

UNICEF SOMALIA

GENERIC DONOR REPORT

(MARCH 1994)

EDUCATION

Education in Somalia has long been in a state of crisis due to neglect and lack of resources. Extensive destruction and looting of school facilities during the civil war completed the process of disruption. In most of the country, no education has taken place in the last three to five years. During 1993, UNICEF initiated efforts towards the revival of basic education as a vital aspect of the rehabilitation of Somali civil society in general.

Despite the general devastation in Somalia and the absence of a civil authority except in the Northwest, 115 local communities were mobilized to take the initiative in rehabilitation and reopening of schools and participate in formulation and implementation of strategies to meet the goals and objectives of the emergency education programme for primary school children.

Prior to December 1992, UNICEF's educational intervention was mainly concentrated in the Northwest. Since January 1993, however, the improved security situation in many areas of central and southern Somalia enabled the rehabilitation and opening of more schools. UNICEF programming in basic education aimed at: a sustainable basis through promotion of community participation in educational development; local decision-making to rehabilitate primary schools and take responsibility for their ownership and management; indigenous generation of financial resources to support quality education; development of cost-effective and innovative ways of increasing access to basic education; and in evolving a model for treatment of psychologically traumatized children and women. UNICEF also made significant progress in assisting a key local institution, the koranic school, to extend Somali children's access to basic education. By February 1994, UNICEF was assisting some 400 primary and koranic schools throughout Somalia, benefiting 110,000 children.

In implementing its educational rehabilitation programme, UNICEF has worked closely with NGOs and other partners. UNESCO, SCF(UK) and UNICEF began the collection and reproduction of primary school textbooks. In the Northwest, some schools were rehabilitated by UNDP and UNHCR, and by NGOs including TROCAIRE (Ireland), SCF(UK), International Aid (Sweden), GOAL (Ireland), AMURT (Nairobi). Schools have also been rehabilitated by local communities and peacekeeping forces. UNICEF supported the structural rehabilitation of 41 schools

During 1993 and early 1994, UNICEF supplied materials for the rehabilitation of primary schools in all zones of the country. Basic educational materials such as exercise books, pencils, blackboards and chalk were supplied to some 400 primary and koranic schools serving 110,000 pupils and 1,000 teachers. Assistance was also extended to family life schools benefiting some 660 women. UNICEF-supported workshops provided refresher training to more than 1,000 primary school teachers and 60 headmasters from different schools, throughout the country. UNICEF, together with UNESCO and SCF(UK), collected and printed primary school textbooks, and a teacher training guide was developed for 4,500 teachers for use in 1994.

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