



Somalia is a semi-arid to arid country, in which less than 29% of the total population has access to safe water. In the rural areas this figure goes down to 4%<sup>1</sup>. Frequent droughts, combined with a prolonged conflict that has eroded traditional coping mechanisms, have drained all the resources, including the communities' capacity to find solutions. The few water points are in poor condition and not easily accessible to all, hardly any infrastructures to store supplies or to treat water are present, and high competition for water resources continues to exacerbate the conflicts.

Water accessibility affects other vital sectors, like health, education, protection and livelihood. Water from shallow wells, for instance, is often polluted, causing outbreaks of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea. Another example is that of women and girls who have to walk long distances everyday to find water, and thus are deprived of education opportunities and are exposed to gender based violence along the way. Moreover, rural households, in particular destitute pastoralists, are increasingly moving towards urban areas looking for access to services, creating the conditions for further conflicts over scarce resources.

### **CISP's effort in water and sanitation**



~~CISP is the CISP's water and sanitation intervention map~~  
**CISP's water and sanitation intervention map**



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<sup>1</sup>USAID 2007