

REGION: MIDDLE SHABELLE REGION

INTRODUCTION

Middle Shabelle is located in the central regions of Somalia. The region borders Galgaduud to the north, Hiran to the west, Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions to the south and the Indian Ocean to the east. A pre-war census estimated the population at 2 million and today the Regional Council claims that the region's population is around 1.5 million. The umbrella clan is Hawiye with major clans that include: Abgul, Galjacel, and Shildle and minor clans include: Moblem, Hawadle, Kabole, Hilibe .

The region consists of seven districts: Jowhar - the regional capital, Balad, Adale, Aden Yabal, Warseikh, Run-Nigrod and Mahaddey. The region supports livestock production, rain-fed and irrigated agriculture and fisheries, with an annual rainfall between 150 and 500 millimeters. Covering an area of approximately 60,000 square kilometres, the region has a 400 kilometre coastline on the Indian Ocean. The Shabelle river runs for 150 kilometres through the region.

EDUCATION

The Middle Shabelle has three state recognized schools (plus 5 women's handicraft schools), in Adale, Aden-Yabal, and Balad, enrolling 5,000 students and has approximately 300 teachers. The international community is also involved in education. InterSOS supports a primary school with the provision of salaries for 40 Somali teachers and breakfast for the students. InterSOS began supporting the school in May, 1994, then having an enrollment of 130 pupils. Since then, it has expanded to 1170 pupils, 12 classes, and 39 teachers. WFP/MSF-Spain and local NGOs have rehabilitated the two main schools in Jowhar. Currently neither is operational due to lack of furniture and equipment, though MSF-Spain is assisting local carpenters in the production of furniture for the schools. Private schools are numerous in the region, and are predominantly Koranic.

SOURCE: PLANNING AND INFORMATION UNIT, UNOSOM 2.
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