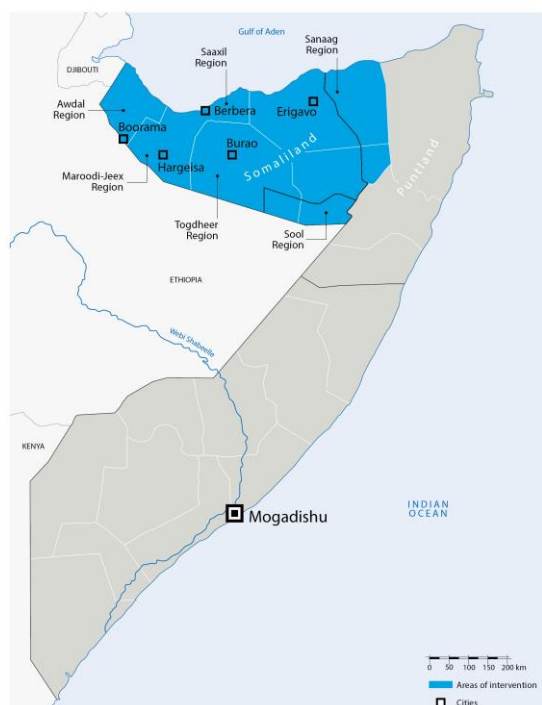




## Somalia

**MANDATE**

In Somaliland, Handicap International aims to strengthen rehabilitation services for war victims and people with disabilities. The association has to develop prevention and healthcare services in the field of HIV/AIDS and to support local disabled people organization. By conducting these actions, Handicap International promotes disabled people rights, and especially children rights.

**SITUATION**

Handicap International operates predominantly in Somaliland and Puntland, a self-declared republic and autonomous state, respectively. In 1991, Somaliland proclaimed itself a state after three years of bloody civil war. The international community considers it as part of Somalia but is governed as an independent country since 1992. Puntland, in north-east Somalia, has been an independent state since 1998. In general, Somaliland is currently fairly calm and functional but the security situation is fragile because of weak state control, ineffective law enforcement and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Handicap International has so far operated freely in every region of Somaliland and Puntland.

**BACKGROUND**

In 1992, Handicap International launched its presence in Somaliland with the set up of a rehabilitation centre (HRC = Hargeisa Rehabilitation Centre) with its partner Disability Action Network (dan) in Hargeisa, the capital of the region. Nine years later, the centre became completely independent on the technical level, following the training of physiotherapy, orthopaedic and psychomotricity assistants. A further reinforcement of Handicap International's presence was marked by projects such as support for local associations working towards the socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities, renewing irrigation structures for agricultural holdings in the Berbera region and a mine risk education project. The opening of a Handicap International office in Puntland in 2007 has allowed the organisation to set up partner networks and improve its knowledge of the region, with the possibility of conducting similar actions to those successfully taken in Somaliland. Handicap International is registered with the Somaliland Ministry of Planning and Aid Coordination and works in partnership/close collaboration with government institutions and local NGOs.

**KEY FACTS**

Human development index (HDI)*	Information not available
Life expectancy*	55.1 years
GNI per capita *	Information not available
Population**	10,5 million inhabitants
Surface area**	637,660 sq.km

\*Human Development Report 2014

\*\* World Bank 2013

<b>Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)</b>	Not joined
<b>Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)</b>	Signed: 03 December 2008
<b>Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)</b>	Ratified 16 April 2012



## Promoting rights of disabled people and increasing their participation in the electoral process (Somaliland)

### OBJECTIVE

This project aims to promote civic and political rights of disabled people and to strengthen their participation to electoral and political process in urban and rural areas in Somaliland.

### METHOD

Handicap International strengthens Somaliland government skills to include disabled people to civic and political life in the country. The association also supports disabled people's organizations for the inclusion of women and disabled people in the electoral process of the country.

#### Activities:

- Surveys conducted over the participation of disabled people to the national electoral process
- Organization of meetings with political actors and trainings for people working with disabled people
- Awareness campaigns to inform over disability
- Adaptation of pedagogical tools over election process (especially in braille)
- Elaboration of a document with best practices over inclusion of disabled people in the national electoral process

### BENEFICIARIES

- More than 185,000 disabled people living in rural and urban areas
- 20 disabled people's organizations
- Electoral and democratic actors in Somaliland
- INGO actors (Interpeace, Saferworld, Progression, Oxfam) involved in election
- Local civil society organization

### PARTNERS

- Disability Action Network (DAN)
- Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF)

### GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

6 regions in Somaliland: Awdal, Maroodi-Jeex, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sool, et Sanaag.

## MAIN FUNDING BODIES

**DFID**

**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development