in public health facilities (a ratio of one doctor to around 38,700 people⁷⁷. Coverage of basic vaccinations is low; in 2006 30 percent of children age 12-23 months had received the vaccination for BCG, 24 percent had received the vaccination for DPT1, while the figure for measles was 29 percent⁷⁸ Less than 10%⁷⁹ of Somalis have access to voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) for HIV/AIDS and less than 2% have access to anti-retroviral therapy (ART). Women and girls, and young people who lack access to education on life-skills and to youth-friendly services, are especially vulnerable to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The provision of health services in Puntland

Health Status and Trends

The infant mortality rate (IMR) in Puntland as per the MICS3 Somalia 2006 UNICEF survey is 80 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality is 122 deaths per 1,000⁸⁰ live births for the same period. This means that one in every 12 Somali children in NEZ dies before reaching age one, while one in every 8 does not survive to the fifth birthday. Most of all deaths occur within the first weeks of life, due to complications related to pregnancy and/or delivery and the lack of health care facilities. Infant mortality is also directly linked to maternal health. This situation is further compounded by the poor environment, particularly inadequate hygiene and sanitation. In rural areas, there is also lack of access to vaccines and immunization services against childhood killer diseases. Malnutrition is a chronic problem for children in Somalia⁸¹, with 35.6 per cent of them underweight (moderate and severe) and hence is a major threat for early children's deaths. The coverage for measles vaccine for children from one to two years in Puntland is 15.6 percent while only 5.6 has percent has received all the recommended vaccinations against childhood diseases in their lifetime. In addition, a vast majority of our children of about 58.1 percent did not receive any vaccination at all in their li

Table 2.3: Health facilities in Puntland⁸²

Health Facilities	Bari	Karkaar	Sanaag	Nugal	Sool	Cayn	Mudug	Total
Regional Hospitals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
District Hospitals	2	1	0	3	0	1	2	9
Mental Health Centres	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Health Centres	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	7
VCT Centres	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4
ART Sites	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TB Centres	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	8
MCH/OPD	8	7	8	11	8	4	9	55
Health Posts	55	43	15	19	38	12	12	194
TOTAL	71	58	24	39	49	19	28	288

⁷⁷ This ratio assumes Puntland's population in 2004 was 2.4m, as estimated in Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation, 'Puntland Facts and Figures, 2006'.

⁷⁸ Preliminary results 'Somali Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006' UNICEF Somalia

⁷⁹ United Nation Transition Plan for Somalia (2008-2009)

⁸⁰ Puntland State of Somalia Millennium Development Goals progress report 2010

⁸¹ MICS3 2006 report, UNICEF Somalia

⁸² Puntland Facts and Figures 4th Edition 2007-2008

Table 2.4: Puntland Health Status in figures

Indicator	1990	1991	1999	2006	2015 ⁸³
Under five mortality rate per 1000 children	275		224	122	41
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1000 live births	152	-	132	80	27
Proportion of one year-old children immunized against measles %		-	10.6	15.9	100

Maternal Health Status

With regard to Puntland, most of the available data are those gathered for the entire of Somalia except with few figures collected in 2006 under MICS3 report. There was a slight decline in Maternal Mortality rate in the final years of last decade up to 2006. MMR has declined from 1600 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 1013 per 100,000 live births in 2006. The percentage of women who received antenatal care from a health professional has remained low in Puntland at 25.6 percent. Furthermore, the number of mothers who received at least one tetanus toxoid injection during pregnancy was 21.3 percent in 2006. Women in urban areas are considerable more likely than women in rural areas to see receive antenatal care from skilled health personnel. The number of births attended to by a health professional increased from 25 percent in 2002 to 36.8 percent in 2006. Hemorrhage, prolonged and obstructed labor, infection and eclampsia are the major causes of death at childbirth. Anemia and female genital mutilation have a direct impact on, and aggravate these conditions. Poor antenatal and postnatal care, with the almost complete lack of emergency obstetric referral care for birth complications, further contribute to these high rates of mortality and disability. This translates into the deaths of over ten women per day on average, as a result of pregnancy and childbirth complications as some reports suggested.

Furthermore in Socio-economic survey conducted by UNICEF and WB in 2002, it was reported that childbirth frequently takes place without adequate medical facilities, where only 25% of all deliveries are attended by skilled staff. An overwhelming 88% of children (95% in nonurban areas and 77% in urban areas) continue to be born at home, thereby limiting medical expertise to deal with complications. Only 9% of births take place in hospitals or other health facilities. The vast majority of childbirths take place with the help of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). Conversely, only 2% of deliveries are handled by medical doctors, 19% are assisted by family members, and 23% are done with the help of nurses and midwives.

Water supply in Puntland

Recent assessment of access to water, in Somalia in general, underscore that less than 20 percent of the total population - is believed to have access to water throughout the year; albeit with significant regional variations. In particular, Puntland area is known as a more seriously water deficit zone because of its arid environment. Despite the existence of untapped underground water courses, Puntland does not have perennial rivers, while the average rainfall ranges from 50 to 250 mm. Before the achievement of National independence in 1960, the main water points in Puntland regions included war/Bellies, or natural dugouts; galls, depression areas in graveled dry riverbeds; groundwater discharging from springs at the coast, particularly the Guan area facing the Gulf of Aden; and from incised valleys inland. Groundwater was extracted only from hand-dug wells located

⁸³ Source: MDG target

Source: UNICEF 1991, An analysis of situation of women and children in Somalia, MICS2 2000, MICS3 2006 UNICEF

at long distances from each other. In general, the water points in Puntland can be classified as: (1) Surface water; and (2) ground water. Traditional communal Wars/Bellies, Galls, and berkeds are in the first category; while boreholes, shallow wells, and springs are ground water harvesting sources.

The Table below presents the distributional pattern of the water points in all the six regions in Puntland. This is mainly based on the topography of different econ-systems. In those area were the water table is deep, main source of water consists *berkeds* followed by boreholes, while the area phasing Guban enjoy availability of springs and shallow wells. Shallow wells are more abundant in valleys like Nugaal, Dharoor, and Mudug. The overall picture of the water situation in the region demonstrates the preponderance of the berkeds over the ground water sources. The census of the number of berkeds in different localities in Puntland, undertaken by PASWEN, identified close to 9,000 units, followed by 1275 shallow wells.

Table 2.5 Distribution of source of water by region

Source	Bari	Nugal	Mudug	Sool	Sanaag	Total
Shallow wells	475	405	265	98	29	1272
Berkeds	3000	1150	1300	2280	1450	9180
Boreholes	13	18	16	8	7	62

Source: PDRC 2004: Socio-economic survey

It is noteworthy that Sool and Sanaag regions have the lowest number of shallow wells and boreholes, in comparison to other three regions in Puntland. Although the scarcity of shallow wells is due to natural ecological factors characterized by deep water table in those areas, the extreme deficiency of bore-wells in this two regions is related to political uncertainties that prevailed in these regions during the civil war period in Somalia. Contrasting claims in Puntland and Somaliland administration over the control of eastern halves of Sool and Sanaag, prevented access to international assistance to these territories. Since the collapse of the national State in Somalia, rehabilitation and development programs conducted by international organizations have provided the bulk of the financial and technical assistance earmarked for the promotion of water supply systems in all parts of Somalia. Unlike the southern parts in Puntland, the contested parts of Sool and Sanaag have been excluded from most of the international assistance that are vital for the advancement of essential social services (Water, education and Health).

Rapid proliferation of Berkeds:

The precarious and unreliable borehole water system managed by the state has favoured the emergence of alternative private water points in the form of berkeds. As no restrictions have ever been imposed on the excavation of berkeds, the area has witnessed the widespread proliferation of this private source within less than four decades. The main purpose for constructing berkeds is to directly harvest the runoff water.

Distribution of the population by source of water

Recent assessments on the distribution of the population by type of water sources, which has been conducted by UNICEF in 1997, indicated prevalent dependence of surface water in comparisons to

ground water harvesting in Puntland. Overall, it has been estimated that 50% the population obtained water from surface reservoirs (Berkeds and ballies) during at least part of the year; 35% from open wells, 10% from boreholes and 5% from springs. However, during the last seven years, Puntland regions have witness increasing severity of water scarcity. Puntland had been enfolded by prolonged drought that in some regions started from 1998. As a result of that, surface water sources; throughout the territory in Puntland, have been dried long time ago.

Access to and use of latrines

Since latrines are not compatible with constant movement of pastoralist, defecation in the nomadic area is in the open. In settled rural areas, some village households use simple pit latrines but most of the people use nearby fields indiscriminately. Consequently, health risks in and around villages are significant. Disposal of excreta constitutes serious health hazard in major urban town, and more specifically in pre-urban areas inhabited by IDPs and refugees. Only nineteen percent of urban households, use flash toilets, use relatively appropriate sanitation facilities. The underlying situation of the above scenario of access to toilets is indicative that close to 46, 000 (9%), persons that have no access to latrine facilities, defecate more-or-less indiscriminately. Most of the urban dwellings have simple covered bit latrines, with often poorly designed septic tanks and seepage pits while appropriate facilities for emptying septic tanks are lacking. Health risks are considerable in all urban centres in Puntland, due to this indiscriminate defecations and overflowing of septic tanks.

Solid and liquid waste management

Accumulation of garbage, including large amounts of food and plastic bags are seen in nearly all towns and villages. The absence of local authorities to designate appropriate temporary dumping sites and organize routine collection and burning is apparently the major constraint. Apparently 64% of household's garbage is removed by paid collectors, however that is usually is spread in street corners or taken to the surroundings of IDP camps, because most of garbage collectors are women from IDP camps who depend on such service for earning. Garbage is directly disposed at outdoors by 36% of urban households. In general liquid waste are flashed at outdoors or inside the dwellings, because of lack any kind of drainage and sewage infrastructure in all urban towns in Puntland. Waste management64%36%Paid collectors Disposed of outdoors

CHAPTER 3:

STATE OF YOUTH - THE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The Survey on youth empowerment and participation in inclusive development, and peace building, in Puntland was carried out in 2010. A quantitative and qualitative research was carried to assess the potential for harnessing the energies of youth (both from within and the Diaspora) to play a catalytic role in poverty reduction, peace and inclusive development. The objective was to provide information for preparing background papers for the Human Development report whose theme is on empowering the youth for inclusive development. The survey took into account not only access to health facilities but also the personal, social and mental development of the youth as well as young people's sexual and reproductive health from a preventive, rights-based, gender-responsive and empowering approach. Such an approach would build on their creative energies and respect their rights and capacities for participation and leadership in decisions that affect their lives. Young people who are marginalized are more susceptible to developing and maintaining anti social behavior. Poverty, social exclusion and unemployment often cause marginalization. Furthermore, young people are more likely to become victims of violence. Many adolescent girls and young women continue to face gender-based stereotyping that often has deep historical and cultural roots..

A complementary aspect of field research was the Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs), and interviews with the youth and other stakeholders, which documented youth voices and choices based on their perceptions of multiple exclusions, joblessness, frustration, survival strategies and priority needs. The key barriers and opportunities for empowering youth to engage them in peace building and development were explored. *In addition*, in-depth interviews with government officials in line with the ministries dealing with youth affairs, education specialists, regions leaders, members of NGOs and civic society organizations working with youths, business men, researchers and university students; were conducted.

Coverage of the survey

A three stage sample design was used. In each of the six regions of Puntland, one District was randomly chosen. In each chosen Districts, five villages were included in the Survey. In each of the Villages pre-determined number of households was randomly selected for the interviews. All the seven regions were covered. In each region one district was be randomly chosen to represent the region. Districts housing the major urban centres were devised into rural and urban populations. In each of the selected districts FGDs was conducted for the following target population; Youths in the school, Youths out of school, Unemployed youth, Parents of the youth. A total of 1084 households with a population of 6,697 were surveyed.

Field activities

Prior to the actual data collection, the field teams underwent a two day training covering basic research methods, interviewing techniques, step by step instructions of how to complete the questionnaires, editing of completed questionnaires. The training covered skills of facilitating FGDs and note taking.

Definition of youth

Youth is a transitional stage in life between childhood and adulthood, a period of transition when young people yearn for autonomy, learning, employment, starting families, and exercising their rights of citizenship etc. The Puntland Youth policy defines youth as young men and women between

the ages of 15-30 whereas the United Nations defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. For purposes of this Survey, the Youth in Puntland were defined as persons aged 14-29 years. However there has been varying definitions and perception of the youth among countries. The age bracket for youth varies by country (lowest age range is 12 in Jordan & upper age range is 35 in a number of African countries including Somaliland).

However, the definition of youth depends on a variety of cultural, socio-economic and opportunities regimes.. Based on the findings of the Survey the perceived age range of youth in Puntland was given as 14 – 33 years. The factors contributing to lengthening the period called youth in Puntland include the time spent in education, delays to become self reliant due to high levels of youth unemployment, and the consequent delayed ability to marry etc. Youth are regarded as the group of people who make up the middle age bracket of Puntland's society, mostly up and coming young men and women viewed as the future by the older generations. These young people face other daunting challenges due to limited avenues for participation in decision making at family, community and state levels; insufficient employment opportunities, ill health, and the resulting lack of self-esteem.

The most common challenges the youth in Puntland face include exposure to violence, lack of opportunities for participation in the economic, and political processes, drug abuse especially khat and the looming risk of HIV/AIDS. Many lack the basic education that would make them employable in the labour market. These young people have not been able to have their voices adequately heard as they still lack the necessary information and skills to be able to contribute meaningfully to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and sustainable peace building. With adequate support, guidance and skills, they can provide the foundation for building peace and rebuilding lives and communities. Their participation in decision-making processes of concern to them in particular where the future of their country and peace building is at stake can empower them to be agents of positive change in their society.

Expected outputs

The Survey was designed principally to explore the state of youth empowerment and participation in Puntland, including their autonomy, access to education, participation, decent employment and social protection, freedom of expression, juvenile justice, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, sexual and reproductive health and awareness of youth rights from a gender perspective. The Survey also covered existing youth assets, capabilities and opportunity structure to assess their degree of empowerment in social, economic and political dimensions. The Survey outcomes would be critical for the analysis of key barriers and opportunities for empowering youth to engage them in peace building and development in Puntland.

KEY FINDINGS

Key findings

The proportion of youth who are either unemployed or underemployed, and/or out of school is high. They felt that their voices were not sufficiently heard in the political and economic decision making processes affecting their lives. They prioritized training and economic activities that would get them on the road to self-sufficiency. The youth identified barriers to youth development that included: limited employment opportunities, education and livelihood skills, lack of credit facilities, unfavorable treatment by adults, and, limited access to information about their rights and lack of opportunities for participation in organized groups.

Demographic characteristics

Based on the results of the sample Survey as indicated in Table 3.1, the proportion of youth in Puntland (14-29 years) was 44.7%. If the youth is bracket is expanded to 15 – 33, the proportion of youth rises to 52 %. Based on the results in Table 3.2, the average household had 6.2 persons out of which 2.8 were youths (age 15 – 29 years). The share of youth in the households was 44.6 %, varying from 47.1 % in the urban areas to 40.2 % in the nomadic areas. A high proportion of the youth were neither in formal employment nor in school. The Youth generally felt that that their voices were not heard in the decision making processes affecting their lives. They placed a high priority on formal education and vocational training and other activities that would get them on the road to self-sufficiency.

Table 3.1: Composition of population by sex and age distribution by sex

	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Age – years						
0-4	450	13.1	407	12.5	857	12.8
5-9	523	15.2	488	14.9	1,011	15.1
10-14	530	15.4	488	14.9	1,018	15.2
15-19	547	15.9	446	13.7	993	14.8
20-24	360	10.5	368	11.3	728	10.9
25-29	305	8.9	361	11.1	666	9.9
30-34	111	3.2	105	3.2	216	3.2
35-39	126	3.7	207	6.3	333	5
40-44	158	4.6	135	4.1	293	4.4
45-49	112	3.3	101	3.1	213	3.2
50-54	88	2.6	70	2.1	158	2.4
55-59	44	1.3	35	1.1	79	1.2
60-64	39	1.1	26	0.8	65	1
65-69	11	0.3	10	0.3	21	0.3
70-74	14	0.4	8	0.2	22	0.3
75 +	14	0.4	10	0.3	24	0.4
Total	3,432	100	3,265	100	6,697	100

Table 3.2: Composition of youth in sample population by sex and region

		Average number of male youth per household	Average number of female youth per household	Number youths in household	Share of youth in total household members (%)	Household size	Age of male youth	Age of female youth
Urban	Mean	1.4	1.4	2.9	47.1	6.2	20.3	21.0
	N	465	402	307		643	835	809
Rural	Mean	1.1	1.2	2.5	42.0	6.1	19.5	20.6
	N	183	143	109		253	268	282
Nomad (Water Point)	Mean	1.4	1.0	2.5	40.2	6.3	19.5	20.5
	N	134	107	83		1,072	232	192
Overall	Mean	1.4	1.3	2.8	44.6	6.2	20.0	20.8
	N	782	652	499		1,968	1,335	1,283

Access to education

Education is one of the fundamental pillars for human development. It is the single most important factor for young people to lead productive and responsible lives. Educational status of youth can be divided into three broad categories. Basic education is defined by participation in primary education and secondary schools. The Survey was designed to explore social inequalities in access to educational opportunities. Gender gaps in the distribution of access by young women and young men across the educational system were to be explored. Nevertheless, there is widespread agreement

that education, literacy and numeracy are essential for young people, and that educational policy and provision must respond to the realities of young people's lives, which can be achieved only through formal systems.

According to the Survey results in Table 3.3, students constituted 22.7% of the youth (15-29 years) respondents. Although there was a high level of non response to the reasons for not attending school (80.7 %); the highest number of those who responded attributed lack of access to education to non-affordability (6.1%), and working at home (6.1 %). These were followed by long distance to School (4.9 %). Based on the outcomes of FGDs, the main factors that hinder the youth from accessing education are the limited number formal schools and classrooms, lack of trained teachers, long distances to schools, and high opportunity costs as perceived by parents. During the focus groups discussions, the youth complained that secondary school and university curricula do not provide students with necessary skills and tools to prepare them for life. For example, they finish their studies memorizing theories and then discover these theories do not help them get jobs. They said schools lack basic practical learning tools, such as chemistry labs, where students can practice what they have learned in books.

Youth Unemployment

Based on the results of the Survey, only 12.6 % of the youth were in paid employment while majority of them (25%) were self employed. 62% of the employed youth were working full time while 38% were only in part-time activities. Based on the results in Table 3.3, the unemployed youth constituted 15%, while 11% were unpaid family workers. The survey reveals a considerable level of underemployment since only 19.2% of the respondents had a full time job. Thus unemployment and underemployment among the youth ages 14–29 is a major problem in Puntland. Forced by poverty and the lack of possibilities for better jobs, many young people have no alternative but to turn to informal activities to earn income. With economic growth being insufficient to absorb new labour force entrants, there is a danger that informal work will become the only option for large numbers of young people, thereby making the objective of a decent job for all increasingly unavailable. Increasingly, the distinction between employment and unemployment has lost much of its meaning, as young people move in and out of informal activities where neither term has any real relevance.

In addressing youth employment, the Government of Puntland needs to focus less on the supply side of the labour market and more on creating labour demand. In order to reduce unemployment greater emphasis should be on by promoting economic growth and job creation. Providing young people with opportunities to learn through work may prove more effective than attempting to upgrade their skills before they enter the labour force. giving young women the same opportunities as young men; entrepreneurship — making it easier to start and run enterprises to provide more and better jobs for young women and men; and employment creation — placing job creation at the centre of macroeconomic policy.

The need for vocational training

Vocational training ensures youth participation in the economic activities of the country. During the Survey, 90.6 % of the respondents did not indicate if they had any form of vocational training. In contrast, a low proportion (8%) of the youth indicated that they had some form of vocational training. 9% of male youth and 6% of the female youth had been trained. Out of the few that were trained, 32% were trained in either entrepreneurship or microenterprises, 22% were trained on ICT and 18% in leadership.

Table 3.3 Occupational and Health Status of youth by sex and region

	Among youth population in the Sample household						Among youth respondents in the sample household					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Employment status												
Self employed	336	24.9	298	23.0	634	24.0	152	28.9	119	21.3	271	25.0
Paid Employee	167	12.4	172	13.3	339	12.8	78	14.8	59	10.6	137	12.6
Unpaid Family Worker	152	11.3	204	15.8	356	13.5	48	9.1	121	21.7	169	15.6
Student	394	29.3	324	25.0	718	27.2	133	25.3	113	20.3	246	22.7
Unemployed	214	15.9	210	16.2	424	16.0	74	14.1	96	17.2	170	15.7
Not stated	84	6.2	87	6.7	171	6.5	41	7.8	50	9.0	91	8.4
Nature of employment												
Full time	252	18.7	149	11.5	401	15.2	122	23.2	86	15.4	208	19.2
Part-time	141	10.5	90	6.9	231	8.7	61	11.6	43	7.7	104	9.6
Not applicable	954	70.8	1,056	81.5	2,010	76.1	343	65.2	429	76.9	772	71.2
Reason did not work last 7 days												
Attending school	265	19.7	216	16.7	481	18.2	99	18.8	74	13.3	173	16.0
Seeking job	61	4.5	27	2.1	88	3.3	28	5.3	7	1.3	35	3.2
Disability	13	1.0	6	0.5	19	0.7	4	0.8	5	0.9	9	0.8
Sick	8	0.6	7	0.5	15	0.6	5	1.0	4	0.7	9	0.8
Household duties	12	0.9	140	10.8	152	5.8	5	1.0	77	13.8	82	7.6
Others	25	1.9	20	1.5	45	1.7	13	2.5	7	1.3	20	1.8
Not applicable	963	71.5	879	67.9	1,842	69.7	372	70.7	384	68.8	756	69.7
Youth living with disability												
Not disabled	1,260	93.5	1,216	93.9	2,476	93.7	493	93.7	526	94.3	1,019	94.0
Blind	15	1.1	8	0.6	23	0.9	9	1.7	1	0.2	10	0.9
Deaf or dumb	5	0.4	6	0.5	11	0.4	3	0.6	3	0.5	6	0.6
Physically	7	0.5	11	0.8	18	0.7	4	0.8	7	1.3	11	1.0
Mentally	1	0.1	3	0.2	4	0.2			1	0.2	1	0.1
Other	2	0.1	4	0.3	6	0.2			2	0.4	2	0.2
Not stated	57	4.2	47	3.6	104	3.9	17	3.2	18	3.2	35	3.2
Youth with Chronic Diseases												
Absence of chronic health condition	1,273	94.5	1,230	95.0	2,503	94.7	505	96.0	530	95.0	1,035	95.5
Presence of chronic health condition	2	0.1	2	0.2	4	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4	3	0.3
Not stated	72	5.3	63	4.9	135	5.1	20	3.8	26	4.7	46	4.2
Overall	1,347	100.0	1,295	100.0	2,642	100.0	526	100.0	558	100.0	1,084	100.0

Health concerns among the youth

Although young people are generally among the healthiest population groups, this does not mean that poor health, resulting from disease, accidents and injury, is insignificant for them. Based on the Survey results in Table 3.3, the reports of the incidence of chronic disease and disability were below 6% among the respondents. However, there is a continued need to address young people's sexual and reproductive health from a preventive, rights-based, gender-responsive and empowering approach. Such an approach would build on their creative energies and respect their rights and capacities for participation and leadership in decisions that affect their lives. Sexual and reproductive health — understood as a holistic concept of overall well-being relating to emotional, mental and physical health — is an essential component of young people's ability to become well-adjusted, responsible and productive members of society.

Youths' knowledge about family planning and HIV/AIDS

Knowledge about family planning and HIV/AIDS will enable the youth to plan their families and correctly avoid contacting the virus that causes AIDS. It also enables youth to avoid the spread of the virus. More females have family planning knowledge (44%) than males (40%). Over 80% of the youth have knowledge of HIV/AIDS. 61% know how to protect themselves from the virus.

Disability

Based on the sample Survey, 6% of the youth were living with disability. 46% of the disabled were blind, while 32% were physically disabled. The others 20% were either deaf or dumb. A very low proportion (0.3 %) some were impaired by poor health

Perceptions of the youth about various aspects of life

The youth were asked to rate certain aspects of life in their communities. Table 3.4 indicates the perceptions by youth about various aspects of life. The family was rated as very important by over 93.2% of the youth, followed by religion, work and education that were considered very important by 90.5%, 78.4% and 75.9 % respectively. Leisure time was rated least important rated highly by a mere 24.5 %.

Table 3.4 Importance of some aspects in the lives of the youth by sex and region

Aspects	Family		Friends		Education		Leisure time		Politics		Work		Religion		Service to others	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Both																
Very important	1,010	93.2	584	53.9	823	75.9	266	24.5	314	29.0	850	78.4	981	90.5	365	33.7
Rather important	19	1.8	349	32.2	129	11.9	380	35.1	164	15.1	113	10.4	35	3.2	387	35.7
Not very important	5	0.5	64	5.9	61	5.6	218	20.1	216	19.9	31	2.9	9	0.8	91	8.4
Not important	2	0.2	22	2.0	8	0.7	139	12.8	298	27.5	18	1.7	6	0.6	77	7.1
Not stated	48	4.4	65	6.0	63	5.8	81	7.5	92	8.5	72	6.6	53	4.9	164	15.1
Total	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0	1,084	100.0

Youth perceptions about their rights

The respondents were assessed for their awareness of the youth rights. The results show that 82% of the youth were aware of their right to education while 73% were aware of the right to decent work. Table 3.7 gives the level of awareness of the youth rights. Interestingly, a lower proportion (half of the youth) indicated their awareness about their right to political participation. This calls for increased civic education among the youth to raise their awareness about their rights.

Table 3.7: Awareness of youth rights by sex and region

	% reporting aware of youth right	youth reporting sources of information for awareness of youth right									
		Radio		Television		Newspaper		Internet		Friends/relatives	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Right to education	82.84	531	64.6	80	9.7	14	1.7	30	3.6	167	20.3
Right to decent work	73.2	372	52	131	18.3	38	5.3	21	2.9	153	21.4
Right to participation in organizations	63	288	47	104	17	58	9.5	37	6	126	10.3
Right to political participation	50.4	221	45.8	79	16.4	33	6.8	34	7	116	24
Equal rights of young men and women	51.3	238	49.8	60	12.6	22	4.6	28	5.9	130	27.2
Freedom of expression	61.6	257	44.1	73	12.5	23	3.9	36	6.2	194	33.3

Refer to question number 3.3

Usefulness of various sources of information

The radio was rated as the most useful source of information (67%). Newspapers were the least useful source of information (16%). This may be attributed to the fact that newspapers have to be bought, one needs to be literate and the papers are not accessible by youth in the rural areas. As agents of change, the youth acknowledged the crucial role of the media as a means to promote peace and appeal to their age groups. Thus tailored youth radio, TV, and print media programmes can provide information about current events, how they affect their future, and their rights.

Table 3.11: Usefulness of the sources of information by sex and region

	Youth reporting degree of usefulness									
	Very useful		Useful		Less useful		Not stated		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male youth										
Radio	226	43.0	130	24.7	35	6.7	135	25.7	526	100.0
Television	108	20.5	88	16.7	36	6.8	294	55.9	526	100.0
Newspaper	32	6.1	62	11.8	40	7.6	392	74.5	526	100.0
Internet	91	17.3	44	8.4	10	1.9	381	72.4	526	100.0
Informal sources	89	16.9	122	23.2	33	6.3	282	53.6	526	100.0
Other sources of information	8	1.5	5	1.0			513	97.5	526	100.0
Female youth										
Radio	228	40.9	150	26.9	29	5.2	151	27.1	558	100.0
Television	86	15.4	101	18.1	24	4.3	347	62.2	558	100.0
Newspaper	28	5.0	55	9.9	26	4.7	449	80.5	558	100.0
Internet	71	12.7	41	7.3	11	2.0	435	78.0	558	100.0
Informal sources	103	18.5	98	17.6	33	5.9	324	58.1	558	100.0
Other sources of information	5	0.9	4	0.7			549	98.4	558	100.0
Both										
Radio	454	41.9	280	25.8	64	5.9	286	26.4	1,084	100.0
Television	194	17.9	189	17.4	60	5.5	641	59.1	1,084	100.0
Newspaper	60	5.5	117	10.8	66	6.1	841	77.6	1,084	100.0
Internet	162	14.9	85	7.8	21	1.9	816	75.3	1,084	100.0
Informal sources	192	17.7	220	20.3	66	6.1	606	55.9	1,084	100.0
Other sources of information	13	1.2	9	0.8			1,062	98.0	1,084	100.0

Table 3.6: Perceptions towards discrimination towards providing access to basic social services

	Discrimination		% reporting discrimination towards access to basic services												Total	
			Gender		Age		Political affiliation		Clan affiliation		Other		Not specified		N	%
	%	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Youth age group																
14-19	15.3	379	14	3.2	6	1.4	2	0.5	10	2.3	26	6.0	376	86.6	434	100.0
20-24	24.0	221	12	4.8	4	1.6	1	0.4	12	4.8	26	10.3	197	78.2	252	100.0
25-29	24.9	338	18	4.5	7	1.8	3	0.8	18	4.5	37	9.3	315	79.1	398	100.0
Gender																
Male	18.3	448	9	1.7	5	1.0	3	0.6	19	3.6	44	8.4	446	84.8	526	100.0
Female	23.1	490	35	6.3	12	2.2	3	0.5	21	3.8	45	8.1	442	79.2	558	100.0
Employment/occupational status																
Self-employed	15.5	239	6	2.2	4	1.5			8	3.0	21	7.7	232	85.6	271	100.0
Paid employee	22.1	122	5	3.6			1	0.7	4	2.9	14	10.2	113	82.5	137	100.0
Unpaid family worker	29.9	157	12	7.1	4	2.4			8	4.7	23	13.6	122	72.2	169	100.0
Student	23.9	226	12	4.9	6	2.4	3	1.2	15	6.1	19	7.7	191	77.6	246	100.0
Unemployed	17.6	142	7	4.1	2	1.2	1	0.6	4	2.4	12	7.1	144	84.7	170	100.0
Not stated	9.6	52	2	2.2	1	1.1	1	1.1	1	1.1			86	94.5	91	100.0
Total	20.8	938	44	4.1	17	1.6	6	0.6	40	3.7	89	8.2	888	81.9	1,084	100.0

Discrimination in access to basic services

Basic services include education, health water supply, electricity, market, money transfer, judicial facilities, etc. Table 3.7 below indicates youth perceptions about discrimination in their access to basic social services. Although response to this issue was extremely low with 81.9 percent of the respondents failing to state their views, 20.8 % of those who responded acknowledged existence of discrimination in various forms. Discrimination based other (unstated) reasons was reported by 8.2 % of the respondents, followed by discrimination on basis of gender which reported by 4.1 % of the respondents. 3.7 % of the respondents perceived discrimination based on clan affiliation.

Youth opinions on social issues

The youth were asked to rate certain social issues that may be affecting them. Table 3.7 gives the youth opinion on selected social issues. The youth who agreed that the existing education and skills do not match with employment opportunities were 68%, followed by lack of institutional space for youth participation (35.9 %).

Table 3.7: Opinion of the youth on selected social issues

		Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Undecided	Moderately agree	Strongly agree	Not stated	Total
Youth suffer more exclusion & deprivation than other groups	N	208	87	117	258	331	83	1,084
	%	19.2	8.0	10.8	23.8	30.5	7.7	100.0
discontent and grievance due to exclusion & unemployment	N	97	103	127	302	376	79	1,084
	%	8.9	9.5	11.7	27.9	34.7	7.3	100.0
There are financial rewards for youth engagement in violence	N	88	91	154	305	355	91	1,084
	%	8.1	8.4	14.2	28.1	32.7	8.4	100.0
Youth are forced to engage in violence for their physical & psychological protection	N	27	60	116	325	477	79	1,084
	%	2.5	5.5	10.7	30.0	44.0	7.3	100.0
youth are lured to leave the country to search for better livelihood opportunities	N	51	81	152	377	335	88	1,084
	%	4.7	7.5	14.0	34.8	30.9	8.1	100.0
Existing education & skills do not match with available employment opportunities	N	45	65	152	310	434	78	1,084
	%	4.2	6.0	14.0	28.6	40.0	7.2	100.0
Khat consumption has impacted negatively on harnessing the potential of youth	N	71	71	167	312	383	80	1,084
	%	6.5	6.5	15.4	28.8	35.3	7.4	100.0
no space for youth participation in peace building and development	N	53	126	158	269	389	89	1,084
	%	4.9	11.6	14.6	24.8	35.9	8.2	100.0
Youth are both victims and source of violent conflict	N	78	88	210	279	344	85	1,084
	%	7.2	8.1	19.4	25.7	31.7	7.8	100.0
Parents' duty is to do their best for their children	N	110	143	177	295	267	92	1,084
	%	10.1	13.2	16.3	27.2	24.6	8.5	100.0
Mentoring of youth and guidance by parent has not been adequate	N	178	124	174	252	268	88	1,084
	%	16.4	11.4	16.1	23.2	24.7	8.1	100.0
Young women suffer more discrimination and deprivation than young men	N	151	121	155	276	295	86	1,084
	%	13.9	11.2	14.3	25.5	27.2	7.9	100.0
Men should be bread winners and women should take care of household chores	N	191	147	165	200	295	86	1,084
	%	17.6	13.6	15.2	18.5	27.2	7.9	100.0
Young women are excluded from youth organizations	N	98	117	121	269	396	83	1,084
	%	9.0	10.8	11.2	24.8	36.5	7.7	100.0
A woman who does the same job as a man should be paid equally	N	140	145	168	254	288	89	1,084
	%	12.9	13.4	15.5	23.4	26.6	8.2	100.0
When there is job scarcity employers should prefer women to men	N	162	150	172	242	250	108	1,084
	%	14.9	13.8	15.9	22.3	23.1	10.0	100.0
Some jobs can be performed better by women than men	N	162	150	172	242	250	108	1,084
	%	14.9	13.8	15.9	22.3	23.1	10.0	100.0

Khat consumption

Khat is commonly consumed by youth in Puntland. It is predominantly consumed by males (11%) as compared to 4% of females consuming Khat. The older youth (25-29 years) were the main consumers of *khat* (11%) as compared to 4% of those aged 14-19 years.

Cigarettes smoking

The pattern of cigarettes smoking is similar to khat consumption. 15% of male youth are smokers as compared to 6% of the females. Another 15% of the older youth (25-29years) are smokers as compared to 5% of those aged 14-19 years

Obstacles to better life

A number of obstacles were identified to be hindering the youth to have better life. The two main obstacles were limited opportunity for education and skills development (62%), Gender discrimination (62%). These two barriers were more pronounced in the urban areas. The major forms of discrimination faced by youth in Puntland came out clearly in the FGDs. Youths pointed out, political, socio-economic and cultural discriminations were prevalent. In total, 40% thought it was the political discriminations that were critical barriers whereas 30% each pointed out the cultural and socio-economic barriers were prevalent. Youths pointed out in the current political and cultural set up no youths (women and men) are actively involved in any of the processes.

Table 3.8: Main obstacles faced in making choices to lead a better life (%)

	Urban				Rural			Nomad (Water Point)					
	Sex		Total		Sex		Total	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female			Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Limited opportunity for education and skills development	%	65.2	67.5	66.4	48.1	58.0	53.7	62.9	53.3	58.2	61.0	62.9	62.0
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Poor group solidarity and social cohesion	%	34.2	31.9	33.0	33.3	35.5	34.6	39.2	35.9	37.6	34.8	33.3	34.0
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Gender discrimination	%	65.2	67.5	66.4	48.1	58.0	53.7	62.9	53.3	58.2	61.0	62.9	62.0
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Age discrimination	%	34.2	31.9	33.0	33.3	35.5	34.6	39.2	35.9	37.6	34.8	33.3	34.0
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Lack of access to information	%	27.8	25.7	26.8	28.7	34.1	31.7	40.2	32.6	36.5	30.0	29.2	29.6
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,0863.9%) ⁴
Lack of employment opportunity	%	37.0	31.6	34.3	40.7	39.9	40.2	27.8	33.7	30.7	35.7	33.9	34.8
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Lack of participation in decision making	%	42.7	42.1	42.4	45.4	44.2	44.7	43.3	38.0	40.7	43.3	42.3	42.8
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Domestic violence	%	47.2	44.6	45.9	41.7	51.4	47.2	38.1	33.7	36.0	44.1	44.3	44.2
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
Lawlessness	%	28.8	24.1	26.4	36.1	31.9	33.7	25.8	35.9	30.7	29.7	28.0	28.8
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084
	N	316	323	639	108	138	246	97	92	189	526	558	1,084

During the consultative forums, the youth indicted that they were deemed inexperienced and too young to influence political/cultural decisions that are important to the society. A select group of politicians mainly remnants of the former Somali central government controlled the political offices and have restricted youth access here whereas a respected select group of clan and religious elders head the cultural side of things. These leaders are the core of the social set up and are deemed elders because of their advanced age leaving youths with no role here. For women, whether youths or elderly, it's very rare for them to be involved in any political positions. Most girls are married at very tender age. , Due to this most parents opt to only school boys as they believe their girls will be married off and end up being housewives whether educated or not. This limits the ability of girls and young women in the region to realize their full potential.

Table 3.9: Decision making process at the household level (%)

		Expenditure	Education & health	Economic choices	Political choices	Marital decisions	Religious
Who normally makes decisions?							
Male head of household	N	510	395	442	507	375	418
	%	47.4	36.7	41.0	47.1	34.8	38.8
Female head of household	N	181	165	160	140	155	150
	%	16.8	15.3	14.9	13.0	14.4	13.9
Both male & female heads of households	N	255	370	321	219	341	291
	%	23.7	34.4	29.8	20.3	31.7	27.0
Adult male household members	N	41	43	54	59	50	66
	%	3.8	4.0	5.0	5.5	4.6	6.1
Adult female household member	N	8	12	17	16	23	24
	%	0.7	1.1	1.6	1.5	2.1	2.2
All adult members of household	N	68	73	73	95	117	100
	%	6.3	6.8	6.8	8.8	10.9	9.3
Other	N	7	6	5	6	6	7
	%	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Not stated	N	7	13	5	35	10	21
	%	0.6	1.2	0.5	3.2	0.9	1.9
Total	N	1,077	1,077	1,077	1,077	1,077	1,077
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Extent to which respondent makes decisions							
To a very high degree	N	214	200	182	199	202	218
	%	19.9	18.6	16.9	18.5	18.8	20.2
To a fairly high degree	N	269	295	316	278	273	252
	%	25.0	27.4	29.3	25.8	25.3	23.4
To a small degree	N	139	267	227	237	184	161
	%	12.9	24.8	21.1	22.0	17.1	14.9
Not at all	N	334	192	223	232	283	324
	%	31.0	17.8	20.7	21.5	26.3	30.1
Not stated	N	121	123	129	131	135	122
	%	11.2	11.4	12.0	12.2	12.5	11.3

Decision making at the household level

Regarding decision making at household level, based on the results in Table 3.9, a majority (47.4 %, 36.7 %, 41 %, 47.1 % of respondents indicated that male heads of families made most of decisions regarding expenditure, education, health, political and marital decisions respectively . This compared unfavorably with the proportion of respondents who thought that females who made the key decisions (16.8%, 15.3%, 14.9%, 13%, 1nd 14.4 % respectively. Regarding involvement of the youth in decision making, between 20.2% and 23.4% of the youth indicated that they were very highly and fairly highly involved in decision making process at the household level.

Involvement of Youth in Political Processes

Based on the results in Table 3.10, the proportion of the youth who were involved local political processes were 35.7%. Those who were much less involved were 32.7%..

Table 3.10: Youth involvement I political processes

	% reporting involvement in politics %	% youth reporting their degree of involvement in political process in future												Total	
		More involved		A little more involved		Neither more nor less involved		A little less involved		Much less involved		Not stated		N	%
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Youth age group															
14-19	34.6	47	10.8	82	18.9	56	12.9	47	10.8	176	40.6	26	6.0	434	100.0
20-24	40.1	32	12.7	58	23.0	32	12.7	30	11.9	63	25.0	37	14.7	252	100.0
25-29	34.2	41	10.3	85	21.4	68	17.1	48	12.1	116	29.1	40	10.1	398	100.0
Gender															
Male	35.7	60	11.4	106	20.2	70	13.3	61	11.6	180	34.2	49	9.3	526	100.0
Female	35.7	60	10.8	119	21.3	86	15.4	64	11.5	175	31.4	54	9.7	558	100.0
Overall	35.7	120	11.1	225	20.8	156	14.4	125	11.5	355	32.7	103	9.5	1,084	100.0

Refer to question number 3.40 & 3.41

Membership to organizations

Youth membership to various groups is low. 18% of the male youth belonged to some youth association or group as compared to 11.8 % of the female youth. Other active groups were religious and entertainment or sports groups. Youth organizations are important forums for effective participation in society, as they are the main venues for cooperation and exchange of ideas among the youth. As members of groups, and/or organizations, the youth improve their capacities to pursue dialogue, and effect social changes.

Table 3.12: Youth belonging to different groups

	Male	Female	Both
Youth Association / Group	23.6	15.4	19.4
Women Group	6.3	13.4	10.0
Local Council	1.3	1.1	1.2
Labor union	3.6	0.7	2.1
Religious group	4.9	2.7	3.8
Entertainment or sport group	9.7	2.5	6.0
Economic activities group	1.0	1.4	1.2
Peace & reconciliation group	5.7	4.7	5.2
NGO social welfare group	5.9	7.2	6.5
Ethnic based group	0.2	0.9	0.6
Other groups	1.0	0.5	0.7

Time use

In every culture, there are hours in the day when young people are not formally required to be in school or engaged in household or paid work. These discretionary hours, and the activities undertaken during them, are integral and essential to the development of personal identity and can contribute to community solidarity. The youth in Puntland spend their time on different activities. The priority activities in order of importance included looking after livestock, doing some paid work, studying, and doing household chores. The youth spend much of their time on different activities. A priority activities in order of importance include, looking after livestock, doing some paid work, Studying, or Household chores

Table 3.13: Daily Time use pattern by sex and region

Daily Activities	Male Youth		Female Youth		Total	
	Mean	Std Deviation	Mean	Std Deviation	Mean	Std Deviation
Household chores	3.36	2.13	4.71	2.51	4.21	2.46
collecting firewood	1.90	1.78	1.74	1.49	1.81	1.62
fetching water	1.90	1.40	1.48	1.06	1.67	1.24
livestock care	5.85	3.38	6.08	2.95	5.95	3.19
Other Unpaid family work	3.46	2.35	3.10	1.87	3.29	2.13
Paid works/job	5.86	3.05	5.86	2.94	5.86	3.00
Social activities	2.82	1.60	2.40	1.32	2.62	1.49
Marketing (buying and selling)	2.44	2.13	2.32	1.98	2.37	2.05
Studying or learning	5.46	2.62	4.94	2.68	5.22	2.66
Leisure or reception	2.45	1.43	2.63	1.62	2.53	1.52
Other	2.99	2.50	2.86	2.50	2.93	2.49
Sleeping time	8.88	1.51	8.89	1.66	8.88	1.59

Refer to question number 3.8

Reasons to join the diaspora

The diaspora are an important force in the Somali economy. The remittances from the diaspora are a key part of the economy and critical to the people's livelihood. Table 3.14 gives reasons for youth leaving the country. The respondent who thought that youth left the country to obtain well paying job were 20.5 %, while 15.3 % thought the youth left to get better education opportunities.

Table 3.13: Reasons for leaving the country

	% youth reporting various reasons for leaving the country					
	Get a well paying job	Get better educational opportunities	Join family members living abroad	Work and invest abroad	To escape from conflict within the country	Not stated
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Youth	20.5	15.3	4.3	2.5	0.5	57.1
Gender						
Male	20.9	17.7	4.6	2.5	0.4	54.0
Female	20.1	13.1	3.8	2.5	0.5	60.0

Youth perception about peace

Table 3.15 gives the youth perception of peace in villages and their neighborhood. Over 50% of the youth in both rural and urban centers said their neighborhoods were peaceful. 17 % reported violent neighborhoods. According to these results the male respondents regarded urban neighborhoods as relatively more violent (19.35) than rural neighborhoods (13.9%).

The FGDs indicated that a majority of the respondents regarded the youth as the backbone for peace building and conflict resolution in the region. Some of the roles youth could play include participation in reintegration of the destitute youth into the social strata, organizing youth forums to discuss some of the ways towards building long-term and sustainable solutions to the conflicts. In one of the communities, the youth thought they had no role in peace building and conflict transformation as this was an area reserved for the community elders. To support the youth in becoming peace builders, a number of respondents agreed there was a need for a unified youth union countrywide that will work towards helping youth achieve minimum skills like education, recognition and political space to air their views and reactions towards national matters. This would unify the youth and thus streamline

their efforts that are at the moment scattered and mostly opposed. In addition, other respondents suggested that elders and communities and elders to be mobilized and educated on importance of youth participation in conflict resolution process. They also thought there was a need to increase youth participation in the political limelight and reduction the pressure of political figures on youth leaders. A few mentioned the youth needed to improve on their communication skills and information sharing among the youth, cultural and government bodies is vital for youth to take any meaningful part in conflict resolution process and thus bud into peace builders.

Table 3.14: Perception of peace in the village/neighborhood

		Very peaceful		Peaceful		Neither peaceful not violent		Violent		Very violent		Not stated		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Urban	Male	44	13.9	108	34.2	74	23.4	61	19.3	18	5.7	11	3.5	316	100.0
	Female	62	19.2	106	32.8	64	19.8	61	18.9	21	6.5	9	2.8	323	100.0
Rural	Male	22	20.4	35	32.4	25	23.1	15	13.9	10	9.3	1	0.9	108	100.0
	Female	12	8.7	42	30.4	42	30.4	23	16.7	13	9.4	6	4.3	138	100.0
Nomad (Water Point)	Male	13	13.4	34	35.1	29	29.9	8	8.2	5	5.2	8	8.2	97	100.0
	Female	14	15.2	39	42.4	16	17.4	10	10.9	6	6.5	7	7.6	92	100.0
Not stated	Male	1	20.0	1	20.0			2	40.0			1	20.0	5	100.0
	Female	2	40.0	1	20.0			1	20.0			1	20.0	5	100.0
Both	Male	80	15.2	178	33.8	128	24.3	86	16.3	33	6.3	21	4.0	526	100.0
	Female	90	16.1	188	33.7	122	21.9	95	17.0	40	7.2	23	4.1	558	100.0

Table 3.15: Perceptions towards insecurity and other socio-economic issues

		Not a problem	Negligibly serious	Fairly serious	Serious	Extremely serious	Not stated
Human insecurity	%	17.7	7.0	4.3	18.1	45.8	7.0
Lawlessness	%	14.3	9.9	5.5	23.5	39.7	7.1
Disputes over land boundaries	%	7.9	12.7	10.5	27.8	32.7	8.3
Petty crimes and theft	%	3.9	17.3	17.0	26.9	26.8	8.1
Conflict between clans	%	4.9	13.4	11.6	30.4	32.4	7.4
Presence of internally displaced persons(IDPs)	%	15.3	13.4	14.0	25.9	23.9	7.5
Presence of armed groups	%	7.9	10.4	14.6	31.7	27.4	7.9
Sexual violence against women	%	10.0	11.5	13.3	30.4	26.5	8.4
Domestic violence	%	10.8	14.8	13.2	28.6	23.8	8.9
Consumption & trafficking of drugs	%	6.0	11.2	17.5	30.7	26.4	8.2
Human Trafficking	%	9.0	12.0	15.6	27.2	28.0	8.1
HIV/AIDS	%	6.9	11.2	12.4	25.7	36.5	7.3
Youth unemployment	%	5.6	7.8	10.7	31.3	37.0	7.6
Food shortage	%	10.0	13.6	14.6	29.6	24.1	8.2
Water shortage	%	10.3	16.9	16.0	26.8	21.7	8.3
Fuel shortage	%	11.7	19.4	16.6	23.9	20.2	8.2
Drought	%	10.1	18.7	17.2	21.3	24.4	8.2
Destruction of the environment	%	17.1	18.4	17.1	18.2	21.0	8.3
Impact of Climate change	%	22.0	17.2	18.4	17.6	13.2	11.7

Insecurity and other social issues

Table 3.5 indicates the youths' perceptions about insecurity and other socio economic ills. Based on the results in Table 3.5, 45.8 % of the youth rated human insecurity as a very serious problem in Puntland. This was followed by lawlessness (39.7 %), disputes over land (32.7 %) and conflict between clans (32.4 %). This rating becomes more significant when viewed together with the proportion of youth who regarded insecurity as a serious issue.

Experience of violence

Youth violence was indicated as a highly felt problem in Puntland. The commonest violence experienced according to the results in Table 3.16, was physical attacks that was reported by 37.6 % of the respondents (males 38% and females 37%) in the previous 12 months. This was followed by property crimes (21.1 %), and sexual violence Youth also took active part in clan based conflicts. Sexual violence was reported by 33.7% of the respondents. The field meetings with youth revealed political, economic, and social structural and proximate causes of violence and conflict. A major finding in the FGDs revealed that youth associated violence and extremism is exasperated by isolation they experience within their families and communities, as well as the injustice they face under weak and corrupt law enforcement and security systems. The commonest types of conflict clan based lashes which were reported by 64.8% of the respondents. This was followed by political power conflicts reported by 44.1% of the respondents. 21.1% of the respondents reported an increase in conflict while no response recorded with regard to increase in inter-clan conflicts.

Table 3.16: Experience of any types of violence within the last 12 months (%)

	Physical Attack	Property Crime	Kidnapping or abduction	Sexual Violence/Rape	Forced detention	Other types of violence
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experience of violence						
Male	38.2	21.1	9.3	13.1	5.7	1.3
Female	37.1	21.1	6.5	13.4	6.1	0.7
Both	37.6	21.1	7.8	13.3	5.9	1.0

Common types of conflicts in the communities (%)

The commonest types of conflict were inter-clan conflicts reported by 64.8% of respondents, followed by political power conflict (reported by 44.1% of respondents). Sexual violence against women ranked high with 33.7% reporting its occurrence.

Table 3.17: Common types of conflicts in the communities (%)

		Presence	Trends in conflict compared to 5 years ago				
		%	Increased	Stationary	Decreased	Not stated	Total
Male respondents							
Political power conflict	N	526	111	85	36	294	526
	%	44.1	21.1	16.2	6.8	55.9	100.0
Sexual violence against women	N	526	39	82	58	347	526
	%	33.7	7.4	15.6	11.0	66.0	100.0
Others	N	526	8	13	6	499	526
	%	4.9	1.5	2.5	1.1	94.9	100.0
Inter-clan conflicts	N	526					
	%	64.8					
Conflicts between families	N	526	39	77	64	346	526
	%	34.0	7.4	14.6	12.2	65.8	100.0
Resource conflict	N	526	43	85	43	355	526
	%	32.5	8.2	16.2	8.2	67.5	100.0
Female respondents							
Political power conflict	N	558	114	89	41	314	558
	%	43.4	20.4	15.9	7.3	56.3	100.0
Sexual violence against women	N	558	53	68	52	385	558
	%	30.3	9.5	12.2	9.3	69.0	100.0
Others	N	558	18	18	4	518	558
	%	5.9	3.2	3.2	0.7	92.8	100.0
Inter-clan conflicts	N	558					
	%	63.8					
Conflicts between families	N	558	49	89	64	356	558
	%	36.4	8.8	15.9	11.5	63.8	100.0
Resource conflict	N	558	46	88	38	386	558
	%	30.5	8.2	15.8	6.8	69.2	100.0
Both respondents							
Political power conflict	N	1,084	225	174	77	608	1,084
	%	43.7	20.8	16.1	7.1	56.1	100.0
Sexual violence against women	N	1,084	92	150	110	732	1,084
	%	31.9	8.5	13.8	10.1	67.5	100.0
Others	N	1,084	26	31	10	1,017	1,084
	%	5.4	2.4	2.9	0.9	93.8	100.0
Inter-clan conflicts	N	1,084					
	%	64.3					
Conflicts between families	N	1,084	88	166	128	702	1,084
	%	35.2	8.1	15.3	11.8	64.8	100.0
Resource conflict	N	1,084	89	173	81	741	1,084
	%	31.5	8.2	16.0	7.5	68.4	100.0

Root causes of Conflict

Poor governance was regarded as the highest ranked cause of conflict by 57.4% of the male respondents and 50.9% of the female respondents. This was followed by youth unemployment (7.4%, , 6.6% respectively), water scarcity (7.0%, 6.6% respectively) and land disputes. One of the least perceived root causes of conflict were clash between democracy and traditional norms, and clans-struggle for resources. The youth in Puntland have been trapped in a vicious cycle of violence generated by armed conflicts. When a large pool of young people are frustrated, intolerant, jobless, and have few opportunities for positive engagement, they represent a ready pool of recruits for ethnic, religious, and political extremists seeking to mobilize violence

Table 3.18: Root causes of conflicts in the country

Causes	Rank I				Rank II				Rank III				Rank IV			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Poor Governance	302	57.4	284	50.9	70	13.3	64	11.5	71	13.5	77	13.8	121	23.0	122	21.9
Water Scarcity	37	7.0	55	9.9					85	16.2	93	16.7				
Fuel Scarcity (charcoal)	22	4.2	15	2.7					65	12.4	69	12.4				
Land dispute	28	5.3	39	7.0					84	16.0	95	17.0				
Shrinking pastureland	10	1.9	8	1.4					43	8.2	43	7.7				
Inequitable dist of political power	14	2.7	27	4.8					48	9.1	48	8.6				
Youth unemployment	39	7.4	37	6.6					70	13.3	57	10.2				
Gender based violence	7	1.3	4	0.7					9	1.7	13	2.3				
Radicalism/Fundamentalism	13	2.5	18	3.2	9	1.7	12	2.2	18	3.4	31	5.6	59	11.2	66	11.8
Rivalry over community leadership	4	0.8	12	2.2												
Historical grievances	8	1.5	12	2.2												
Clash between democracy and traditional norms	3	0.6	1	0.2												
Clans-struggle political	5	1.0	8	1.4												
Clans-struggle resource capture	3	0.6	3	0.5												
Other root causes	1	0.2	1	0.2												
Not stated	30	5.7	34	6.1	447	85.0	482	86.4	33	6.3	32	5.7	346	65.8	370	66.3
Total	526	100.0	558	100.0	526	100.0	558	100.0	526	100.0	558	100.0	526	100.0	558	100.0

Perceptions about being victims or perpetrators of violence

Based on the results in Table 3.19, most respondents (31%) regarded themselves as victims, rather than perpetrators (5.6%) of violence. A higher proportion of the female respondents in age group 20-24 years (35.1%) regarded themselves as victims, compared to their male counterparts (25.4%). During the civil war many of the Puntland youth were forced into being principal perpetrators while those who tried to escape from forceful recruitments to war groups and their allies, risked deaths in the process of running away from their motherland. Many young people in Puntland have been victims of physically, psychological and economical suffering due to intermittent internal and the intrastate conflicts. They have been injured during armed clashes and have to cope with trauma, disabilities, the ill health associated with war. They experience nightmares caused by the conflict, easily becoming depressed, angry, distrustful, fearful, alienated, besides a feeling of betrayal. Many have lost any hopes about a good future, having been exposed to recurrent community conflicts. Other trauma-related reactions include impaired self-esteem and body image, learning difficulties. The ultimate outcome is loss of self esteem.

Table 3.19: Perception towards being victim and /or perpetrator of violent conflict (%)

	Perpetrator of conflict			Victim of conflict		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Youth age group						
14-19		4.3	7.3	5.6	29.8	31.8
20-24		1.8	6.0	4.0	25.4	35.1
25-29		6.3	7.0	6.7	34.0	29.8
Employment/occupational status						
Self-employed		6.1	9.6	7.6	32.7	29.6
Paid employee		5.2	10.2	7.4	27.3	39.0
Unpaid family worker		0.0	5.9	4.3	34.8	33.1
Student		5.4	8.2	6.7	30.2	32.7
Unemployed		1.4	3.3	2.5	28.6	28.3
Not stated		2.6	2.1	2.3	23.1	29.8
Overall		4.3	6.8	5.6	30.1	31.8

Youths' perceptions towards discrimination in accessing justice

Regarding discrimination in access to justice, most respondents felt access to justice was equally accessible (31.5%). A lower proportion of the youth respondents (10.7%) thought that discrimination had become much worse, while 22.2% thought it had gotten much better.

Table 3.20: Perception towards discrimination of individuals in accessing justice

	Much better		A little better		Equally		A little worse		Much worse		Not stated		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male youth age group														
14-19	34	13.9	49	20.1	66	27.0	19	7.8	37	15.2	39	16.0	244	100.0
20-24	14	12.1	19	16.4	45	38.8	12	10.3	8	6.9	18	15.5	116	100.0
25-29	23	13.9	41	24.7	48	28.9	12	7.2	11	6.6	31	18.7	166	100.0
Total	71	13.5	109	20.7	159	30.2	43	8.2	56	10.6	88	16.7	526	100.0
Female youth age group														
14-19	17	8.9	39	20.5	54	28.4	13	6.8	17	8.9	50	26.3	190	100.0
20-24	26	19.1	33	24.3	26	19.1	16	11.8	13	9.6	22	16.2	136	100.0
25-29	19	8.2	60	25.9	76	32.8	12	5.2	30	12.9	35	15.1	232	100.0
Total	62	11.1	132	23.7	156	28.0	41	7.3	60	10.8	107	19.2	558	100.0
Both														
14-19	51	11.8	88	20.3	120	27.6	32	7.4	54	12.4	89	20.5	434	100.0
20-24	40	15.9	52	20.6	71	28.2	28	11.1	21	8.3	40	15.9	252	100.0
25-29	42	10.6	101	25.4	124	31.2	24	6.0	41	10.3	66	16.6	398	100.0
Total	133	12.3	241	22.2	315	29.1	84	7.7	116	10.7	195	18.0	1,084	100.0

The frustrations endured by the Youth

Based on the results in Table 3.21, 13.4 % of youth felt frustrated, while 26 % indicated that they were not frustrated. However the highest rate of frustration was indicated among students (20.3%). The least frustrated were self employed persons (31.7%).

Table 3.21 Distribution of youth who feel frustrated /discontent

	Male						Female						Total	
	Frustrated		Not Frustrated		Not stated		Fairly Pessimistic		Not Frustrated		Not stated			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Youth age group														
14-19	86	19.8	121	27.9	37	8.5	16	15.0	89	20.5	36	8.3	434	100.0
20-24	33	13.1	72	28.6	11	4.4	13	19.8	74	29.4	12	4.8	252	100.0
25-29	52	13.1	89	22.4	25	6.3	8	22.4	116	29.1	27	6.8	398	100.0
Employment/occupational status														
Self-employed	47	17.3	86	31.7	19	7.0	10	13.7	65	24.0	17	6.3	271	100.0
Paid employee	22	16.1	48	35.0	8	5.8	4	16.8	32	23.4	4	2.9	137	100.0
Unpaid family worker	13	7.7	28	16.6	7	4.1	3	20.7	71	42.0	15	8.9	169	100.0
Student	50	20.3	68	27.6	15	6.1	11	20.3	46	18.7	17	6.9	246	100.0
Unemployed	25	14.7	36	21.2	13	7.6	4	19.4	49	28.8	14	8.2	170	100.0
Not stated	14	15.4	16	17.6	11	12.1	5	28.6	16	17.6	8	8.8	91	100.0
Overall	171	15.8	282	26.0	73	6.7	37	18.8	279	25.7	75	6.9	1,084	100.0

Table 3.24: Empowering the youth to harness the full potentials of youth for peace and development

		Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Undecided	Moderately agree	Strongly agree	Not stated	Overall
Strategies to address youth exclusion	N	89	21	59	319	517	79	1,084
	%	8.2	1.9	5.4	29.4	47.7	7.3	100.0
Support vocational training program to develop youth skills	N	16	49	60	333	548	78	1,084
	%	1.5	4.5	5.5	30.7	50.6	7.2	100.0
Create opportunities for development	N	12	31	66	348	550	77	1,084
	%	1.1	2.9	6.1	32.1	50.7	7.1	100.0
Support economic programs to create better employment opportunities	N	11	40	103	324	527	79	1,084
	%	1.0	3.7	9.5	29.9	48.6	7.3	100.0
Provide micro credit facilities for starting business	N	30	65	107	270	528	84	1,084
	%	2.8	6.0	9.9	24.9	48.7	7.7	100.0
Provide recreational facilities	N	51	67	90	306	489	81	1,084
	%	4.7	6.2	8.3	28.2	45.1	7.5	100.0
Provide leadership training	N	34	71	97	286	516	80	1,084
	%	3.1	6.5	8.9	26.4	47.6	7.4	100.0
Form youth organizations	N	35	63	101	322	481	82	1,084
	%	3.2	5.8	9.3	29.7	44.4	7.6	100.0
Involve youth in decision making process	N	41	69	102	308	483	81	1,084
	%	3.8	6.4	9.4	28.4	44.6	7.5	100.0
Promote youth political participation	N	47	65	107	272	510	83	1,084
	%	4.3	6.0	9.9	25.1	47.0	7.7	100.0
Design and implement national youth policy	N	60	38	96	300	511	79	1,084
	%	5.5	3.5	8.9	27.7	47.1	7.3	100.0
Address the special needs of young women	N	37	63	88	326	486	84	1,084
	%	3.4	5.8	8.1	30.1	44.8	7.7	100.0
Support youth dialogue and peace education	N	25	26	228	98	267	440	1,084
	%	2.3	2.4	21.0	9.0	24.6	40.6	100.0

Youth empowerment

Regarding youth empowerment, 50.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that crating opportunities for development would empower the youth. Other important aspects of empowerment support or vocational training programmes (50.7%), providing microcredit (48.7%, support for economic programmes that create better employment opportunities (48.6%), Design and implement national youth policy (47.15)..

Youth willingness to play the role of Peace builders

Between 58.4% and 65.5% of the male and female respondents (14 – 29 years) expressed their willingness to take part in pace building. The highest inclination towards being peace builders was recorded among paid employees (66.4%). Overall, 61.1 % of the respondents were willing to be peace builders. An equally high proportion of respondents (54%) were willing to be social actors. These outcomes usher in a glimmer of hope that an active involvement of young people in building peace, will ensure sustainable peace. Therefore, there is a need for deliberate efforts to encourage youth and enhance young people’s participation in and their active roles in building peace. This is a compliment to this Survey’s objective to determine how Puntland youths could be empowered to enhance their involvement peace building and development

Table 3.24: willingness to play the roles of peace builder, social and economic actors

	Peace Builder		Social Actor		Economic Actor	
	%	N	%	Nmale	%	N
Male youth age group						
14-19	59.4	244	58.2	244	18.0	244
20-24	65.5	116	51.7	116	11.1	116
25-29	60.8	166	55.4	166	12.3	166
Total	61.2	526	55.9	526	14.3	526
Female youth age group						
14-19	58.4	190	43.2	190	15.4	190
20-24	62.5	136	55.1	136	13.3	136
25-29	62.1	232	57.8	232	14.3	232
Total	60.9	558	52.2	558	17.0	558
Both						
14-19	59.0	434	51.6	434	22.0	434
20-24	63.9	252	53.6	252	0.0	252
25-29	61.6	398	56.8	398	28.6	398
Total	61.1	1,084	54.0	1,084	55.3	1,084
Employment status						
Self employed	59.4	271	54.2	271	6.6	271
Paid Employee	66.4	137	56.9	137	14.3	137
Unpaid Family Worker	58.6	169	49.7	169	4.2	169
Student	61.4	246	50.4	246	33.0	246
Unemployed	60.0	170	57.1	170	26.0	170
Not stated	63.7	91	60.4	91	204.0	91
Total	61.1	1,084	54.0	1,084	55.3	1,084

Table 3.25: Optimism about future prospects in the country

	Very optimistic		Fairly optimistic		Indifferent		Fairly Pessimistic		Very pessimistic		Not stated	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
youth age group												
14-19	157	36.2	132	30.4	43	9.9	30	6.9	25	5.8	47	10.8
20-24	94	37.3	83	32.9	16	6.3	23	9.1	17	6.7	19	7.5
25-29	142	35.7	149	37.4	37	9.3	26	6.5	17	4.3	27	6.8
employment/occupational status												
Self-employed	107	39.5	82	30.3	25	9.2	17	6.3	16	5.9	24	8.9
Paid employee	47	34.3	54	39.4	15	10.9	6	4.4	10	7.3	5	3.6
Unpaid family worker	57	33.7	54	32.0	14	8.3	18	10.7	7	4.1	19	11.2
Student	89	36.2	88	35.8	18	7.3	25	10.2	10	4.1	16	6.5
Unemployed	53	31.2	63	37.1	15	8.8	7	4.1	11	6.5	21	12.4
Not stated	40	44.0	23	25.3	9	9.9	6	6.6	5	5.5	8	8.8
Total	393	36.3	364	33.6	96	8.9	79	7.3	59	5.4	93	8.6

Youth optimism about the future

Based on the results of the Survey, 36.3% of the respondents were very optimistic about the future, while 33.6% were fairly optimistic. In contrast 7.3% and 5.4% were fairly pessimistic and very pessimistic about the future, respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of recommendations are made based on the survey:

- i. The survey has established baseline information, which should be repeated at regular intervals to assess progress towards youth empowerment and participation
- ii. The information gathered should be improved through future surveys and used for the design and implementation of youth empowerment programmes
- iii. Special emphasis should be gathering information that is useful in empowering females to gain some autonomy and minimize restrictions in attitudes, behavior and conduct for reasons such as purity, marriageability, stigma and family reputation
- iv. The results point to the need for a reduction in exclusions and deprivations of youth as this makes them to be involved in violent conflict
- v. Young men and women should be incorporated in key planning and implementation positions of youth development programmes
- vi. A major focus should be on building participation by young people in families, schools, communities, civic, political and economic engagement.
- vii. There is need for a national youth forum to bring together youth from different ethnic backgrounds to learn co-existence and tolerance

CHAPTER 4: THE YOUTH AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 4 examines the role that youth in Puntland have played as social and economic actors at the community and national level (including the role of Diaspora). It identifies the key barriers to youth empowerment and explores innovative ways and support mechanisms to involve youth in local development decision-making, giving them voice and influencing power, with socio-economic benefits for themselves and their communities. A fundamental step towards to peace and security in Puntland is a realization that all inclusive development and the provision of opportunities for all sectors to grow and develop would add value to the peace process. There cannot be peace in a country where the youth are ravaged by hunger, poverty, and unemployment. It is estimated that around 11 percent of all children in Puntland are orphans, the majority of them paternal orphans (i.e. without a father). Vulnerable children, whether orphans or not, are affected economically, socially and psychologically. They suffer from malnutrition, reduced access to education and health care, child labour, migration and homelessness. Psychological impacts include depression, guilt and fear, possibly leading to long-term problems⁸⁴. Young people in Puntland are an important resource despite being most vulnerable in terms of poverty, lack of employment, poor health, and the negative effects of war and globalization.

The main challenges towards youth empowerment include building and maintaining political will; overcoming the negative influence of existing social and cultural norms, undertaking social and economic skills training programmes removing educational and legal barriers, promoting equality of opportunity and social justice. Others include employment creation and labour market opportunity; enhancing employability, and providing incentives for business development, ensuring employability of young men and women.

It is essential for Puntland to put in place mechanisms and procedures that will help to coordinate and mainstream pro-youth anti-poverty activities, mobilize all actors, and ensure the adequate implementation of appropriate policies. The internal conflict that has prevailed for two decades has prevented young Puntlanders from obtaining the necessary education and skills to compete for good jobs. As a result there are fewer quality jobs to which young people have access. Moreover with many of Puntland's families living in poverty, the opportunity cost of providing education, and training, is less attractive than the immediate return on illegal activities such as piracy¹. The Puntland State of Somalia National Youth Policy forms the basis for setting priorities, coordinate actions towards youth involvement in poverty reduction and growth. The role of youth in poverty reduction must begin with tackling the primary sources of poverty, namely, lack of education and skills and absence of decent jobs.

THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK

A review of available literature shows three dominant approaches towards youth empowerment in conflict contexts (1) a rights-based approach, (2) an economic approach, and (3) a socio-political approach⁸⁵. The rights based approach is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has so far confined the work of international organizations regarding youth under 18 years⁸⁶.

⁸⁴ Children on the Brink 2004 - UNICEF, UNAIDS and USAID.

⁸⁵ Kemper, Yvonne, 2005. 'Youth in Approaches of War -to-Peace Transitions', Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin

⁸⁶ UNICEF has adopted a human rights approach to programming for women and children since 1998 (WCRWC 2000). UNICEF wants to give young people in conflict "positive alternatives" in order to stop "the cycles of violence" and turn them into "a source of strength for themselves, their families and their communities" (UNICEF 2004).

This approach views youth as victims of a violent environment that can undermine their rights as social actors. Preoccupied with the desire for family reunification, many organizations following this approach do not regard employment of youth as a benchmark of successful programming⁸⁷. Instead they raise awareness in societies and states to establish the legal and institutional framework to protect them from poverty and exploitation with the ultimate aim to enable the youth to turn from victims to social actors.. Occupied with the desire for family reunification, many organizations following this approach do not regard employment of youth as a benchmark of successful programming⁸⁸.

The socio-political approach stresses the active potential of youth as agents for change (or peace builders) whose inability to make decisions can turn them into spoilers of the peace-building process. This approach seeks to foster reconciliation by countering the marginalization of young people through their integration into societal structures by involving them in the decision-making processes (Newman 2004; Boyden/Mann 2000). Given its long term vision of changing inter-societal relations towards reconciliation, this approach is most effective in the long run. ***The economic approach*** regards youth as rational economic actors/decision-makers in the market place whose lack of alternatives can render them exploitable resources in armed conflict (Cohen 1995). It renders short-term interventions most appropriate as counter-incentives to fighting in armed forces through income and employment opportunities. Rather than asking how war affects youth, the economic approach seeks to find out how the existence of youth deprivation affects war.

Each approach has different features (strengths and weaknesses. The strength of the rights-based approach lies in the preventive phase, while the economic approach is most effective in the short-term because it can deliver immediate results to young beneficiaries and lure them away from armed forces. The socio-political approach fosters long-term reconciliation by countering the marginalization of young people through integration into societal structures.

A new perspective on youth empowerment

The harmonization of these three approaches becomes an urgent priority because of the synergistic effects of investments (World Youth Report 2003). In order to make all three approaches compatible, it is essential to share a common perception of youth as strategic actors and to coordinate the policies and programs accordingly. This Paper adopts a holistic approach to converge all three approaches in their common objective to create an enabling environment (space) for engaging youth as strategic social and economic actors as well as peace builders in post-conflict situations⁸⁹. The potential of youth as multiple actors can be harnessed by offering them 'space' by protecting them from forced recruitment, giving them a job perspective, furthering their personal development, and asking for their opinions and action. The socio-political approach adds insights on youth's identity and their role in society, the economic approach offers incentives, and the rights-based approach raises awareness at the community, national, and international levels.

⁸⁷ This approach focuses on the protection of children without accounting for the situation of a defragmenting state and society and it is considered effective in preventing the recruitment of children and youth during peacetime and in the aftermath of conflicts. There are several risks associated with this preventive approach. It risks ignoring other who are not considered so dangerous, particularly girls and young women, youth with disability or working youth.

⁸⁸ The rights based approach emphasizes to the protection of children without accounting for the situation of a defragmenting state and society and it is considered effective in preventing the recruitment of children and youth during peacetime and in the aftermath of conflicts. There are several risks associated with this preventive approach. It risks ignoring other who are not considered so dangerous, particularly girls and young women, youth with disability or working youth.

⁸⁹ Professor Mohamed Said Samantar, PSU, Garowe, Puntland, 2010

Defining Empowerment

Empowerment is the process of enabling individuals or groups to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. It is defined, as the expansion of freedom of choice and action for increasing one's authority and control over the resources and decisions that affect one's life⁹⁰. Since youth's choices are extremely limited in conflict environments, both because of their lack of assets and powerlessness to negotiate better terms for themselves with both formal and informal institutions, youth empowerment is defined as the expansion of assets and capabilities of young people to participate in negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives⁹¹. This definition encompasses ability to make purposeful choice and take action in line with this choice and the ability to transform this action into desired outcome(s). This may on specific attributes of the individual or group⁹². The ability to transform action into outcome is a function of the structure of social, economic and political opportunities.

Youth Empowerment in Puntland

The foundation for youth development and empowerment in Puntland lies in locally determined empowerment programming. Empowerment must, therefore, must first identify existing barriers., the factors that limit the role of youth in poverty reduction and employment creation include limited job creation capacity within the local and regional economies, lack of national youth empowerment and development advocacy programmes, lack of youth employment coordination bureau at the state and district levels, high youth unemployment rates, and lack of a National Youth Employment Action Plan. Other factors include limited skills and training opportunities, gender discrimination, bias and stereotyping, lack of connection between education and the private sector, limited mobilization of Diaspora as a investment resource, and lack of a comprehensive support programme for self employment options / sustainable livelihood. The situation is further attributed to insecurity conflict and the consequent out migration of young people out of domestic country.

Local Perspectives on Puntland' Youth Empowerment

During the Human Development Report Consultative Meeting at Garowe in April 2011, the stakeholders expressed the following opinions about youth empowerment as summarized below;

Regarding social empowerment, they prioritized enhancement of the educational opportunities for all young Puntlanders to all levels of the educational system which is commensurate with their interests and abilities by working towards achieving universal free primary, raise the attendance participation of secondary students to at least 20%, expand the number of places within the tertiary education sector targeting 19 – 22 year olds; and focus on increasing the educational access of young traditionally disadvantaged in the educational system – nomadic and fishing communities, learners with special needs and other economically disadvantaged groups. In this respect, the participants recommended introduction of mobile schools in rural areas as well as school nutritional and feeding program in all schools. They proposed that other important aspect of social empowerment in Puntland involves enhancing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of young people regarding Somali culture, history and the Islamic faith, traditional arts and culture, besides, creation of local libraries, establishing a national museum in Puntland, promoting annual cultural events, and integration of Islamic education in schools and media.

⁹⁰ In understanding the multifarious uses of the term "empowerment" it becomes essential to examine the foundational word "power" via its root metaphors - authority (power over) and ability (power to), reflected in all dictionary definitions of empowerment. Power as authority is used to describe what one may "rightly" do within an inter-personal system whereas power as ability is used to describe what people can (or cannot) do - possession of a power (Wartenburg 1990).

⁹¹ Adapted from World Bank 2002

⁹² Professor Mohammed Samantar , PSU, 2010

The participants highlighted the need for enabling all young people to access information, education and counseling services in the areas of youth health. They prioritized creation of youth health service that provides preventative health support in the form of information, education and counseling services in such areas as reproductive health, drug abuse, sexual abuse and sexual transmitted diseases; scaling up health and nutrition feeding initiatives within schools and mounting campaigns to eradicate harmful traditional practices, e.g. female genital mutilation (FGM). They proposed generation of improved strategic information and data about youth health status and challenges, improved access of health services to nomadic youth and other disadvantaged youth population, besides promoting initiatives that seek to reduce FGM, domestic violence, early marriage, rape and other forms of violence against young women. An important aspect of youth social empowerment was inculcation of values on citizenship through the school curriculum, strengthening the media coverage of themes related to citizenship, support for youth programs that strengthen the principles and practice of active citizenship by young people in community and national life besides introduction of a Youth Parliament program in Puntland.

The proposed elements of economic empowerment for Puntland's youth included creation of sustainable livelihoods and youth employment opportunities. This entailed learning from international best practices in terms of sustainable livelihoods and youth employment, adapt as a National Youth Empowerment Action Plan (NYEAP) as advocated by the Youth Employment Network, namely; (i) employability; (ii) investing in education and vocational training, (iii) equal opportunities – giving young women the same opportunities as young men; (iv) inculcating entrepreneurship skills – making it easier for young people to start and run businesses; and (v) employment creation – placing employment creation at the centre of macroeconomic policy. Other aspects of economic empowerment included promotion of and support youth for self employment as a job creation option through training courses and a youth self employment fund. Initiation of training opportunities ICT, farming, fisheries, arts and crafts; and improved connection between education and training institutions and the labor markets including the introduction of career education and counseling were prioritized. Other critical priorities included, linking school dropouts more effectively with the labor market; identification and promotion opportunities for Diaspora investments that specifically targets youth employment opportunities; and establishing a youth coordination body to oversee the implementation of the National Youth Employment Action Plan. Focus will be on developing programs that raise awareness and encourage young people in self reliance, citizenship, nationalism, self employment, and national ownership.

In order to encourage the active involvement and leadership of the youth in environmental initiatives, the workshop participants recommended special days, events and awards that encourage and celebrate youth involvement in sustainable development and environmental projects, encouraging young people in the promotion of community environmental practices and fostering youth community service and volunteer initiatives based on environmental protection and enhancement. Other aspects included providing opportunities for young Puntlanders to be represented at international youth environmental events., organizing regular national and regional youth forums on sustainable development and the environment; and fostering alternative job creation initiatives within the areas of recycling, plastic bag alternatives, reforestation and heritage conservation

Africa 2015: Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit

Objective: To help the next generation of African leaders to deal with the development challenges facing the continent.

Target beneficiaries: Young people with leadership potential

Duration: June 2004

Budget: Information not available

Description: UNDP's Africa 2015 is an advocacy campaign designed to complement and advance the efforts of all UN agencies, civil society groups and government agencies already working to achieve the MDGs on the continent. It aims to create sustained awareness and engage multiple audiences and constituencies in fighting poverty and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Africa 2015 uses multiple and simultaneous vehicles of communication as agents for change that can resonate with many different types of audiences, particularly young people. In June 2004, a Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit was held in Senegal as part of the Africa 2015 initiative that intended to help the next generation of Africa's leaders to exchange ideas and experiences in order to deal with the tremendous development challenges facing the continent. The summit was organized by an innovative collaboration between UNDP and a non-governmental organization, the Global Peace Initiative of Women, with support of the private sector. The goal was to help young leaders develop programmes that address development issues and to provide a global platform for the voices of talented young African professionals. The summit intended to establish a permanent network of young African leaders who could work across the continent to monitor the progress of their projects and to form a unified global voice on key issues pertaining to Africa.

Source: UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*)

While the Puntland State Youth Policy seeks to provide a vision, framework and set of critical interventions that targets all 15 – 33 years of age, it is recognized that certain groups of young people deserve special attention, namely nomadic youth, young people with disabilities, unemployed young people, marginalized nomadic pastoralists, out of school young people and internally displaced young people. The beginning point is the preparation of specific socio-economic indicators for each category of the youth; to monitor the levels and severity of youth deprivation, to measure progress in youth well-being over time, and to raise awareness on all aspects of youth welfare. The role of youth in poverty reduction must begin with tackling the primary sources of poverty, namely, lack of education and skills and absence of decent jobs. The authorities in Puntland may begin by mobilizing all of the government, private sector and civil society resources — both financial and managerial — so as to uproot severe poverty in all of its manifestations. State effort should be directed to mobilizing the youth to understand and take up the opportunities available to them for improving their livelihoods through volunteer activity.

Besides education and training, the creation of employment opportunities were ranked 2nd by the youth of Puntland. In the focus group sessions the youth were asked why they had no access to education, they attributed it to the high cost of education which was as high as USD 25 per pupil. The situation was complicated by insufficient food. The above issues call for holistic interventions/programmes on civic participation, vocational skills, and creation of livelihood opportunities. The inability of Puntland's economy to create sufficient jobs for the youth needs to be addressed. Policies designed to increase employment in Puntland need to focus on establishing conditions for sustainable economic development, facilitating more rapid creation of private enterprise, and providing the labour force with the skills necessary to meet contemporary labour market demands. Strategies aimed at promoting youth vocational education and training, can contribute to solving the problem of high unemployment. Increasing the level of youth entrepreneurship is considered an important way to raise employment among those aged 15 to 24. Youth entrepreneurship has played a major role in providing employment opportunities in numerous countries around the world, in particular low-income ones. One reason is that youth in low economic growth and conflict situations have few alternative options because of the paucity of available jobs coupled with high poverty levels.

Promoting youth involvement in inclusive development

Based on the views expressed by the youth and other stakeholder in a consultative workshop organized by UNDP in Garowe in April 2011, the following issues were summarized

- i. Education: - preparation of National Curriculum for the whole education system and adopt it; establishing More TVET for the youth, internships for graduate students who do not get job; counseling and mentoring school programs
 - ii. Youth participation and leadership development - youth should participate in development, sector, establishment of National Youth Network i.e (Puntland Youth Network); more awareness about disadvantages of tribalism and clan based ideologies; capacity building for Youth Organizations
 - iii. Disarmament , security and peace building - rehabilitations of piracy, clan-militia returnees; educate child soldiers; develop alternative and employment opportunities; training and empowering youth for involvement in peace building; fight against poverty, ign; rance and drugs
 - iv. Sustainable livelihoods & youth employment - broaden economic activities area; empowering of job creation initiatives; government assistance for youth entrepreneurs developing youth employment action plan; creation of youth counseling agencies
 - v. Youth Centers: public – establishment of libraries; Multipurpose Youth centres ; Sports/competitions; Youth employment opportunities; Business skill training; Seed grants
 - vi. Health - training more health workers; developing health centres; Connecting together; increasing national budget for health; waste management ; Clean water
 - vii. Sustainable environment: reduction /termination/avoiding of plastic bag usage; reduction of charcoal use; update youth how to cope with climate change;
 - viii. Gender: awareness of HIV /stigma reduction; develop HR policy for the youth
- \Source: National Human Development Report Consultative Meeting, Garowe, April 2011

Mapping the youth at risk

In the recent UNDP HDR consultative workshop the participants indicated that 32 % of the total number of youth ere disadvantage. They include the following, (i) Internally displaced youth population mainly in Bossaso, Galkayo , Garowe, Qardho, (ii) Nomadic/ youth, (iii) Returnee refugees youth in Galkayo and Bossaso, (iv) Victims of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse in thee entire Puntland, (v) Youth with disability, (vi) Youth living with Aids mainly in Bossaso, Galkayo and Garowe, (vii) Out of school youth in the major towns, (viii) Unemployed youth,

Examples of Existing Youth Programmes & Youth Serving Organizations

Project Name: Education Awareness Campaign(media campaign) - all Puntland funding Agency – UNICEF/DFID\ Implementing Agency – PGA Project purpose – Increase girls’ enrollment and change community attitude through girls education Target – 5000 Young females	Project Name – ALEO project (Nugal/ Karkaar) Funding Agency – Save the Children Implementing Agency – MUDAN - umbrella/ QVTC Project Purpose – Reduce risk of youth by providing awareness
Project Name: Y-peer Training - Bari Karkaar, Nugaal Funding Agency – UNFPA Implementing Agency – Puntland youth peer Project Purpose – Reduce HIV/AIDS risk among youth through peer education Target – 100 youth	SIRRIP Project Garowe Funding agency – Education Development Centre (EDC) Target beneficiary – IDPs and other Vulnerable groups Outreach (Number covered – 1500 Benefits – Youth IDPs has been learn reading writing and conflict resolutions lessons
Name of project & location – SIRRIP Project Galkacayo Funding agency – Education Development Centre (EDC) Implementing agency – NADO Target beneficiary – IDPs and other vulnerable groups	Name of project & location – Managing and delivery of OVC support Community Support includes home based care for PLHIV and Livelihood Micro-loan for families infected and

Outreach (Number covered - 1800 Benefits - Youth IDPs has been learn reading writing and conflict resolutions lessons	affected by HIV and AIDS in Bosaso and Garowe. Funding agency -Handicap International Implementing agency – SYSA Target beneficiary Effected and Affected People by HIV/AIDs\ Outreach (Number covered – 20 families Benefits - Nutrition of Children will be increased
Name of project & location - Life livelihood Based Education Funding agency – UNICEF Implementing agency – NADO Target beneficiary - Youth in the IDPs and host community” Outreach (Number covered – 3500	Project Name: Population movement trafficking Funding agency: Norwegian Refuge Council (NRC) Implementing agency : SYSA Activities: Referral , advocacy ,documentations, Protection
HIV/AIDs Project in the IDPs Funding Agency: Stay Alive Foundation Implementing agency: SYSA Target: Youth groups, other vulnerable groups Beneficiaries: 7000 youths HIV prevention	

Source: Workshop organized by PDRC for Puntland Youth Organizations in Puntland, 18th – 19th November 2006

Examples on the youth and peace building drawn from Puntland

Useful case studies on the role of youth in poverty reduction and inclusive development are drawn from the local youth empowerment programmes/projects sponsored by UN agencies, local and international NGOs in Puntland, Kaalo (coordinated by the Puntland State University), the Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC) etc. International best practice examples are drawn from UNDP programming in Youth empowerment (UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*), the DFID Guide working with the youth, titled “*Youth Participation in Development; A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers*”; besides useful examples from the Discussion Paper entitled “*Case studies on: Disadvantaged youth: identifying the problems, responding to the challenges: Improving skills and productivity of disadvantaged youth*” by David H. Freedman - ILO, Employment Sector Employment Working Paper No. 7, 2008. In these excerpts, the UNDP, DFID, and ILO recognize that the opportunities and risks, advantages and disadvantages faced at one stage in life ultimately influences their transition to the next stage. When this involves poverty, discrimination, or absence of economic opportunity, the risks and disadvantages all too often are perpetuated in successive stages of life. In the cases presented many stakeholders have a role to play in the process of empowering the youth. These include national and local authorities, local communities, the social partners, and members of civil society and, of young people themselves. Youth empowerment interventions can take place at the level of the labour market, skills development or policy. The overall aim is to break the cycle of poverty among the youth ...and to support the transition of young people into decent livelihoods

The existing approaches of donor funded youth program /projects in include **-Right based programmes** focused on victimized children aged below 18 (protection, basic education, psycho-social work, advocacy); **Socio-political** – focused on social inclusion of spoilers (peace education, support for youth organizations); and **Economic programmes** focused on vocational training, job-creation programmes and income-generating activities) youth employment and training

How SUCDI benefited from shaqodoon (program by Kaalo – PSU)

The Somali youth and livelihood program (SYLP) popularly known as Shaqadoon is an initiative meant not only to train the Somali youth but also provide with them getting internship or job opportunities. This program was the first of its kind in Puntland.

Sucdi is a 20 years old girl who has been displaced by the ongoing conflicts and problems in the south central Somalia. Before she came to Puntland, she was only conversant with Somali language (read and write) making it difficult for her to access formal employment that required fluency in English or Arabic. However, things changed completely when she joined the Shaqadoon program. The courses include Entrepreneurship, Cross-cutting issues (HIV/AIDS, Environment, and society), Accounting. After successfully completing the program, with the help of Kaalo, Sucdi got internship at Ministry of interior (MOE) where the HDR Focal point in Puntland caught up with her. She had the following to say;

Somali Youth Livelihood Project

Puntland State University is implementing the Somali youth livelihood Project/shaqadoon in Garowe Puntland. The Shaqadoon project objective is to provide Somali youth with a greater opportunity to access training, internships, work and self-employment opportunities. These opportunities are aimed to productively engage youth and add to the stability and development of the region. In addition to face-to-face education, the project is also launching an innovative use of technology for education through the production of interactive Somali language audio programs on financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and linking youth to opportunities through the use of mobile phones and web-based technologies. The Shaqadoon project aimed to reach 2,700 youth over a period of two years (2010/2011) in Puntland. Courses offered include Professional studies, entrepreneurship, hospitality, electricity and mechanics. The purpose of the project was to increase the youths' educational levels, increase their income generating capacity, and enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully to the development process. By addressing high rates of unemployment among disadvantaged youth and women, the Project is relevant to the provision of skill trainings and employment services with the overall goal of poverty alleviation and establishment of more peaceful, equitable and democratic society.

The Somali youth and livelihood program (SYLP) popularly known as Shaqadoon is an initiative meant not only to train the Somali youth but also provide with them getting internship or job opportunities. This program was the first of its kind in Puntland. SUCDI is a 20 years old girl who has been displaced by the ongoing conflicts and problems in the south central Somalia. Before she came to Puntland, she was only conversant with Somali language (read and write) making it difficult for her to access formal employment that required fluency in English or Arabic. However, things changed completely when she joined the Shaqadoon program. The courses include Entrepreneurship, Cross-cutting issues (HIV/AIDS, Environment, and society), Accounting. After successfully completing the program, with the help of Kaalo, SUCDI got internship at Ministry of interior (MOE) where the HDR Focal point in Puntland caught up with her. She had the following to say;

Y-Peer Education

Somali Family Services under the auspices of UNFPA Y-Peer training targeting youth from South Central Banadir and Bay and the six regions of Puntland State of Somalia namely; Nugaal, Karkaar, Bari, Mudug, Sool, Ayn and Sanaag. Y-peer approach advocates for young women and men to become active participants and learners with a focus on the positive skills, attitudes, and behaviors centered on health issues, positive peer influence and personal goal setting. Peer education, a necessary component of positive youth development, represents an important shift from adults lecturing adolescents, to youth advising and guiding their peers. Project objectives include: (i) equipping young people with skills regarding life skills and health education; (ii) enhancing

adolescence skills and knowledge in HIV /AIDS, STI, Reproductive Health, and SGBV prevention; (iii) promoting skills in facilitating group meetings and one-to-one sessions on peer education and life skills; (iv) support youth to understand effective communication amongst peers brings social change, and (v) encouragement of youth to participate international and interregional Y peer network

The participants were exposed to; techniques for exploring values and attitudes, techniques for team building and trust building, gender awareness and sensitivity, co-facilitation, monitoring and evaluation and the roles of peer educators to enhance their skills as peer educators. Peer to peer education is designed to help youth to learn important skills and change negative attitudes toward taking care of their health without pressure. The trainees then formed Puntland Y-Peer Network and democratically elected the chairman of the Network. The aim of the network is to create platform where peers network, educate each other and share vital information, encourage the youth to participate in international and interregional Ypeer network, strengthen sexuality education programmes in Puntland and Increase the number of advocacy campaigns, spread information, knowledge and skills to their peers to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce their risk. The Puntland network is active and has already started their awareness creation campaigns.

Somali Youth & Student Association (SYSA)

SYSA's mission is to alleviate the suffering of the Somali youth groups & Students in Nugal Region, Puntland through building self-reliance attitude by providing free education, gender equity and by raising their awareness level on basic human rights and education. SYSA is a very active youth group which focuses on Peace building, HIV/AIDs, FGM and protection of the internally displaced persons. The groups mobilize the youth and community to raise their awareness about HIVAIDs and FGM and use radio to campaign, lobby and advocate and also sports tournament as an open ground to raise the awareness.

Local views on existing approaches, Strengths and Weakness of donor funded youth programs

During the UNDP consultative Workshop held in Garoowe in April 2011, the participants were asked to identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing donor funded programs. In response they noted that Right based programs have focused on victimized children aged below 18-DDR (protection, basic education, psycho-social work, advocacy. They focused on social inclusion of spoilers (peace education, support for youth organizations. Economic programs have focused on vocational training, job-creation programmes and income-generating activities) youth employment and training. The major problems and challenges faced by youth serving organizations included limited funding to word youth projects, lack of supporting policy, low institutional capacity, Low skills and professional people, lack of coordination, and low partnership. Opportunities included easy access to target beneficiaries through LNGs, youth commitment and support and bridging of gaps particularly in Peace building, human rights, governance and livelihoods. The identified threats included, International NGOs competition with LNGOs, Donor funds gatekeepers, Piracy and anti-stability elements, High community expectation, Conflicts, Government misperception, tribalism/and/or clannism

Regarding the USAID funded Somali Youth Livelihood Program (SYLP) - Shaqodoon as one innovative and proven good practice one young man who used to be jobless and already finished high school in 2006. He registered for Shaqodoon program at 2010 and had 6 months training of professional skills. When he finished the course he got internship from the ministry of Development and family affairs with the help of Shaqodoon program. After 3 months of internship, he got permanent job. Now he works and he can earn for his family and his live. He is proud of being one of Shaqodoon trainees and beneficiary. However, the major problems and challenges faced by youth serving organizations related to funding, institutional capacity, policy support and

Challenges

The threats to donor funded youth empowerment programmes, identified by stakeholder in Puntland included delay of funds, youth drop outs, mismatch of graduated trainees and available opportunities, unfulfilled community expectation etc. Perhaps the greatest challenge lies in mobilizing young people and reaching those most at risk, increasing the sustainability and effectiveness of youth development programmes and agencies, establishing and strengthening the human resource and institutional base of a department of youth Affairs and creating an umbrella youth organization for Puntland. Other challenges include institutionalizing a culture of professionalism, transparency and accountability in youth organizations, implementing effective governance systems and promoting legitimacy and accountability among youth NGOs; besides developing mechanisms for cooperation among diverse youth organizations and NGOs at regional and community levels speeding, building youth leadership skills, Building a pool of youth workers;

International best practice examples from various countries

Useful case studies on the role of youth in poverty reduction and inclusive development are drawn from the local youth empowerment programmes/projects sponsored by UN agencies, local and international NGOs in Puntland, Kaalo (coordinated by the Puntland State University), the Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC) etc. International best practice examples are drawn from UNDP programming in Youth empowerment (UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*), the DFID Guide working with the youth, titled “*Youth Participation in Development; A Guide for Development Agencies and Policy Makers*”; besides useful examples from the Discussion Paper entitled “*Case studies on: Disadvantaged youth: identifying the problems, responding to the challenges: Improving skills and productivity of disadvantaged youth*” by David H. Freedman - ILO, Employment Sector Employment Working Paper No. 7, 2008. In these excerpts, the UNDP, DFID, and ILO recognize that the opportunities and risks, advantages and disadvantages faced at one stage in life ultimately influences their transition to the next stage. When this involves poverty, discrimination, or absence of economic opportunity, the risks and disadvantages all too often are perpetuated in successive stages of life. In the cases presented many stakeholders have a role to play in the process of empowering the youth. These include national and local authorities, local communities, the social partners, and members of civil society and, of young people themselves. Youth empowerment interventions can take place at the level of the labour market, skills development or policy. The overall aim is to break the cycle of poverty among the youth ...and to support the transition of young people into decent livelihoods

Regarding e the major strengths and weaknesses of existing donor funded youth projects and possible areas of opportunities the participants indicated that the projects produced well skilled youth, had c community acceptance and led to increased youth enrollment. They improved Opportunities for youth placements and internships, and increased the number of self employed youth.

Examples relevant to out-of-school youth in the informal economy

In its *World Employment Report 1998-99* devoted to training, the ILO pointed out that a major shortcoming of earlier training strategies in developing countries was an exclusive concentration on the needs of the formal economy. This occurred in spite of the fact that the formal economy

accounted for a much smaller proportion of total and of new employment than the informal economy (at that time still called the informal sector). Against this backdrop, the informal apprenticeship system has proved to be an effective means of skill development in the informal economy as that is where most entrepreneurs in the relatively vibrant micro-enterprise sub-sector acquire their skills (ILO, 1998a, p. 207). In Viet Nam, for instance, informal training, that is, skill acquisition through an apprenticeship on the job, was shown to be more prevalent than formal training among all target groups of young workers. Young jobseekers considered an apprenticeship with an employer the most useful form of training for finding a job. Nevertheless, formal or official training usually offered the advantage of widely-accepted and recognized certification (ILO, 2003b, pp. 26-27, 40).

Examples relevant to demobilized or post conflict child soldiers

Given the many disadvantaged groups of children and young people, there is one that occupies a special niche because of an added hardship that has scarred their youth and complicated efforts aimed at skills development due to their state of trauma and pressing need for societal integration. These are the demobilized child soldiers who have been drawn into a large number of armed conflicts around the world, especially in Africa. Frequently abducted, brutalized and forced to commit atrocities as children, at the end of the armed conflict they return, often in their teen years, as ex-combatants with skill profiles that have been built around violence. Their home communities may have been ravaged and much of the country's physical and social infrastructure destroyed. As with most of the other disadvantaged youth groups, they need to acquire market-oriented technical skills in combination with life skills.....Protracted armed conflict can worsen such a shortage, damage the educational and training infrastructure, and make staff skills and training facilities obsolete. All of this needs to be rebuilt or upgraded as part of the process of training and reintegrating the former child soldiers (ILO, 1998b, p. 37).

Box: Post Conflict Economic Rehabilitation Programme for Southern Lebanon

Objective: To mobilize youths in Southern Lebanon to contribute to post-conflict peace-building.

Target beneficiaries: Young people

Duration: 2001-2002

Budget: 300,000 USD

Description: The programme had a specific component on youth and was financed by the Netherlands. Its general objective was to mobilize youth in Southern Lebanon to contribute to post-conflict peace-building in order to avoid conflicts and tensions among communities with different political, social and religious groups. Its main aim was to facilitate the interaction of youths from different villages, confessions and cultural affiliations in order to foster a feeling of common belonging and to develop a common strategy for young people's contribution towards the development of their region. The UNDP country office in Lebanon provided technical, administrative and financial support for the execution of the project. Activities were implemented in cooperation with the Community Development Centres (CDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs in South Lebanon, community-based organizations as well as municipalities. The outputs of the project included the identification of existing structures that can facilitate youth mobilization, the training of community workers from CDCs, the organization of discussion groups and strategic planning workshops with selected youths from different villages, the establishment of youth groups at the CDCs, the conduction of training of trainers, the organization of youth camps linked to community volunteer projects as well as the facilitation of community activities organized on a voluntary basis by young people. The project had an intensive focus on community mobilization and grassroots work based on the concept of youth groups. The youths themselves worked on the identification of issues of concern through questionnaires, and in cooperation with the CDCs, municipalities and NGOs implemented 17 different community-based projects. The project also emphasized training to develop communication and leadership skills of CDC workers to enhance their capacity in facilitating youth groups. The activities ranged from the restoration of sports facilities and public gardens to computer centres, movie clubs and other infrastructure projects. A cultural component

Source: UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*)

Another group that sometimes shares disadvantages of the youth groups discussed above but, like demobilized child soldiers, confronts the labour market with its own unique set of difficult circumstances is young people with disabilities. In fact, among the worst off are the child soldiers who may return from war both traumatized and badly injured with disabling injuries. Although precise data on the unemployment rates of disabled young people is limited, the available evidence points to lower rates of labour force participation and higher rates of unemployment. Data collected in the United Kingdom in the winter 1994–95 shows that for disabled young males and females, both aged 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 respectively, there was anywhere from 7 to 16 per cent difference in the above two indicators than for the comparable age and gender groupings without disabilities (O'Higgins, 2001, pp. 30–31). The problem is exacerbated by the fact that in many countries large numbers of disabled persons of working age remain economically inactive. The numbers are even higher for those with severe disabilities. The far lower proportion of disabled workers in employment occurs in spite of antidiscrimination legislation in most industrialized countries and civil rights protection in the United States (the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990). In developing countries, the chances of disabled persons finding work can be even smaller, including in the informal sector. The employment prospects of many disabled persons of working age are limited by initial barriers to acquiring a good basic education, vocational skills training or higher education when they were young (ILO, 1998a, p. 191).

A pioneering woman with a serious disability (cerebral palsy) argues forcefully that enhancing the employability of young people with disabilities requires more than a sole focus on the persons with disabilities themselves.¹³ For youth with disabilities to travel to and from school or work requires accessible transportation systems. This, in turn, calls for awareness on the part of those who design and purchase vehicles as well as adequate funding. Through schooling and workplace seminars, employers need to receive better education about hiring people with disabilities. Labour market information needs to be relevant and accessible to disabled young people. This passionate person with a disability with deep personal experience encourages the construction of a framework based on the AAA Principle: “awareness”, “attitudes” and “acceptance” (Watson Hyatt, 2004,)

Illiterate Youth

In the United Kingdom, the majority of persons with disabilities receive their training in mainstream programmes to which they have priority access. Moreover, specialist teams operate in job centres to assist persons with disabilities in gaining and retaining employment. In addition to individualized support for disabled persons, France is further developing apprenticeship training and offering “sandwich courses” that alternate training and work in enterprises. With a view to more directly involving employers in the development and provision of training and employment opportunities, Belgium provides a system of employer-based on-the-job training contracts for disabled persons; the employer is not obliged to hire the trainee after the initial contract, but often does (O'Reilly, pp. 55–56). One of the best antidotes to discrimination against persons with disabilities is much more direct support in meeting their particular skills development and work-related needs. The ILO Alleviation of Poverty through Peer Training (APPT) Project in Cambodia addresses this requirement by finding successful small entrepreneurs who are willing to offer one-on-one training to disabled young people. The project has taken disabled persons who were reduced to begging on the streets and both restored their self-esteem and taught them business skills that led to successful ventures (ILO, 2005a, p. 87).

Source: Case studies on: *Disadvantaged youth: Identifying the problems, responding to the challenges: Improving skills and productivity of disadvantaged youth* by David H. Freedman. ILO, Employment, Sector Employment Working Paper No. 7

The importance of literacy and numeracy has been referred to throughout this paper. Moreover, like school dropouts, there is a strong interface between illiterates and several of the preceding categories, many of whose members' access to employment problems are compounded by illiteracy. Clearly then, from the standpoint of skills development, ¹⁵ productivity and employment, an integrated approach

that combines literacy programmes with the teaching of other core work and practical life skills appears to be highly recommendable.

School dropouts

In choosing to focus on particular segments of the disadvantaged youth population, it already is evident that the categories overlap, with many youth suffering from multiple disadvantages. That is certainly the case with school dropouts, who may have left school before acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills and then drifted into low-paying, unskilled work in the informal economy. In many developing countries, the dropouts also are more likely to be girls and young women. It has been observed that more than 14 per cent of young people, on average, leave school without an upper secondary qualification. This is regarded as a minimum to obtain a good job in today's labour market and pave the way to further skill acquisition (Quintini and Martin, 2006, p. 8). For school dropouts or youth confronting long-term unemployment, what are known as second chance programmes may offer a step back from labour market exclusion and joblessness. The aim of such programmes is to give young people second chances to recover from their bad decisions or those made by others such as families, educational or labour market authorities or even national policy-makers. Second chance programmes must compensate often for an absence of basic education and training, including personal and social skills. Unfortunately, second chance programmes have not always enjoyed the desired success. It therefore is not surprising that the World Bank argues that they must be properly designed, targeted and coordinated and ensures that training and equivalency programmes provide the competencies needed for both work and life (World Bank, 2006, pp. 40, 90). Second chance programmes often are implemented at state and local levels

Objective: To mobilize young people to research, prioritize and initiate development sub-projects at the regional level in Kosovo

Target beneficiaries: Young people

Budget: 300,000 USD/700,000 USD

Description: Kosovo has one of the youngest populations in Europe, with approximately half of the population under the age of 25. After the war, UNDP initiated the **Youth Post-Conflict Participation Project (YPCPP)** (300, 000 USD) that was executed by the International Rescue Committee in partnership with the Department of Youth in UNMIK. The project sought to mobilize young people to research, prioritize and initiate development sub-projects at the regional level. It also aimed to leave in place a network of youth-led Regional Working Groups and a Representative Youth Body that, with support from community and government structures, will continue to address matters of interest to young people. The project benefited 5,000 young people directly as well as another 20,000 indirectly. In implementing the project, the YPCPP worked in partnership with Kosovo NGOs and associations, such as the Kosovo Youth Council, the Scouting Movement, Youth of Prizren, Post-pessimists, youth forums as well as with schools and youth organizations. Youth representatives organized and attended a consultative Kosovo Youth Congress in the spring of 2001 and subsequently established a representative youth body to advise and advocate on behalf of youth priorities and youth-led regional

⁹³ UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*)

As stated by the International Labour Organization (ILO): *The link between youth unemployment and social exclusion has been clearly established; an inability to find a job creates a sense of vulnerability, uselessness and idleness among young people and can heighten the attraction of engaging in illegal activities. For many young people today, being without work means being without the chance to work themselves out of poverty.*

By including youth unemployment in the MDGs, the Millennium Declaration had an important and catalytic impact on drawing international attention to the problem of unemployed young people. Under target 16 in Goal 8, the resolution “to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work” is the only explicit reference to youth in the MDGs. While some of the MDGs have elements that target youth, in particular, achieving universal primary education using the literacy rate of 15 to 24 year-olds as one indicator, promoting gender equality at all levels of education, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, most of the MDGs are only implicitly relevant to the needs of youth. However, it is interesting to note that the MDG campaign is targeting young people as important advocates and partners for the MDGs. Young people are key actors for the achievement of the goals, but through their participation in the MDGs, youth can also be empowered and hence benefit from the attention on MDGs. UNDP has identified youth as a key partner in the Millennium Campaign and is seeking to mobilize youth activism by holding 2015 summits in all regions, such as the Pan-African 2015 Summit held in Dakar in 2004.⁹⁴

At the domestic front, the Puntland State of Somalia which administers eight regions in North East of the country namely Mudug, Nugal, Sool, Karkaar, Sanaag, Highlands and Bari is committed to do action against the eight hindrances of human development in order to alleviate suffering of her people from all human deprivations. Currently the Government of Puntland State of Somalia is utilizing its long-term development plans as a vehicle to realize MDG targets after incorporating in it all the eight goals for all sectors development of our nation. However, though it is unlikely that all those targets be achieved in Puntland by 2015 on the fact of missing almost a decade of action before the year of 2000 due to Somali crises that started as early as late of 1990 and before the establishment of Puntland administration in 1998, nonetheless we have the potential to realize fairly significant progress against most of the indicators of all the eight goals by that 2015, except two of them; eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and sustaining and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Since the formation of Puntland administration in 1998, primary school going children has exceed 120,000 pupils. Similarly health indicators have improved significantly since then as other social indicators progressed as shown in MICS survey in 2006. Conventional variables, such as income, education, or life expectancy are some of the human development indicators that provide an illustration of the depth of Puntland’s human development crisis. It is estimated that more than 43% of the population of Puntland is living in extreme poverty (less than \$1 per day at PPP)⁹⁵. The incidence of general poverty (less than \$2 per day PPP) is estimated at 73% (61% urban and 80% rural)⁹⁶. However, the prevalence of extreme poverty is higher in rural (53.4%) than in urban locations (23.5%). This is a meaningful reflection of the existence of biased developmental projects-be it from national budgetary and/or international partners, in favor of urban locations. Similarly, the frequency of extreme poverty is higher among women headed households than among men headed households. Vigorous

⁹⁴ UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*)

⁹⁵ Poverty is defined as the inability of a household to pay costs of basic monthly food basket from the market. Usually the income of those under privileged segment of the population is less than \$ 1 per day as per the international standard of extreme poverty in measuring of purchasing power parity. In accordance with socio-economic survey in 2002 (UNDP Somalia, WB), the proportion of the population in extreme poverty who live under \$1 reaches 43.2%. Moderate poverty is defined as those minimum daily calorie intake but cannot meet some other basic non food requirements.

⁹⁶ Somalia, Joint Strategy Paper for the period 2008 - 2013

improvements are needed to make significant progress in reducing the population living below extreme poverty line by 2015, though it is unlikely to achieve halving it to 21.5 percent by 2015. However, if the current scenario continues conditions might even deteriorate further, or stay unchanged for the best option.

Currently there are less than 300 operational primary schools in Puntland, and a very low enrolment ratio of primary school age children. UNICEF reported that of the estimated 192,635 children of primary school age group in Puntland, only 46,595 pupils were enrolled in primary schools in the 2004/2005 school year. This represented just 24.2 percent of all primary school age children - 20.3 percent of girls and 28.1 percent of boys (see Table 2.3 below). Teaching at primary level is based around Quranic schools. The Puntland National Development Plan acknowledges that "affordability, ownership, gender disparities and unbalanced distribution in terms of urban vs rural are some of the major challenges that education in Puntland currently faces"⁹⁷. In addition to these challenges, there is also the issue of costs: about 40 percent of primary schools charge fees of more than US\$ 25 per school year; in addition, non-school fee costs per child (stationary, uniform, etc) are around US\$ 30. This is in a context where the average household income is US\$ 250 per year and where families often have several school-age children. At secondary level, even fewer children and youth are enrolled - only 3 percent of primary school students continue to this level. The provision of secondary education is limited, as there were nearly 12 functional secondary schools, and schools do not yet have adequate teaching, learning facilities and materials. Teachers are mostly under-qualified and inadequately paid, and schools do not manage to attract and retain girls. Financing is mainly through fees and support from parents/community, the Diaspora and the international community. However, the government and communities

Goal 1: Halve extreme poverty by 2015

Goal one of the MDGs mainly targets extreme poverty as measured by the 1\$/day per capita (PPP value). In 2002, the share of the population living in extreme poverty was estimated at 43.2%, and those living in general poverty (below \$2/day per capita) were estimated at 73.4%. Poverty incidents in rural areas are more than twice higher than those in urban areas (53.4% and 23.5%, respectively). In absolute terms, this translates to some 2.94 million people living in extreme poverty; 0.54 million (18%) in urban and 2.4 million in rural and nomadic areas (82%). To halve the proportion of people living under extreme poverty by 2015 implies implementation of a large-scale, multi-sectoral reconstruction and development programme. It is also essential to undertake poverty mapping and to support the establishment of poverty baseline at the national and regional levels consistent with the prevailing conditions and constraints.

In addition, three strategic, but urgent and reinforcing policy interventions are needed: Economic development programs to provide for immediate and medium term needs of the poorer groups of the population.

- Capacity building and technical support to the affected population within the reality on the ground-awareness raising, creation of small scale, but reasonably spread, projects that promote self-employment and self-mobilization of poorer groups; women, pastoralists, subsistence farmers, fishing community, youth and IDPs.
- Introduction of comprehensive safety nets and risk management systems to increase the coping abilities of the vulnerable in the immediate term.

Other specific recommendations include:

⁹⁷ Puntland NDP 2005, p.122

- Rehabilitation of productive capacity destroyed during the conflict, in particular crop and livestock infrastructure.
- Enhancement and regeneration of the livestock trade through development of policies and certification schemes, diagnostic and marketing schemes for Somali livestock.
- Implementation of targeted development programmes to reduce extreme poverty by directly addressing target groups.
- Diversification of economic opportunities; including progressive processing of livestock locally and exporting livestock products and by-products, establishment of fishing cooperatives and boards, rehabilitation of storage equipment, and other measures that would increase and sustain employment and income locally.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 3: Ensure by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

These challenges include the improving of access to and enhancing the quality of education and training by:

- i. Improving the capacity of education authorities to plan, manage, finance and supervise education and training;
- ii. Improving the quality and motivation of teachers.
- iii. Rehabilitating and constructing classroom facilities together with the more intensive use of existing facilities through a double-shift system.
- iv. Addressing the lack of perceived relevance of schooling and particularly the lack of prospects for primary education learners, their parents and communities, through advocacy.
- v. Provision of alternative channels (informal) primary education
- vi. Narrowing the gender gap in enrolment as well as retention and providing opportunities to meet the education rights of the most vulnerable – returnees, internally displaced persons and drought-affected nomadic populations.
- vii.** Increase the enrolment in primary school
 - i) Increase the enrolment in primary schools thus bringing the total enrolment in 2015 to ... children.
 - ii) A growth in the primary GER 50% by 2015.
 - iii) An increased number of classrooms from 3000 in 2015, representing an additional 700 classrooms (catering for 40 pupils per classroom in two shifts).
 - iv) A total of 60,000 more school-age children receiving primary education through alternative channels.
 - v) A minimum of 50% basic education needs of returning refugees and IDPs met
 - vi) A total of 40,000 youth in the 15-24 age group receiving education in accelerated/ condensed basic education programmes.
 - vii) A total of 20,000 adults under instruction in Adult Education/NFE programmes.
 - viii) A total of 200 schools with an improved learning environment;
 - ix) Education authorities at the central, regional, district and community levels and private sector with improved capacity to sustain a supply of educational

BARRIERS TO ENGAGING THE YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

There are many barriers that impede progress toward full youth development and sustainable livelihoods. Such barriers are categorized into three; namely economic and social conditions in a given country, lack of education, especially education targeted to employment, and lack of enabling macro policies that promote youth employment, lack of access and appropriate use of new technologies to support youth employment. Other barriers are manifested in lack of credit and other services to serve youth in generating self-employment, lack of private sector partnerships to promote youth employment, lack of productive on-farm and off-farm employment. The is compounded by discrimination against young people and more specifically, young women, and lack of self-empowerment-generating opportunities. The Puntland Youth Development Policy acknowledges that young men and women face barriers which prevent their full and creative contribution to the rebuilding of Puntland, namely; limited provision of youth friendly and relevant services in the critical areas of education, employment, health and recreation; lack of respect by adults for their ideas and contributions; lack of youth participation in policy development and implementation; poor cross-sectoral planning and implementation of youth services; non prioritization of youth issues in key government ministries; and lack specific youth policies and legislation.

Other obstacles to youth development in Puntland include: conflict/war, cultural biases (especially against females), discrimination, few formal sector jobs, lack of cooperation between private sector/government/NGOs/Grassroots organizations, lack of credit, lack of educational opportunities, lack of knowledge, lack of materials/resources, lack of mentoring, lack of school-to-work programs, lack of self-confidence, lack of skills, lack of training and lack of work experience, limited support systems, no market for goods, no or limited access to information and communication technology, poor economic conditions in the country, poor or no employment policies, poor social conditions, poverty, discrimination and violence against youth, gender inequality and gender violence, HIV/AIDS stigma, unemployment, forced migration (for prostitution, drug abuse, forced labor).

While State National Youth Policy seeks to provide a vision, framework and set of critical interventions that targets all 15 – 30 years of age, it is recognised that certain groups of young people deserve special attention, namely nomadic youth, young people with disabilities, unemployed young people, marginalized young people, out of school young people and internally displaced young people. Unemployment and the need for job creation initiatives are the greatest source of concern to young Puntlanders. Youth unemployment levels (including for secondary and tertiary graduates) is extremely high. Achieving decent employment opportunities for young people is a critical factor in poverty alleviation and the country's economic development.

Thus without education, jobs and prospects of a meaningful future, the risk of being caught in a cycle of delinquency, aggression and/or depression and hopelessness is enormous. Many youth have turned to, or forced into antisocial behavior such as piracy⁹⁸, militia and drug taking because they are in search of basic sustenance, or because they lack sufficient protection to avoid being pressed into such activities. A significant number of youth are traumatized and mentally disturbed⁹⁹ and lack

⁹⁸ "Piracy in Somalia Threatening Global trade, feeding local wars" Roger Middleton (October 2008)

⁹⁹ *Towards Social Reintegration of the Militias and Armed Youth*. War Torn Societies Project (1999)

access to mental health care and psychosocial counseling services. These traumatized youth are highly susceptible to being mobilized (in the sense of joining piracy/armed groups that will provide an income).

At present, insufficient opportunities exist for young people to earn a living, substantially heightening their chances of facing poverty and turning to illicit activities. Many variables are linked to the causes and effects of, these conflicts violate human rights from multiple angles. Most of the violence takes place in the poorest regions of the world, where a viable future for youth seems unlikely. Aggression and threats of violence break down societal structures. The increased stress and feelings of hopelessness that are indirectly linked to poverty, unemployment, low educational attainment and poor governance constitute part of a global pattern in areas of armed conflict. The higher rates of poverty, drug use and disease in these areas will have the most negative impact on poorer households and on youth, leading to separation from families, exploitation, child labour—and violence, with the fighting process used as a means of venting anger and frustration and assigning blame. Youth-sensitized conflict prevention and peace-building procedures may produce positive long-term results. By mainstreaming their participation in policy-making and formulating procedures, the impact of their current contributions to their communities can be expanded to reach larger segments of the population.

HOLISTIC APPROACH TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

With regard to improving governmental policies, the immediate opportunities for youth lie in the skills they can acquire. There is need implement new policies that offer youth the opportunity to apprentice with policy makers, learn policy development skills, and find employment in NGOs and other organizations that will contribute to the creation of the new policies. The opportunity for older persons to mentor young men and women will both increase the young person's chances to learn skills- and gain employment, but will also break down the barriers between the generations. With support from NGOs and others, young people can take leadership roles in creating these organizations. The first strategy is to recognize existing barriers to youth empowerment and to point out alternative opportunities to overcome each barrier. The next step is to identify initiatives designed to overcome these barriers, taking place in different parts of the country. Young people have the largest stake in the future. Building the infrastructure and providing basic services can offer better opportunities for youth development. New technology makes it possible to bring information and learning into remote areas, poor areas, and areas which lack conventional educational facilities. Youth cannot only benefit from the improved learning opportunities, but this infusion of technology also offers employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. There are innovative programs that bring technology in the form of cell phones, computers, etc. to impoverished communities. Young people can seize these opportunities to create entrepreneurial businesses such as information exchanges and weather-reporting services for farmers and fishermen.

The Youth need to set up strong youth organizations advocating peace policies and carry out public campaigns that are designed to bring young people out of conflicts; Youth and their organizations should explore independent channels for peace dialogue among youth.

The enabling conditions for enabling conditions for empowering the youth

In order to fully harness the youth potential in Puntland, the first strategy is to recognize existing socio-economic and cultural barriers and to point out the opportunities that each barrier masks.. The next step is to identify initiatives designed to overcome these barriers, taking place in different parts of the country. Young people have the largest stake in the future. Building the infrastructure and providing basic services can offer better opportunities for youth development. New technology makes it possible to bring information and learning into remote areas, poor areas, and areas which lack conventional educational facilities. Youth cannot only benefit from the improved learning opportunities, but infusion of technology also offers employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. There are innovative programs that bring technology in the form of cell phones, computers, etc. to impoverished communities. Young people can seize these opportunities to create entrepreneurial businesses such mobile money transfer, business outsourcing, ICT training, exchanges of best practices in business management, crime reporting, peace and violence resolution dialogue services among youth groups.

With regard to improving governmental policies, the immediate opportunities for youth lie in the skills they can acquire. Youth could work with companies and other organizations on promoting youth development- and learn presentation, data collection, organization, and skills directly related to career opportunities. The growing interest in a healthy environment and healthy foods offers opportunities for melding technology with agriculture to improve farming practices which would, in turn, offer additional opportunities for viable employment for youth. There is need to implement new policies that offer youth the opportunity to apprentice with policy makers, learn policy development skills, and find employment in NGOs and other organizations that will contribute to the creation of the new policies. The opportunity for older persons to mentor young men and women will both increase the young person's chances to learn skills- and gain employment, but will also break down the barriers between the generations. With support from NGOs and others, young people can take leadership roles in creating these organizations.

The Youth need to set up strong youth organizations advocating peace policies and carry out public campaigns that are designed to bring young people out of conflicts; Youth and their organizations should explore independent channels for peace dialogue among youth.

Programme of action for youth led inclusive development

1. Education:

- Enhancing the role of youth in formulating and reviewing educational policies;
- Combating the 'drop-out' phenomenon in education;
- Improving technical education;
- Boosting the relationship between the private sector and educational institutions with the purpose of increasing training and employment opportunities.

2. Health:

Most young people make the transition into adulthood in good health. Generally, the health problems commonly occurring relate to malnutrition, to reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV infection), in addition to substance use and violence. Further health problems arise from social and cultural pressure such as early marriages and female genital cutting, nutrition related non-communicable diseases, some prevalent infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis, and food borne diseases that are often a result of poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation facilities. Faulty childcare practices among young mothers are the cause of repeated diarrheal episodes and malnutrition. The common precipitating factor is most often poverty, especially

in rural areas. Some health problems result from interpersonal violence, or from the consequences of an unsafe abortion or unattended childbirth. The following actions will create opportunities for improving the health of young and old Puntlanders:

- Developing an overall framework for dealing with youth health;
- Increasing awareness campaigns regarding addiction transfer of contagious diseases and family planning;
- Conducting studies on nutritional habits of young people;
- Supporting the partnerships between public, private and civil society organizations providing health services to youth.

3. Mass Media:

- Giving more opportunity to youth to participate in the public policy making process for mass media;
- Devoting more space for coverage of youth issues in the media;
- Using more of an interactive communication style in the media discourse;
- Encouraging the issuance of newspapers, magazines and electronic websites that deal with

SUMMING UP –EMERGING ISSUES, LESSONS AND STRATEGIC OPTIONS

Puntland faces a daunting challenge of creating opportunities and a brighter future for its young people. If they do not have work or opportunities, then naturally they will become disillusioned and frustrated, nurturing a growing sense of exclusion. Their immediate instinct need not be to resort to violence, yet without hope they are easily influenced and manipulated. Excluded and disillusioned youths become the raw recruits for emerging wars. (Ian Bannon, Manager - Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit, World Bank). When young people are uprooted, jobless, intolerant, alienated and with few opportunities for positive engagement [in their respective societies], they represent a ready pool of recruits for groups seeking to mobilize violence.

The formation of a relatively stable government in Puntland has improved the prospects of restoration of peace and stability which is a prerequisite for improving its Human Development Index, besides attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main challenge to Puntland is the collapse of infrastructure and the displacement of populations that has reduced the productive capacity of the economy and the ability of the affected populations to generate sustainable livelihoods. The resulting poverty, hunger and risks to health and inadequate access to education, and sustainable livelihoods continue to frustrate any efforts towards comprehensive human development.

However, despite the above constraints efforts are underway to build the capacity of government institutions, restore the rule of law, and rehabilitate physical infrastructure such as health centres, schools and communications. Progress has been made towards the establishment of lasting peace, and addressing the plight of the youth who are in urgent need of reintegration. Based on experiences on youth empowerment in the Caribbean countries, Yemen, Egypt and elsewhere; and drawing on the outcome of the youth Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), the consultative workshops by Kaalo, UNDP and PDRC, as well as the preceding analysis, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Incorporate young men and women in key planning and implementation positions of youth development programmes
- ii. Create short term training programmes that cater for the most urgently and practical work skills

- iii. Provide solutions to youth unemployment by enhancing their youth entrepreneurship programmes; establish funding for startup capital, and make it easier for young people to start and run businesses; and
- iv. Promote employment creation by placing employment creation at the centre of macroeconomic policy.
- v. Promote and support youth self employment through the creation of education projects, training courses and a youth self employment fund.
- vi. Explore ways to improve connection between education and training institutions and the labor markets including the introduction of career education and counseling.
- vii. Target school drop outs through programs that will link them more effectively with the labor market.
- viii. Identify and promote opportunities for Diaspora giving and investments that specifically targets youth employment opportunities.
- ix. Establish a youth coordination body to oversee the implementation of the National Youth Employment Action Plan.
- x. Develop programs that raise awareness and encourage young people in self reliance, citizenship, nationalism, self employment, and national ownership.

CHAPTER 5

YOUTH AND PEACE BUILDING

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR PEACE BUILDING: RATIONALE AND APPROACH

The existing conflict intervention discourse can be grouped into three principal approaches, namely; (i) conflict settlement¹⁰⁰, (ii) conflict resolution¹⁰¹ and (iii) conflict transformation, each embracing different strategies for action¹⁰². The *conflict transformation* discourse which focuses on long-term peace building efforts targeting outcomes, processes and structural changes with an ultimate objective of overcoming direct, cultural and structural forms of violence¹⁰³ and transforming unjust social relationships is appropriate to the existing post conflict transition context in Puntland. Although any of the above approaches could be applied with some degree of success, this Puntland HDR Background Paper adopts a ***Conflict Transformation Approach*** which stresses that successful conflict interventions will need to first create opportunities and spaces for communication and dialogue, and then facilitates processes of empowerment and mutual recognition. In this respect Youth empowerment is a powerful strategy for conflict transformation. It is the foundation for youth involvement in crating lasting security, as well as the means of preventing recurrent violence

The Puntland situation calls for a holistic approach towards youth to harness their full power and potential for peace and development, by empowering them socially, economically and politically. Hence empowering youth means creating the enabling conditions under which young people gain ability, authority, and opportunities to translate their effective choices in their own lives and the lives of other people¹⁰⁴ through attitudinal, structural, and cultural processes¹⁰⁵. When youth are empowered socially, economically and politically, they can be a catalytic agent of change as social and economic actors as well as peace builders. It advocates for developing a common perception of youth

¹⁰⁰ The conflict settlement discourse (Resource conflict frame) deals with outcome oriented strategies designed to end an armed conflict in the form of an agreement between the conflicting parties but without addressing the underlying causes of conflict. It sees conflicts as a struggle over claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the outcome is some sort of win/lose or compromise situation. It is primarily advocates for formal diplomatic and governmental diplomacy.

¹⁰¹ The conflict resolution discourse (interest conflict framework) deals with process-oriented activities designed to address the underlying causes of direct, cultural and structural violence. It deals with interest-based bargaining, which focuses on articulating what each party is legitimately seeking and then employs creative methods for working together with opponents to maximize the degree to which the interests of both sides can be satisfied. It is a Track II practice typically represented by non-official and non-coercive activities of non-governmental parties.

¹⁰² In his Paper that provides a conceptual precursor to the Puntland HDR Background Paper; titled *Empowering Youth for Peace and Development; conceptual Framework and Working Outline*, Professor Mahmud, Puntland State University (2010), expounds on the various approaches and rationale for empowering the youth as peace agents.

¹⁰³ Direct violence is the explicit act or behavior which physically damages a person or object. Structural violence refers to the violence built into political, social and economic systems which determine unfair distribution of power, resources and opportunities, leading to actors feeling oppressed and unable to meet their needs; and cultural violence is violence entrenched in cultural norms, beliefs and traditions, which make other types of violence seem legitimate, accepted, normal or natural.

¹⁰⁴ These enabling conditions are an economic and social base, political will, adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative frameworks, a stable environment of equality, peace and democracy, access to knowledge, information and skills, and a positive value system. See Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment to the year 2005

¹⁰⁵ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_empowerment#cite_note-0

as strategic actors towards peace building. When youth are empowered socially, economically and politically, they can be a catalytic agents of change as social and economic actors as well as peace builders.

Rationale for engaging youth for peace building

The civil conflict in Puntland has created internal enormous suffering and disenfranchisement of the youth in Puntland. Puntland's youth are among the least educated, underemployed youth in the world. Prior to the internal peace settlements and negotiations that led to establishment of a regional government, war was part of their everyday life. Clan warlords and clan politicians seized the opportunity to use them to meet their political ambitions. Displacement, lack of education services, widespread unemployment were the primary forces driving the youth to engage in conflicts. It was compounded by prolonged lawlessness and anarchy, lack of awareness on their role in preventing conflicts, their total lack of involvement in peace building and negotiations.

The impact of armed conflict is clearly outlined in the 1996 Machel report and in a detailed follow-up by the same author published in 2001.²⁹ Using the Convention on the Rights of the Child's framework of operative principles and standards as a guide, the 1996 report broke new ground, incorporating a complete and innovative agenda for action to improve the protection and care of children in situations of conflict.³⁰ The report described and assessed the situation of war-affected children, underscoring the plight of child soldiers, internally displaced and refugee children, child victims of landmines and sanctions, and the physical and psychological impact of conflict on children. Machel presented a preview of her 2001 publication at the International Conference on War-Affected Children, held in Winnipeg, Canada, in September 2000, reviewing the accomplishments since 1996 and recommending strategies to advance children's protection in armed conflict.³¹ The new publication includes expanded coverage of small arms and light weapons, women's role in peace building, peace and security, HIV/AIDS, media and communications, and education to promote peace. Earlier instruments referring to the impact of violence on youth—such as the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1996) and the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (1998)—affirm the importance of addressing these themes. A recent General Assembly resolution reiterates the importance of formal and non-formal education within the framework of the

Exposure to violence during the formative years has had a defining influence on the character of young people involved in armed conflict either as perpetrators or as victims. The effects of armed conflict on the physical and psychological well-being of young people, and on their future prospects for leading normal lives, are a cause for serious concern. Youth violence and extremism are associated with the exclusion and isolation they experience within their families and communities, as well as the injustice they face under weak and corrupt law enforcement and security systems. The Focus Group Discussions' (FGDs) highlighted lack of understanding by parents of youth's needs, reluctance to communicate with their children, violence and suppression of children, as major factor in youth orientation towards violence. The Youth felt that their families and communities do not value and appreciate them, which pushes them to the streets where they mix with the "wrong peers" and become vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. Most youth were in a state of hopelessness because their aspirations were blocked; their rights violated by unfair treatment by elders and authorities. Young people are torn between social pressures, and economic hardships.

The recent Sierra Leon experience provides useful clue as stated below:.

- Peace and security education ought to be integrated in schools from an early age and maintained up through adulthood¹⁰⁶.

¹⁰⁶ Youth and Conflict World YOUTH Report, 2003

- Advocacy work with local organizations, the media, former child soldiers, teachers, health workers, and religious and community leaders is critical.
- Regarding the reintegration of child soldiers, trust needs to be established before they can engage in a dialogue about their future.
- While respect for native customs and traditions is considered tremendously important, local conventions should not be observed to the extent that the rights and protection of youth are jeopardized.
- Increased youth participation at all levels, including within the political sphere, would help put an end to negative feelings towards traditional authority and governance structures.
- Media can assist in enlisting trust by disseminating important information to a wide regarding the dangers of violence and best practice examples of local and international peace building efforts.

Best practice examples and lessons from international experiences

The World Youth Report (2003) and UNDP Report on Youth and Violent Conflict give examples that illustrate the important role youth and other community actors can play in conflict preventive measures. Post-war peace-building skills are particularly beneficial for ex-combatants and government officials (police, army and court personnel), who are prone to reverting to past behaviors. Non-formal education that teaches strategies for coping with post-conflict trauma is vital for areas in which rape and sexual violence have been used as weapons of war. In collaboration with local authorities and women's groups, Governments should provide regional, national and community-level education that promotes human rights for women.

Post Conflict Economic Rehabilitation Programme for Southern Lebanon

Objective: To mobilize youths in Southern Lebanon to contribute to post-conflict peace-building.

Target beneficiaries: Young people

Duration: 2001-2002

Budget: 300,000 USD

Description: The programme had a specific component on youth and was financed by the Netherlands. Its general objective was to mobilize youth in Southern Lebanon to contribute to post-conflict peace-building in order to avoid conflicts and tensions among communities with different political, social and religious groups. Its main aim was to facilitate the interaction of youths from different villages, confessions and cultural affiliations in order to foster a feeling of common belonging and to develop a common strategy for young people's contribution towards the development of their region. The UNDP country office in Lebanon provided technical, administrative and financial support for the execution of the project. Activities were implemented in cooperation with the Community Development Centres (CDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs in South Lebanon, community-based organizations as well as municipalities. The outputs of the project included the identification of existing structures that can facilitate youth mobilization, the training of community workers from CDCs, the organization of discussion groups and strategic planning workshops with selected youths from different villages, the establishment of youth groups at the CDCs, the conduction of training of trainers, the organization of youth camps linked to community volunteer projects as well as the facilitation of community activities organized on a voluntary basis by young people. The project had an intensive focus on community mobilization and grassroots work based on the concept of youth groups. The youths themselves worked on the identification of issues of concern through questionnaires, and in cooperation with the CDCs, municipalities and NGOs implemented 17 different community-based projects. The project also emphasized training to develop communication and leadership skills of CDC workers to enhance their capacity in facilitating youth groups. The activities ranged from the restoration of sports facilities and public gardens to computer centres, movie clubs and other infrastructure projects. A cultural component

Source: UNDP, *Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis*)

Sierra Leone: a case study of youth involvement in peace building

The conflict in Sierra Leone dates back more than 40 years but escalated in 1991 when the Revolutionary United Front launched a war near the border with Liberia to overthrow the Government. In the interim, the premeditated, systematic perpetration of violence left more than 200,000 people dead and countless others—mainly young people—maimed, mutilated, suffering the effects of rape, and distraught. A combination of factors contributed to the prolonged armed conflicts and war in Sierra Leone. One was the lack of political equity, which allowed the exploitation of people through military dictatorships, government unaccountability and anti-democratic tactics. Another factor was the dire social situation, characterized by the inequitable distribution of resources, poverty, the lack of health care and safety nets, and high levels of illiteracy and unemployment.

Conflict Resolution and healing in Sierra Leone [

Four independent FM stations were linked together to provide ongoing broadcast coverage of voting day. ... held workshops to prepare the journalists, teaching them the most effective methods of newsgathering, creating guidelines for reporting, and identifying appropriate behaviour to prevent tensions from escalating. The Network has remained in place to facilitate increased public awareness of and interaction with the country's political institutions and processes. The commitment and capabilities of the youth network became increasingly apparent with their involvement in the election process and a wide range of conflict prevention activities. Young people (defined in Sierra Leone as those between the ages of 16 and 35) gathered from various areas to obtain accreditation and take part in the monitoring of the domestic elections. They helped with voter education and reached out to marginalized people to ensure their participation in the registration and electoral processes. The youth network has continued to engage in advocacy for peace and reconciliation in the country, addressing a wide range of issues using various means.

Sierra Leone radio programmes have aired on all stations in the country. Some programmes combine entertainment with educational messages. For instance, the Golden Kids News, a show for children produced and presented by children from mixed backgrounds, includes discussions of their hopes and fears as well as the positive aspects of their country. Home Sweet Home uses a soap opera format to disseminate information to refugees about issues they will have to deal with when they return home. Other programmes, such as the Common Ground Feature, are more informational and aim to foster the process of peace-building and reconstruction by conducting interviews and covering stories that reflect the interests and concerns of the contending parties. This series creates a public forum, providing an opportunity for communication and delving into a wide range of topics that interest opposing groups—a step towards conflict prevention through dialogue and reconstruction. Attempts to reconstruct social norms and build confidence among local and national community actors can be seen in programmes such as Wi Soja en Police Today, in which security forces (army and police representatives) are given equal airtime and community viewpoints are integrated. As part of the reconstruction and reintegration process, shows endeavour to assist their target audience by providing them with helpful information. Salome Uman is a show that collaborates with local human rights groups to identify and address key issues affecting the status of women in post conflict Sierra Leone.

Another show, Troway di Gun, is co-hosted by a retired colonel from the Revolutionary United Front and a senior trainer from the Civil Defense Forces who have both disarmed and are undergoing their own reintegration. This programme seeks to assist ex-combatants and provide them with details about the short- and long-term processes of reintegration. The specific objectives are to inform them about the 386 opportunities available through the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, to encourage them to be patient and work towards reconciliation with their communities and vice versa, to identify obstacles in the reintegration process that ex-combatants need to overcome, and to provide a forum for them to discuss their own problems. The Sierra Leone Youth Advocate Programme (SLYAP), started by a young man in his twenties, operates according to the principle that empowering young people encourages them to become positive contributors to society and “rulers of their destiny”.

Other initiatives facilitate the reintegration of former child soldiers. SLYAP managed to open two primary schools that accommodate a total of approximately 145 children between the ages of 5 and 14. An economic development collective was started to provide women and youth emotionally affected by the war with an opportunity to develop income-generating skills and ensure their families' livelihoods. In partnership with other NGOs, the Programme provides one-on-one counseling to former child soldiers, and general aid is offered to youth in overcrowded refugee camps. To further the goal of empowering youth to be positive contributors, methods are applied to sensitize them towards civic responsibilities and peace-building. One way to achieve reintegration and harmony is through sports; coupled with peace-building curricula, athletic activity promotes the release of war-related tensions. This was shown to be true in a series of football matches in which youth from contending parties, including child soldiers and victims, played against each other as well as on the same teams. Although initially tensions were high between the players and within the crowd, by the time the final game arrived the ice had been broken and a friendly environment prevailed. The games forced victims and soldiers to cooperate and trust each other. The disarmed soldiers were allowed to interact with other community members and break down walls of defensiveness and feelings of marginalization and separation from those around them.

The Sierra Leone Chapter of the Society of Women against AIDS in Africa promotes HIV prevention by disseminating information on the virus. In collaboration with other organizations and the Government, the Chapter also runs sensitization programmes and offers training and counseling services for a variety of groups, including those in high-risk brackets such as commercial sex workers. Prior to the war, the Society owned one of the largest resource centres.

Source: The World Youth Report (2003)

Local views on youth involvement in peace building

During an HDR consultative workshops and meeting held at Garowe Puntland in April 2011, participants identified priority areas for youth participation in peace building. They included motivation of the youth organizations to be involved in peace building programs, incorporating into the national educational curriculum peace building subjects, initiating annual youth peace conference, and creating youth organization that are dedicated to, and works for peace. They recommended implementation of a national disarmament program that entails involving young people in a process of designing and implementing a national disarmament program, undertaking peace reconciliation and conflict resolutions activities; providing alternative training and employment programmes targeting child/youth soldiers; providing skills building and working opportunities to encourage the disengagement of youth in armed activities.

Peace and security education ought to be integrated in Puntland's schools from an early age and maintained up through adulthood¹⁰⁷. There is a need to strengthen preventive measures, create educational opportunities, including the teaching of peace and tolerance. Interim care centres should be maintained for street children. Advocacy should be spearheaded by local organizations, the media, former child soldiers, teachers, health workers, and religious and community leaders. For demobilization, channels of contact with non-governmental armed groups need to be identified. Coordinated efforts among NGOs and international organizations could facilitate this process. Regarding the reintegration of child soldiers, trust needs to be established before they can engage in a dialogue about their future. Respect for native customs and traditions are considered tremendously important although local conventions should not be observed to the extent that the rights and protection of youth are jeopardized.

The local peace processes

In workshops organized by PDRC, 50 participants from youth organizations from all 7 regions of Puntland, two directors from the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports in addition to the PDRC director, PDRC researchers and staff and a hired facilitator participated for two days of plenary and group work sessions to the workshop to present examples on ongoing youth led peace initiatives. Several examples of local youth led peace initiatives were listed as indicated below¹⁰⁸.

¹⁰⁷ Youth and Conflict World YOUTH Report, 2003

¹⁰⁸ Workshop on Youth & Peace, 27-28 April; PDRC Garowe - Draft Report

Mapping youth focused peace building programs

I. Youth led peacemaking efforts in Nugal Region:

1. For example, in Nugal Region, there was an eruption of Social tension, disturbances including violence, rape and stabbing. The neighbourhoods of Garowe town were involved in these acts of insecurity, for two consecutive months, in which some people were injured. The Youth were instrumental in the arrests of the trouble makers. Also youth groups, of the two neighborhoods in conflict, with the help of the local people and youth organizations have together managed the problem and settled the dispute in peaceful manner.
2. Similarly there was land dispute between two clans in which a farm was burned down and a well was destroyed by one of the clans This incident over the farm and a water well took place on 17th January 2007, in Shimbiraale area. The situation became worse when both of the parts in conflict organized armed clan groups. Youth members from the two conflicting clans quickly and with commitment intervened in the quarrel cooperating with the traditional elders of the two parties, local authority, police forces. After a long peace negotiation shared by all those parties, finally the dispute was resolved peacefully.
3. A fully loaded vehicle working for WFP was seized in a robbery action by armed group. The action by which the vehicle was taken by force, took place in the area of Awr-ulus village. Members of Nugal Youth Organizations initiated actions, and eventually rescued the seized vehicle and other WFP goods on board of the vehicle. They met the kidnappers at Awr-ulus and with the help of other local groups the youth group succeeded to hand over the vehicle and the property to WFP in Garowe. The police at last arrested the kidnappers and some of the lost property from the vehicle was compensated in cash by the youth organizations of Nugal region.
4. A serious rape crime took place during an attack to the passengers of a taxi from Bosaso. In December 2006 at the outskirts of Garowe, in the highway from Bossaso, a taxi was attacked by 4-armed gangs. They took by force a 20-year-old girl among the passengers. They all raped the girl as she confessed later. The youth organizations in Garowe organized a strong protest against the heinous crime committed by local individuals. The protesters blocked all the main streets of Garowe and gathered in front of some of the state institution premises such as the police station and the regional offices. The youth demanded a quick action from the government to apprehend the criminals. They urged also the public to confront such groups and help to bring them to justice. In addition, the youth groups took part in the action of hospitalizing the victim of the rape. Accordingly, the government arrested the rapist group and each one of them has been sentenced to 8 years of prison.
5. In relation to these situations, the town of Garowe was experiencing a heightening animosity Mudan youth umbrella has been engaging since then in public awareness raising programs in Garowe to lessen the tension. Mudan youth umbrella intended to fulfill its mission of peace promotion and its peace building role. In the awareness raising campaigns, the youth organizations mainly used the local radios such as Radio SBC, Radio Garowe, Radio Nugal and Radio Daljir to deliver their peace messages

II. Youth led peacemaking efforts in Sool Region

1. The community needed awareness raising activities on peace building and conflict resolutions. The youth organizations focused on awareness raising works in towns and villages of Las-anod, Qorilay and Yeyle, where clan conflicts took place recently. Sool youth organizations undertook specific awareness raising on conflict resolution and peace building initiatives in Las-anod, Qorilay and Yeyle, where clan fighting occurred in the last months. Youth worked side by side with the regional authority and traditional leaders to restore stability and tranquility in the region
2. Youth was predisposed to be easily drawn and involved in conflicts. In different areas of Sool region youth are part and parcel of all troubles. region where youth was exposed to local feuds in order to make them abstain from getting involved. Through consultations, the Sool youth organizations decided not to partake to any violence. Youth used the local radios as the only media tools accessible to them
3. Negotiations, conflict resolution, peace building initiatives were direly needed by the community. A number of areas in the Sool region was approached by members of the youth organizations with peace activities. Youth organizations have been active in Sool region to influence youth groups and other social actors in promoting peace and stability in the region.
4. Water, pasture and camel rustling in addition to revenge killings are some of the sources of conflicts. The Sool region predominantly pastoral is afflicted traditionally by revenge killings.. Continuation of conflict prevention and peace dialogue between hostile clans are challenging tasks for youth organizations. Sool youth organizations are constantly engaged to find out possible resolutions and lasting peace between long time hostile clans who

mostly carry out killing and robbery actions against each other for revenge purposes. Youth initiatives seem to bear fruits and to make differences in regional stability.

III. Youth led Peacemaking efforts in Mudug Region

1. A peace dialogue meeting for the purpose of clarifying the role of youth in peace activities was organized. Dud-Mudug youth umbrella convened the peace dialogue meeting in Galkayo in which both the northern and the southern youth members of the divided town participated. The purpose for the meeting was to consolidate the relative peace existing in Galkayo. On the other hand, the meeting was intended to expose the role of youth in the peace
2. **Peace consolidating meeting organized by female youth groups:** This meeting, which was held in the center of Galkayo by the female youth groups of south and north of the town, was the first of its kind. The southern and the northern female youth groups of Galkayo have come together to consult each other on peace-building and conflict prevention. This important meeting has emphasized the need for social integration, for peace and development.
3. **Awareness raising programs through media facilities:** This awareness raising programs were undertaken in Galkayo. The Dud-Mudug youth umbrella organized the awareness raising programs through the main local radios, focusing first and foremost on youth groups' encouragement to be fully involved in the peace-building and to avoid being part of any kind of hostilities among clans. During the outbreak of hostility between TFG and Islamic Courts, South Mudug and Galgudud regions became major battlefields that affected the whole area. outbreak of hostility between TFG and Islamic Courts, South Mudug and Galgudud regions became major battlefields that affected the whole area. The Dud-Mudug youth Umbrella voluntarily stood up to undertake the humanitarian task of burial and collection of the dead bodies of both sides from the battle field of Gelinsor and Adado and assisted the wounded as well.
4. **Data collection on the impact/influence of Dud-Mudug youth umbrella activities in the region:** Study was conducted on seeking data collection on the effectiveness of the youth umbrella activities that took place in the region as a whole.. The purpose of the study was to find out how the public, especially the youth, are getting the umbrella's messages on peace and how in general they view and receive the activities carried out by the umbrella. The other aim for the data collection was to make sure whether the youth approach to the challenges faced is in the right direction.
5. **Youth organizations' engagement in promoting security:** The youth umbrella is conducting programs in strengthening security and stability in Galkayo. The youth organization of Mudug is actively broadcasting peace-consolidating programs on Galkayo local radios. Mainly to address the insecurity actions that takes place in the region such as rape against women and robbery and calls upon the public and the local authority to promote peace..
6. **Setting up of a Work Plan for peace activities:** The Dud-Mudug youth umbrella developed a peace work plan at Galkayo. . The work plan developed by the umbrella and by its youth organizations is a measure of youth commitment to move ahead in peace building programs and towards the fulfillment of the role of youth on the issue. Peace consolidation is very challenging issue especially in Mudug region where insecurity is more threatening in respect to other regions of Puntland.

IV. Youth led Peacemaking efforts in Ayn Region:

1. **Delivering the outcome of the first workshop on youth held by PDRC to the youth groups and the public in general of the region:** Buhodle town was the focal area of the youth activities in the region.. On their return to the region, the Ayn youth members who participated to youth workshop held in Garowe by PDRC on November 2006, delivered to the youth groups and to the public the workshop message based on peace and the role of the youth.
2. **The World's Aids day as opportunity for peace-building awareness raising:** The meeting held at Buhodle in commemoration of the World's Aids Day provided an excellent opportunity for the youth to come together and take also peace building initiatives.. The youth organizations in Ayn region who participated to the World's Aids Day meeting at Buhodle conveyed the peace building message resulted from the first workshop. They raised the issue of peace and its importance for the development of Puntland in general and to the region of Ayn in particular..
3. **Contribution to a newsletter named the Voice of Youth:** This newsletter, representing the voice of youth, was published recently in Garowe. . The youth organizations of Ayn region made a contribution to this newsletter. In the newsletter, the youth organizations presented their point of view on peace and how to strengthen it in Puntland regions affected by clan conflicts.

4. **Conflict resolution:** In Buhodle , youth groups took opportunities to discuss Clan conflict resolution ideas in Ayn region.. Youth organization members cooperated with traditional leaders and local authority in the region, and they took a vital pro peace role and conflict prevention missions between hostile clans.

V. Youth led Peacemaking efforts in Bari Region:

1. **Awareness raising campaign on peace:** The awareness raising campaign covered Bossaso and other places in the region and it was mainly made through local radios. The youth organizations of Bari region, having in mind what they learned from the first youth workshop held in PDRC, emphasized the need for security and stability improvement. The youth groups called upon all social actors and government officials to stand up for the improvement of the security of Bossaso, Puntland commercial.
2. **Community policing in collaboration with government institutions:** The policing activity was specific activity targeting some of Bossaso neighborhoods. It became so obvious that the security situation of Bossaso was deteriorating for sometime. Thus, the youth groups started social policing in the main parts of the city to prevent the ongoing abuses and aggressions that could result on clan conflicts. The youth did so by having close work relationship with the government security agencies such as the police forces and the public as well. The initiative made a significant change in the security conditions of some parts of the city.
3. **An appeal to the city residents to improve its security and peace conditions:** The appeal was made in Bossaso through the media.. The youth organizations of Bari region launched the appeal in order to stop any form of conflict menacing the security of the city. The security appeal was addressed as well to the regional administration. The message was stressing the improvement of peace conditions and tranquility.
4. **Arrangement of a meeting with the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Security:** The meeting was held in Bossaso at the Ministry's office. The youth organizations of Bari have consulted with some officials of the Interior Ministry of Putland, in order to cooperate with them on how to improve peace and security in the region. It was an act of commitment of peace improvement

VI. Youth led Peacemaking efforts in Sanag Region:

1. **Data collection and awareness raising:** Mainly in the Eastern part of Sanag, The youth organization of Sanag started data collection and awareness raising in collaboration with the social groups, local authority and traditional leaders.
2. **Conflict resolution activities:** These activities took place in Dhahar, Hengalol and other locations in the region. More than three times, clan equipped group kidnapped vehicles resulting with the death of some people while others were wounded. The youth organizations initiated to contact the conflicting groups and their clan leaders to settle the problem. At last an agreement was reached, and the condition was normalized. Further more, the youth organizations organized actions of trust building among clans.
3. **Awareness raising on protection of the environment:** This awareness raising was intended to all community levels in Sanag region. Sanag youth organizations have actively tried to let the people know that burning trees for the sack of small amount of cash will eventually cause deforestation in the whole region and this will affect the life of all rural an urban communities. The civil society groups such as the women, the students, the business groups, the clan leaders and religious groups were all urged to confront those people whose work is to burn trees for charcoal and destroy wild life as well.

VII. Peacemaking efforts in Kar-Kar Region:

1. **Disarming bandits:** The disarmament of bandits was critically required for Qardho town. Two well known bandits were disarmed and jailed with the help of youth. These bandits frequently used to carry out robbery actions mainly against the travelers and the transportation vehicles on the main road to Bossao that links Puntland regions. It was one of the major activities of Kayd Network of Kar-kar youth organization. The youth worked with the police and the community of Kar-kar to take into custody the two criminals.
2. **Peace mediation for resolving a quarrel originated from a misunderstanding:** The main football play ground of Qardho was cause for confrontation between two sport teams. A rival confrontation broke out between football teams of two main neighborhoods of Qardho when on of the teams prevented the other team from playing in the football center. As soon as the youth organizations learned the level of the confrontation, they intervened and started mediating between the two teams so the dispute among the sports community of Qardho was solved peacefully.

3. **Release of two confiscated vehicles from the police station:** Two vehicles suspected taking part to criminal actions were seized by the police station of Qardho. The vehicle was arrested when the police suspected that it was used for insecurity actions conducted in the area. The youth organizations of Kar-kaar (**Kayd Network**) tried to seek for further information and investigated the case - they realized that the vehicle was not involved in the incident. Then the youth leaders met the police officers and convinced them to release the vehicle.
4. **Awareness raising on peace and social integrating:** - a public awareness raising meeting occurred at Gardho. the youth organization of Kar-kaar have organized several public awareness raising meetings in which they focused on the need for peace improvement and social integration within the community in general. They also clarified that the youth are well committed to work with the community and the government in realizing a lasting peace for the region.

A majority of the youth thought some of the key priorities included access to proper Education and Skills training, Equal employment opportunities for Men and Women, Security and Stability, Political Participation and Freedom of Expression. An overwhelming total number of the youth feel that there wasn't any political and/or platforms for the youth to express their views, needs and grievances. The minimal six percent pointed to local youth organizations where youth could merge and solve their problems jointly however these were limited to some of the urban centers and did not provide political platforms. Peace building can be fostered through the use of conventional or unconventional tools that promote commonalities, facilitate reliance on non-violent channels for dealing with a wide range of intense emotions, and prevent violent outbreaks. While multiple-method approaches can increase the overall impact in many locations, their application should be guided by local determinations of their appropriateness and acceptability within the community environment. Thus far, some of the most effective measures have included joint activities and projects as well as artistic, cultural and athletic activities (music, theatre, festivals and sports). Using existing local customs and practices to promote peace and understanding can also be extremely effective in resolving and preventing conflicts. Mass media such as radio and television play an important part in promoting tolerance and dialogue. Inflammatory reporting that ignites violence needs to be replaced with new scripts and images that illustrate how conflict may be channeled constructively. Creative programmes similar to those produced in Sierra Leone can be effective means of transmitting positive messages and information. In addition to airing such programmes (features and soap operas), the mass media can promote public reward systems that encourage non-

Youth and violent conflict

The civil war in Puntland is has been fed by a long list of inter-clan disputes and grievances against the authorities. It is widely believed that societies that live under repression and domination other groups are susceptible to extremism. In addition, persistent economic crises and instability may fuel extremism as they cause growing discontent and perhaps economic disparities. In this regard, it is important to look at access to or exclusion from land, pastures, water, employment opportunities, education, and basic services. This increases the possibility of the "formation of grievance-driven movements founded on shared experience of exclusion or discrimination. Socioeconomic factors may also include lack of economic and social opportunities, unequal distribution of resources, poor governance, and a culture of violence. At present, insufficient opportunities exist for young people to earn a living, substantially heightening their chances of facing poverty and turning to illicit activities.

Youth and women are often marginalized in decision-making processes. At the local and national levels, they are expected to obey political and religious community leaders. At the international level, they have little say in the formulation and implementation of policies that are meant to protect their interests and well-being during peacetime and wartime. Nonetheless, they must endure the

sometimes brutal socioeconomic effects of these decisions, and their long-term needs are left unmet, as in the case of rape victims who do not receive health and counseling services. The increased stress and feelings of hopelessness that are indirectly linked to poverty, unemployment, low educational attainment and poor governance constitute part of a global pattern in areas of armed conflict. The higher rates of poverty, drug use and disease in these areas will have the most negative impact on poorer households and on youth, leading to separation from families, exploitation, child labour, and violence, with the fighting process used as a means of venting anger and frustration and assigning blame.

To understand the dynamics surrounding youth and violence, however, the underlying social injustices must be analyzed at various levels. Building a more complete picture of realities on the ground provides a solid foundation for the development of appropriate prevention mechanisms. In implementing prevention strategies, injustices must be addressed not only in areas where armed conflict is prevalent, but also in areas where high tension levels threaten the security of civilians. To ascertain and address the roots of the problems that cause violent acts, conflict prevention and peace-building processes must incorporate efforts to identify the frustrations and interests of youth, who bear the brunt of these injustices, as well as those of other groups in society. Aid agencies and Governments must ensure the integration of religious leaders, teachers, youth, their relatives and other community actors in these processes, and each actor must take on specific responsibilities.

Young people of Puntland face immense challenges in every aspect of their lives. Thousands of youth in Puntland State of Somalia are returnees from refugee camps, IDPs and / or child soldiers from former clan militias. They suffer from illiteracy, unemployment, drug addiction and psychological trauma from war experiences. Most are poor and uneducated and live in an environment unfavourable to providing their socio-economic development needs. They continue to face barriers which prevent their full and creative contribution to the rebuilding of Puntland, namely: limited youth participation in policy development and implementation; poor cross-sectoral planning and implementation of youth development programmes; non prioritisation of youth issues in key government ministries; and lack of no specific youth policies and legislation. These problems can only be overcome through promoting education, empowering the youth to participate in policy formulation, and providing basic social and technical skills. The Youth in Puntland are at great risk from epidemic diseases due to limited awareness of health issues and lack of facilities. limited provision of youth friendly and relevant services in the critical areas of education, employment, health and recreation. Water, pasture and camel rustling in addition to revenge killings are some of the sources of conflicts in Puntland

Youth and women are often marginalized in decision-making processes. At the local and national levels, they are expected to obey political and religious community leaders. At the international level, they have little say in the formulation and implementation of policies that are meant to protect their interests and well-being during peacetime and wartime. During armed conflict, girls and women assume non-traditional roles as heads of households. Although it becomes their responsibility to produce meals for their families, during emergencies these individuals—many of whom are children and adolescents—are seldom consulted about issues related to food aid, nor are they informed when the deliveries they are depending on are delayed or cancelled.²⁵ These situations may easily be avoided by including them in the planning and execution of humanitarian- Psychological and cultural dimensions an aid procedures. Likewise, the women may be empowered through their inclusion in high-level decision-making processes. Their participation would most likely contribute to an improvement in social welfare and more equitable resource distribution.

Mobilization of the youth by their clan, parents or families as defending force against other hostile clans is the most important role for youth in the Somali clan system. Youth is the major social protagonist involved in conflict situations. It seems that politicians and elders need youth only in war but not in peace process; in fact the warring youth forces are not reconciled when clan elders negotiate and reach peace accords among them. Youth are considered only as part of the problem but not considered or appreciated as part of the solution; since they are regularly excluded from the reconciliation processes. Displacement, lack of education services, widespread unemployment are the primary forces driving the youth to engage in conflicts. It is compounded by Lack of awareness on preventing conflicts, marginalization in peace building and negotiations, besides prolonged lawlessness and anarchy. Among the formidable challenges facing the Youth are; Youth segregation in job/employment opportunities, lack of national youth development advocacy programs, Lack of youth employment coordination body at national level, and a weak labour department.

The Linkages between Youth Exclusion and Violent Conflict

The multiple exclusion and relative deprivation of youth has often been used as an explanation for the involvement of young people in violent conflict. Young people fight because there are too many obstacle in their way; while some young people fight because they are forced to., available evidence suggests that youth get involved in violence for multiple, diverse and context-specific reasons. Different individuals may join the same violent group for different reasons (Weinstein and Humphreys, 2008). There are a number of different but somehow inter-related theories about why youth seem to have a higher propensity than other groups to engage in violence. These overarching theories can be grouped under the following headings: (i) greed or opportunity (economic); (ii) grievance; (iii) developmental (biological, psychological and social); and (iv) the blocked transition to adulthood (DFID 2009).

The greed or opportunity perspective stresses the material/financial and non-material rewards (protection) that engagement in violence might offer, particularly for uneducated and unemployed youth - for whom the opportunity cost for engagement in violence may be low. *The Grievance perspective* stresses the relative deprivation and multiple exclusions suffered by youth as a motivation for their engagement in violence¹⁰⁹. *The developmental perspective* describes why youth are more susceptible to engagement in violence because of their stage of biological, social and psychological development. Finally, *the structural exclusion and lack of opportunities* faced by young people effectively block or prolong their transition to adulthood and can lead to frustration, disillusionment and, in some cases, engagement in violence. Although the relative importance of factors that stall the transition to adulthood may vary from context to context, the major structural factors that underlie youth exclusion and lack of opportunity and are likely to increase youth engagement in violence are: a) (under)unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities; b) insufficient, unequal and inappropriate education and skills (as a mismatch between the content of education and job opportunities available can be a source of frustration); c) poor governance and weak political participation (as the formal political system often does not provide an outlet for youth to express their needs, aspirations and grievances); d) structural gender inequalities and socialization practices (men's involvement may be influenced by practices of male socialization and constructions of manhood/masculinity while women see it as a means to challenge gender norms); and e) legacy of past violence (protracted armed conflict can lead to a vicious cycle in which violence becomes the norm rather than the exception).

109 These multiple dimensions of exclusion include a) economic exclusion due to unemployment, underemployment, lack of livelihood, ownership of assets; b) political exclusion due to lack of political participation, voice and decision-making power ; c) social exclusion due to lack of access to services (education, health, water, sanitation and housing); d) cultural status due to lack of recognition of group's cultural practices, discrimination, loss of status/respect, humiliation/honor, lack of identity (Stewart 2008; Kabeer 2006).

Lessons learned from peace building and mediation efforts

The process of political development in Puntland since the state's creation in August 1998 has been slow and gradual, at one period relapsing into violent conflict. Despite the positive developments of the recent past, the political system remains dominated by traditional, clan-based systems of governance. In the absence of political parties, multi-clan organizations or community-based power structures, political leaders are selected on the basis of clan distribution quotas, with traditional elders proposing the names of MPs, ministers and administrative officials. The revival of *xeer* (customary law) as an alternative to state laws following the collapse of the state was critical in maintaining a semblance of law and order, but has proved difficult to reverse and has not guaranteed the protection of all citizens. While a constitution and related laws are now in place, the administration still lacks many of the means to enforce them.

The current democratization process under the Dialogue for Peace is designed to help state laws function, empower decision-making structures, and increase public participation in the political system – while reducing the reliance on clan-based power structures. The main lessons that have been learned from this process so far can be summarized as follows:

- Strengthening collaboration and trust-building between the PDRC and relevant dealmakers and stakeholders has enabled the provision of effective and timely technical assistance, while lobbying for change in the political system has proved to be an effective tool to gain the ear of the political leadership;
- Involving a broad range of stakeholders from diverse groups across the territory of Puntland has generated respect for the PDRC's support for the democratization process – although gaining an even distribution of participants from different regions and balancing competing political and clan considerations continues to present major logistical and social challenges;
- Political leaders are generally more reluctant to accept change than civil society stakeholders. The PDRC's strategy has been to strike a balance between competing and contradictory views by offering a neutral and open environment in which to discuss sensitive issues related to democratic transformation;
- The clan factor remains an omnipresent political challenge facing all institutions that do not conform to customary law and basic clan social structures, and has to be taken into consideration at all times when discussing politics and development in Puntland;
- Deeply ingrained dependency on foreign aid in the under-developed economic environment has been a repetitive and often disruptive feature of forum discussions, with focus groups often expecting more donor support than is actually available;

Investing in people through improved social services

This section highlights the provision of education and training, health services, water and sanitation services, as well as the adoption of specific measures to address the needs of IDPs and vulnerable population groups. The most basic elements of both a health care delivery system and educational services are present, and Puntland has made rapid improvements in water and sanitation service coverage. However, while the responsibility for planning, funding and provision of services is slowly being transferred from state level to district councils, these still lack the necessary resources and capacity. In addition, since the central government currently allocates just 11 percent of its budget to basic services, the progress made has been mainly due to community contributions, international

funding and Diaspora initiatives. Such private initiatives continue to play a major role, particularly in urban centres. In general, a common issue throughout service delivery is the concentration in urban centres of both services available and qualified staff, which is to the detriment of the much larger rural population.

The five highest priorities identified by Puntlanders for improving social services in their state are:

- a) Improve access to quality basic and higher education through teacher training and curricula development and attention to girls' enrolment at all education levels;
- b) Improve and expand health services through investments in human resources and physical infrastructure, especially in rural areas, paying much attention to women health care needs;
- c) Improve access to safe drinking water for rural and urban communities and build capacity of government institutions taking into consideration poor families, displaced persons, female-headed households and minorities;
- d) Plan and implement effective and durable resettlement programs;
- e) Improve data collection, analysis and research; disaggregate data by gender and sex

The fifth of these is covered under data development initiatives in paragraphs 2.38 and 2.39 above. The other four give rise to the following five proposed areas of intervention:

- i. Expanding education and training
- ii. Expanding basic health services
- iii. Improving provision of water and sanitation
- iv. Providing solutions for displaced persons and returning refugees
- v. Protecting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- vi. The concern for resettlement is covered in the fourth and fifth of these priority interventions.

Expanding education and training

There are 236 primary schools in Puntland, and a very low enrolment ratio of primary school age children. UNICEF reports that of the estimated 192,635 children of primary school age group in Puntland, only 46,595 pupils were enrolled in primary schools in the 2004/2005 school year. This represents just 24.2 percent of all primary school age children - 20.3 percent of girls and 28.1 percent of boys (see Table 2.3 below). Teaching at primary level is based around Quranic schools. The Puntland National Development Plan acknowledges that "affordability, ownership, gender disparities and unbalanced distribution in terms of urban vs rural are some of the major challenges that education in Puntland currently faces"¹¹⁰. In addition to these challenges, there is also the issue of costs: about 40 percent of primary schools charge fees of more than US\$ 25 per school year; in addition, non-school fee costs per child (stationary, uniform, etc) are around US\$ 30. This is in a context where the average household income is US\$ 250 per year and where families often have several school-age children.

¹¹⁰ Puntland NDP 2005, p.122

CHAPTER 6 - CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS)

The formation of a relatively stable government in Puntland since 1998 has improved the prospects of restoration of peace and stability which is a prerequisite for improving its Human Development Index, besides attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main challenges to Puntland are a large pool of unemployed, undereducated youth who represent a potential threat to peace and stability. The other challenge is the collapse of infrastructure and the displacement of populations that has reduced the productive capacity of the economy and the ability of the affected populations to generate sustainable livelihoods. The resulting poverty, hunger and risks to health and inadequate access to education, and sustainable livelihoods continue to frustrate any efforts towards comprehensive human development. However, despite the above constraints efforts are underway to build the capacity of government institutions, restore the rule of law, and rehabilitate physical infrastructure such as health centres, schools and communications. Progress has been made towards the establishment of lasting peace, and addressing the plight of the youth who are in urgent need of reintegration. The People of Puntland have unequivocally expressed their desire for a decentralized governance system; the citizens desire active involvement in their own governance, and instilling a sense of community ownership and cooperation in Puntland's social and economic development. The ultimate goal is to consolidate lasting peace and build a strong system of democracy founded upon the key principles of good governance and active public participation.

The key to equitable economic growth will be to support the already vibrant private sector and to expand productive capacity in the traditional agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors - particularly the latter, which has a huge potential. Diversifying and increasing livelihood sectors are crucial for Puntland. In addition, as mentioned in previous sections, there is large scope for increased private-public partnerships in Puntland, which requires a conducive environment for private enterprise. This calls for large investments in infrastructure to expand access to markets (such as Bossaso port), the establishment of a transparent and stable regulatory framework and actions to address specific constraints, such as the lack of fishing regulation services.

Alleviation of Social Exclusion

As a host of people are excluded from the social, economic and political spheres, tension increases, and marginalization makes it easier for contending parties to cause individuals and groups to engage in extreme actions and mobilize others to act as perpetrators. The effects of marginalization differ for every individual and are linked to personal traits and environmental circumstances. Historically, those who have become rebel leaders felt victimized and humiliated during an earlier period of their lives. They may have experienced repression, human rights violations, and deprivation of needed resources and/or alienation. Their aggression appears to be a form of retaliation deriving from past feelings of indignity and degradation.

Long-term unemployment is a special problem; the youth in this situation are prone to criminal activities. No state authority can tolerate the dehumanizing effects of social exclusion), where long-term unemployment among the youth persists. Low levels of skills, education, health, etc, can compound the difficulties associated with social exclusion. The Puntland's state's domestic economic policies should be primarily focused on job creation. Other important conditions are the establishment of the rule of law, promoting peaceful coexistence of communities, and an efficient supply of social services.

The Appropriate policy environment for Human Development in Puntland

Based on the preceding observations, it is important to set up an effective policy environment for youth empowerment and socio economic development by implementing the existing Youth Policy and National Development Plan; bides other relevant policies that could better regulate and guide youth participation. The government should reiterate its resolve to increase budgetary allocations for social development sectors such as education and health services. Equally important, improved utilization of existing natural resources can be used to increase incomes and support livelihoods, including unexploited/under-exploited land and mineral resources, as well as marine, livestock and forestry resources. The large sums of remittances from the Somali Diaspora should be better utilized through clear investment incentives geared to improve household income. The growing private sector in Puntland with its enormous potential for income and employment generation should be encouraged through pro-poor economic policies.

There is room for promoting a strong civil society institutions to play a crucial role in contributing to basic social services and shaping development. The potential of vocational training centers to promote skills development to meet the emerging market demand, and serve as a strategy to generate employment cannot be overstated. More importantly, infrastructure development should be stepped up to increase food productivity and reduce vulnerability. Development interventions by external agencies should be directed towards assisting the poor in the transition from relief towards sustainable human development. Increased international assistance that recognizes long-term development needs and priorities is welcome. Development will be led by its enterprising private sector and fueled by Diaspora remittances, a comprehensive package of institutional and policy reforms, coupled with expanded donor engagement, are needed. Its elements comprise introduction of regulations, standards, and some basic services, a resolution of the property disputes over state and private prewar assets; rehabilitation of the wasted rangelands and of deteriorated irrigation facilities to support livestock and crop production; the sustainable use of the largely untapped fisheries and mineral resources; and a strong enabling environment for investment by the private sector in infrastructure, services, and manufacturing production. Substantially increased foreign assistance to relax crippling infrastructure and human development constraints will also be needed. In addition, a successful and sustainable reconstruction and development program

In order to halve the proportion of people living under extreme poverty by 2015 (to 21.6% of the proportion in 1990), the design and implementation of large-scale, multi-sectoral reconstruction and development programmes should be given prominence. In addition, strategic, but urgent and reinforcing policy interventions are needed as follows:

- i. Implementation of targeted development programs to provide for immediate and medium term needs of the poorer groups of the population.
- ii. Introduction of comprehensive safety nets and risk management systems to increase the coping abilities of the vulnerable in the immediate term.
- iii. Rehabilitation of productive capacity destroyed during the conflict, in particular crop and livestock infrastructure.
- iv. Enhancement and regeneration of the livestock trade through development of policies and certification schemes, diagnostic and marketing schemes for Somali livestock.
- v. Diversification of economic opportunities to increase and sustain employment and income locally

Building Human Capital

Human capital consists of formal education, knowledge and skills that might be acquired informally, and investments in healthcare. Therefore, the level of human capital does not necessarily have to equal the average level of formal education, but attention should also be paid to the health of the population. In addition to education, another important factor linked to poverty and social exclusion is the health of an individual and their family. Failing health and a limited working capacity, or a serious illness in the family, jeopardizes prospects for employment, professional development, and economic betterment. Ethiopia which has made the most significant improvement in human development has a history of allocating substantial funds to healthcare. Young Puntlanders need training and activities that will get them on the road to economic self-sufficiency, as well as forums to air their grievances, . They want to be heard by their parents and elders and to participate in the civic life of their communities. They want teachers and leaders whom they can look up to and who can provide sound guidance and connect them with people and institutions that will directly help them improve their lives. Preferred program options tend to be in the areas of communications and awareness, recreation, sports and culture, workforce development and training, youth leadership and organizational capacity building, and research on youth issues. However, the National policies and plans to benefit youth have yet to be implemented. Therefore, the recommendations presented here focus on local strategies to catalyze quick implementation, regardless of which program areas are pursued. There are NGOs doing youth programming that operate at the local level in the three select cities.

The Puntland Youth Policy underlines the centrality that an improved education and training system plays in achieving the potential of young Puntlanders and building society's wellbeing. However, education and training will only perform this role by addressing the major current educational constraints including: limited and unequal access to education; low attendance rates, catering for significant numbers of children who have missed an education due to the civil war; improving the quality of education, raising literacy rates and developing a gender insensitive school curriculum. The State's focus from now onwards, should be on provision of schools, developing a national school curriculum, minimizing the dropout rates, training more female teachers in schools, improving the remuneration of teachers and rationalizing the cost of education.

Gender inequalities in access to education are apparent. The proportion of boys enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions far outstrips that of girls. Enrolment in schools is clearly constrained by a number of factors, namely available facilities, access, affordability and security. There is great encouragement due to the initiatives taken by local communities, in the absence of a national government and with limited international aid, to rehabilitate, establish and manage schools through Community Education Committees (CECs). There have also been commendable efforts towards school infrastructure development by the international community, including rehabilitation, refurbishment and construction of new schools.

There is need, however, to develop comprehensive educational plans and policy frameworks designed to unify and integrate current education systems, have a unified curriculum, language of instruction, certification and standards of education. The national policy should include a mechanism for sustainable financing of the education sector and its services, as introduction of a better-developed revenue system, the allocation of a higher budget, and cost sharing on a sliding scale, would all

enable the country to gradually increase access to education. Capacity utilization of existing schools needs to be assessed and a school mapping system developed to identify and address gaps. In addition, extension and/or construction of more schools are needed to accommodate the increased need for schooling. Adequate supply of teaching material and equipment and text books and establishment of printing facilities for books' production are essential. .

Implementing a Comprehensive Health Development Programme

In the absence of a functioning health surveillance system, accurate data on mortality and morbidity is difficult to obtain. There is a consensus, however, that Puntland has very low health indicators, with life expectancy of 47 years. The Puntland administration currently allocates some public money to the health sector. In 2000, however, this amounted to as little as 2.5% Puntland's recurrent budgets, most on the budget being allocated to salaries. Over the past decade, however, private health provision has grown significantly with up to 75% of the population in some areas utilizing private health facilities. This trend obtains against a background of declining external finances, inadequate budgetary and human resource commitment by the administration, to support a public health service, and a widespread shortage of qualified personnel. In this context, community self-financing of minimal services is considered the only option for sustaining health services.

One of the most significant causes of infant mortality is poor nutrition, poor maternal health, limited or lack of full immunisation against the preventable killer diseases, especially T.B., measles, polio, etc. Maternal mortality rates in Somalia continue to remain the highest in the sub-Saharan region. Poor antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, with an almost complete lack of emergency obstetric referral care for birth complications, further contribute to these high rates of mortality and disability. Furthermore, most childbirth takes place without adequate medical facilities. Improvement of health facilities and supply of modern equipment is urgently needed if this state of high child mortality and maternal mortality has to be reversed. The first level of intervention is to ensure that most health facilities meet minimum standards for maternal child health care. This may include ensuring adequate supply of water and power, constructing or upgrading and maintaining health facilities including operating theatres. It is also crucial to establish mobile health units for the pastoral and fishery communities. Training of health care givers both pre-service and in-service needs to be improved besides better supervision of health workers to address clinical, supervisory and management skills.

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate for Puntland is apparently below 1 percent. There is need to guard against deterioration of the situation due to the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries given highly fluid populations, porous boundaries and the increase in the large numbers of returnees. Making VCT's available in all major populated areas and controlling the spread of STI's are essential. Community mobilization also needs to take place in order to fight discrimination and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and to assist with prevention and control strategies. Emphasis needs to be placed on empowering communities to become active in prevention, care and support, as well as protection of people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children. In addition, the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS is important,

Embracing Democracy and Accountability

In order to enhance democracy and accountability in Puntland, there is urgent need for a series of coordinated actions to carry the democratization process forwards; by speeding up the process of establishing the remaining local district councils; constitute an independent Electoral Commission

for the establishment of district councils by replacing members selected by the cabinet; adopt and adhere strictly to established bylaws and procedures regarding the election of local councils; and conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign throughout all districts, including rural areas, on the importance of decentralization and the proper functions of local councils. The current Government ought to ensure the equitable representation of women and minority sub-clans on the councils; provide comprehensive capacity-building programmes to nascent councils, including training on local government planning, administration, finances, and other key responsibilities; and resume the constitutional review process, working closely with the Puntland Cabinet and the House of Representatives. The Government should also strive to publish and disseminate the reviewed constitution to the public through media and civic education campaigns. None of the above activities will have the desired impact without the political commitment, the public security, and the broad-based participation that are so vital for any democratic development. Puntland's leaders need to do everything in their power to strengthen the institutional foundations already established for multiparty democracy, and to improve overall law and order in order that the country's nascent local councils can begin to perform their mandates quickly and effectively.

Providing solutions for vulnerable groups - displaced persons and returning refugees

Key priority actions for assisting the displaced and returning refugees:

- i. Ensure that 40 percent of refugees of Puntland origin return voluntarily to their communities or alternative place of choice and that 10 percent benefit from resettlement to a third country.
- ii. Provide direct assistance, such as education and vocational training with special attention to young girls and women, to IDPs and returnees to enable them to reintegrate and secure sustainable livelihoods.
- iii. Promote a conducive legal environment for IDPs and refugees, including adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and promulgation of refugee legislation.
- iv. Plan local durable resettlement, facilitating access to land especially to widows or unattended young girls, as part of an integrated urban development plan, including provision of shelter through a self-help community-driven approach. Involve and train target communities to produce affordable housing units using local construction materials.
- v. Upgrade temporary settlements to secure basic living standards, starting from clear agreements that consider both the rights of IDPs and the interests of landowners, e.g. large-scale housing production using land sharing schemes.

Protecting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Vulnerability is judged by the ability of an individual or household to manage risks or to prevent a severe decline in their living standards. The most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in Puntland include the following:

- children, with a specific emphasis on girls and orphans;
- child-headed households;
- physically and mentally challenged/disabled;
- people affected by/living with HIV/AIDS, TB;
- marginalized populations from minority clans;

- elderly returnees, IDPs and refugees;
- any other individual not covered by a reciprocal network of protection (e.g. stranded Somali migrants).

It is estimated that around 11 percent of all children in Puntland are orphans, the majority of them paternal orphans (i.e. without a father)¹¹¹. Vulnerable children, whether orphans or not, are affected economically, socially and psychologically. Economic and social impacts include malnutrition, reduced access to education and health care, child labour, migration and homelessness. Psychological impacts include depression, guilt and fear, possibly leading to long-term problems. Assisted by a highly complex extended family structure, Puntlanders have traditionally been able to absorb and take care, to some degree of these groups. However, such coping strategies are increasingly overburdened. This has prompted the international community as well as the Diaspora, community organizations, religious bodies and other civil society members to step in to provide financial and human resources, information, vocational skills training, basic education, medical care and counselling. Women are the primary care-givers in the traditional Puntland family, and investing in women's education is central to reducing children's vulnerability and promoting economic development.

Key priority actions for protecting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups:

- i. Increase public awareness of protection issues, including improving the community-based identification of disadvantaged individuals/groups, and establish indicators and data systems to monitor, coordinate and evaluate implementation of initiatives.
- ii. Establish family and/or community-based networks for the care and protection of vulnerable children.
- iii. Develop legislative, policy, and regulatory frameworks, including protection standards, and increase access to services such as legal aid, family tracing and reunification for vulnerable groups

Resource Mobilization

Savings and investment in productive sectors are important factors for economic development. The major investment sources for Puntland include domestic savings and remittances from abroad in the short run – in due course; there will be access to international capital markets and foreign direct investment. However, the capacity of the public and private sectors to generate sufficient resources to address the socio-economic development needs of the population is quite limited. In addition, there is the cost of restructuring and maintaining Puntland's public institutions and infrastructure in order to leverage its own resource endowments. The state would need substantial donor assistance to undertake any serious development efforts – the “pump priming” need of the economy. The overall strategy for capital formation and investment for Puntland is to create and sustain peace and an enabling environment towards a free market economy and a well-regulated financial market.

The emerging fiscal situation is marked by weak revenue sources and an overall imbalance in available policy options on both revenues and expenditures. Aid inflows are directed mainly through civil society and NGOs for humanitarian activities. The state has relied heavily on indirect taxation, which dominates revenue generation but is regressive. While post-conflicts reconstruction, conflicts prevention, reform of the security sector, and military expenditures have taken priority in the fiscal

¹¹¹ Children on the Brink 2004 - UNICEF, UNAIDS and USAID.

policies of the last nine years of the Puntland government, this squeezes not only other expenditures that could reduce poverty and promote growth, but also potential revenue sources.

Tax revenue

As stated earlier, above 80 percent of revenue collection by Puntland's administration originates from customs. It would be highly essential to broaden the tax base, as overdependence on a single source would be unsustainable in the long term. According to estimates, the total tax potential of the state within the existing tax laws and tax rates would come to US\$34.9 million, out of which the current realization is US\$19.7 million. This gap between revenue estimates and realization needs, mainly from inland taxes, is to be tapped effectively for development and for strengthening the fiscal base. The obvious inference is that broadening the tax base and enforcing existing tax laws effectively could yield a significant enhancement of the overall revenue, which could be used for development efforts. However, taxpayer awareness, transparency, and credibility, followed by effective tax administration and enforcement, would be necessary to achieve the goal. The government will make modest efforts in this direction during the year 2007.

Key priority actions for civil society and the media:

- a) Strengthen transparency and accountability (including codes of conduct and standards of ethics, regulatory councils and independent arbitration bodies) of civil society and NGO organizations as well as business councils to enhance legitimacy and confidence;
- b) Encourage authorities to engage with civil society including women's groups and vice versa and design mechanisms to improve cooperation between them so that organizations and the business community can better support governance, accountability and effectively participate in national planning processes, policy-making and advocacy;
- c) Initiate capacity building for media professionals, in particular women who want to join the media sector;
- d) Set up low cost community radio stations, and repeating stations in rural areas, to widen media coverage;

Critical Issues that call for urgent Policy action

The Puntland administration has formulated its Regional Five Year Development Plan (RFYDP), the objective of which is to graduate from adhoc development interventions to the planning and implementation of structured and sustainable development. The plan is expected to address various dimensions of the rehabilitation and development challenges in Puntland and set priorities and targets in line with the recommendations of the RDP¹¹². The Puntland Five Year Development Plan 2007 – 11 (FYDP) provides a snapshot of the situation of young people in Puntland and states clearly the need for a National Youth Policy. The vision of the Puntland youth policy is to have a society where young women and men are valued and respected citizens, able to take an active role in a full range of social, cultural environmental, educational and employment opportunities. In addressing youth employment, the policy tends to focus on the supply side of the labour market rather than on labour demand. In other words, Governments typically try to reduce unemployment by addressing lack of skills or attitudes of young people, rather than concentrating on promoting economic growth and job creation. Providing young people with opportunities to learn through work may prove more effective than attempting to upgrade their skills before they enter the labour force.

¹¹² Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme - *Deepening Peace and Reducing Poverty - Volume III: Puntland*

The National Youth Policy of the Puntland State of Somalia provides a long term vision for youth development in the region. Young Puntlanders experience different circumstances and opportunities depending on their socio-economic status, gender, abilities and geographic location. While this Policy seeks to provide a vision, framework and set of critical interventions that targets all 15 – 30 years of age, it is recognized that certain groups of young people deserve special attention, namely nomadic youth, young people with disabilities, unemployed young people, marginalized young people, out of school young people and internally displaced young people. The authorities in Puntland may begin by mobilizing all of the government, private sector and civil society resources — both financial and managerial — so as to uproot severe poverty in all of its Manifestations. A key role in the mobilization effort should begin with the preparation of specific socio-economic indicators for the youth; to monitor the levels and severity of youth deprivation, to measure progress in youth well-being over time, and to raise awareness on all aspects of youth welfare. Other studies and research initiatives, whether publicly or privately initiated, should be used to supplement the data base for the Index and serve to inform policy makers on youth areas needing special interventions.

Critique

Influencing youth transitions requires a coherent framework. The proposed national youth policy must set priorities, coordinate action and provide clear lines of accountability for youth outcomes. It must be integrated with national planning and implementation mechanisms throughout key ministries and stakeholders. Initiatives from civil society organizations must also be encouraged to respond to the needs of special groups (such as girl's illiteracy) or to promote programs that tackle national issues (such as poverty reduction), and they would benefit from the inclusion of young people volunteering and leading these projects. There must also be a stronger voice from young people themselves in promoting good governance and providing feedback on the quality of service delivery. Young people should also become the agents of change in favor of reclaiming such traditional cultural norms as tolerance and of new ones and especially gender equity. The following nine messages highlight this report's key recommendations for action to support expanded opportunities for youth in Egypt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Many youth lack basic education that would make them employable in the labour market. The intensive development effort of recent years have led to a dramatic increase in enrolment rates in Puntland and has resulted in increasing numbers of youth finishing school and seeking employment. At present relatively few of them can be easily absorbed in the labour market and limited further education opportunities are available. As a result, widespread unemployment has prevented school leavers from becoming economically productive and has encouraged involvement in negative behavioral practices, e.g. khat chewing addictions (regarded by the wider Somali community as anti-social). A significant number of youth are traumatized and mentally disturbed¹¹³. This group remains highly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups and/or engagement in other types of socially undesirable behavior.

Job creation:

Many job opportunities exist in the formal and informal private sector but the state must bear its responsibility in making these jobs respectable, safe and rewarding. The answer is for the state to

¹¹³ Towards Social Reintegration of the Militias and Armed Youth. War Torn Societies Project (1999)

provide a contribution to social security payments for new jobs for youth as recommended in the EHDR 2005. Education and training in addition to the proposed wage subsidy (social security share) will mean higher incomes earned in the SME sector and higher taxable income for the government which can promote what is in fact a self-sustaining budgetary scheme. Appointment of youth to government positions should be where there is a real need and a real job opportunity in existence. Despite the overstaffed government bureaucracy, there are some areas of deficit, such as for teachers and nurses in many governorates, but there are insufficient applicants either because of inadequate pay or remote location. Here again, what is proposed is a time-bound national program for jobs for youth targeted at meeting all MDG-related objectives and their indicators.

Overcoming education system failure

Policy makers and educators should strive to achieve a better match between the outputs of educational institutions at all levels and the demands of the labor market. This will involve a review of the balance of enrollment across subjects, skills and disciplines, the upgrading of technical education, and the review of curricula to instill problem-solving skills, entrepreneurial and management capacity, and the value of self-employment. As to illiteracy and early school attrition (dropouts), 80% of this phenomenon can be attributed to poverty and gender bias in rural areas. The answer is geographically targeted interventions and especially conditional cash transfers which combine financial support to households with support for literacy, education and training in second chance skill formation programs geared for the job market.

Breaking the cycle of poverty:

This must focus on youth, given the two-way interaction between poverty and its attributes, namely lack of education and skills, and absence of decent jobs. The answer is again geographic targeting of poor households with a battery of cross-sectoral interventions including on-the-job training, literacy and income generation. The National Project for the 1000+ Villages provides a unique opportunity for Egypt to mobilize all of the government, private sector and civil society resources — both financial and managerial — so as to uproot severe poverty in all of its Manifestations. A key role in the mobilization effort should be given to youth, providing them with a goal and purpose in the national cause through volunteer activity. There exist a number of national projects in Egypt's current Five Year Plan that are MDG anchored and can use the human capital of Egypt's youth. The national programs could be offered for small business start-ups.