

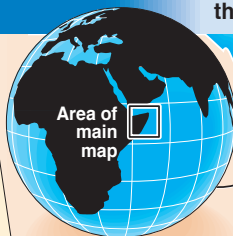
THE HORN OF AFRICA

Somalia: chronicle of misery

Hundreds are dying every day in Somalia, where anarchy created by warring clans has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis. A UN relief operation is about to get underway but aid agencies believe that it will be too late to prevent starvation on a massive scale

Late 1990

- Rebel coalition of four clans led by General Farah Aided of the United Somali Congress lays siege to Mogadishu. 5,000 civilians killed, embassies shut down and all foreigners evacuated



Area of main map

May 1991: Northern Somalia declares independence

January 1991

- President Siad Barre deposed. Ali Mahdi of the Hawiye clan declared president, outraging northern Somalis

November 1991

- Hawiye clan splits into two sub-groups led by Ali Mahdi and General Aided. Over 20,000 killed in subsequent fighting, Mogadishu reduced to ruins

March 1992

- Ali Mahdi and General Aided sign ceasefire

August 1992

- Ali Mahdi and General Aided agree to use of UN troops to distribute food. Britain pledges a further £18m in humanitarian aid. August 17: First U.S. pilots arrive in Mombasa to prepare relief airlift

Jijiga
300,000 Somali refugees

Port closed
Berbera

Port closed
Bosasso

Tuberculosis epidemic in northeast Somalia

ETHIOPIA

Shabeelle River

Jubba River

SOMALIA

INDIAN OCEAN

Mandera

El Wak
150,000 Somali refugees

Baydhabo

Mogadishu:
200 children dying each day

Kismaayo

Somalia has 350,000 refugees from Ethiopia as well as 700,000 internal refugees at camps throughout the country

KENYA

Mombasa

0 miles 250

