



# OCTOBER 2012

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## End of Transition in Somalia: An Educational Summary of Somali History 1991-2012

*In 2012, Somalia has undergone several important milestones to shed itself of the pejorative tag of a failed state and to move from two decades of anarchy including over a decade of weak transitional governance. These developments are important to thousands of American-Somalis in Ohio and elsewhere in the United States as well as the rest of the world. Many practitioners working with the Somali community as well as students of Somali language and culture requested the SomaliCAN Outreach team to develop an easy to read summary of the events that led to the end of transition in Somalia. Here is a summary of events and developments that you may wish to read in order to understand the change that is taking place in Somalia:*

### Civil War:

A frightening civil war broke out in Somalia in 1991 after clan-based warlords ousted Somalia's longest-serving president, Mohamed Siad Barre, from power. Mogadishu, the once beautiful capital city of Somalia became the epicenter of armed conflict and as soon as 1992, Somalia plunged into a state of famine when warlords displaced agricultural communities in Somalia's breadbasket regions. This combination of violence and famine forced the international community to respond with relief food and a peacekeeping force from the United Nations-UNISOM Operation Restore Hope, which included thousands of American soldiers. The UNISOM operation was ended abruptly after warlords resisted and mobilized clan militias against them. A similar famine affected millions of Somalis in 2011 after Alshabab militias denied access to food for entire Somali regions. In the 1990s, Somalia was virtually controlled by clan-based warlords.

Various peace conferences were held in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Egypt and other locations with no breakthrough. As a result of Somalia's civil war, tens of thousands of Somalis were displaced from their homes to become refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, the United States of America and other countries across the globe.

### The formation of a Transitional Government:

In 2000, the government of Djibouti sponsored a major reconciliation conference which resulted in the formation of the Transitional Federal Government based on a clan formula known as 4.5 which divides the country's population into four equal clans and half a clan representing a conglomeration of smaller clans. Abdiqasim Salad Hassan, a former Interior Minister in Mohamed Siad Barre's government was selected president by a 235 parliament while Dr. Ali Khalif Gallayr was selected prime minister. Although that transitional government managed to relocate to Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, it nevertheless faced serious opposition from merciless warlords who ruled most of the country as well as Somaliland and Puntland which declared autonomy from the rest of Somalia. The warlords and these regions did not take part in the Arta conference where the TNG was formed. The TNG just like its successors was also plagued by internal power squabbles between its president, prime minister, and speaker of parliament.

## End of Transition in Somalia: from page 2

### An Outline for Professionals and Students of Somali Language and History

The international community adopted a wait-and-see approach because of perceived links with Islamist groups by the president of the TNG. As a result, it never controlled beyond a small area of the capital, Mogadishu.

**The Kenya Conference:** In 2003, another reconciliation conference, which lasted two years, was held in Kenya. This conference was different because all the Somali warlords were involved and the divided TNG was part of it. After months of political bickering between warlords and clan representatives, the participants agreed on the formation of another transitional government to be known as the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia partly because Puntland, which considered itself as an autonomous state within Somalia, was part of the conference and its president, a former warlord and rebel leader, Colonel Abdullahi Yussuf Ahmed was selected president by a 275 member parliament while Ali Mohammed Ghedi became prime minister. All of Somalia's major warlords became members of parliament and were given ministerial portfolios. Despite that, these warlords would not allow the government to be based in Mogadishu. As a result, the TFG spent three years (2004-2007) in the Somali towns of Jowhar and Baidoa.

**The Emergence of an Islamist Movement:** In 2006, the warlords in Mogadishu were all defeated by armed Islamist group known as the Union of Islamic Courts.

The courts, as they became commonly known, were heavily influenced by international jihadists. In 2007, the courts were defeated by Ethiopian troops after they attacked the seat of the Transitional Federal Government in Baiodaa. The Ethiopians proceeded to invade and occupy Somalia's capital city, Mogadishu and other cities. After two years of bruising guerilla attacks, the Ethiopians were driven out of Somalia when the leadership of the Alliance for Restoration of Somalia (ARS) based in Eritrea and the TFG reached a power sharing deal. The TFG parliament was expanded to accommodate the ARS and elections were held in Djibouti where the leader of the Islamic Courts, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed was selected president. Ironically, this did not end the conflict in Somalia because Alshabab, the youth wing of the Courts, announced that it did not recognize the government and waged war against its officials and African Union troops protecting key public installations such as the presidential villa, the airport and the seaport in Mogadishu. The TFG continued a culture of corruption and incompetence that polarized its operations and allowed Alshabaab to control much of southern Somalia except a few blocks in Mogadishu.

**A Somali American Prime Minister:** In 2010, a Somali American civil servant who worked for the state of New York, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo, was appointed prime minister. He immediately took steps to rebuild an effective system of public administration by appointing an 18 member cabinet, down from the bloated 90 members in his predecessor's government.

## End of Transition in Somalia: from page 3

### An Outline for Professionals and Students of Somali Language and History

He improved government accountability by strengthening the treasury and building more effective government institutions. For example, he prepared an annual government budget that was for the first time approved by the parliament. He started paying salaries to soldiers and government employees on time and taking care of soldiers wounded in the line of duty and their families. This resulted in increased morale among soldiers who drove Al Shabab out of most of Mogadishu within seven months. Mr. Farmaajo stepped down after a protracted political bickering between the president and the speaker of parliament. By this time, Al Shabab was severely weakened that they were driven out of Mogadishu within weeks of his resignation. He was replaced as prime minister by his deputy and fellow American, Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali who completed the remaining transitional tasks.

**End of Transition:** The transitional government was given a set of tasks to complete in order to move to a state of permanent government. However, most of them did not achieve this due to both internal political wrangling and external factors including insecurity.

The mandate of the TFG expired in August 2012 and most transitional tasks were completed by then. A new provisional constitution was adopted by a constituency assembly of 825 members representing Somalia's clans. A group of 135 traditional elders were brought together in order to select 275 members of parliament based on the 4.5 clan formula although majority of Somalis disapprove this method of distribution of state power.

On August 20, 2012, Mr. Mohamed Osman Jawaari, a former labor minister under Mohamed Siad Barre, was elected speaker of parliament. This marked the end of an era of transition and the beginning of a new era for Somalia.

**A New Government:** A new president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a social entrepreneur who ran academic institutions in Somalia after the collapse of the central government, was elected president on August 10, 2012. He defeated the incumbent president Sharif Sheikh Ahmed by garnering 190 of the total votes cast. Mr. Abdi Farah Shirdon "Saacid" was appointed prime minister in Somalia's first government that is not transitional in two decades. The new prime minister will form a council of ministers to lead policy formulation and implementation in Somalia for the next four years.

Check out our future editions of Outreach for more updates.



## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

### Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) –2013

#### Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has announced \$180,000 in new grant funds available for 2013. Interested applicants can submit proposals for the projects listed below using the Council's online grant application program: DD Suite ([www.ddsuite.org](http://www.ddsuite.org)). Instructions on how to apply can be found on the Council's website at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Grant/2012-16StatePlanProposalKit.pdf#page=30>.

All grant awards are contingent upon the availability of federal funds. Applicants must provide cash or in-kind "matching" funds of 33.33% in non-poverty areas and 11.11% in poverty areas. Questions about a project should be directed to the staff listed below.

The Deadline for proposals will be 11:59 p.m., **Friday, October 5, 2012.**

#### Grant #12PP01QU13: Strategic Messaging and Advocacy Resource Training (SMART) Grant

Federal Award: \$120,000  
 Minimum matching requirements:  
 Non-poverty Area: \$40,000  
 Poverty Area: \$13,333

The SMART Grant is primarily a strategic communications and capacity building grant designed to improve advocacy organizations' impact on state-level public policy development and implementation. In conjunction with the Data and Policy Research Grant and the Legislative Advocacy Day Coordinator Grant of Council, the SMART Grant will assist the Council in identifying and developing policy, media, and advocacy strategies that will elevate developmental disability solutions in Ohio.

The grant will also provide support for collaboration and participation in training of advocates by disability organizations across Ohio and active advocacy by advocates.

Program Staff: Paul Jarvis; [paul.jarvis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:paul.jarvis@dodd.ohio.gov);  
 (614) 644-5545

#### Grant #12PA01CR13: Public Awareness - Products & Activities Grant

Federal Award: \$60,000  
 Minimum matching requirements:  
 Non-poverty Area: \$20,000  
 Poverty Area: \$6,667

Council is providing funds for an entity to conduct the Public Awareness - Products & Activities Grant for four years (2013-2016).

It is the charge of the ODDC to promote Public Awareness, by working with the grantee in selecting information/products that will make the public aware of insensitivity towards people with developmental disabilities and their families and how these insensitivities adversely affect accessibility levels in society. The grantee would assist Council in getting the public to understand the role Council plays in creating visions, through information by way of products and activities.

Council's products must educate, train and provide valuable information important to and about people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Program Staff: Carla R. Sykes, (614) 644-5538;  
[carla.sykes@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:carla.sykes@dodd.ohio.gov)



**JOB OF THE MONTH: BILINGUAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST**

# HandsOn Central Ohio

Job Title: Bilingual Information & Referral Specialist

HandsOn Central Ohio, Franklin County's connection to community resources and volunteering, has an immediate opening for a part-time (28 hours/week) Bilingual Information & Referral Specialist, with fluent English and Spanish speaking skills. I&R Specialists receive incoming calls from community members in need and direct them to public programs using various database systems.

## ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Answer incoming phone calls on all service lines for those in need of basic needs, education, medical resources, etc.
- Provide advocacy for callers experiencing barriers to service
- Document all calls including collecting demographics
- Answer requests received via email, postal mail, voicemail, and other means
- Respond as necessary in the event of a disaster or other emergency, up to and including providing referrals from a designated location
- Direct callers to appropriate crisis intervention services, including those for domestic violence and potential suicide
- Attend and/or conduct periodic staff meetings and trainings
- Other duties as assigned

Applications should be addressed to the Call Center Manager and can be completed via:

Website: [www.handsoncentralohio.org/employment](http://www.handsoncentralohio.org/employment)

Fax: 614-224-6866

Mail: Call Center Manager  
HandsOn Central Ohio  
195 N. Grant Ave  
Columbus, OH 43215

Choose CareSource as your  
Health Plan.

Call: 1-800-488-0134



CareSource

## ON THE HORIZON: Get Ready for the Flu Season

### Kids and adults need a flu vaccine every year

The flu is highly contagious. It affects all ages, though kids tend to get it more often than adults. Flu season runs from November to April, with most cases occurring between late December and early March.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 6 months and older should get a flu shot each year, especially the following high-risk groups:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than 5
- Adults 50 years of age and older
- Adults, teens and children with chronic medical conditions (asthma, diabetes)
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu (health care facilities, day care centers)

The vaccine reduces the average person's chances of catching the flu by up to 80%. People who got the vaccine last year aren't protected from getting the flu this year because the protection wears off and flu viruses constantly change.

The flu vaccine is available now. Contact your primary care provider (PCP) for more information.

**Signs and Symptoms :** The flu is often confused with the common cold, but flu symptoms are usually more severe than the typical sneezing and stuffiness of a cold.

### Carruurta iyo dadka waaweyn waxay u baahan yihiin tallaalka durayga sanad walba

Durayga aad ayaa loo kala qaadaa. Wuxuu ku dhacaa da' walba, in kastoo uu carruurta uga badan yahay dadka waaweyn. Xilliga duraygu wuxuu u dhexeeyaa Nofeembar illaa Abriil, iyadoo uu ugu badan yahay dhammaadka Diseembar illaa bilowga Maarso.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) waxay ku talinaysaa in qof walba oo lix bilood ka weyn uu sanad walba qaato tallaalka gaar ahaan kooxahan halista u ah:

- Haweenka uurka leh
- Carruurta ka yar 5
- Waayeelka 50 ka weyn
- Carruurta, dhallinta, iyo waayeelka qaba cudurro waara (neef, sonkorow, iwm)
- Dadka ku nool xarumaha daryeelka iyo goobaha kale ee baxnaaninta
- Dadka la nool ama daryeela kuwa halista u ah dhibaataada durayga (xarumaha caafimaadka, goobaha xannaanada maalinnimada)

Tallaalku wuxuu yareeyaa fursadda qofka caadiga ahi uu ku qaadi karo durayga illaa 80%. Dadka qaatay tallaalka sannadkii hore kama dhowrsana in ay qaadaan durayga sannadkan maxaa wacay difaacu wuu dhammaanayaa fayraska durayga keenana si joogto ah ayuu isu badbaddelaa.

Tallaalka duraygu waa diyaar iminka. La xiriir dhakhtarkaaga guud si faahfaahin dheeri ah aad u heshid.

**Astaamaha Durayga:** Durayga waxaa badanaa lagu khaldaa hargabka hase yeeshee durayga astaamihiisu badanaa way ka daran yihiin hindhisada iyo cabburka hargabka.

## Central Ohio Community Resources

### Police:

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-emergency: 614-645-4545

Sheriff: 614-462-3333

### Mental Health Crisis:

Netcare Access: 614-276-2273

### Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

Columbus Health Department

Free Clinic: 614-240-7430

### Legal Matters:

Legal Aid Society: 614-241-2001

### Child Abuse and Neglect:

FCCS: 614-229-7000

### Housing:

CMHA: 614-421-6000

### Information and Referral:

HandsOn: 614-221-2555 or 211

### Somali Services

#### SomaliCAN

614-489-9226

[www.SomaliCAN.org](http://www.SomaliCAN.org)

The Omoleky Law Firm

614-441-5305

## SOMALICAN SERVICES:

### Health Communication and Literacy:

- Patient education
- Prescription access
- Cultural competency training
- Information & Referral

### Community Education:

- Youth engagement
- Services in Schools
- Advocacy and Support
- Scholarships
- Annual Graduation
- Crime Prevention
- Disaster Preparedness

### SomaliCAN Outreach Newsletter:

- Monthly bilingual newsletter
- Advertisements
- Articles
- Cultural Competency
- Research
- Legislation
- Developmental Disabilities

### Immigration Services:

- Green card applications
- Citizenship applications
- Citizenship education

### Somali Interpretation & Translation:

Do you require highly qualified interpreters and translators?

Please contact a SomaliCAN specialist today. SomaliCAN provides interpretation and translation in social services, medical, legal, academic and financial settings.

## SomaliCAN

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To advertise a product or service, contact us today:

[info@somalican.org](mailto:info@somalican.org).



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To request a copy of SomaliCAN Outreach Newsletter send an e-mail to [Outreach@SomaliCAN.org](mailto:Outreach@SomaliCAN.org) or visit [www.SomaliCAN.org](http://www.SomaliCAN.org).