

REGION: LOWER SHABELLE REGION

INTRODUCTION

The Lower Shabelle region lies to the west, northwest, and southwest of Mogadishu. It is bordered to the south by the Juba region, to the east by the Indian Ocean and Mogadishu, the Middle Shabelle region to the north and the Bay region to the west. The topography is composed of plains, coastal areas and semi-desert stretches such as the Brava district. The region comprises eight districts: Merka (the regional capital), Afgoi, Wanle Weyn, Koryoley, Sablale, Brava, Kurtun Warrey and Audegle. It has an estimated population of 800,000 to 900,000. The population is classified under four categories; nomadic agricultural, agricultural, nomadic, and urban sedentary.

EDUCATION

Prior to the civil war, there were primary schools in all the major villages in the region. However, a September inter-agency mission to the Lower Shabelle found that there were only 23 functioning schools in the entire region, most of them in Merka district. There are hundreds of Koranic schools in all the districts, towns, and in most villages. The greatest constraints are the lack of school equipment, supplies, and the slow pace of school rehabilitation. At the Audegle Primary and Intermediate school, for instance, students sit on plastic sheets on the ground and there are no blackboards. In Afgoi, Caritas (Germany) is active in vocational training and plans to have programs in adult education, sports, and the rehabilitation of schools. WFP has assisted schools in the Lower Shabelle through its food-for-work and monetization programs. In Koryoley, UNESCO has distributed educational materials and has plans to organize a workshop to train principals and teachers. The agency also plans to distribute textbooks in maths, Somali, science, health and education.

SOURCE: PLANNING AND INFORMATION UNIT, UNOSOM 2.

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PLACE: SOMALI.

