

AISI-Connect National ICT Profile SOMALIA (SO)

GENERAL DATA	ICT-INFRASTRUCTURE	ICT POLICIES
Capital: Mogadishu	Fixed lines (K) '98: 15	Competition in local loop: Monopoly
98 Population (M): 10.63	97-98 % Fixed Line Growth: 0.0	Competition in telephone terminals: Yes
Currency: SOS	98 Mobile Lines (K):	Independent regulator: No
Exch rate (/US\$): 2620.0	Mobile Line Growth (%):	Private Wireless Data allowed: No
Currency Stability:	Cities with Internet POPs: 1	Independent Internet VSAT Allowed: No
97 GDP US\$/person: 169.0	Local Call National Internet: No	VSAT License Fees:
97 Total GDP (\$B):	Dialup Internet subscribers: 50	Satellite Phone access: No
Local Stock Exchange: No	International Bandwidth (Kbps): 0	Universal Service Obligations:
Personal Safety: 0	Internet Hosts: 3	IAP License Fees (\$/yr):
Political Stability:	Internet domains:	Private Phone Kiosks: No
Tertiary ICT Students:	Dialup Internet Cost 20hrs/mnth (\$): 160	Public VOIP Allowed: No
ICT Training seats:	64K Local Internet link (\$/mnth):	Business Ownership Rules:
ISDN: No	64K Internat Internet Link (\$/mnth):	Repatriation of Profits Rules:
VPN Services: No	Local phone call cost (US\$/hr):	Restrictions on market entry:
UNDP Human Devel Index:	Monthly tel line rental (\$/mnth):	Export Credit Guarantees:
.	Telephone waiting time/Wait List:	.
.	Internet Access Providers 1	.
.	Mobile Operators:	.
.	Fixed Line Telecom Operators:	.

[Key to table values](#) All figures above in US Dollars (\$)

ICT Profile:

Internet:

Somalia was the last country in Africa to obtain a local Internet service. According to a BBC report one ISP has started, serving the capital city Mogadishu and Borama in addition to Hargeisa, the capital of the neighbouring Somaliland last year, but this was not verified. In August 2000 Three Somali telecommunications companies -- Barakat, Astel and Nationlink -- joined forces to form an ISP called the Somali Internet Company. The service is expected to cost \$20 per month, plus an hourly charge of \$6. The service links to the Internet at 128 kilobits per second via a satellite link

from ArabSat. the capacity of the system could is aimed to handle about 2,000 Internet users.

STG (see below) are working on a project to start an Internet service in Mogadishu.

Telecommunications:

There is no national telecommunications operator in Somalia - the telephone network was completely destroyed during the war. Currently there are about 25000 lines in the capital, Mogadishu.

Recently the Somali Telecom Group (STG) was formed.

Having no recognized government in the country means there are no licenses awarded or needed, and STG was recently able to negotiate direct access with Intelsat.

Networking Centres:

There is no recognisable national government in the country and virtually no public institutions are operational.

Organisational Activities in the ICT Sector:

Somali Telecom Group Recently the Somali Telecom Group (STG) was formed which is made up of four phone companies, one in each city - Hargeisa, Galkyo, Bossaso and Mogadishu. There are American investors involved in each company, and Somalian investors unique to each company. The four cities were chosen because of size and/or because the Somalian investor is from that city.

It is working on a project to start an Internet service in Mogadishu which will eventually offer access in the other three major cities. Eileen Mckeough EMcKeough@aol.com

Sudatel The country's telecommunications services suffered major setbacks in the last two decades due to lack of maintenance by the government-owned monopoly. In 1994, the government formed a partnership with the private sector, establishing Sudatel to handle Sudan's telecommunications. Before the establishment of the regulatory authority - the National Telecommunications Council (NTC) in 1996, a concession was granted to Mobitel for five years as the sole supplier of mobile cellular services, and Sudatel was given a five-year franchise on international services. Local services are open to competition. The NTC is falls under the Ministry of Roads and Communications.

The entire telecom network is expected to be digital before the end of 1999 and Sudatel has almost finished laying about 3000km of fibre optic cable, linking most of the major cities such as Port Sudan, Atbara, Khartoum, Sennar, Kosti, Kasala and Gedaref. A fibre-based metropolitan area network linking the 15 exchanges in Khartoum is already in place. Over one thousand pay phones were installed in 1998 in cities such as Khartoum and Medina. Sudatel is also linking isolated population centres using a VSAT network called SUDOSAT that has over thirty earth stations in different remote areas. Some smaller cities now have state of the art wireless local loop and VSAT connections with links to hubs in Khartoum.

Mr Abdel Latif Abdelgadir Saeed, deputy general manager of Sudatel says that Sudatel aims to be one of the most innovative operators on the continent. Sudatel already has over 4000 international circuits and will shortly have high-bandwidth microwave or fibre links to its neighbouring countries as part of its commitment to COMESA's ComTel. It is also part of two regional networks - Arabsat

and MidNet which provides satellite links to Afro-Francophone and Arab countries. The total number of subscribers in 1998 was 200 000, almost double the 1997 figure of 125 000. Local data and Internet access facilities are being established in the 10 major cities and towns.

The government owns 68,8% of Sudatel with the remainder in private sector hands. The Sudanese government is expected shortly to reduce its stake in Sudatel to 26%. It is also expected that Sudatel will withdraw from the provision of public telephone services, leaving the market open to the introduction of phone shops and Telecentres. The management of the company is left in the hands of the private sector and government only has two out of 10 seats on the board. License fees range from two to five percent of revenues for a telecommunication or Internet service, which decreases by 50% when renewed.

Somali Internet Company Recently established ISP as a joint venture by three telecom companies. <http://www.somalinternet.com/>

Amoud University (Jamacadda Camuud) - Somalia Amoud University (Jamacadda Camuud) is the first post civil war Somalia university. It is open to every Somali student regardless of the origin, gender, religion, and political affiliation. <http://www.amoud-university.borama.ac.so/> Prof. Suleyman Ahmed Gulied president@amoud-university.borama.ac.so

Source:

AISI-Connect database - <http://www2.sn.apc.org/africa> Telecom/GDP stats source: ITU/World Bank. Internet hosts: Network Wizards

If located in Africa and not listed here, [add your organisation to this page](#).