



Somalia
Media and Telecoms Landscape Guide
January 2012

Index

Page

Introduction.....	3
Media overview.....	11
Radio overview.....	20
Radio stations.....	22
TV overview.....	54
TV stations.....	56
Print media overview.....	63
Main newspapers.....	64
Online media	70
Traditional channels of communication.....	76
Media resources.....	78
Telecoms overview.....	85
Telecoms companies.....	89

1. Introduction

Somalia has been without effective central government since 1991.

Since then this semi-arid country of nomadic pastoralists has been torn apart by conflict. It has also suffered repeatedly from drought and famine.

Two decades of chaos and conflict have wrecked the country's education and healthcare systems.

There has been a massive outflow of refugees and economic migrants to neighbouring East African countries and the Arabian peninsula.

The 10 million or so Somalis who have stayed behind face chronic economic and social problems and constant insecurity.

Somalia has disintegrated into a patchwork of constantly shifting and often conflicting regional administrations.

Yet the country has one of the most vibrant media landscapes in the Horn of Africa.

It also has one of the cheapest and most widely available mobile telephone networks on the continent.

Some parts of Somalia are more stable than others.

Somaliland in the Northwest is the most peaceful and stable region. It declared independence from the rest of the country in 1991, but has yet to receive international recognition.

Puntland, an autonomous state in Northeastern Somalia, is relatively peaceful and boasts a functioning administration.

Unlike neighbouring Somaliland, with which it has a boundary dispute, Puntland does not aspire to break away completely from the rest of Somalia.

But in January 2012, the situation in Southern and Central Somalia remained very fluid.

A Transitional Federal Government, based in Mogadishu and backed by African Union peacekeepers, was battling against the Al Shabaab Islamist movement, which controlled most of the rural interior of this unstable region.

For many years, the civil war mainly featured fighting between clan militias led by regional warlords.

But in recent years these inter-clan conflicts have been overshadowed by the struggle for supremacy by Al Shabaab, an Islamic fundamentalist militia which has close links with the global Islamist movement Al Qaeda.

In January 2012 Al Shabaab controlled most of South Central Somalia.

But it was battling against the Transitional Federal Government, based in Mogadishu, and military incursions into Somalia by the armed forces of Ethiopia and Kenya.

Al Shabaab was also under threat from aerial attacks by US military drones.

And within South Central Somalia, there were still pockets of territory controlled by other militias. Some of these were allied to the authorities in Mogadishu. Al Shabaab's writ did not run in these areas.

In January 2012, most of the city of Mogadishu was controlled by the internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government. But its authority extended no further than the city limits.

The survival of this administration depended on the protection provided by 9,600 Ugandan and Burundian troops operating under the authority of the African Union.

This force, created in 2007, is known as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It was reinforced by additional troops from Djibouti in early 2012.



Map No. 3690 Rev. 9 UNITED NATIONS
October 2011

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

Administrative divisions of Somalia

Source: UN Cartographic Section

Kenya launched a military incursion into Southern Somalia in October 2011 in response to a series of kidnappings of foreigners inside Kenya by Somali-based groups that appeared to be acting with the tacit approval of Al Shabaab.

This military operation was soon followed by a fresh incursion into Southern Somalia by Ethiopian troops.

Ethiopia, alarmed by the increasing power of Islamic fundamentalists in South Central Somalia, had earlier sent its army to occupy Mogadishu from 2006 to 2009.

In contrast to the stormy confusion of South Central Somalia, Somaliland is peaceful and has all the trappings of a modern state.

It has an elected government and a functioning multi-party system.

Its territory coincides with that of the former British colony of Somaliland.

However Somaliland's eastern regions of Sool, Sanaag and Ayn (often spelt Cayn) are disputed with Puntland.

Onshore exploration drilling for oil was due to start in areas of Sool and Sanaag controlled by Puntland in December 2011.

Puntland's simmering territorial dispute with Somaliland may escalate if hydrocarbons are found there in commercial quantities.

Puntland is governed from the small inland city of Garowe by the self-styled Puntland Regional Authority.

However, this administration does not exercise complete control of the territory which it claims to govern.

Many coastal towns and villages serve as bases for Somali pirates, who hijack ships in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Bombings and assassinations take place frequently in the port city of Bossaso.

The pirates capture foreign merchant ships and take them to ports in Puntland and the lawless coast of Central Somalia immediately to the south.

The captured ships and their crews are then held in these ports – often for several months – until multi-million dollar ransoms are paid to secure their release.

The pirates have reinvested much of their earnings in Puntland.

Al Shabaab has imposed a draconian form of Islamist rule in the areas of South Central Somalia which it controls.

But although the movement is loosely united under one leadership, the rules imposed by local leaders vary from one region to another.

Al Shabaab formerly controlled much of Mogadishu, but its armed forces staged a tactical withdrawal from the city in August 2011.

They pulled out at a time when drought and famine were growing more serious in Al Shabaab's rural heartland

However, Al Shabaab has continued to carry out suicide bombings and other unpredictable acts of violence in the capital to make clear that it still has a presence there.

A large proportion of Somalia's population is displaced. People are constantly on the move, fleeing conflict, drought and other hardships.

The combination of severe drought, conflict and Al Shabaab's difficult relationship with foreign aid agencies, led to high malnutrition levels in South Central Somalia in 2011.

This caused the United Nations to declare a famine in several parts of the region that lasted several months.

By December 2011, the UN refugee agency UNHCR estimated that more than 1.5 million Somalis were internally displaced and nearly one million more had fled abroad as refugees, mainly to Kenya and Ethiopia and across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that four million people – nearly half the remaining population of Somalia – were in a state of humanitarian crisis.

However, all statistics about Somalia must be treated with extreme caution as much of the country is too dangerous to allow for the collection of reliable data.

The outflow of Somali refugees to neighbouring countries increased significantly in 2011.

By December 2011, the population of the Dadaab complex of refugee camps in eastern Kenya had doubled to more than half a million. This made it the biggest refugee camp in the world.

A further 135,000 had fled to the Dolo Ado refugee camp in Southern Ethiopia.

In December 2011, Al Shabaab expelled 16 foreign aid agencies from South Central Somalia, including several UN agencies.

But even before then, the threat of violence and kidnap had drastically restricted international humanitarian operations inside the Al Shabaab-controlled region.

The chaos and conflict within Somalia has led to repeated attempts at foreign intervention.

Somalis have for centuries occupied a territory significantly larger than the modern state of Somalia.

There are large ethnic Somali populations in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya. All these countries are wary of losing territories that are populated by ethnic Somalis to a "Greater Somalia."

Somalia fought a bitter but inconclusive war with Ethiopia from 1977 to 1978 for possession of Ethiopia's eastern Ogaden region, which is mostly inhabited by ethnic Somalis.

The two countries came to blows again more recently when Ethiopian forces occupied Mogadishu from 2006 to 2009.

Since their withdrawal Addis Ababa has actively supported militia groups opposed to Al Shabaab and has frequently staged cross-border military operations.

Diplomats and local residents say that army recruits in Puntland and Somaliland are regularly sent to Ethiopia for military training

Eritrea, which has poor relations with Ethiopia, has repeatedly has been accused by the United States and Somalia's immediate neighbours of supplying arms and ammunition to Al Shabaab.

The government in Asmara has persistently denied these charges.

The United States is concerned by Al Shabaab's links to Al Qaeda and global terrorism. The United States has a large military base in Djibouti and has frequently carried out drone attacks in South Central Somalia.

All the world's maritime powers are meanwhile alarmed by the increasing activity of Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

A multi-national naval force patrols the pirate-infested waters off the Somali coast to deter attacks on commercial shipping.

Somalia is ethnically and culturally homogenous. It is not affected by the tribal, religious and linguistic divisions that plague many African countries.

Almost the entire the population belongs to the Somali ethnic group.

All Somalis speak the Somali language and share a common culture. They also practice the same religion - Islam.

Most are Sunni Muslims belonging to Sufi brotherhoods.

Yet despite the ethnic and cultural uniformity of Somalia, its population is divided into clans, which split endlessly into dozens of sub-clans and these divisions are a perpetual source of conflict.

The five main clans are the Darod, Dir, Hawiye, Isaq and Rahanweyn.

There is intense rivalry between the different clans and sub-clans for political power and economic advantage. This often leads to bitter fighting.

Different clans and sub-clans often form fragile alliances. But these can break apart at any time.

The Somali language was only written down for the first time in the 1970s, using European script.

There are often many different accepted ways of spelling the same place name and this can lead to confusion.

Only a minority of Somalis can read and write.

There are no reliable estimates of the current literacy rate, but it has undoubtedly fallen as a result of the disruption to education caused by two decades of civil war.

The low level of literacy has helped to perpetuate and strengthen the oral tradition of Somali culture.

Poetry is a national passion and contemporary Somali pop music and traditional songs are very popular.

For many centuries, the coast of Somalia had strong cultural and trading connections with the Arabian peninsula. But from the 1880s onwards Italy and Britain began to colonise the territory.

The former British and Italian colonies of Somaliland and Somalia Italiana united to become the independent republic of Somalia in 1960.

Today, the main international languages spoken by educated Somalis are Arabic, English and Italian.

Rebellion simmered in northern Somalia during the 1980s and the country fell apart following the overthrow of authoritarian president Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

Although Somalia has been in a state of almost perpetual conflict since then, some sectors of the country's unregulated economy have developed faster than in most other African countries.

These include the livestock trade, telecommunications, money transfer systems and the media.

Financial remittances from the Somali diaspora in the Middle East, Europe and North America provide an important cash injection to the local economy.

The highly developed, if sometimes chaotic, media and telecommunications sectors allow for quick and effective communication with the population, even in areas where poor security limits freedom of movement.

The media landscape is diverse, lively and constantly changing. Many radio and TV stations, newspapers and websites are closely linked to particular clans or political factions.

Aid agencies should treat such media outlets with caution to avoid becoming identified with any particular interest group.

Gossip and rumour play a major role in Somali society.

The media are widely used to spread incorrect information, hate speech and political propaganda.

Somalia at a glance

Population	9.3 million (World Bank 2010)
Main language	Somali
Radios per 1,000 people	Not available
TV sets per 1,000 people	Not available
GDP per capita	\$298 (UN 2008)
Adult literacy rate	38% (CIA World Factbook 2001)
Mobile phone penetration	Estimates range from 25% to 39%
Mobile network coverage	Not available
Internet subscribers 2009	106,000 (CIA World Factbook 2009)
Ranking in UN Human Development Index 2010	Not included
Ranking in RSF World Press Freedom Index 2010	161 (out of 178)

2. Media overview

Radio is the single most important channel of communication in Somalia.

Somalis listen avidly to local radio stations and international broadcasters for news about their own country and the wider world.

Television – especially satellite television - is becoming increasingly popular in urban areas.

News also travels quickly by word of mouth via the extensive and ever expanding mobile phone network.

The BBC World Service Trust said in November 2011 in a policy briefing entitled *The media of Somalia: A force for moderation?*:

“Media matters in Somalia. The society arguably ranks among the most media literate in Africa. While much divides a deeply fractured, war-torn and now drought-stricken and famine-stricken country, an ancient love of poetry and a common language unite it. So, throughout recent history, has an avid consumption of news and information. Obtaining information and assessing its trustworthiness has, in this traditionally pastoralist and nomadic society, always shaped not just politics, society and culture, but the odds of survival.”

The media landscape changes continuously.

Radio and TV stations are constantly opening and closing.

Many broadcasters go off air due to shortages of money, equipment and qualified staff.

Many are shut down from time to time by the local political authority.

In South Central Somalia, several radio stations have been forced off air completely by Al Shabaab.

The following description of life in the Al-Shabaab controlled town of Jowhar in Southern Somalia comes from the book *Getting Somalia Wrong? Faith, War and Hope in a Shattered State* by Mary Harper, (to be published by Zed Press in February 2012.)

“There is no freedom of speech. People cannot say what they want, and they certainly cannot complain about Al Shabaab because there are spies everywhere. If someone speaks out against the Islamists, he or she is sure to get a threatening phone call from Al Shabaab. People have been executed after being accused of spying for the transitional government, the Ethiopians or the Americans.

There is a form of mind control going on in this town.

We have almost no form of entertainment left in Jowhar. It is as if Al Shabaab does not want us to enjoy anything. We are not allowed to play music and we are forbidden from watching films in the video parlours, which used to be one of our most popular forms of amusement. We are allowed to watch certain Islamic television stations inside our houses but this is very isolating and lonely.

One of the things young people in Jowhar used to love doing was going to the video halls to watch football matches. Many of them have now completely lost interest in sport because watching football on television at home alone is no fun at all.”

There are dozens of FM radio stations in Somalia, and a growing number of terrestrial, online and satellite television stations.

However, no single Somalia-based radio station can claim broad national coverage.

That is one reason why international radio stations broadcasting in Somali on Short Wave and via FM relay stations in the main cities remain popular and influential.

The most widely listened to international radio stations are the **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Somali Service** and the **Voice of America (VOA) Somali Service**.

Audience survey research by the BBC in Somaliland and Puntland in 2011 showed that both stations commanded large audiences and were widely trusted.

The UN-funded radio station **Bar Kulan**, which was launched in March 2010, is also rapidly gaining a mass audience, especially in the Mogadishu area.

Many local radio and TV stations within Somalia have well-established relationships with international and aid organisations and local NGOs.

They derive an important income from broadcasting public service announcements and sponsored humanitarian programmes.

In Somaliland, the government does not allow private radio stations to operate, although it does permit the BBC and VOA to run FM relays.

There is only one government-run radio station in Somaliland, but this cannot be heard outside the capital **Hargeisa**, so most people in this territory tune in to foreign broadcasters.

However, the Somaliland government has a more liberal attitude towards private television.

Hargeisa is home to three private TV stations; **Horn Cable TV**, one of the most popular satellite TV channels in Somalia, and two terrestrial broadcasters; **Space Channel** and **Bulsho TV**.

Somaliland also boasts several privately-owned newspapers.

Newspapers have all but disappeared from the rest of Somalia.

But the country boasts a bewildering range of online media.

According to one media specialist, there are up to 900 Somali news websites.

Many of these are run from overseas by members of the diaspora.

Some are highly sophisticated, with extensive news pages in Somali, English and Arabic.

Several stream live radio and TV.

But many Somali websites are quite basic. Their published content is unreliable and they fail to update their pages regularly.

A lot of websites are linked to the interests of a particular clan, region, political, religious or other interest group.

Radio is invariably the most effective way to reach people in Somalia. It is also a channel of communication that is ideally suited to the country's oral culture.

Somalis have an insatiable appetite for news and Somalia is a land of few secrets.

People instantly pass on snippets of new information by mobile phone and news and gossip is spread rapidly through the internet, wherever it is available.

Poetry is a national passion and the subject of endless debate.

Traditional and contemporary Somali music are very popular – even though Al Shabaab has banned radio stations from playing music in the areas of South Central Somalia that it controls.

Radio is a particularly effective way for humanitarian agencies to reach displaced people.

It is common to see large groups of refugees and internally displaced Somalis crowding around a single radio set to listen to the latest news.

During the civil war in Mogadishu in the early 1990s, many clan fighters would stop fighting for a set period in the afternoon so they could listen to the BBC Somali Service.

Most FM radio stations in Somalia have a very limited geographical reach.

They are only audible in the town where they are based and a small swathe of the surrounding rural area.

However, some, such as **Radio Daljir** and **SBC** in Puntland, operate a chain of powerful FM relay stations that carry their signal to a wider audience.

People in more remote locations rely on international stations broadcasting on Short Wave.

In September 2011, the **BBC Somali Service** began broadcasting a daily 15-minute humanitarian programme to help people cope with the drought and famine emergency. It ran a similar programme for several months in 2009.

The BBC Somali Service also broadcasts a missing persons programme in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The popularity of international broadcasters varies according to region.

VOA is particularly popular in Somaliland.

This is partly because its signal is beamed in from powerful Medium Wave transmitters in neighbouring Djibouti.

VOA can therefore be heard in many parts of Somaliland more clearly than the BBC.

VOA is also popular in Somaliland because of the perceived bias of the BBC Somali Service against Somaliland's independence.

The BBC Somali Service denies any bias and claims that it is strictly neutral in this regard.

According to a set of two opinion surveys conducted in 2010, the popularity of the BBC Somali Service in Mogadishu declined slightly during the year.

A first survey conducted in January 2010 by Mogadishu Media House, a local media development NGO, found that the BBC Somali Service was the most popular station in the capital.

54% of respondents said they listened to its broadcasts at least once a day.

However, a second survey by Mogadishu Media House in November 2010 found that the BBC Somali Service had slipped to fourth position.

Only 48% of respondents to the second survey said then that they listened to the BBC on a daily basis

One reason for the decline could be that BBC programmes were no longer available on FM in some areas of the city as a result of Al Shabaab closing down several of its radio transmitters.

Bar Kulan, a UN-funded radio station that broadcasts to Somalia from Nairobi, Kenya, has become increasingly popular since its launch in March 2010.

The station broadcasts on FM throughout the day in Somalia's two largest cities: **Mogadishu** and **Bossaso**.

It also has short morning and evening broadcasts on Short Wave that reach the entire country.

Television has become increasingly popular in urban areas, both in private homes and in public places such as teashops, hotel lobbies and public viewing centres known as 'video parlours.'

These are venues where large groups of people gather to watch football matches and other TV shows.

However, Al Shabaab has banned the watching of football matches, music videos and other programmes in video parlours in the areas that it controls.

Somali language satellite TV stations, are extremely popular, especially **HornCable TV**, which broadcasts from **Hargeisa**, and **Universal**, which is based in **London**.

TV stations often broadcast programmes on humanitarian issues. Some of these are produced in collaboration with international aid agencies.

International satellite TV channels are popular wherever they are available, in particular the Arabic and English language channels of **Al Jazeera**.

BBC World is also fairly well respected.

Somali Futures: an exploration, a series of surveys conducted in Somalia, Somaliland, Kenya, the UK and the USA by the Humanitarian Futures Programme of King's College, London reached the following conclusion in July 2011:

"Somalis revealed deep knowledge and awareness of international and Somali current affairs. Indeed, it became clear that, except for a small minority (mainly of Somali youths living in the UK), Somalis take an avid interest in events in their country by listening to the radio, watching television, and using the internet, as well as making personal telephone calls. Many said they frequently watch

Universal, the Somali language cable TV channel, or Al Jazeera, and listen to the BBC Somali Service and the Voice of America... A 29-year old female from Bossasso said, "Even if you don't listen to the radio, people will call you and tell you what is happening". In Nairobi, and in Puntland, more than 90% of respondents reported that they follow events in Somalia constantly."

Like radios, mobile phones are well-suited to Somalia's nomadic and mostly illiterate population.

Although phone ownership is limited amongst the very poor, many nomads and displaced people have handsets.

Others have access to phones owned by friends, neighbours and relatives.

In remote locations, IDP camps and other places with limited or no electricity supply, people pay a small fee to charge their handsets from solar powered chargers or small petrol-driven generators owned by traders and businessmen.

SMS messages have limited and very specific applications in Somalia, given the high rate of illiteracy and people's preference for talking rather than reading and writing as a method of communication.

SMS messages are widely used to advise recipients of a money transfer that their cash is waiting to be collected.

Once the sum has been paid out, the money transfer company sends a confirmation text message to the payee to confirm that the transaction has been completed.

Al Shabaab and other extremist groups meanwhile use SMS messages and voice calls to threaten people. Death threats and other forms of intimidation are frequently communicated in this manner.

Somali journalists working as far afield as Nairobi have received death threats by text message from Al Shabaab.

Somalia is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a journalist.

In recent years, several Somali journalists have been killed. Others have been arrested and imprisoned.

Many journalists practice self censorship for their own safety.

Most media organizations in Somalia are privately owned.

Many represent the interests of a particular group or region and a large number are controlled by Somalis living overseas.

Some radio and TV stations are run directly by political authorities, such as the Federal Transitional Government in Mogadishu, Al Shabaab and the government of Somaliland.

Humanitarian organizations should carefully study media outlets before engaging with them in order to avoid becoming too closely associated with one particular faction.

Many influential Somalis in the diaspora have invested heavily in radio and TV stations back home. Some have used these media outlets to promote their own interests and political ambitions.

Diaspora Somalis have also offered valuable technical expertise to the local media, which suffers from a lack of professional training.

Mogadishu hosts the largest concentration of radio stations in the country.

Another big media centre is the port city of **Bossasso** in Puntland. It hosts three major radio stations and two local TV stations, as well as a number of smaller radio stations.

The divided city of **Galkayo**, which straddles the border between Puntland and the Galmudug region of Central Somalia, is also a hot spot for radio activity. It hosts several small stations.

Most other large towns only have one or two local radio stations – if they have any at all.

Local authorities often try to exert a degree of control over the media in the areas that they administer.

The Regional Authority in Puntland has occasionally closed down radio stations, including the large and influential networks of **Daljir** and **SBC**.

The Puntland Regional Authority has also harassed and imprisoned individual journalists that have incurred its displeasure.

In November 2011, it banned two Somali language satellite television channels from operating in Puntland, accusing them of “constantly provoking violence”.

The government of Somaliland does not allow private radio stations at all.

On several occasions it has banned newspapers and imprisoned journalists.

Al Shabaab has clamped down heavily on what used to be a very vibrant and liberal media landscape in South Central Somalia, crushing freedom of speech in the large territory that it controls.

This has led to a high degree of self-censorship by journalists operating in Al Shabaab controlled territory, or in places where it has an influence.

The internet has proved more difficult for political factions to control since so many online news services are produced overseas by members of the diaspora.

Lack of control and regulation has led to the emergence of some highly unreliable internet news services, the growth of 'hate speech', and the unbridled promotion of particular interest groups.

But more positively, the global and anonymous nature of the internet has led to a more fearless attitude amongst journalists who write for the web.

They report atrocities committed by all sides and often accompany their reports with graphic images.

Somali is the most effective language for transmitting messages to Somalis inside the country and refugees in neighbouring states.

Everybody speaks Somali, at all levels of society. Oral messages, circulated via the radio or other means, will reach more people than written ones.

According to the CIA Factbook, adult literacy in Somalia was 38% in 2001, but the real figure today is undoubtedly much lower.

The UN does not attempt to put a figure on literacy levels. More than two decades of war have led to the destruction of many schools and the closure of many of those that remain.

There are a number of sensitive subjects, which are rarely addressed in the media.

These include homosexuality, which is condemned by Islam and is punishable by death under shari'ah law.

Female genital mutilation, which is widely practiced by Somalis is another sensitive issue, but some radio stations do openly question it.

The Somali media is heavily dominated by men. Working conditions for female journalists can be difficult and, at times, dangerous.

Some further education institutions offer courses in journalism and mass communication, leading to degrees or diplomas

These include the University of **Mogadishu**, Fairland and Admas universities in **Hargeisa**, and the East Africa University in **Bossasso**.

However, most journalists rely on media training programmes offered by international development organisations, or they simply learn on the job.

Very few Somali media houses offer in-house training.

Several organizations that purport to represent Somali journalists have been set up, but few of them genuinely protect media professionals or promote their interests.

Many are simply front organizations set up to attract donor funding.

Others are associations that represent media owners, rather than the journalists who work for them.

Regulation of the media, where it exists, is very informal and ad hoc

In Somaliland, for instance, if someone wants to open a TV station or newspaper, they must simply register with the Ministry of Information and with the Attorney General.

A media law was approved by the Somaliland parliament in 2005, but it has never been fully implemented.

Somaliland courts still use the penal code, not the media law, to deal with journalists.

3. Radio overview

Radio is the most popular form of mass media in Somalia.

It is the most effective channel for communicating news and information to the population.

Phone-in programmes are extremely popular. They allow ordinary people to make their voices heard on issues that concern them.

All radio stations broadcast in **Somali**. A few also carry some programmes in **English** and **Arabic**.

The number of radio stations has grown significantly since the collapse of effective central authority in 1991.

But there are marked regional differences in radio coverage.

The government of Somaliland in the Northwest only allows one state-controlled radio station to function, although it does permit the **BBC** and **Voice of America (VOA)** to operate local FM relay stations.

State-run **Radio Hargeisa**, the government radio station, has a weak FM signal which does not even reach all parts of the capital.

The inhabitants of Somaliland are therefore heavily dependent on international broadcasters, particularly the **VOA Somali Service**, which is also broadcast from powerful Short and Medium Wave transmitters in neighbouring Djibouti.

In Puntland and South Central Somalia, on the other hand, private radio stations have mushroomed and flourished.

Radio Daljir has seven FM radio transmitters that cover all the main towns of Puntland and large swathes of its rural interior.

SBC is also a major player in Puntland, with three FM transmitters.

In South Central Somalia, most of the radio stations are smaller. Most operate from a single studio and FM transmitter with a typical range of about 30 km.

Some only broadcast intermittently.

The perils of working in a conflict zone, technical challenges and the lack of financial and human resources to sustain regular broadcasts constitute major challenges.

Some radio stations have been set up to promote the interests of a particular clan, region, religious group, politician or business.

Mogadishu has the largest concentration of radio stations in Somalia.

Most other large towns and cities only have one or two local stations – if they have any at all.

However, the thriving commercial port city of **Bossasso** in Puntland constitutes a mini media hub in northern Somalia.

It hosts three major radio stations, several smaller stations and two local TV stations.

The divided city of **Galkayo**, which straddles the border between Puntland and Galmudug region, is also a hot spot for radio activity.

It hosts several small radio stations, some of which broadcast on Short Wave.

The fragmented nature of FM radio coverage in Somalia means that many people continue to listen to international radio stations to find out what is happening in the country.

People in remote rural areas beyond the reach of the nearest FM station are totally reliant on Somali language broadcasts on Short Wave.

The most popular and influential Short Wave broadcasters are the **BBC Somali Service** and the **VOA Somali Service**.

Other prominent Somali language broadcasters on Short Wave include the UN-funded station **Bar Kulan**, which was launched in 2010, and **Radio Ergo**.

Both these stations are based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Although the BBC and VOA are still highly regarded, there is extensive anecdotal evidence that their popularity is declining.

This may be partly because of increased competition from local radio, television and online media services.

Several radio stations in Kenya carry programmes in Somali.

These command a large audience in the Somali-speaking areas of northeastern Kenya, particularly in the Dadaab refugee camp, which is home to more than 500,000 Somali exiles.

Star FM is the most popular and influential Somali-language radio station in Kenya. It is based in **Nairobi**, but has relay stations in **Garissa**, **Dadaab**, **Wajir**, **Madogo** in the Tana river valley and **Mandera** in the far northeast of Kenya.

Star FM also has an FM relay station in **Mogadishu**.

4. Leading radio stations

International radio stations

BBC Somali Service www.bbc.co.uk/somali

The BBC Somali Service broadcasts to Somali speakers throughout East Africa on Short Wave and on FM via relay partnerships with local radio stations in Somalia and Kenya.

Along with the VOA Somali Service, it is one of the most popular and trusted radio stations in Somalia.

It was founded in 1957 and has built up a solid reputation for reliable and impartial news during more than half a century of broadcasting.

The BBC Somali Service broadcasts for a total of three and a half hours per day at the following local times:

07.00-07.30
14.00-14.30
17.00-18.00
21.00-21.30

The BBC used to broadcast to **Mogadishu** on 91.1 and 91.9 FM until its local transmitter was shut down by Al Shabaab in April 2010.

However, its Somali Service programmes are still relayed in the capital by the popular independent station **Radio Shabelle** on 101.5 FM.

The BBC Somali Service was formerly relayed by several other FM stations in South Central Somalia, but these were shut down by Al Shabaab in April 2010.

Al Shabaab has banned the BBC from all the areas that it controls.

Further north, in Puntland, the BBC broadcasts in **Somali, English** and **Arabic** in **Bossasso** on 88.2 FM and in **Galkayo** on 96.6 FM.

In Somaliland it broadcasts in **Hargeisa** and **Boroma** on 89.0 FM and in **Burao** on 88.8 FM.

Other relay partners of the BBC Somali Service include **Radio Garowe** and **SBC** in Puntland, **Radio Dhusamareb** in **Dhusamareb** in Central Somalia, and the Kenyan radio station **Star FM**.

Star FM broadcasts in Somali in **Nairobi** and **Mogadishu**.

It also has FM relay stations in the Somali-speaking areas of Northeast Kenya. There are transmitters in **Garissa, Wajir, Mandera Madogo** in the Tana river valley and the **Dadaab** refugee camp.

The BBC Somali Service continues to command a large audience in East Africa and its satellite and internet broadcasts are widely listened to by the Somali diaspora in other parts of the world.

However, anecdotal evidence suggests that its audience within Somalia is declining.

The BBC Somali Service has its own Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/bbcsomali>).

It broadcasts international and local news, current affairs, phone-in programmes and programmes about business, sport and culture.

In September 2011, in response to the drought and famine in the Horn of Africa, the BBC Somali Service started broadcasting a daily 15 minute humanitarian lifeline programme during its 14.00 edition.

The BBC Somali Service also broadcasts a 15-minute Missing Persons programme six times a week in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Editor - Yusuf Garaad Omar

Administration - Kati Isse

Tel (UK): +44 207 557 1631

Email: somali@bbc.co.uk

Address: BBC Somali Service, Bush House, PO Box 76, Strand, London, WC2B 4PH, UK.

Voice of America (VOA) Somali Service www.voanews.com/somali

The VOA Somali Service is one of the most popular and trusted international broadcasters in Somalia.

In some parts of Somalia, notably in Somaliland, it is more popular than its main rival, the BBC Somali Service.

VOA beams programmes to Somalia from studios in Washington on Short Wave four times per day at the following times:

06.30 – 07.00

16:00 -- 17.00

19.00 – 21.00

It broadcasts on Short Wave on 13580, 15620 and 1431 kHz and on Medium Wave from powerful transmitters in Djibouti.

In addition, VOA broadcasts round the clock in English and Somali from its own FM transmitter in **Hargeisa** on 88.0 FM.

The VOA Somali Service is also rebroadcast on FM by several radio stations in Somalia and Kenya, although not all are official relay partners.

Radio stations that relay VOA programmes on FM include:

Radio Mogadishu (Mogadishu)

Radio Kulmiye (Mogadishu)

Jubba Radio (Mogadishu)

Radio Daljir (Puntland)

SBC (Puntland)

Radio Garowe (Puntland)

Radio Abud-Waq (Abudwaq)

Radio Galgadud (Guri-El)

Voice of Mudug (South Galkayo)

Horseed Media (Bossasso)

Bulsho Radio (Buro)

Frontier FM (Nairobi and Garissa, Kenya)

The VOA Somali Service was launched in 2007.

It is funded by the US government and is sometimes accused of pro-US bias in its news reporting.

Programmes are streamed on the internet through the VOA Somali Service website.

They can also be heard live on mobile phones in the UK.

The service has its own Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pages/VOASomali/108173635871713.

Editor in Chief: Abdirahman Yabarow

Tel: +1 202 203 4959

Email: askvoa@voanews.com

Address: 330 Independence Ave., S.W.Washington, D.C. 20237, USA.

Bar Kulan www.bar-kulan.com

Bar Kulan is a UN-funded radio station based in **Nairobi**.

It broadcasts to **Mogadishu**, **Bossasso** and **Galkayo** on FM and to the rest of Somalia on Short Wave, satellite and the internet.

Radio Bar Kulan broadcasts 24 hours per day on FM in Mogadishu.

It also broadcasts for 15 hours per day on FM in Bossasso.

But the station only transmits for two hours per day on Short Wave and on FM in Galkayo.

It is on air between 08.00 and 09.00 in the morning and again between 19.00 and 20.00 in the evening.

Bar Kulan, describes itself as “an editorially independent radio station established to promote peace, reconciliation and social cohesion in Somalia”.

It was founded in March 2010 by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM – the African Union peacekeeping force that supports the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu.

In 2011, Bar Kulan was being operated by Albany Associates, a UK-based media consultancy that specializes in media operations in zones of conflict, under contract to this UN agency.

Bar Kulan’s ultimate ambition is to become part of a future Somali Public Service Broadcasting Network.

The radio station’s core aim is to promote peace and reconciliation. It is generally sympathetic to the activities of international aid agencies.

In addition to news and current affairs, Bar Kulan broadcasts programmes on development, peace and institution-building and social cohesion.

It also carries drama, sports and music.

Bar Kulan has attracted an increasing number of listeners, especially in Mogadishu.

A survey conducted by Mogadishu Media House in Mogadishu and the nearby town of Afgoye in November 2010 found that after eight months on air Bar Kulan was the third most popular radio station in the area.

52% of respondents said they listened to the station least once a day.

Some Somalis regard Bar Kulan as a mouthpiece of the United Nations and AMISOM, but the station has gained growing respect for the quality and range of programmes that it broadcasts.

It is particularly well regarded for its coverage of local news and sport.

Bar Kulan has 18 correspondents based across Somalia and 32 Somali production staff at its headquarters in Nairobi.

It has three production studios in Nairobi and one in Mogadishu.

The station's drama productions are produced and recorded externally.

Bar Kulan has broadcast public service announcements on hygiene, vaccination campaigns, malaria, landmine awareness, and social cohesion in conjunction with various aid agencies.

The station broadcasts 24 hours per day on 92.0 FM in Mogadishu from a powerful 5,000 watt transmitter. This also reaches audiences in other nearby towns.

In Bossaso, Bar Kulan broadcasts for 15 hours per day from a 1,000 watt transmitter on 89.5 FM.

In Galkayo, the station can be heard for just two hours per day on a one 1,000 watt transmitter on 89.5 FM.

Its 500,000 watt Short Wave transmitter in Nairobi broadcasts on 15350 KHz in the morning and 9700 KMHz in the evening.

Bar Kulan also aims to attract listeners in the diaspora through its satellite transmissions and streaming on the internet.

Its satellite signal covers Africa, Asia and most of Europe.

The station can be found on the Thaicom 5 Satellite on Frequency 3640.

Director - Steve Turner
Email: sturner@bar-kulan.com

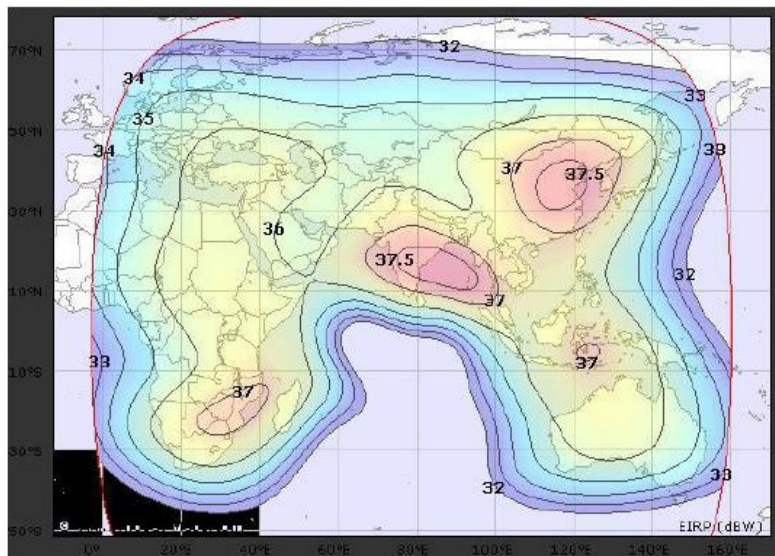
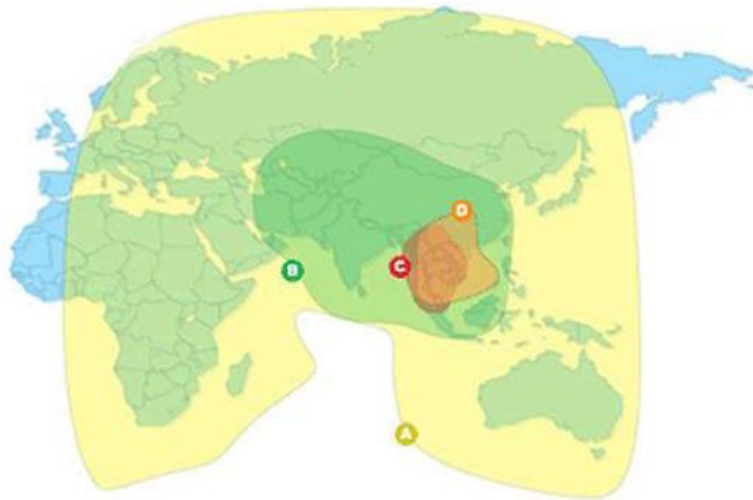
Head of News - Farah Lamane
Email f.lamaane@bar-kulan.com

Head of Programming - Ahmednor Mohamed Farah
Email: ahmednor@bar-kulan.com

Administration Manager - Daria Safranic
Email: daria@bar-kulan.com

Address: P.O. Box 2074-00621, Village Market, Nairobi, Kenya

Coverage map – Thaicom



Satellite broadcast coverage of Radio Bar Kulan

Source: Bar Kulan

Radio Ergo www.radioergo.org/so

Radio Ergo broadcasts to Somalia for one hour per day on Short Wave from studios in Nairobi.

It was formerly the Somali Service of IRIN Radio.

The station was rebranded in July 2011 when the United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) transferred the ownership of its Somali language radio service to the Danish media development organization International Media Support (IMS).

Ergo means “envoy” in Somali.

Radio Ergo broadcasts news and humanitarian programming to Somalia on 13,885 KHz Short Wave for one hour per day between 11.30 and 12.30 from a transmitter in Dubai.

Its programmes are also relayed by 11 Somali language FM stations.

These include:

- **Radio Kulmiye** (Mogadishu)
- **Radio Gobolada** (Mogadishu)
- **Radio Xurmo** (Mogadishu)
- **Radio Abudwaq** (Abudwaq)
- **Horseed** (Bossasso)
- **Voice of Mudug** (Galkayo)
- **Codka Nabada** (Voice of Peace) (Bossasso and Galkayo)
- **Codka Gobollada Dhexe** (Voice of Central Somalia) (Adado)
- **Radio Dhusamreb** (Dhusamreb)
- **Star FM** (Nairobi, Mogadishu, Garissa, Wajir, Madogo, Mandera, Dadaab)

The station describes itself as “a Somali humanitarian radio project that provides daily news and information in Somali.”

Programmes include items on health and HIV/AIDS, education, conflict prevention, protection, gender equality, employment opportunities and environmental protection.

As well as reports from the field, Ergo broadcasts practical advice, prepared with the help of experts, on subjects such as disease and malnutrition.

The aim is to enable listeners to make better-informed decisions for their families and their communities.

In late 2011, at the height of the drought/famine crisis in Somalia, Radio Ergo was broadcasting a special 15-minute programme every day about the emergency and how aid agencies were responding to it.

The station helps aid agencies to engage in dialogue with Somali listeners.

In late 2011, Radio Ergo was in discussions with other media outlets, including Star FM, about setting up a community radio station in the **Dadaab** complex of refugee camps in eastern Kenya. This is home to more than 500,000 Somali refugees.

Radio Ergo has more than 30 local reporters based across Somalia, Eastern Kenya and Eastern Ethiopia.

It has conducted several training workshops on humanitarian reporting for its own reporters and for other Somali journalists.

An audience survey of 1,000 people conducted in South Central Somalia and Puntland in 2010, when the station was still known as IRIN Radio, found that 72% of respondents knew the station and listened to it regularly.

Radio Ergo is funded by international donors, including the government of Switzerland. Its advisory board comprises representatives of international NGOs and UN bodies.

Radio Ergo also broadcasts over the internet via its website.

This specialises in humanitarian information in Somali. It publishes reports and photos from Radio Ergo's correspondents throughout Somalia.

Radio Ergo is also starting a project to promote standardised language on Somali websites.

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Tel: +254 20 400 21 02/3/4/5
Email: louise@radioergo.org

Senior Editor - Abdulkadir Mohamed Mursal
Mob: +254 711 144 563
Email: mursal@radioergo.org

Webmaster - Mohamed Hassan Mohamed
Mob: +254 722 434 974
Email: mohamed@radioergo.org

Address: FAO-Somalia compound, Ngecha Road off Lower Kabete Road, PO Box 2234 – 00621, Nairobi, Kenya.

Somalia-based radio stations

Mogadishu

Radio Shabelle - 101.5 FM www.shabelle.net

Radio Shabelle is one of the most popular and respected radio stations in South Central Somalia.

It is based in **Mogadishu**, but also commands a large audience in the neighbouring Lower and Middle Shabelle regions.

Radio Shabelle has reporters working in government-controlled areas of the city, but they are poorly educated and have had little or no training.

Despite this, they manage to produce some excellent programmes, including inventive dramas.

The station is on air for at least 16 hours a day.

It broadcasts 30-minute news programmes at 08.00, 13.30 and 19.00.

There is a longer 60-minute analytical news programme at 21.30.

Radio Shabelle also rebroadcasts the **BBC Somali Service**.

The station was founded in 2002. It forms part of the privately-owned Shabelle Media Network. This also owns an internet TV service and a well-respected news website.

It is available on FM in Mogadishu and surrounding areas.

Radio Shabelle is also streamed online through its website.

This also provides a fairly reliable source of up-to-date news in both Somali and English.

Radio Shabelle is widely considered to be balanced and accurate by Mogadishu residents and international media experts.

It was awarded the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Press Freedom Award in December 2010.

Since its foundation, Radio Shabelle has been threatened by both the Transitional Federal Government and opposition militias.

Islamist groups have on numerous occasions ordered its closure.

At least five of its journalists have been killed.

Radio Shabelle used to be based in Bakara market in Mogadishu, but in 2010 it moved to an area controlled by the transitional government and AMISOM peacekeepers.

The station has about 30 members of staff. Some of them are experienced journalists.

It has several computers and a car. The studios and equipment are operated and maintained by studio managers.

Like many radio stations in Somalia, Shabelle operates in a residential building with small rooms converted into studios, offices and a newsroom.

Most of its income comes from advertising.

Chairman and Chief Executive - Abdimaalik Yusuf
Email: maalik@shabelle.net

Chairman's Representative - Mohamed Amiin Adow
Email: amiin@shabelle.net,
Mob (Sweden): +46 762 604 188.

Head of International Relations - Engineer Ali Dahir
Email: ali.dahir@shabelle.net
Mob (UK) +44 7894 261 398
Tel: (UK) +44 (0) 208 759 9196.

Programme director: Osman Fantastic.

Mob: +252 66 99 96 22 22
Email: hasanfantastic@gmail.com

Address: Airport Street, Near Aden Abdulle Osman Airport, Mogadishu.

Radio Kulmiye - 88.0 FM www.kulmiyenews.com

This independent radio station began broadcasting from **Mogadishu** in February 2011.

It has attracted a substantial audience because of its reputation for reliability and balance

The Transitional Federal Government forced the radio station to shut down for several days in April 2011, but it resumed broadcasting after meeting certain legal and technical requirements.

Radio Kulmiye is on air for 18 hours a day.

It broadcasts news bulletins on the hour.

There are extended 30-minute news programmes at 08.00, 13.00 and 20.00.

The main evening news programme is a 60-minute show with features and analysis aired at 21.30.

Radio Kulmiye also broadcasts debates, drama and sports and humanitarian programmes related to the drought.

Its broadcasts are streamed live on the internet and the radio station's website offers written news in Somali and English.

The owner and director of the station, Osman Abdullahi Guure, used to be director of Radio Shabelle. He left Shabelle after a disagreement with other members of staff.

Radio Kulmiye has 18 staff, including reporters, producers and editors. They lack training but are highly motivated.

The studios and offices are small and poorly equipped.

Director – Osman Abdullahi Guure

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Mob: +252 1 0615 999 955

Mob: +252 62 999 933

Mob: +252 69 999 99 55

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Email: knn@hotmail.com

Email: keynaan012@hotmail.com

Address: Hoyoyinka Building, Hawo-tako Street, Hamarweine, Mogadishu.

Radio Mogadishu 90.00 FM www.radiomuqdisho.net

Radio Mogadishu is the official radio station of the Transitional Federal Government.

It broadcasts from a heavily guarded compound in **Mogadishu** for 14 hours a day and can be heard clearly well beyond the city limits.

All the programmes are in Somali, except for two short afternoon shows, one in **Arabic**, the other in **English**.

The main news programmes are at 08.00, 14.30 and 19.00.

Some of the station's news items are little more than propaganda for the transitional government and the AMISOM peacekeepers which support it.

The radio often speaks ill of Al Shabaab and exaggerates the battlefield successes of government troops and AMISOM peacekeepers.

Radio Mogadishu is essentially a mouthpiece for the Transitional Federal Government. It cannot be considered fair and balanced in its reporting.

However, Radio Mogadishu became more respected and popular after government troops and AMISOM peacekeepers took control of most of Mogadishu in August and September 2011.

A poll conducted by Mogadishu Media House in November 2010 found Radio Mogadishu to be the most listened to station in the city.

Perhaps one reason for Radio Mogadishu's popularity is that unlike the Islamist radio stations controlled by Al Shabaab, it broadcasts music.

It also broadcasts news, debates, drama, and religious programmes.

Radio Mogadishu employs about 40 journalists. They are better paid than most other journalists in Somalia.

The station's reporters and producers are not well-trained, but they are enthusiastic and hard-working.

Radio Mogadishu broadcasts some programmes live via its website..

Director: Abdirahim Isse Adow

Mob: +252 66 99 900 376

Email: biciisaa@hotmail.com

Editor: Abraham Yusof Sheikh (As-adaala)

Email: info@radiomogdisho.com

Mob: +252 1 0699 982 858

Address: Old Ministry of Information Building, near the Presidential Palace, Mogadishu.

Radio Xurmo 96.00 FM www.xurmo.net

Radio Xurmo is the only community radio station in **Mogadishu**.

It is owned by local NGOs and civil society groups.

Radio Xurmo is popular with youth and adults in Mogadishu and the surrounding area.

The station broadcasts programmes on sport, entertainment, education, women's issues, human rights, peace promotion, health, youth issues, religion and culture, including poetry.

It also carries debates and relays the daily one-hour broadcast of **Radio Ergo**.

Radio Xurmo is on air for a minimum of 10 hours a day.

It broadcasts 30-minute news programmes at 07.30, 14.30 and 1900.

Its main 60-minute evening news programme goes out at 20.30.

Radio Xurmo's news output is generally considered to be fair and balanced.

The station employs about 15 journalists, some with university degrees or formal training in journalism, others with minimal training.

It has one studio and three sound engineers.

Radio Xurmo does not have its own generator. Instead, it obtains electricity from a nearby hotel.

The station was founded in 2004.

It is mainly funded by international donors and has good relations with international aid agencies.

In August 2010, the director of Radio Xurmo, Barkhad Awale Adan, was killed in crossfire between rival combatants in Mogadishu.

Some of the station's programmes can be accessed through its website. This also carries written news in Somali and English

Mobile: +252 61 550 3978

Email: xurmoradio1@yahoo.com

Address: KM5, Zope village, Wadjir district, Mogadishu.

Al Andalus – 88.8 FM

Al Andalus is one of Al Shabaab's main radio stations. It operates a network of studios and transmitters that covers several large towns in South Central Somalia.

The radio station covers news from the Muslim world and promotes Al Shabaab's fundamentalist version of Islam.

It does not broadcast music.

The station is based in Ealasha, on the outskirts of **Mogadishu**.

It also has transmitters and studios in **Kismayo**, **Jowhar** and **Eelbuur**.

Contact - Yonis

Mobile: + 252 61 800 58 28

Email: abdirahman0100@yahoo.com

Al Furqaan – 106.5 FM www.radioalfurqaan.com

This station was set up by Al Shabaab in **Mogadishu** in 2009. It used to be the movement's main propaganda outlet in the city

Al Furqaan was originally based in Bakara market, one of Al Shabaab's major strongholds in Mogadishu.

It relocated to Huriwaa district on the southern outskirts of Mogadishu in mid-2011 after Al Shabaab forces were driven out of the city centre .

Al Furqaan broadcasts news and analysis with a hardline Islamist agenda.

Music is forbidden on the station.

Al Furqaan's website is updated intermittently. Audio can also be downloaded from the website, when the station is functioning.

Twelve journalists work at Al Furqaan. None are female.

The station normally broadcasts 30-minute news programmes at 07.30, 13.00, 19.00 and 21.30.

Email: hsm.press@yahoo.com

Al Risaala 102.2 FM

This **Mogadishu**-based radio station was originally founded as Holy Quran Radio in 2000 by former information minister Dahir Mahamud Geelle.

This station was seized by Al Shabaab in August 2010 and subsequently went off air

Geelle relaunched then re-launched the station under the new name of Al Risaala.

Much of Al Risaala's programme content is religious, but the station also broadcasts news and debates.

It is on air for about eight hours a day.

Al Rissala has a small staff, most of whom are not skilled journalists.

There are 30-minute news programmes at 07.30, 11.00, 13.30, 18.30.

The station also airs a longer 45-minute news programme at 21.15.

Owner: Dahir Mahamud Geelle

Mobile: + 252 61 540 1994
+ 252 69 999 5633

Email: dahir_gele@hotmail.com

Address: Airport Street, Bulo-Hubei, Wadajir, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Radio Xamar/ The Voice of Democracy 93.5 FM www.xamarradio.com

Xamar is a non-profit radio station based in **Mogadishu**. It opened in 2003.

It advocates democracy as the best route to achieving peace and stability in Somalia, and encourages its listeners to play a constructive role in promoting human rights and democratic governance.

Radio Xamar organizes discussion forums and encourages conflicting groups to resolve their differences peacefully.

It also invites scholars and political activists to analyse the crisis in Somalia.

The station aims to broadcast objective news as a way of promoting freedom and democracy. It also broadcasts public information messages.

Xamar is funded by its members and supporters; it is not a mouthpiece for any group or individual. It is independently managed by an Executive Committee and a Board of Directors, elected by its members.

Owner: A. Ugaas

Director: Abdirahman Yasin Ali

Tel: +2521 620111
+252 1 620222
+252 1 220011
|+252 1 593155

Radio Banadir www.radiobanadir.com

This privately owned **Mogadishu** radio station was founded in 2000, with the stated aim of “supporting civil society in order to regulate peace, democracy and human rights in Somalia”.

It used to broadcast news, educational programmes, entertainment and sports and was seen as largely impartial and professional.

However, the station was off-air in late 2011.

Chief Executive - Ahmed Ali

Tel: +252 5 944 176
+252 5 960 368

Email: info@radiobanadir.com

Address: Tahlil Warsame Building, KM 4, Maka Al Mukarama Road, Mogadishu.

Radio Simba – 95.00 FM www.simbanews.com

This station used to broadcast from **Mogadishu** for about 14 hours a day.

It was based in Bakara market, but it went off air after Al Shabaab seized the area in 2010. It did not immediately resume broadcasting after the Transitional Federal Government regained control of the area a year later.

Radio Simba used to broadcast 30-minute news programmes at 07.30, 14.30, 19.00 and a longer 60-minute evening news programme at 21.30.

It had a good reputation.

Contacts needed

Radio Tusmo 92.9 FM www.tusmoradio.com

This station operates intermittently from **Mogadishu**.

It went off air in late 2011 following the collapse of the building where it was based.

Radio Tusmo used to have fairly wide coverage, including the Benadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Jowhar and Merca regions.

It has been threatened in the past by Al Shabaab and other groups.

Radio Tusmo used amusing and innovative ways to circumvent Islamist bans on the playing of music.

At one stage it played the sound of gunshots and croaking frogs in the place of musical jingles.

Radio Tusmo employed about 20 journalists, some of whom lacked experience.

Its website was last updated in May 2011.

Email: info@tusmoradio.com

HornAfrik www.hornafrik.com

This used to be one of the most popular and respected media groups in Somalia. It operated an FM radio station and a TV station in Somalia with extensive reach across the South Central region.

HornAfrik was taken over by Al Shabaab in September 2010 and has ceased broadcasting since then.

Its website has not been updated since April 2011.

South Central Somalia

Radio Dhusamareb 88.8 FM

This station broadcasts from **Dhusamareb**, the capital of Galgudud region central Somalia.

It can be heard within 50 km radius of the town.

The station broadcasts news and programmes on women's issues, youth and children's issues, health, education, peace-building and human rights.

Radio Dhusamareb also relays the **BBC Somali Service** and **Radio Ergo**.

The station is on air for 13.5 hours per day.

It broadcasts from 06.30 to 10.00 in the morning and again from 13.00 to 23.00 in the afternoon and evening.

The station was established in 2005.

It employs about a dozen journalists. Some of them have received formal training in journalism. There are no sound engineers.

Radio Dhusamareb has two computers.

Mob: +252 61 555 68 81

Email: ahmed_3111@hotmail.com

Radio Codka Nabada/ Radio Abud-Waq www.abudwaq.com

This station operates intermittently from the town of **Abudwaq** in the Galmugud autonomous region of Central Somalia.

It rebroadcasts programmes from **Radio Ergo**.

Mob: +252 61 553 317

Email: ibagale1@hotmail.com

Email: kulan105@gmail.com

Codka Mudug 89.5 FM www.codkamudug.com

Codka Mudug is based in the southern ‘Galmudug half’ of the divided city of **Galkayo** in Central Somalia.

The northern half of Galkayo and its airport are controlled by the autonomous state of Puntland.

The southern half of Galkayo falls under the loose control of the Galmudug regional authority.

Codka Mudug, whose name means “The Voice of Mudug” (the region around Galkayo) was established in 2006.

It employs about fifteen journalists, some of whom have received training from international NGOs.

Owner: Abdulkadir Khalanfoof

Director: Liban Ali

Mob: +252 69 078 8692

Mob: +252 978 7843

Email: rcmudug@gmail.com

Email: taakiloirin@gmail.com

Radio Hobyo 87.5 FM www.hobyoradio.com

Radio Hobyo broadcasts on FM for 17 hours a day from the pirate stronghold of **Hobyo** on the coast of Central Somalia in Galmugud region.

It also broadcasts on FM in **Galkayo**, a divided city that straddles the frontier between Galmugud and Puntland.

Besides news, it broadcasts programmes on women’s issues, youth and children’s issues, sports, and human rights. It is owned by Abdulasis Xoddolo.

Director - Said Jaani

Mob: +252 09 695 159

Contact - Jamaal Haji Hashi

Mob: +252 61 5288077

+252 1 313255

+252 90 857977

Web-editor

Email: hobyoradio@hotmail.com

hobyoradio@gmail.com

Radio Galguduud

This radio station began broadcasting in the town of **Guri'el** in Central Somalia in September 2011. It is owned by five local businesses.

Director: Ahmed Osman Abdi

Mob: +252 62 278 880

Editor: Abdifatah Hassan Dahir

Mob: +252 61 599 5044

Email: baariis09@gmail.com

Codka Gobollada Dhexe (Voice of Central Somalia)

This FM station broadcasts from the town of Adado near the Ethiopian frontier in the Galgadud region of Central Somalia.

It relays programmes of **Radio Ergo**.

Tel. +252 61 532 4455

Email: xabeebcumar@hotmail.com

Puntland

Radio Daljir 88.0 FM, 88.8 FM, 89.1 FM www.radiodaljir.com

Radio Daljir is the largest radio station in Puntland.

Its network of seven FM transmitters covers most of Puntland and part of the neighbouring region of Galmudug, to the south.

Daljir's main studios are located in the port city of **Bossasso**, the main commercial centre of Puntland.

It also has a studio in **Garowe**, the administrative capital of Puntland, 500 km to the south.

Daljir has FM transmitters in **Bossasso, Qardo, Garowe, Galkayo, Buuhoodle, Burtinle, Borhobe** and **Abudwaq**.

The station covers most of Puntland and claims that it can be heard in nearby parts of Ethiopia and Yemen.

Programming includes news, sports, educational items, human rights, health women, youth and children's issues, anti-piracy items and slots encouraging environmental protection.

The station's main daily news programmes go out at 13.00 and 22.00

Radio Daljir rebroadcasts the **VOA Somali Service**.

In late 2011, it was planning to start broadcasting programmes produced by **Radio Ergo**.

Radio Daljir also produces some programmes in Boston in the United States. These aim to link members of the Somali diaspora in North America with the communities they came from in Somalia.

Daljir says these programmes "are intended to make sure the voices of educated men and women in the diaspora are often heard in our cities and towns."

The station is on air for about 17 hours per day.

Radio Daljir is popular within Puntland and is considered to be largely impartial in its news coverage.

The station has attacked the Puntland administration over issues of governance and corruption and was briefly shut down by the Puntland Regional Authority in June 2010.

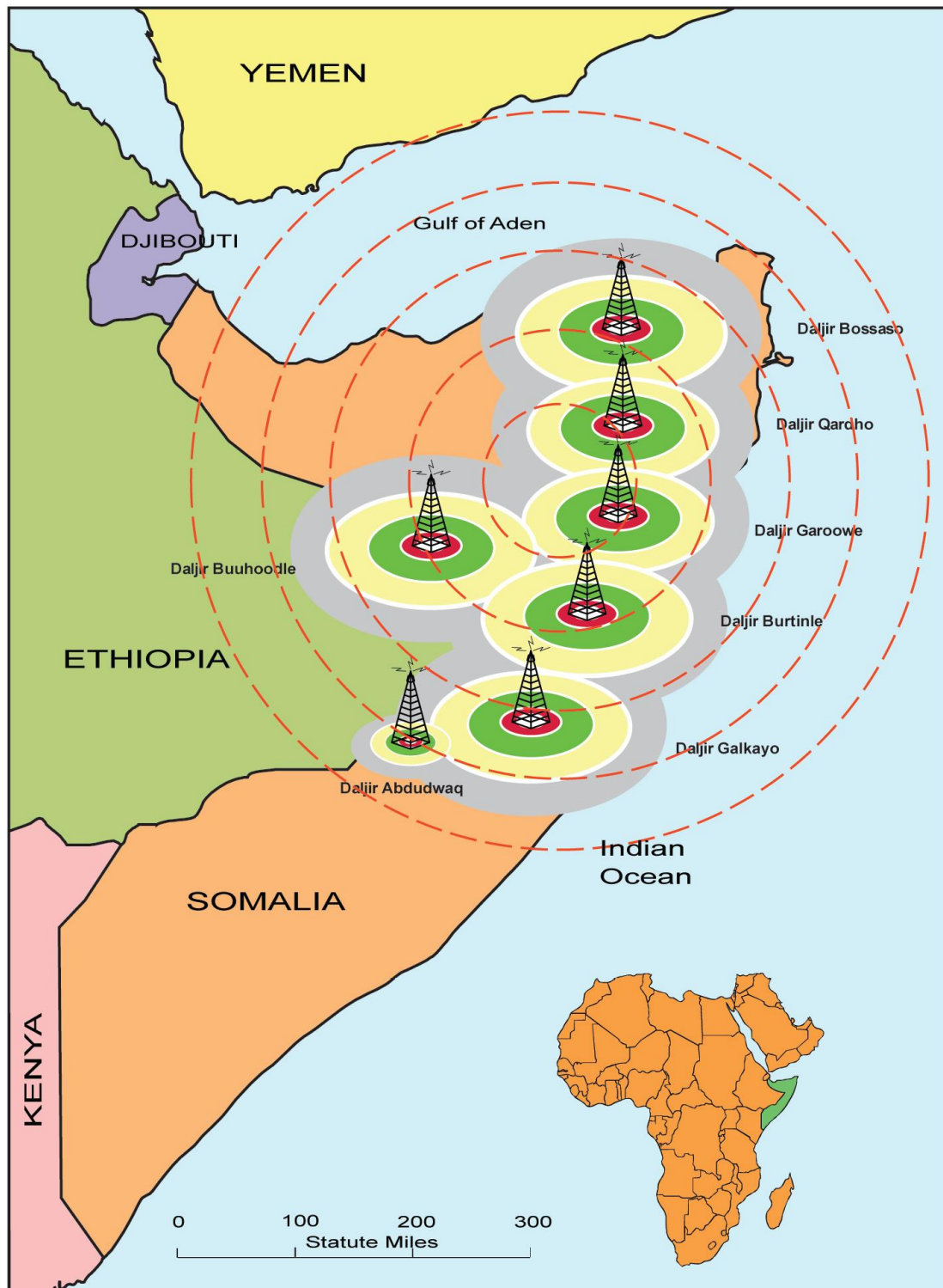
Its offices have also suffered several bomb and grenade attacks.

In August 2010, one of Radio Daljir's journalists was stabbed to death in the divided city of Galkayo on the border with Gamudug.

Radio Daljir has worked with aid agencies including UNESCO's Civic Education Programme for Peace, Democracy and Development, UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

It has broadcast programmes sponsored by IOM aimed at combatting the human trafficking of illegal immigrants to Yemen on overcrowded boats, many of which sink with a heavy loss of life.

Radio Daljir also works with Somali NGOs (local and diaspora) including the Yamayska Foundation, which focuses on conflict prevention.



Radio Daljir coverage map
Source: Radio Daljir

The station collaborates with the Galkayo Medical Centre in broadcasting advice to women on how to confront female circumcision.

Radio Daljir broadcasts in Bossasso from a 1,000 watt transmitter mounted on a 75 metre mast next to its studios in the city centre. Daljir managers claim that its signal can be heard clearly up to 150 km away.

Daljir managers say 60% of callers to its daytime phone-in programmes broadcast from Bossasso are women.

Most of these are women who are confined to the house during the day while their menfolk go out to work. Many give false names to disguise their identity.

Daljir's daily soap opera "Can the failure of love cause your death?" attracts a strong female audience.

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Mob: (Dubai) +97 156 134 7181
Mob (Somalia) +252 90 60 72 28
Email: jabshir@comcast.net

Administration Manager Bossasso – Abdirazak Hassan Abdi
Mob: +252 90 743971
Email: cabdirisaaq@gmail.com

Senior journalist Bossasso – Ahmed Mohamed Faarah
Mob: +252 90 761522
Email: realjookar@gmail.com

Other contacts
Mobile: +252 90 799 691
Email: alldaljir@gmail.com

Somali Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) www.sbclive.net, www.allsbc.com

SBC is the second largest radio station in Puntland.

It is based in **Bossasso**, but also has studios in **Garowe**, the administrative capital of Puntland.

It broadcasts on FM from transmitters in **Bossasso** (89.0 and 89.9 FM), **Garowe** (88.7 FM) and **Qardo** (88.9 FM).

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, SBC offers separate local programming in **Garowe** from its studio in the city.

SBC is on air for 17 hours a day from 06.00 to 23.00. Programmes are also streamed live from its website.

SBC claims that its 1,000 watt transmitter on a 54 metre mast in downtown Bossasso can be heard clearly within a 100 km radius of the city.

A different transmitter mounted on the same mast is used to rebroadcast **BBC Somali, Arabic and English** programmes on a separate frequency.

SBC relays the **VOA Somali Service** as part of its own programming .

The station has collaborated with various United Nations agencies and international NGOs, including UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and Care International.

It has also worked with local NGOs.

Programmes produced in collaboration with humanitarian agencies have covered issues such as HIV/ AIDS, female genital mutilation, and sanitation.

SBC is the oldest private radio station in Puntland. It was established in 2001.

SBC describes itself as neutral, non-political and non-partisan, and is considered by its audience and media experts to be relatively independent. It has a large audience.

The station was closed down for a year by the Puntland Regional Authority in 2002.

Programming includes news, sports, educational content, migration issues, health, security and human rights. It has weekly talk shows and interactive debates.

SBC employs 20 journalists in Bossasso and 15 in Garowe, several of whom are experienced broadcasters.

The station has about 10 computers, a fairly reliable internet connection and electricity supply and its own car.

SBC also operates a small TV station, **SBC TV** which broadcasts in **Bossasso** and **Garowe**

Managing Director – Mohamed Dek Abdalla

Mob: +252 90 799628

Email: mdec9@allsbc.com
sbcsomalia@gmail.com

Director – Mowlid Haji Abdi
Mob: +252 90 799 628,
+252 90 759 628

Tel: +252 5 824 012
Email: webmaster@allsbc.com
sbcsomalia@gmail.com

Address: SBC Building, Airport Road, Bossasso, Puntland

Horseed Radio 89.2 FM www.horseedmedia.net

Horseed Radio broadcasts from **Bossasso** and claims to reach audiences within a 150 km radius of the city.

It has a reputation for accurate and balanced reporting.

The radio station's parent company, Horseed Media, was set up by members of the Somali diaspora in Finland and the Netherlands.

Horseed means "leader" in Somali.

The station broadcasts programmes on human rights, peace promotion, youth and gender issues, music and culture.

It also relays programmes produced by **Radio Ergo**.

The station's stated aim is to advocate peace and development through balanced and accurate reporting.

Its website provides live streaming and written news from all over Somalia in Somali and English.

Horseed has repeatedly come under threat from the Puntland Regional Authority and its journalists are regularly harassed.

In August 2010, Puntland Regional Authority police stormed the radio station's headquarters building in Bossasso and arrested a number of journalists.

One, who had broadcast an interview with the leader of a local Islamist rebel movement, was subsequently jailed on anti-terrorism charges. He was released three months later.

In October 2010, the radio station suffered a grenade attack on its premises.

Horseed employs about 14 journalists, some of whom have received journalism training in the United States.

Administration Director – Jama Isse Harun

Mob: +252 90 727 398

Administration tel: +252 80 775 090

Studio tel: +252 5 826 055

+252 5 826 072

Email: horseedmedia@hotmail.com

radiohorseed@horseedmedia.net

horseedmediabosaso@gmail.com

Address: Horseed Building, Gaca Square Bosaso, Puntland State, Somalia

European office (Salo, Finland)

Mob: +358 45 123 0504

Email: info@horseedmedia.net

Radio Garowe – 89.8 FM www.garoweonline.com

This radio station based in **Garowe**, the administrative capital of Puntland, generally reports favourably on the Puntland Regional Authority.

It is on air for about 19 hours a day.

Radio Garowe claims to be a community station. It broadcasts news and human rights, humanitarian, religious and educational programmes.

Its website features news in Somali and English. It is updated regularly but is not always reliable.

The website offers podcasts of Radio Garowe programmes, as well as Somali news bulletins from the Somali services of BBC and VOA.

Radio Garowe was established in 2004 by members of the Somali diaspora.

Owner: Mohamed Abdirahman Farole

Email: contact@garoweonline.com

Radio Galkayo 88.2 FM

This radio station is based in the northern Puntland sector of the divided city of **Galkayo**.

It has a relay transmitter in the Puntland capital **Garowe**.

Radio Galkayo was established by the former Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) armed faction in 1993.

It was initially called Radio Free Somalia and broadcast on Short Wave only.

The station began FM broadcasts in 2004 and eventually abandoned Short Wave transmissions.

The station has a 1,000 watt transmitter in Galkayo, which is usually operated at less than full capacity in order to prolong equipment life.

Its signal covers a 25 km radius around Galkayo and can often be heard up to 75 km away.

Radio Galkayo has a 300 watt transmitter in Garowe.

The station has a strong community base and is considered to be fairly impartial. It is supported by local and international NGOs.

Like many other radio stations in Puntland, Radio Galkayo has been subject to harassment by the authorities and attack by unidentified forces.

The station was closed down during the Puntland presidential elections of 2008, and its director was arrested.

It was attacked with hand grenades in January 2010 and again in October 2011.

Contacts???

Codka Nabada 88.2 FM www.codkanabada.org

This FM radio station is based in the divided city of **Galkayo** that straddles the border between Puntland and Galmudug.

It also broadcasts on FM in **Bossasso** and on Short Wave.

Codka Nabada means “Voice of Peace” in Somali.

The station offers a wide variety of content, including news, sports, songs, poems, gender and youth issues, human rights, health, religion, and items on economic development. It has drama shows and lively interactive programmes and relays programmes of **Radio Ergo**.

It claims to give ‘ordinary people’ a voice by featuring them in its broadcasts.

It employs about 15 production staff, and has sound engineers. It has regular electricity and a relatively good internet connection.

According to the radio station’s website, it broadcasts on Short Wave on 9615 Khz in the 31 metre band.

It broadcasts for 14 hours per day.

The privately owned station was launched in 2003.

Administration Director Bossasso - Ahmed Cowke

Mob: +252 90-798 171

Email: cawkecc@yahoo.com

cawkecc@gmail.com

Radio Hikma

This station, based in the town of **Galdogob** near the Ethiopian frontier in Southwestern Puntland, broadcasts on FM for 19.5 hours a day.

Most of station's output consists of Islamic religious programmes

Radio Hikma was briefly shut down by Ethiopian troops in 2007.

Contacts ????

Radio Badhan

This small radio station is based in **Badhan** in the Puntland-controlled sector of Sanaag region.

This territory is disputed between Puntland and Somaliland and is occasionally the scene of fighting between them.

It represents the interests of the Warsengeli clan which lives in this area.

Contacts???

Somali Public Radio (SPR) www.spr.fm

SPR is based in the town of **Dhahar**, a town in the Puntland-controlled sector of Sanaag region.

Sanaag is disputed between Puntland and Somaliland, along with the neighbouring regions of Sool and Cayn (also frequently spelt Ayn).

These territories are occasionally the scene of fighting between supporters of the rival claims.

The radio station operates intermittently. It rebroadcasts programmes from **Radio Ergo**.

SPR's website carries news from Somalia and the diaspora in English and Somali.

The chairman of SPR, Salah Donyale, is a tax accountant based in the US city of Minneapolis.

The radio station appears to have received considerable input from Somalis living in the diaspora, particularly in Minneapolis.

One media report in May 2010 said SPR was planning to open new FM radio stations in Puntland in **Bossasso, Badhan, Erigavo and Garowe**.

Chairman - Salah Donyale

Vice chairman - Said Jama Warsame

Director of Public Relations - Ibrahim Shire Faarax

Tel: +252 5 868 740

Email: spr@spr.fm

Radio Hage

Radio Hage began broadcasting on Short Wave from the Puntland-controlled sector of the divided city of **Galkayo**, in 2007.

The independent radio station broadcasts on 6.915 MHz in the 43 metre band and 3.980 MHz in the 90 metre band.

In 2010, its journalists received training from the US-based media development organization IREX.

Control of Galkayo, in North Central Somalia is split between the autonomous state of Puntland and the Galmugud region.

Contacts???

Al-Xigma Radio www.pic6.piczo.com/alxigma

Private FM radio station based in **Bossasso**.

Director - Said Mohamed Warsame

Mob: +252 90-767010

Email: allxikma@hotmail.com

One Nation Radio

Private FM radio station based in **Bossasso**.

Director - Ahmed Mohamed Husien

Mob: +252 90-796830

Email: 1nationradio@gmail.com

Somaliland

Radio Hargeisa www.radiohargeisa.com

Radio Hargeisa (sometimes known as Radio Somaliland) is owned and controlled by the government of Somaliland.

It is the only radio station permitted to operate in Somaliland, which declared independence from the rest of Somalia in 1991.

The station broadcasts 10 hours per day in three segments. It is on air during the following periods:

- 06.30-09.00
- 13.00-16.00
- 18.00-22.30

It broadcasts mostly in **Somali**, but also has news bulletins in **English**, **Arabic** and **Amharic** (the official language of neighbouring Ethiopia).

Radio Hargeisa was opened by the British colonial authorities in 1943, and was the first Somali language radio station in the world.

However, the poor state of the radio station's equipment has limited its reach.

In October 2011, Radio Hargeisa had only one weak FM transmitter. Its broadcasts could only be heard in certain parts of the city..

Director - Said Adam Egeh

Tel: +252 2 410 14 22

Email: infoministry@gmail.com

Address: Radio Hargeisa, Radio Hargeisa Street, 26 June District, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Kenyan radio stations that broadcast in Somali

Star FM www.starfm.co.ke

Star FM is the leading Somali-language radio station in Kenya. It also has an FM relay station in **Mogadishu**.

It is widely considered to be the most effective radio channel for reaching Somali refugees in Kenya and the large population of Kenyan Somalis.

Star RM is based in **Nairobi**. It also has studios in **Garissa**, the capital of Northeastern Province, which is mainly inhabited by ethnic Somalis.

The station broadcasts 24 hours per day from 1,000 watt transmitters in the following locations:

- **Nairobi** (105.9 FM)
- **Garissa** (97.1 FM)
- **Wajir** (97.3 FM)
- **Mandera** (97.5 FM)
- **Madogo (Tana River)** (97.1 FM)
- **Mogadishu** (97.00 FM)

It is privately owned by North-Eastern Media and Telecommunications Ltd, which is based in Garissa.

Star FM rebroadcasts programmes of the **BBC Somali Service** and **Radio Ergo**.

Managing Director – Mohamed Osman

Mob: +254 721 427 384

+254 738 427 380

Tel: +254 20 676 5970

Email: Mohamed@starfm.co.ke

Address: Eastleigh Mall 4th floor, General Waruinge Street,
PO Box 68351- 00622, Nairobi, Kenya.

Garissa office/studio

Tel: +254 46 504970

Email: nepmedia@yahoo.com

Frontier FM

This privately owned Somali-language radio station broadcasts from **Garissa**, the regional capital of Kenya's North-Eastern Province.

It transmits on 107.5 FM in **Garrissa** and 88.7FM in **Nairobi**, where there is a large ethnic Somali population.

Frontier FM is popular with both Kenyan Somalis and refugees and immigrants from Somalia.

The station carries Somali music programmes, Koranic recitations, Islamic lectures, and news on the hour.

It has reporters in Garissa, Wajir and Nairobi, and correspondents in Mogadishu and Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo.

Frontier FM rebroadcasts **VOA Somali Service** programmes.

The station was launched in 2006.

Contacts????

Salaam Radio www.salaamfm.com

Salaam Radio is a talk radio station that broadcasts to the coastal areas of Kenya from the port city of **Mombasa**.

Most of its programmes are in Swahili, but it broadcasts a 60-minute programme in **Somali** every day at 15.00.

Salaam Radio has transmitters in the following locations:

- **Mombasa** (90.7 FM)
- **Malindi** (92.1 FM)
- **Lamu** (92.6 FM)
- **Garissa** (89.5 FM)

The station went on air in 2006 and claims to have 300.000 regular listeners on the Kenyan coast.

It is owned by the family of Kenya's defence minister, Yusuf Haji.

Tel: +254 41)2317330

+254 41 2318395

Email: sales@radiosalaamfm.com

Address: TSS Towers, 13th Floor, NKR Road, P.O BOX 90445-80100, Mombasa, Kenya.

4. Television

Television has become increasingly popular, especially with the growth of satellite and online TV services in the Somali language.

Universal TV, which is based in **Hargeisa**, and **Horn Cable TV**, which broadcasts from studios in London, UK, are particularly popular.

International satellite broadcasters in Arabic and English such as **Al Jazeera** have also acquired a strong audience.

Al Jazeera is widely seen as more relevant to Somalia than Western news channels such as **BBC World** and **CNN**.

Many people do not have a TV set at home, but still manage to watch satellite TV channels at public viewing centres known as 'video parlours.'

However, television viewing has been severely curtailed in South Central Somalia following the rise of Al Shabaab.

The Islamist movement forbids people to watch sports, music and other programmes, especially in video parlours.

In some areas, Al Shabaab has even placed curbs on the programmes that people are allowed to watch within their own homes.

It only allows them to watch Islamic religious programmes and Islamist propaganda.

Television viewing is mainly restricted to people living in urban areas with ready access to an electricity supply. It is especially popular in areas outside the control of Al Shabaab.

However, TV is not well-suited to Somalia's predominantly nomadic, rural way of life.

Neither is it widely accessible in refugee and IDP camps.

It is much easier for most Somalis to access radio.

Several Somali language satellite TV channels have been launched over the past decade. Many of these have been founded in the diaspora.

They are usually receptive to the idea of broadcasting humanitarian programmes.

The satellite TV stations have the potential to reach Somali speakers throughout East Africa, as well as the diaspora in the Middle East, Europe and North America.

Both the Transitional Federal Government and Al Shabaab use television to broadcast their propaganda.

Reporters from London-based **Universal TV** have been banned by the authorities in Puntland.

In the past, Universal TV reporters have also been prevented from operating in Somaliland

Very few towns and cities enjoy free-to-air terrestrial television.

Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Burao Bossasso and Garowe are notable exceptions.

Leading TV stations

Satellite TV stations

Universal TV www.tvuniversal.tv

This was the first Somali satellite TV station to go on air and is probably the most popular, well-known and respected Somali language TV station.

It was established in London in 2005, and broadcasts to Somali speakers throughout the world.

Universal TV programmes can be viewed via its website as well as on satellite TV.

The station's stated aim is to "inform, educate and entertain Somalis wherever they are".

It also aims to "bridge the experiences" of Somalis, who, due to decades of conflict and insecurity, have been scattered all over the world.

Its programming includes news, entertainment, social issues and peace-building campaigns.

The station has correspondents in different parts of Somalia, Kenya, Europe, the United States and Canada.

In October 2010, the authorities in Somaliland temporarily banned Universal TV from operating in the territory, accusing it of bias.

The station's reporters were also banned in November 2011 from the semi-autonomous region of Puntland.

The Puntland Regional Authority accused Universal TV of provoking violence in the territory.

Director: Ahmed Almubarak
Mob (UK) +44 7951 058 618
Email: a-ahmed@tvuniversal.net

Mogadishu director- Ibrahim Mohamed Hussein
Mobile: +252 61 827 1535
Email: jeekey6@hotmail.com

Address: 26 Clifford Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JE, UK.

Horn Cable TV (HCTV) www.hctv.org

This channel, based in **Hargeisa** in Somaliland, broadcasts to Africa, Europe and Asia by satellite. It is on air 24 hours a day.

It is also available as a live webstream on the internet.

Horn Cable TV was set up by a young businessman from Somaliland, Farhan Haji Ali Ahmed.

It focuses on news and current affairs, but also broadcasts entertainment programmes, including drama and music.

The TV channel carries public information slots and awareness programmes produced by international NGOs, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN-HABITAT, World Vision and Population Services International.

It is regarded as largely neutral, balanced and reliable, and is popular throughout Somalia.

The TV station's headquarters is in Hargeisa, but it also has studios, offices and reporters in Mogadishu, Nairobi, London and the United States.

In late 2011, Horn Cable was in negotiations with a satellite company to extend its coverage to North America.

Owner - Farhan Haji Ali Ahmed (who is usually based in London)
Mob (UK): +44 7405 992 675
Email: faaco1@yahoo.com

Managing director: Mohamed Abdi Illig
Mob: +252 2 442 85 20

Editor: Abdillahi Adam Wayab
Mob: +252 2 442 49 68
Email: horncabletvnews@gmail.com

Mogadishu contact – Hamdi Hussein Farah
Mobile: +252 61 511 548
Email: handashabell@hotmail.com

Address: Business Centre Building, Main Road, Central Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Somali Channel TV www.somalichanneltv.com

Somali Channel TV mainly broadcasts news.

It also has a popular interactive political talk show.

The station is based in **London**, UK, and began broadcasting in 2010.

Somali Channel has reporters throughout Somalia, but it was banned from operating in Puntland in November 2011.

Somali Channel's TV programmes are streamed live through the website www.somalichannel.tv

Telephone and email contacts?

Address: 520 Crown House, North Circular Road, London NW10 7PN, UK.

Somali National TV (SNTV) www.sntv.gov.so

This is the official TV station of the Transitional Federal Government in **Mogadishu**.

It was launched in March 2011, partly to counter the sophisticated media campaign run by the government's Islamist opponents, Al Shabaab.

This is the first time a government TV station has operated since the fall of President Siad Barre in 1991.

Somali National TV broadcasts for 24 hours a day via satellite.

In late 2011, it was broadcasting exclusively in **Somali**.

The station has announced plans to launch some programmes in **English** and **Arabic**.

Director: Abdirahiim Isse Addow

Mobile: +252 69 990 03 76

Email: biciisaa@hotmail.com

Address: Ministry of Information Building, Sheikh Sufi Street, Hamarweyne, Mogadishu.

Royal TV www.tvroyal.com

New satellite channel headquartered in **London** and **Dubai**

Mobile: +44 7562 606 976

Email: ali@tvroyal.com

Address: Royal TV, Crown House, 8th Floor, North Circular, London NW10 7PN, UK.

Terrestrial TV stations

Eastern Television Network (ETN TV)

This private TV station is the main local TV station in **Bossasso**, the largest city in Puntland.

Contacts???

Somali Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) www.allsbcc.com

This station is based in **Bossasso**, the main port and commercial centre of Puntland but it can also be seen in **Garowe**, the administrative capital.

It is essentially an extension of the radio arm of the SBC.

SBC TV broadcasts news, sports, discussions and educational and, humanitarian programming.

Managing Director – Mohamed Dek Abdalla

Mob: +252 90 799628

Email: mdec9@allsbcc.com

Tel: +252 5 824 012

+252 90 799 628

+252 90 759 628

Email: webmaster@allsbcc.com
sbcsomalia@gmail.com

Somaliland National TV (SLNTV) www.slntv.org

SLNTV is the official television station of the government of Somaliland.

It broadcasts from **Hargeisa** every evening from 18.00 to midnight. It is available as a terrestrial service in the city of Hargeisa, and by satellite everywhere else.

The station carries news (much of it about the president and his cabinet), entertainment, sports, and programmes on humanitarian issues.

It is widely regarded as an instrument of government propaganda.

The station was launched in 2005 and broadcasts via satellite to Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia. It is not available in North America

It has a substantial staff of about 150, some of whom are experienced journalists.

The website was still under construction in November 2011.

Editor: Ahmed Suleiman Duhul

Mob: +252 2 424 01 19

Email: slntvnews@yahoo.com, infoministry@gmail.com

Address: Radio Hargeisa Street, 26 June District, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Somaliland Space Channel

This private TV station broadcasts to the city of **Hargeisa**.

It is regarded as largely neutral.

It broadcasts from 17.00 to midnight.

Somaliland Space Channel carries local news, drama, English and Arabic films, and humanitarian awareness programmes compiled by local and international NGOs.

Managing Director: Muse Adam Qalinle

Mob: +252 2 441 80 68

Email: m.goodq@hotmail.com

Address: Hero Awr, Hargeisa water storage area, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Bulsho TV www.bulshotv.net

Bulsho TV broadcasts to Somaliland from terrestrial transmitters in **Hargeisa** and **Burao**.

It claims to be a community TV station that specializes in news, current affairs, public debates and education.

The station also broadcasts programmes that raise awareness of controversial social issues, such as Female Genital Mutilation, HIV/AIDS and inter-clan disputes.

Busho TV says its programmes mainly target youth, women and children.

The station has close links with the Shaqodoon youth training and livelihoods programme of the US NGO Educational Development Center (EDC).

Bulsho TV began broadcasting in Burao in 2009. It opened a second production studio and transmitter in Hargeisa in September 2011.

Bulsho TV claims to reach a potential audience of 800,000 people living within 60 km radius of Hargeisa and Burao, the two largest towns in Somaliland.

Chairman and Chief Executive – Ali Farah

Mob: +252 2 442 81 80

Email: alikayse@bulshotv.net

Programme Director – Ibrahim Qasim

Mob: +252 2 442 7966

Email: tvbulsho@gmail.com

Internet TV stations

Al Kataaib website???

This is an internet TV channel launched by Al Shabaab.

Media reports in February 2011 said Al Kataaib also planned to begin terrestrial TV broadcasts in **Mogadishu**.

Al Shabaab describes the channel as part of the “Jihadist media”, which aims “to transmit the news of the Mujahadeen directly to the people, away from the fraud, manipulation and trickery of the media channels of falsehood and fabrication”.

The website uses sophisticated graphics and rousing music to spread its messages.

Al Shabaab’s ban on music on radio does not extend to television.

As well as targeting an audience within Somalia, Al Kataaib and other Islamist websites are aimed at encouraging Somalis in the diaspora to come home to join the jihad.

They have had some success, with dozens of young Somali men leaving the United States and Europe to join the insurgency in Somalia.

Al Shabaab also uses Al Kataaib and other online media platforms to host virtual fund-raising events.

These have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the insurgency.

Email: hsm.press@yahoo.com

5. Print media

Newspapers have stopped publishing in most of Somalia, but a dozen small-circulation titles are still printed in **Hargeisa**, the capital of Somaliland.

Some, such as **Haatuf**, **Jamhuuriya** and **Geeska Afrika** are daily.

Others publish two or three times per week or even weekly.

All the Somaliland papers normally sell less than 1,000 copies per issue.

Most of them are published in **Somali**, but a couple of the larger papers have weekly sister publications in **English** and **Arabic**.

Rigorous control of the media by Al Shabaab has stopped most newspapers from printing in South Central Somalia.

As recently as 2009, there were up to 25 newspapers circulating in **Mogadishu** and other parts of Southern Somalia.

But by late 2011, only one daily newspaper was being published regularly in the capital

This lone survivor, **Xog Ogaal** managed to keep going despite a mortar explosion damaging its premises in March 2011.

Low literacy rates, widespread poverty and the disruption of transportation by conflict have always restricted newspaper readership to the educated and relatively affluent elite in Somalia's main cities

Individual newspapers often represent the interests of a particular clan or other group.

Their owners sometimes blackmail politicians and businessmen by threatening to print negative stories about them unless substantial sums of money are paid.

Leading newspapers

Xog Ogaal

This daily **Mogadishu**-based paper concentrates on news and current affairs.

It normally sells between 500 and 700 copies per day, but the print run sometimes rises to 1,000 when there is a very hot story.

Xog Ogaal was founded in 1991, a few months after the fall of authoritarian President Mohamed Siad Barre.

The newspaper is published every day except Friday and is widely respected.

Its offices were damaged during a mortar attack in March 2011.

In late 2011, Xog Ogaal was the only newspaper to be regularly published in the capital.

Its owner, Mohamed Aden Guled, lives in the UK.

Editor in chief - Abdi Aden Guled

Mobile: +252 61 550 88 50

Email: guuled102@hotmail.com

Haatuf www.haatuf.net

This pro-government paper comes is published six times a week in **Hargeisa**.

It sells between 700-1000 copies daily and is one of the most popular newspapers in Somaliland.

The newspaper's main focus is politics, but it also has opinion pieces, sports, education, health and other items.

Haatuf advocates democracy, and does some investigative reporting into issues such as corruption.

It has reporters in all regions of Somaliland,

The newspaper was launched in 2000.

Haatuf also publishes two sister papers in **English** and **Arabic**; **The Somaliland Times** – www.somalilandtimes.com and **Al-Haatuf Al-Arab**.

The publishing group does not have its own printing press. Its titles are printed

on contract by a local company.

Owner and editor: Yusuf Abdi Gaboobe

Tel: +252 2 442 85 75

+252 2 528 015

Email: haatufnews@hotmail.com

Address: Sha'ab Area, Sooyal Building, Hargeisa Main Road, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Jamhuuriya www.jamhuuriya.info

This pro-government paper comes out six times a week. It opened in 1991, and used to be an opposition newspaper.

Jamhuuriya is one of the most popular and influential papers in Somaliland. It sells between 700 to 1000 copies a day.

Like other papers, it concentrates on politics.

It also covers sports, education and health issues. It has an online radio service, and an extensive website.

Jamhuuriya has reporters in all of Somaliland's main towns.

Its sister paper, the **English** language weekly, **The Republican**, comes out every Saturday.

In late 2011, it was due to published online shortly on the website www.jamhuuriya.com

One of the newspaper group's co-owners, Faysal Ali Sheikh, is Director General of the Ministry of Information. The other, Hassan Said Yusuf, is Secretary General of the governing Kulmiye party.

Editor of Jamhuuriya - Mohamed Omer Irro
Mob: +252 2 528 795

Editor of The Republican - Hussein Ali Noor
Mob: + 252 2 442 91 98
Email: jamhuuriya@yahoo.com
jamhuuriya@hotmail.com

Address: Sha'ab Area, Near Hargeisa Group Hospital, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Geeska Afrika www.geeska.net

Geeska Afrika is published six times a week in **Hargeisa** and prints between 700 and 1,000 copies per day.

The newspaper, which was founded in 2006, is considered largely impartial.

It has reporters in all of Somaliland's main towns.

Like most of Somaliland's newspapers, it concentrates mainly on local politics, although it also features human interest stories and entertainment.

Its readership is largely young and urban.

It has a sister English language paper, **The Horn Tribune**, which comes out once a week.

Geeska Afrika a substantial Somali language news website which is updated fairly regularly

Owner and Editor - Mohamed Husein Rambow

Mob: +252 2 442 32 32

Email: editor@geeska.net

geeska2006@yahoo.com

Address: Main road, near Daalo building, central Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Waheen www.waaheen.com

This pro-opposition daily frequently criticises the government of Somaliland.

Its editor was jailed in early 2011.

Waheen is published in **Hargeisa** six days per week and sells between 700-1000 copies per issue.

It has a popular online radio service with links to BBC and VOA Somali service programmes on its website.

The newspaper was founded in 2007. It is owned by Dr Ahmed Hussein Isse.

Editor - Mohamud Abdi Jama Huto

Tel: + 252 2 419 42 00

Email: waaheen001@hotmail.com

Address: Sha'ab Area, Near CID Building, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Ogaal News

This daily newspaper and is considered to be fairly independent and balanced.

It comes out about six days a week and sells between 500 and 700 copies per issue.

The newspaper focuses on hard news.

Ogaal News was founded in 2005. It has correspondents in different parts of Somaliland and East Africa.

It is owned by Muse Farah Jambiiir, who mainly lives in Norway.

Editor: Abdiweli Farah Jambiiir
Email: mjambiiir6@yahoo.com

Tel: +252 2 441 33 94
+252 2 441 08 12
Email: ogaalwar@gmail.com

Address: Near Jirddeh Building, Central Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Dawan

This newspaper is owned by the government of Somaliland.

It is published in **Hargeisa** three times a week.

About 300 copies are printed. Most are distributed to government offices.

The newspaper was originally launched in 1994 under the name Maandeeq.

The government of President Ahmed Silanyo, elected in 2010, changed its name to Dawan.

Director: Faysal Ali Sheikh

Tel: +252 2 424 01 19

Foore

This paper was launched in **Hargeisa** in 2011. It comes out three days a week.

In 2011, its owner, Hasan Abdi Madar, was appointed Director General at

the Ministry for the Presidency.

Tel: +252 2 440 23 60

Email: foore2010@yahoo.com

Address: Sha'ab Area, near the Academy for Peace, Hargeisa, Somaliland

Saxansaxo

This is a pro-government paper, published in **Hargeisa**, which comes out between three and four times a week.

It sells between 400-500 copies per issue.

It covers political issues and prints government press releases.

The newspaper was opened in 2007 by Abdillahi Mohamed Dahir. He went on to become Press Secretary to the President of Somaliland, Ahmed Silanyo.

Editor: Ali Diini

Tel: +252 2 442 39 98

Email: saxansaxonews@hotmail.com

Address: Near Presidency Building, Hargeisa Main Road, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Hargeisa Star

This pro-opposition newspaper is published in **Hargeisa** three times a week. It was launched in 2010.

In September 2011, a court ordered the paper to close.

Owner: Mohamed Abdirahman Gadhyare

Tel: +252 2 441 04 92

Email: hargeisastar@gmail.com

Address: Dunbulq district, near Star Hotel, Hargeisa, Somaliland

Saxafi News

This paper was opened in **Hargeisa** in 2010 and comes out three times a week.

Owner - Mohamer Rashid Mohumed

Editor: Mohamed Amiin

Tel: +252 2 441 10 77

Email: saxafinews@gmail.com

Address: Jigjiga Yar, Red Sea Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

Yool

This pro-opposition newspaper comes out in **Hargeisa** three times a week.

It was launched in 2008 and sells between 300-500 copies per edition.

Owner and Editor - Mohamed Abdi Orad

Tel: +252 2 442 15 58

Email: yoolnews@hotmail.com

Address: Near Hamdi Hotel, New Hargeisa District, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

SOLNA

SOLNA is the only news agency in Somaliland. It feeds daily news to state radio and television.

Its monitoring section records programmes from Al Jazeera television, and the BBC and VOA Somali radio services.

SOLNA was started by the government in 2006. Its website www.solnagency.com was not operational in November 2011.

Editor: Ahmed Hussein Ismail

Mob: +252 2 444 72 56

6. Online media

There are hundreds of Somali news websites. Most of them are unreliable.

Many are linked to particular interest groups, and are therefore more a source of propaganda and 'spin' than a reliable sources of unbiased news.

There are however some honourable exceptions.

These include: www.hiraan.com, www.shabelle.net and www.somaliareport.com

Most news websites are in **Somali**, although some have a limited number of **English** pages.

One **English** language news website about Somalia which is widely used by diplomats and aid workers is **Somalia Report** www.somaliareport.com .

The site was created in 2011 by veteran Canadian war reporter Robert Young Pelton, author of the book "*The World's Most Dangerous Places*".

It has special sections on piracy alerts, outbreaks of fighting and the latest developments on the relief scene.

Somalia Report describes itself as: "*a privately funded, non-partisan website that hires Western editors to work with Somali journalists inside the country to cover all aspects of the region: piracy, conflict, terrorism, government, local news, culture and key issues*".

"The hour-by-hour coverage is targeted to professionals who need expertise, situational awareness and in-depth background to breaking news".

Some Somali websites largely rely on foreign news agency reports, which they translate into Somali. Others have their own network of reporters.

Many have online links to radio stations, including the Somali services of the BBC and VOA.

Online news services are mostly read by Somalis in the diaspora and young literate town dwellers inside Somalia

The internet penetration rate is very low. Only about 1% of Somalis used the internet, according to most telecoms industry estimates in late 2011.

Transmitting humanitarian messages via Somali language websites is likely to be less effective than using radio or mobile phone.

However, internet cafes are extremely popular in areas where there is a connection and Somalis are sophisticated users of the web.

The social media site, Facebook, is popular with educated young Somalis.

The internet traffic measurement website www.socialbakers.com recorded just over 34,000 Facebook users in Somalia in November 2011, of whom 83% were under 35 and 77% were male.

The internet analysis site www.socialbakers.com reckoned that about one third of the estimated 115,000 internet surfers in Somalia used Facebook

There are numerous Somali online chat rooms, where fierce political debates are held, often involving people living in many different countries.

International news websites in Somali are also popular.

The BBC Somali Service website www.bbc.co.uk/somali attracts more visitors than most other BBC foreign language websites, even though the population of Somalia and the Somali diaspora is relatively small.

One reason why Somali online media has developed so fast is that the diaspora have an unquenchable thirst for news from home.

The internet has served as a vital bridge for bringing together members of the diaspora with people living in Somalia. They read each other's websites and this helps them to understand each other's problems and points of view.

One positive aspect of web-based news is that it allows journalists to report with greater freedom than when they are broadcasting on local radio and TV or writing in local newspapers.

Some of the higher quality sites are linked to Somalia's main radio, television and print organisations.

They usually contain podcasts or live streaming, as well as podcasts of programmes from the BBC and VOA Somali services.

Websites with a focus on south-central Somalia

www.hiiraan.com

This is one of the most reliable and respected Somali news websites. It has good news coverage and carries articles on a wide range of topics by columnists, politicians and other eminent people, both Somali and non-Somali.

www.shabelle.net

This website, run by the Shabelle Media Network, the owner of Radio Shabelle, is one of the most reliable news websites in South Central Somalia. It has good up-to-date news coverage.

www.calanka.com

This news website is considered fairly trustworthy. It mainly covers events in South Central Somalia.

www.dayniilecom.com

Some reports on this website are exaggerated and unreliable.

www.jowhar.com

This popular website is narrowly focused on the Jowhar region.

www.midnimo.com

This website is considered to be fairly balanced and reliable.

www.radiomuqdisho.net

This website run by Radio Mogadishu, the official radio station of the Transitional Federal Government, is essentially a government propaganda website. However, it does carry some reliable information.

www.somaliareport.com

This comprehensive website covers a wide range of topics. Its sources are sometimes considered unreliable.

www.somaliweyn.com

Considered fairly reliable and balanced.

www.wardheernews.com

This website is non-partisan, with a heavy emphasis on Somali culture and literature.

Websites with a focus on Puntland

www.allpuntland.com

This is the most well-known news website in Puntland. It has been going for more than ten years. It is widely considered impartial, but it is sometimes criticized for failing to report key news stories about Puntland.

www.horseedmedia.com

This is linked to Radio Horseed in Bossasso and is one of the more reliable websites in Puntland. It has a network of reporters in the region, and is widely considered to be a trustworthy source of news.

www.sbc.com

This news website is linked to the SBC radio and TV group. It is considered to be quite reliable and up-to-date. It focuses mainly on Puntland.

www.garoweonline.com

This website, which is available in both Somali and English versions, is linked to Radio Garowe. It is popular but unreliable.

www.puntlandpost.com

This website is well known, but is widely regarded as unreliable.

Websites with a focus on Somaliland

www.somaliland.org

This is a pro-Somaliland government site.

www.somalilandfuture.com

This is a pro-Somaliland government site.

www.somalilandpatriots.com

This site, available in English and Somali, promotes the cause of Somaliland's independence from the rest of Somalia. It has news and audio links to programmes of the BBC and VOA Somali services.

www.hadhwanaagnewss.com

This Somaliland website is sometimes pro-government.

www.halbeegnews.com

This website supports the Somaliland opposition.

www.qarannews.com

Somaliland opposition website.

www.somalilandpress.com

This Somaliland news site is considered to be largely neutral.

www.ramaasnews.com

This Somaliland news website is considered to be largely neutral.

www.togaherer.com

This Somaliland news website is considered to be largely neutral.

www.berberanews.com

This site features news from Sahir region of Somaliland, and the regional capital, **Berbera**, which is the territory's main port.

www.caynabanews.com

This site represents the interests of the **Saraar** region of Southeastern Somaliland. Its capital is the town of **Ainabo**.

www.gabiley.net

This website represents the interests of Somaliland's region of **Gabiley**, west of the Somaliland capital Hargeisa.

www.harowo.com

This website represents the **Awdal** region in western Somaliland and its capital **Boroma**.

www.lughaya.com

This website represents the **Awdal** region in western Somaliland and its capital **Boroma**.

www.togdheernews.com

This website represents the interests **Togdheer** region and its regional capital, **Burao**, which is the second biggest town in Somaliland.

www.oodweynenewss.com

This website represents the **Odweyne** area of the **Togdheer** region of Somaliland, east of Hargeisa.

www.sanaagnews.com

This website promotes the interests of the **Sanaag** region, whose ownership is disputed by Somaliland and Puntland.

www.radiowidhwdh.com

This site operates from the **Sool**, whose ownership is disputed by Somaliland and Puntland.

7. Traditional and informal channels of communication

Talking counts for a lot in Somalia; the culture is strongly oral.

Somalis are very open and communicative. They enjoy information, especially if it contains a discussion-point.

They retain great respect for the traditional ways of doing things, but are quick to adapt to modern technology.

Somalis often put a whole group of people on one end of a mobile phone call by using the speakerphone.

They are also quick to forward text messages and emails to other people.

Those gifted in rhetoric, with an excellent command of the language, are highly respected in the community.

Humanitarian groups can work effectively with articulate local orators to communicate with people at a local level.

Poetry and song

Poetry and song are held in high regard. Famous poets and singers have a high status in Somali society; their words are heard by Somalis all over the world, old and young, traditional and modern.

Aid agencies could approach well-known poets such as **Hadrawi** to help them to communicate key messages.

Hadrawi, who comes from the town of **Burao** in Somaliland, has played an active part in promoting peace, by leading a 'peace caravan' throughout Somaliland, Puntland and the rest of Somalia.

The well-known Canadian-Somali singer **K'naan**, has also expressed an interest in playing a role in alleviating the suffering of those affected by the drought and famine of 2011.

Gossip/word of mouth

Somali men, spend hours in **tea shops** discussing politics and other subjects.

Debates are particularly active during afternoon **qat-chewing sessions**; this mildly narcotic leaf, grown in Ethiopia and Kenya, is popular among many Somalis. Men usually gather in groups in the afternoon to chew qat and talk.

Clan elders

Clan elders remain highly respected, especially in Somaliland, where they sit in the Upper House of Parliament or *guurti*.

Their authority has been somewhat eroded in South Central Somalia due to the long years of conflict, but they remain important.

Elders have traditionally played a crucial role in the settlement of disputes, and in the passing of key messages to members of their clan.

They are respected for their wisdom and ability to explain complex ideas.

Elders could be effective communicators of humanitarian messages, including complicated or sensitive ones about health or other matters.

They are able to call clan meetings that bring large numbers of people together as a group.

Religious leaders

Clerics and imams play a crucial role in disseminating information, especially in their sermons at Friday prayers, when large numbers of men attend the mosques.

In Puntland, the United Nations paid selected imams up to US\$100 each to preach against piracy, according to one insider who was involved in the programme.

In areas controlled by Al Shabaab, vast crowds of people gather in public places to hear speeches by religious leaders and other senior members of the movement.

Local announcers

There are other more unconventional channels of communication, which vary from region to region.

For example, there is a man in **Burao** in Somaliland, who is responsible for spreading important information in the town.

He has a loudspeaker, a gift for language and a strong personality, all essential ingredients for getting his voice heard.

He spreads messages about lost items, weddings and other social events,

Loudspeaker vans can also be hired to make public announcements in the port city of **Bossasso** in Puntland.

8. Media resources

Mogadishu Media House www.mogadishumedia.org

The Mogadishu Media House is a Somali media development organization that aims to promote press freedom and improve working conditions and security for journalists in Somalia.

It runs short training courses.

The organization conducted wide ranging opinion surveys in the capital in January and November 2010. These purported to show, amongst other conclusions, high levels of public support for AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government.

Curiously this research started before Mogadishu Media House was formally constituted as a non-profit media development organization in April 2010

Executive Director: Abdullahi Hasan Black

Mob: +252-61-550-7800

Tel: +252 1 240 204

Email: mogmedia@gmail.com
abduhahblack@hotmail.com

Safeway Multimedia Consultants www.samcomedia.org

This media development group was established in Kenya by several Somali media experts in 2011.

It has trained journalists at Radio Mogadishu and has undertaken other training projects.

Its website was not functioning in November 2011.

Coordinator and Trainer: Abdishakur Ali Mire

Mob (Kenya): + 254 704 918 738
(UK) +44 7904 233 261

Email: info@samcomedia.org
shakuur@samcomedia.org

BBC Media Action www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/

BBC Media Action is the international media development arm of the BBC. Until December 2011 it was known as the BBC World Service Trust.

Its operations in Somalia and the rest of East Africa are run from a regional office in Nairobi, Kenya.

BBC World Service Trust has been active in Somalia for more than ten years, training journalists and producing programmes for rebroadcast by local radio stations.

In 2011, the Trust launched a UNICEF-funded project to promote better child health, nutrition and hygiene in Somalia.

This focused on the production of a series of 15-minute radio dramas to be followed by interactive discussions between experts and members of the audience.

In late 2011 the Trust was also undertaking training and mentoring in six radio stations across Somalia to develop and sustain interactive programmes that promote human rights, peace-building and good governance.

In addition it was producing a series of radio magazine programmes on peace building, human rights and civic education for broadcast on the BBC Somali Service and a separate series of weekly programme for UNDP about the process of developing a new constitution for Somalia.

The UNDP-funded project also involved training Somali journalists how to report on constitutional issues and allow ordinary people to give their opinions on the process.

Another project involves training journalists in Somaliland and Puntland in HIV/AIDS reporting and creating a series of public service announcements on HIV/AIDS awareness for broadcast by radio stations in these two areas

Regional Director for East Africa - Judy Houston

Mob: (Kenya) +254 20 227 6000

Email: judy.houston@bbcwst.net

Address: BBC East Africa Bureau, 5th Floor, Longonot Place, Kijabe Street, PO Box 58621, Nairobi, Kenya.

Internews www.internews.org

Internews is a US-based media development organization, with a strong track record of creating and supporting community radio stations in developing countries.

In 2011 it was heavily involved in initiatives to promote better communications between aid agencies and the half million plus Somali refugees in the **Dadaab** complex of refugee camps in Eastern Kenya.

Internews conducted an information needs assessment in Dadaab and was closely involved with the Kenyan Somali-language radio station **Star FM** to set up a community radio station in Dadaab.

Africa Regional Manager (based in Nairobi, Kenya) – Ian Noble
Email: inoble@internews.org

IREX www.irex.org

The US-based media development organization IREX ran a US government-funded project to support media and civil society in Somalia from 2008 to 2011.

The project has now closed.

Tel: (USA) +1 202 628 8188
Email: irex@irex.org

Address: 2121 K Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington DC, 20037, USA

National Endowment for Democracy www.ned.org

This US government funded organization makes grants to support human rights and the development of a free media environment in Somalia.

It has supported media outlets including **Radio Shabelle** and **Radio Banadir** in Mogadishu, **Radio Daljir** in **Bossaso** and news website **Hiraan Online**.

Phone: (USA) +1 202 378-9700
E-mail: info@ned.org

Address: 1025 F Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004, USA

Free Press Unlimited www.freepressunlimited.org

The Dutch media development organization **Press Now** has delivered training programmes for Somali journalists in the past.

In mid-2011 it was planning to establish a new TV and radio training and programme production project serving all the Somali-speaking population of East Africa, based in **Hargeisa**, the capital of Somaliland.

In August 2011, Press Now merged with the **Radio Netherlands Training Centre** and the Dutch radio drama production NGO **Freevoice** to become Free Press Unlimited.

In late 2011, the website of Free Press Unlimited did not list any projects under way in Somalia.

Tel: (Netherlands) +31 35 62 54 300

Email info@freepressunlimited.org

Headquarters address: Witte Kruislaan 55, 1217 AM Hilversum, Postbank 7676, Netherlands

Relief International www.ri.org

This California-based international aid agency sponsored a series of journalism training workshops in Puntland in 2011.

In the longer term it was planning to support selected journalism training institutions in Somalia.

Tel: (USA) +1 323 932-7888

Email: hq@ri.org

Address: 5455 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1280 Los Angeles, CA 90036, USA

National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) www.nusoj.org

NUSOJ claims to be a trade union representing 350 Somali journalists.

It denounces acts of violence and intimidation against journalists and moves to repress free speech in all parts of Somalia on its website.

NUSOJ is the local partner of the international press freedom organization Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) www.rsfsf.org

It has frequently partnered with international organizations in journalism training initiatives.

The forerunner of NUSOJ, The forerunner of NUSOJ, the Somali Journalists' Network, was founded in 2002 as a movement to protect journalists and promote free speech. It was transformed into a trade union three years later.

Secretary General - Omar Faruk Osman

Tel: +252 1 859 944,

e-mail: nusoj@nusoj.org

Internet: <http://www.nusoj.org>

Address: Taleex Street, KM4 Area, Hodan District, Mogadishu

Somaliland

Somaliland Journalists' Association (SOLJA)

This organization represents journalists working for both state and independent media.

It organizes journalism training and assists journalists who run into trouble with the authorities.

It was set up in 2002.

Chairman: Hassan Mohamed Yusuf

Secretary General: Mohamed Amiin, mamiin1978@gmail.com, 00 252 2 442 1411.

Somaliland Society for Journalists and Writers (SSJW)

This organization was set up in 2005 to represent journalists working for independent media.

Like SOLJA, it organizes journalism training and assists colleagues who run into trouble with the police and government.

Chairman: Yusuf Abdi Gaboobe,

Tel: +252 2 442 8575

Email: haatufnews@hotmail.com

Audio and video production

Somaliland

EDC www.edc.org www.shaqodoon.org

Educational Development Center (EDC) is a US-based NGO that runs an employment skills training programme in Somaliland called Shaqodoon.

This has media production and training facilities in the capital Hargeisa.

Tel: +252 2 566028/29

Email: info@shaqodoon.org

Health Poverty Action www.healthpovertyaction.org

The British medical NGO Health Poverty Action, formerly known as Health Unlimited, has a radio studio in Hargeisa.

This has been used since 1999 to make the health education radio soap opera Saxan Saxo (Fresh Breeze).

Health Poverty Action has produced radio programmes for other NGOs and offers training facilities.

Tel (UK): +44 207 840 3777

Email: general@healthpovertyaction.org

Kow Productions

This is a media production house in Somaliland that has produced documentaries.

Contacts??

Cartoonist

Amin Amir www.aminarts.com

Amin Amir is a Somali cartoonist based in Canada whose clear and entertaining drawings frequently comment on political events in Somalia.

Samples of his work can be seen on the website www.aminarts.com

Email: aminamir20@hotmail.com

Marketing and communication

Somaliland

There are two main marketing and communications companies, both based in the capital, Hargeisa. They print pamphlets, posters and other items, and produce plastic banners.

SAGA LJET Advertising Agency

ASAL Advertising Agency

9. Telecommunications Overview

The telecommunications sector has flourished in a completely deregulated environment since the collapse of central government in 1991.

Several privately owned mobile telephone networks have developed. Today they provide extensive mobile coverage throughout the country – and beyond.

In late 2011, the only mobile signal available to the 135,000 inhabitants of the Dolo Ado refugee camp in Ethiopia came from across the border in Somalia!

The mobile telephone is perfectly adapted to Somalia's oral culture and the nomadic lifestyle of the majority of its inhabitants.

It is also a godsend for people displaced by drought and conflict who need to keep in touch with their family and friends and seek help from relatives overseas when they are on the move.

In areas without electricity, shops and small businesses often recharge mobile phones with solar-powered chargers for a small fee.

Reliable statistics on mobile phone ownership in Somalia do not exist.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) estimated that there were 648,000 mobile phones in Somalia in 2010, giving a mobile penetration rate of just 7%.

But other estimates put the true figure of mobile ownership much higher – at up to 39%.

Nevertheless access to mobile phones is restricted amongst the very poor, especially displaced people and the inhabitants of remote rural areas

Somalia's mobile phone companies have developed profitable sidelines in the form of money transfer and electricity supply services.

These help to plug major gaps in economic infrastructure in a country where the landline network, the banking system and the public electricity network have all collapsed.

Several mobile phone companies also offer landline services.

However, these only operate as closed local networks in certain regions. It is often impossible to make a phone call from one landline network to another.

Connections between different mobile networks can also be difficult.

The main mobile networks in Somalia are:

- **Nationlink** – a large operator with a nationwide network
- **Hormuud** – a leading player in South Central Somalia, linked to Golis in Puntland and Telesom in Somaliland
- **Golis** – the market leader in Puntland, linked to Hormuud in South Central Somalia and Telesom in Somaliland
- **Telesom** – a regional player in Somaliland, linked to Golis in Puntland and Hormuud in South Central Somalia
- **Telecom Somalia** – South Central Somalia and Puntland network linked to Telecom Somaliland
- **Telecom Somaliland** – a regional network in Somaliland linked to Telecom Somalia in the rest of the country

Most communication takes the form of voice calls.

Low literacy rates and the Somalis' preference for talking rather than reading and writing have limited the growth of SMS messages.

Text messages are mainly used by money transfer services to alert recipients that a remittance is ready to collect.

Once the money has been paid out to the designated recipient, the company sends a second confirmation text message to the sender of the cash.

At least one remittance company – **Dahabshiil** - has expressed interest in tagging humanitarian messages onto these routine SMS messages.

Potentially, money transfer companies could also be used to broadcast SMS messages to their extensive data-bases of registered users.

Mobile operators sometimes send their subscribers text messages with commercial advertising.

Radio stations report high volumes of text messages from listeners to interactive programmes as well as voice calls.

However, only the literate minority uses text messages rather than voice calls to communicate with each other.

Somali mobile tariffs are among the cheapest in the world.

International call rates are as low as 20 US cents per minute, helped by the fact that many networks channel international calls through the voice over internet protocol (VOIP), rather than conventional phone lines.

Somalis can even buy special packages which allow designated overseas numbers to phone them for free.

This service costs about US\$10 a month.

The main problem is poor inter-connectivity between the different mobile phone networks. This is particularly serious in South Central Somalia.

Many Somalis resort to using several different SIM cards (and phone numbers) to get round this problem.

Some have mobile phones that can take up two or three different SIM cards.

Hormuud, Golis and Telesom do have good connectivity with each other.

All three companies are partly owned by Ahmed Nur Ali Jimale, the former boss of the Al Barakat money transfer company.

Al Barakat was accused by the United States of channeling funds to Al Qaeda. It was closed down by US President George Bush shortly after the 9/11 Al Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York with hijacked planes in September 2001.

Somalia Telecom and **Somaliland Telecom** which have a common owner, also enjoy good connectivity with each other.

Several telecommunications companies gave generously to charities during the 2011 drought.

Somalis in the diaspora also sent millions of dollars to help people through money transfer companies.

A lot of this cash went to areas controlled by Al Shabaab that were difficult for aid agencies to physically access.

Significant challenges to the telecommunications sector include the lack of policy and regulation and the proliferation of small operators who are unable to offer an adequate nationwide service.

The lack of radio spectrum control has led to harmful interference between the signals of rival networks in some areas.

Many international NGOs and private companies, such as big hotels, have their own VSAT systems for reliable internet access and direct telephone access to the rest of the world.

Puntland has fairly good mobile network coverage.

Some companies have extended their range in Puntland in recent years, particularly in coastal areas, where pirates are reputed to be heavy mobile phone users and lucrative customers.

The regions around Bossaso, Galkayo, Qardho and Garowe have good mobile coverage, but some remote and mountainous areas are out of range

Somaliland still suffers problems of connectivity between its different mobile networks, but since 2000, the Somaliland Association of Telecom Operators which has helped to tackle this.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by seven telecommunications companies and the Association is helping to bring about a more harmonized development of the sector in Somaliland.

There are tentative plans to connect Somaliland to the East African submarine submarine Fibre optic cable EASSy in 2012.

This cable runs along the sea bed along the coast of East Africa from Sudan to South Africa.

A direct connection to it would open the way for faster and cheaper internet services in Somaliland.

The submarine cable is unlikely to be connected to other parts of Somalia are unlikely so long as they remain unstable and prone to conflict

In April 2011, Djibouti became the latest country to hook up to the EASSy cable.

Leading telecommunications companies

Nationlink www.nationlinktelecom.com

Nationlink, which is based in **Mogadishu**, is one of the leading telecommunications companies in Somalia.

It claims to offer nationwide mobile network coverage, but its subscriber base is strongest in South Central Somalia.

Its mobile network covers many small towns and villages in remote areas, as well as the major cities.

Nationlink also offers fixed line, mobile and satellite phone services and internet connections.

It is the Somali partner for the satellite phone company **Thuraya**.

Nationlink was founded in 1997 by Abdirazak Ido, a businessman from the divided city of Galkayo, which straddles the border between Puntland and the autonomous region of Galmudug.

Managing director: Abdi Sabrie,
Email: sabrie@matrixltd.co.ke

Hargeisa director - Mahd Dahir Jama
Mob: +252 844 002
Email: mahd1@nationlink-sl.com

Hormuud www.hortel.net

Hormuud is one of the two largest mobile operators in Somalia, alongside Nationlink.

It was founded in **Mogadishu** in 2002 by Chief Executive Ahmed Mohammed Yusuf. He started out in business with a shop that developed into a supermarket.

Hormuud offers fixed line, mobile phone, and internet services. In late 2011 it was widely regarded as the market leader in Mogadishu.

Like many other Somali telecoms companies, Hormuud sells telephone equipment as well as services.

This includes solar-powered mobile phones, which are especially useful for nomads, fighters and displaced people.

Hormuud's fixed line service offers features including caller-ID, call forwarding, call waiting and conference call facilities.

The company is owned by more than 600 Somali shareholders and employs more than 4,000 staff.

One of the principal shareholders is Ahmed Nur Ali Jimale, who owned the Al Barakat money transfer company. This was closed down by US President George Bush shortly after the 9/11 Al Qaeda attacks on the United States in September 2001.

Al Barakat was accused of channeling funds to Al Qaeda.

Jimale has re-emerged as a major investor in **Hormuud** in South Central Somalia, **Golis** in Puntland and **Telesom** in Somaliland.

All three companies have good mobile connectivity with each other, so calls can be made on any of these networks to all three Somali regions.

Chief Executive – Ahmed Mohamed Yusuf
Tel: +252 6 155 022 66
Email: ayusuf@hortel.net

Golis www.golistelecom.com

Golis is the biggest telecommunications company in Puntland.

Founded in 2002, with its headquarters in **Bossasso**, it offers fixed line, GSM mobile, internet and financial services.

The company claims that its network covers almost all the major towns and districts of Puntland.

Golis has good call connections with **Hormuud** in South Central Somalia and **Telesom** in Somaliland, with which it shares a common large shareholder; Ahmed Nur Ali Jimale, who owned the now defunct Al Barakat money transfer company.

Golis offers a number of services that could be useful to NGOs such as the 'flashback' service whereby people who can't or won't pay for a phone call 'flash' someone else without their call being answered. The recipient of the flash is alerted to call them back.

It costs nothing to make a 'flashback' call.

Golis's Xogmaal service allows users to access various internet services, including information on livestock prices, currency exchange rates and weather services.

Xogmaal also offers access to international and local media.

Golis has a money transfer service called Sahal which allows subscribers to send and receive money via their mobile phone

www.golistelecom.com/detail.php?id=65

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Telesom www.telesom.net

Telesom is the biggest telecoms operator in Somaliland.

It provides mobile, fixed line and internet services.

Telesom was originally part of the Al Barakat money transfer company which was closed down shortly after the Al Qaeda 9/11 attacks on the United States.

It reopened in Somaliland in 2002 as Telesom Communications, with many of the same staff and offices.

The owners of Al Barakat also became heavy investors in **Hormuud** in South Central Somalia and **Golis** in Puntland.

Telesom has good mobile connectivity with both these companies, enabling its subscribers to call easily to all parts of Somalia.

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Telecom Somalia/ Telecom Somaliland

Telecom Somalia says its coverage extends from Puntland southwards to the Kenyan border.

Somaliland is covered by its sister company, Telecom Somaliland.

Mobile connectivity between the two networks is good.

Founded in the USA in 1993, Telecom Somalia is currently headquartered in Dubai.

It has offices in the main Somali cities including Bossasso, Galkayo, Garowe, Hargeisa and Mogadishu.

Telecom Somalia was one of the first private telecommunications companies to be established in Somalia, but in recent years it has lost market share to newer competitors.

It is widely regarded as the third largest telecoms operator in Somalia after Nationlink and Hormuud.

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Somtel www.somtelnetwork.net

Somtel is the second largest mobile operator in Somaliland.

It is a sister company of **Dahabshiil**, one of the biggest money transfer companies in Africa, which is based in Somaliland.

Somtel was launched in 1993 in the Somaliland towns of Burao, Berbera, Erigavo, Las Anod and Buhoodle.

It opened in Hargeisa in 2010 and now covers most of Somaliland including many rural areas.

Somtel provides mobile, landline, fast internet DSL and wireless services.

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African Online

This company provides landline telephone and fast internet DSL and wireless in Somaliland's main towns.

It does not offer mobile phone services.

It is owned by businessmen and religious leaders from Somaliland.

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Global Internet Company

This is the main internet provider in South Central Somalia.

It was formed after as a consortium between the three main telecommunications companies in Somalia - Hormuud Telecom, Telecom Somalia and Nationlink.

Its headquarters are in **Mogadishu**.

Global Internet offers dial-up internet access for use with landlines.

It also provides wireless internet, DSL internet, and broadband services for businesses, private residences and internet cafes.

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