



Somalia

Background:

Somalia was established in 1960, and collapsed into anarchy in the year 1991 after the military regime of President Siade Barre was overthrown. Rival warlords ruled the land, and in 2000, the land was finally reverted back to and internationally backed unified government. The two regions in the North were also established, Somaliland and Puntland, which were relatively peaceful. Later, in the year 2006, Islamist Sharia Courts seized the capital, Mogadishu. This only lasted until 2012, when a new internationally backed government was created after Ethiopian and African Union Forces intervened. The first presidential elections since 1967 on Somali soil were held in 2012, where clan elders chose parliament members to represent them.

This civil war has been ongoing since 1991, and has killed approximately 500,000 people. The International Committee of the Red Cross spends approximately 20% of their entire world budget on the conflict in Somalia because all of the human rights abuses. Civilians are raped, attacked, and even used as human shields. It has been reported that around 4 million of the 9.8 million people living in Somalia need food help. Over \$458 million USD has been contributed by various countries for humanitarian aid, with Norway and the United States contributing the vastest amount, with a combined \$286.7 million. In January of 2016, Somalia asked for \$885 million USD to aid their 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

In 2011, Somalia suffered one of the worst droughts in 60 years. With extreme conditions threatening food security, and increasing the rates of famine, the United Nations has offered \$105 million USD to Somalia to increase food security, and ensure the health of all citizens. There has been a 17% increase in the number of people in crises since the beginning of 2016.



With this number increasing, the rate of malnourished children under the age of five is estimated to increase by approximately 50% by the end of 2016.

Although Somalia has a relatively low rate of HIV/AIDS for an African country, around 35% of children die each year due to dehydration and malnutrition, and the UN has even named this conflict the “world’s worst humanitarian disaster” (worldwithoutgenocide.org). At the end of 2009, over one million displaced persons were reported to the UNHCR. The life expectancy for women is around 53, and men only 50, due to the 1.9 million people who die from preventable diseases. These people are largely affected by two groups, the Somali government and Al-Shabaab, who are battling within their country.

The Al-Shabaab has been linked to Al-Qaeda, and is an extremely dangerous militant group that aims to control the country of Somalia. On June 1, 2016, they took responsibility for detonating a car bomb at the Ambassador Hotel. This followed a previous attack in March of 2015, when they stormed the Makka al-Mukarma, and over 20 people died.

UN Involvement:

UNOSOM I and II were both created in the 1990’s in order to attempt to help suppress the fighting groups, and create peace within Somalia. When these two missions did not work, UNITAF, or the United Task Force, was created. This task force was utilized from 1992-1993, and was utilized to deliver humanitarian efforts to the southern parts of Somalia. The mission was declared a success, and ended on May 4.

The United Nations has made extreme attempts in order to help this conflict. UNSOM, or the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, was created in 1992, and since then has made many resolutions. S/RES/2289 was made in 2016 and ordered African Union member states to



help maintain AMISOM's deployment. It has been successful so far, but has only been in effect since May 27. S/RES/2232 was created in 2015 in order to reinforce the importance of maintaining the offensive with Al-Shabaab. It was successful, and the UN is still currently attempting to create peace within the region. According to their website, UNSOM attempts to increase government awareness of, "respect for human rights and women's empowerment, child protection, prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthening justice institutions" (UNSOM unmissions.org)

AMISOM, or the African Union Mission in Somalia, has done many things to help the constant warring in Somalia. May 25 was named "Africa Day" in order to create awareness for the hash tag "#AfricaWeWant" they have created. This advocates for the development of Africa and its culture and peace. They also set up the African Peace Facility, which reinforces their strong ties with the European Union. This mission also aids in humanitarian, rebuilding, and peacemaking efforts. The mission has recently opened up a new training facility for the National Army of Somali, which will be extremely helpful in attempting to defeat the militant group Al-Shabaab.

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund plans to donate \$11 million to the 1.7 million people in need of humanitarian aid in northern Somalia.

The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit provides updates and statistics on the numbers of people without food security in order to inform the United Nations and other organizations. They also create reports about nutrition in camps in order to update the status of these civilians.



On November 19, 2016, ceasefire groups were sent into Gaalkacyo to try to reduce the fighting and violence in the area. They were ordered to go into the country to ensure the implementation of the agreements between President Guled and President Gaas.. With the upcoming elections for president, a crucial time in Somalia's history is approaching. Because of the opportunity for change, UNSOM has been attempting to train the Galmudug State Assembly. They used the Parliament Support Project in Mogadishu. Hoping that this will aid in stabilizing the country, the United Nations attempted to connect the Parliament more with the citizens, and ensure that their voices are heard. This creates a better relationship with the community, and portrays Parliament in a positive light to help reduce the fighting in the country.

Questions to Consider:

1. Where will the humanitarian aid be centered so that people will know of it and it will be away from fighting?
2. Whose job is it to fight against the militant forces currently occupying Somalia?
3. How will the newly established government be strengthened so that an overthrow does not occur again?
4. What will the country do with all of their displaced people after the civil war?
5. What will happen to anyone involved in the Al-Shabaab?
6. How can the UN further help to reduce terror attacks such as the one's on the hotels in the capital of Mogadishu?
7. How can the UN aid to promote food security for the citizens of Somalia? How can the committee ensure the safety of workers and volunteers coming in to help?



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