

Conflict, intense insecurity, recurrent and protracted droughts, severe malnutrition, massive displacement and death from curable diseases are only a few of the many problems that are afflicting the Somali people. Social services are insufficient and infrastructures are inadequate.

Since the outbreak of the civil war in 1991, preceded by years of tension during the Siad Barre's regime (1969-1990), Somalia has not had a stable government. The prolonged political and military instability has contributed to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, leading the country to be in a chronic emergency state.



## The beginning of CISP's commitment

In the early Eighties a group of Italian medical doctors, biologists and young professionals arrived in Somalia to identify existing health needs. In 1983 the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) was officially formed and began its first activities in Somalia, providing primary health care and health education to vulnerable groups in the Middle Juba region. From mid Eighties to 1990, CISP implemented a Primary Health Care Programme in the district of Jilib, in the Middle Juba region. The programme was inspired by the principles of Alma Ata Conference on Primary Health Care. Since then CISP has never abandoned the Somali people during the course of their unfortunate history.

## The civil war - CISP's emergency support

During the civil war of 1991-1992, more than 300,



000 people died from starvation, disease or were killed in fighting. Many people were obliged to leave their homes and move to neighboring countries, or migrate to Europe and North America. In those years the region was entering a long period of inter-clan warfare, banditry and famine. Despite the challenging security situation, CISP managed to provide medical supplies, basic health care and food for the displaced people, and to support primary schools and literacy programs in south and central Somalia.

## From post-war recovery to community development

From 1995 CISP's activities contributed to the slow and delicate reconstruction of the country through community empowerment. While addressing the needs of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the society, especially women and children, CISP's overall objective is to support the development process within the country. In this period, CISP has started more structured, integrated and long-term development interventions, in which each community's needs are considered as a whole and are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

### Present day



CISP is committed to ensure a sustained and continuous support to the urban, rural and nomadic communities in its areas of intervention, building on the mutual trust, strong long term relationships and continued dialogues established and nurtured over the years. Today CISP focuses on five main sectors: health, education, livelihood, protection and water and sanitation. Despite its continuous efforts, CISP's interventions experienced several funding disruptions, due to the funding policies of many institutional donors. In these periods the community and Diaspora members have stepped in, raising funds to support CISP's activities, like in the example of [Ceell Dheer school](#).  
See CISP [Sectors of Intervention](#) .  
See CISP geographical [Areas of Intervention](#) .  
See CISP [Somalia Fact Sheet](#) <sup>2</sup>

## Offices and team

CISP coordinates its operations for the Somali people from the Nairobi head office, and from the field offices based in Ceell Dheer, Xarardere, South Galkayo and Dhusamareeb, and with the support of roaming project and monitoring officers and local and international [Partners](#) .

See CISP's [Team Structure](#) .