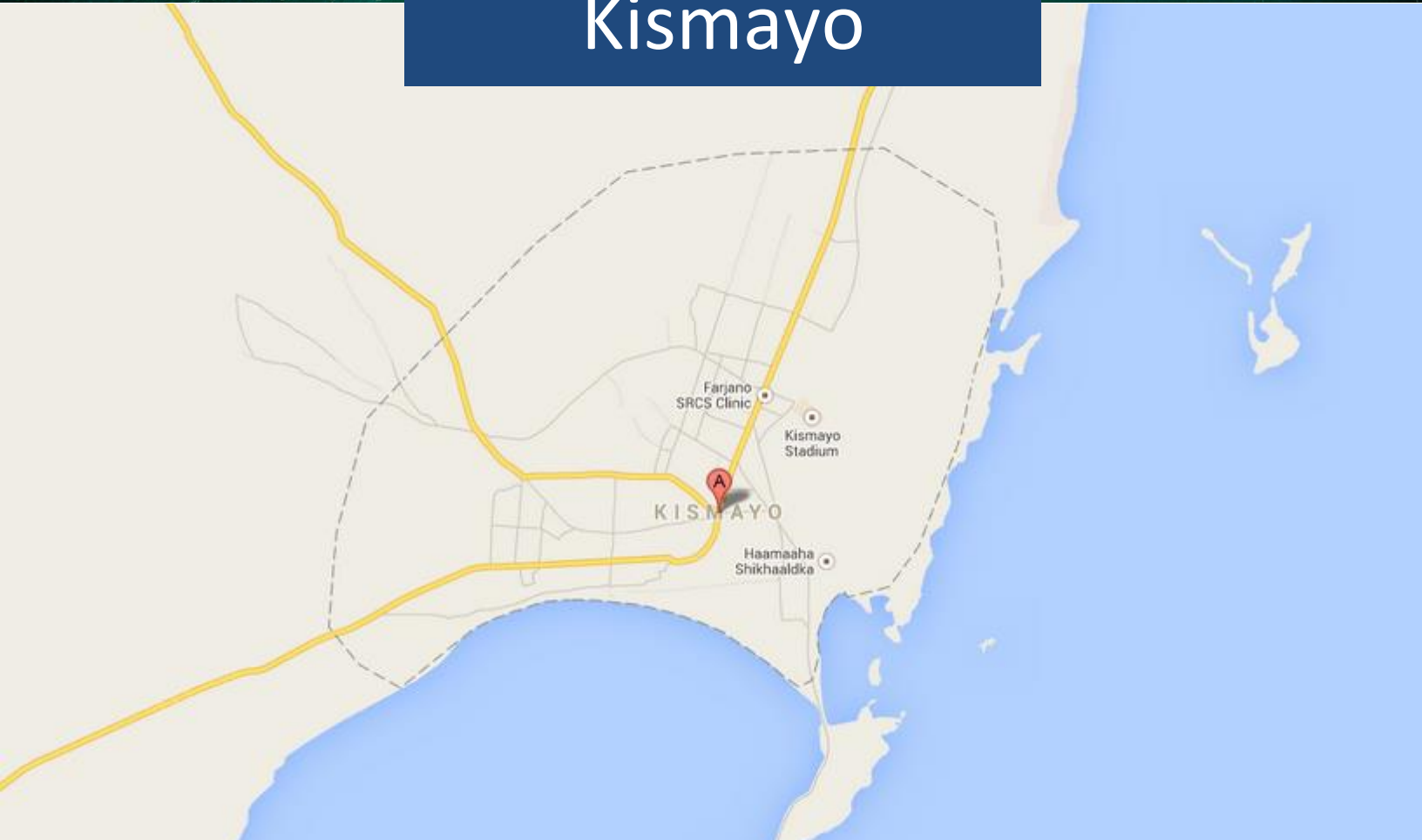


Sector II Profile



Kismayo



Overview

Situated 528 km Southwest of Mogadishu near the mouth of the Jubba River, Kismayo is the third largest city in Somalia and the capital city of Lower Jubba region. The port city is the commercial hub of Jubbaland regions and southern parts of the country and has a strategic significance, being halfway between Mogadishu and the Kenyan border. It acts as a commercial center for products from the pastoral, fishery and agriculturally rich hinterland.

Jubbaland is the name coined by the British to describe the land between the Juba River ('the Nile of East Africa') and the Tana River in northern Kenya. It is a newly created region in southern Somalia and consists of Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. Its eastern border lies 40–60 km east of the Jubba River, stretching from Gedo to the Indian Ocean, while its western side flanks the North Eastern Province in Kenya.

The Jubba regions various port cities and harbors, such as Essina and Sarapion, were an integral part of global trade.

During the middle Ages, the influential Somali Ajuran State held sway over the territory, followed in turn by the Geledi Sultanate. From 1836 until 1861, parts of Jubbaland were claimed by the Sultanate of Muscat (now in Oman), and were later incorporated into British East Africa. In 1925, Jubbaland was ceded to Italy, forming a part of Italian Somaliland. On 1 July 1960, the region, along with the rest of Somalia, became part of the independent republic of Somalia.

The city is divided into four districts: Calanleey (oldest), Faanoole, Farjano, Shaqaalaha. The city has an estimated local population of 183,300 people.

Kismayo fact sheet

- Distance from Mogadishu 328 miles (528 km) southwest of Mogadishu
- Major languages: Somali, Arabic and Italian
- Population: 329,811 with a 79/21 percent rural/urban divide
- Key industries: Agriculture production, Livestock production (Camels, Cattle, Goat), and fishery production
- Major clans in the region (Jubaland Regions is inhabited by a diverse group of Somali people: Ogaden, Harti , Mirifle (Rahanweyn), Marehan, Galja'el, Sheekhaal, Awramleh, Jareer (Bantu), Bajun
- Kismayo has International Airport and Sea port

Security



Kismayo is the third largest city of Somalia and was once considered the hub of the militant group, Al-Shabaab, which has links with global terror network, the al Qaida.

The battle for Kismayo was a combined military offensive led by Somali National Army, AU troops and Raskamboni Brigade against Al Shabaab. The offensive began on 28 September 2012 and was then referred to as Operation Sledge Hammer by the Kenyan military.

On 28 September 2012 AMISOM and allied forces landed approximately six kilometres north of Kismayo, close to the main road to Mogadishu. From there they launched their assault and successfully took the town.

It was a major blow for Al Shabaab; the town had supplied the insurgents with steady income in the form of taxes and was a strategically critical city for their fighters who had reportedly reinforced their numbers in the port city and housed their top leadership there.

In April 2013, the long awaited Sierra Leone troops deployed to Kismayo bringing to five the number of countries contributing troops to the AU mission. AMISOM Sector 2 covers the following regions: Baardhere in Gedo, Afmadow, Badhadhe, Jamame in Lower Juba, Buale, Jilib and Sakow in Middle Jubba and Kismayo.

Economic Activities



The economy of the region Kismayo is mainly agriculture-based but also relies heavily on its fisheries. Before the Civil war, there was a meat-tinning factory, as well as a tannery and a modern fish factory. There were also two sugar refineries, one at Jowhar and another situated near Jilib (Marerey Sugar Factory).

As of 2013, the market is bustling, although the city's infrastructure have incurred considerable damage.

Airport: Kismayo has an airport about 12 km from the city and was formerly a Somali Air Force training base.

Following the outbreak of the civil war, the airport was closed down for a period of time and its infrastructure was significantly damaged. However, the facility was reopened in October 2008 by the Islamic Courts Union after undergoing some renovations. That same year, the airport was renamed after Imam Ahmed Gurey, a 16th-century Somali military leader.

Seaport: Kismayo's large docks are situated on a peninsula on the Indian Ocean coast. Formerly one of the Bajuni Islands, the peninsula was connected by a narrow causeway when the port was built in 1964, with United States assistance. The port served as a base for the Somali Navy as well as the Soviet Navy after the military coup in Somalia in 1969. The United States and Somalia jointly refurbished the port in 1984.

Roads: Three main thoroughfares connect Kismayo to other major areas in the country. The 600 km Highway 3 runs the length of the Juba Valley. Starting in Beled Hawo, it goes through Garbaharey, Bardhere and Bu'ale before finally reaching Kismayo. A paved 528 km freeway links the capital Mogadishu with Kismayo. A third highway extends northwest from Kismayo to Afmadow, then turns toward Dhobley in the eastern part of the Gedo region.

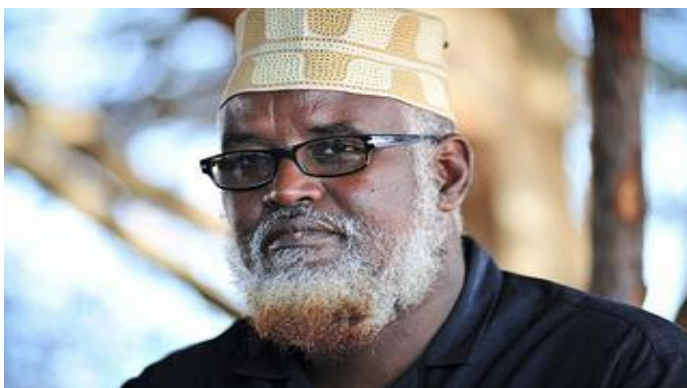
Somali Civil War and Recent Politics;

The Jubba areas (lower and middle Jubba) have been contested since the downfall of the central government in 1991. Three factors contribute to the cycle of conflict in the region.

- First, the Kismayo city boasts one of the largest sea ports in the country; the most important source of revenue for authorities. Control of the port provides the resources to extend control in the region.
- Second, the Jubba regions are some of the most diverse regions in Somalia in terms of clan composition. With a population comprised of more than 30 sub-clans, the persistent struggle for control of resources along clan lines contributes to inter-communal tensions in the region.
- Third, Lower and Middle Juba regions are the natural gateway to Somalia's most fertile territory. Lower Jubba region, of which Kismayo is the capital, is arguably the richest of all 18 regions in the country. The combination of fertile soils, rich grazing grounds, and abundant marine resources are absent elsewhere in the country.

Between 2008 and 2012, Kismayo was an Al- Shabaab stronghold. The group is believed to have generated as much as 40 per cent of its total operating revenue from the city. Since the arrival of the Somali National Army and Raas Kambooni group, assisted by AMISOM troops, disputes in the city have re-erupted.

Politics



Leader of the interim administration of Jubbaland;
Ahmed Mohamed Islan Madobe.

In 2010, residents of Somalia's Jubba and Gedo regions established a new regional process. The 'Jubbaland' Initiative was created to bring about local stability, in the model of the autonomous Puntland and Somaliland regions in the northern part of the country. The new president of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and his government declared the formation of Jubbaland and its process illegal.

They urged the process to be delayed until the parliament establishes laws and territorial boundaries of proposed regional states within Federal Somalia; but this was rejected by the organisers of the Jubbaland conference.

Jubbaland initiative

On 28 February 2013, more than 500 delegates convened in Kismayo, Lower Juba region to attend the opening of a conference which would discuss and plan the proposed formation of Jubbaland. The conference was attended by several high profile politicians including former TFG Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke and former Minister of Defense of TFG Mohamed Abdi Mohamed (Gandhi).

On 26 March 2013, Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon arrived in Kismayo after the Jubbaland committee requested federal participation. After five days of negotiations with Jubbaland stakeholders, Shirdon returned to Mogadishu where shortly afterwards Somalia's Federal Government announced the collapse of talks and declared the conference unconstitutional.

On 2 April 2013, delegates at Kismayo conference were presented with a draft provisional constitution which they overwhelmingly approved.

On 15 May 2013, an overwhelming majority of 500 delegates elected Ahmed Mohamed Islam as the president of Jubbaland.

Local Media



Radio Stations:

1. Radio Kismayo 90.0 FM (Coverage: Kismayo and surroundings area)
2. Radio Bur-kulan 92.0 FM (Coverage: Kismayo)
3. Radio Andalus 88.0 FM (Al Shabaab Radio Station) Coverage: Jamaame, Jilib and the surrounding area.

Online media:

- www.kismaayo.com
- www.kismaayocity.com
- www.kismaayonews.com
- www.kismaayo24.com
- www.kismayotimes.com
- www.jubbalandnews.com
- www.dailyjuba.com
- www.afmadowtimes.org
- www.dhanaan.com

Political actors

- **Ahmed Mohamed Islaan (Madobe)** Interim Juba Administration leader
- **General Abdullahi Ismail Fartag**, Deputy Interim Juba Administration leader, former SNA General
- **Sheikh Mohamed Mohamud Aw-Libah**, Chairman of ASWJ. Signatory of IGAD led Jubbaland Process.
- **Abdikadir Haji M. Yusuf** (Recent supporter of Jubbaland Process and reported leader of non-Darod factions.

