



UNREACHED MUSLIM PEOPLES IN PUNTLAND

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THESE ARE THE WORDS OF HIM WHO IS HOLY AND TRUE... WHAT HE OPENS NO ONE CAN SHUT, AND WHAT HE SHUTS NO ONE CAN OPEN... SEE, I HAVE PLACED BEFORE YOU AN OPEN DOOR THAT NO ONE CAN SHUT. REVELATION 3:7-8

Puntland Fame

Located at the very tip of the Horn of Africa, Puntland was a vital and mysterious trade region in ancient times. It continues to hold some of this mystery and commercial import today— but not for its vitality! While Puntland maintains valid exports of frankincense, myrrh, and livestock, its greater notoriety has come from the piracy pervading its waters. Piracy has grown into an industry that influences all strata of society and is justifiable according to the many Puntlanders who are trying to preserve their shores and livelihood. ***Is this what God wants Puntland to be famous for?***



Fast Facts

- LARGEST CITY:** Bosaso
- CAPITAL:** Garowe
- LANGUAGE:** Somali, some Arabic
- POPULATION:** est. 2 million
- NOMADS:** 65%
- TEMPS:** 80°F (27°C) to 99°F (37°C)
- CLIMATE:** Semi-arid, 2 sparse rainy seasons and 2 dry seasons



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"REMEMBER NOT THE FORMER THINGS, NOR CONSIDER THE THINGS OF OLD. BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING; NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH, DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?"

ISAIAH
43:18-19

The piracy situation has gained Puntland some international fame, but in gospel circles, Puntland has no fame at all. There is **no long term, incarnational effort taking place in this region**. Local believers in neighboring Somaliland have made short-term trips in and out, but there is no established work on-the-ground. Why not? Puntland offers **more security than greater Somalia and is relatively stable**, but long-term relocation for foreigners is difficult. An escort is generally required for foreigners to move about the country. Finding a viable reason for living in the country will require innovation and connections. It might require moving to a nearby location first, learning language and culture and establishing some relational connections. Reaching Puntland is not impossible with our God, but a long-term strategy and faith in the One who opens doors will need to be adopted. **Are you the one to dream and plan and prepare the way for the Gospel to breakthrough in Puntland?**



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"FAO Supports Somali Fishing" by United Nations Photo is marked with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Clan Identity and Somali Heritage

Puntland is an independent state of Somalia formed largely by the Darod clan. The region has been ravaged by colonialism and clan warfare throughout its history, and this has underpinned a deep-seated clan identity that is difficult for Westerners to understand. Clan identity pervades every aspect of thought and culture, and ties to distant clan members in other regions remain strong. This means **gospel advances in one location could jump to other regions with relative ease as it follows clan lines**. That's good news for the Good News!

While Puntland is an autonomous democratic region complete with its own president and administration, and even though its clans generally remain distrustful of the those in the south, Puntlanders have decided to not completely sever ties with their larger Somali heritage. This sentiment is proclaimed in the symbolism of their flag, as seen to the right. It is also evident in the **rich culture of arts and poetry that Somalis share throughout their clans**, regardless of any delineated national borders.



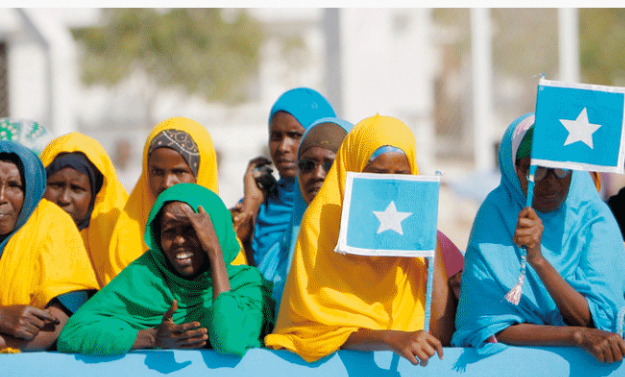
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PART OF SOMALIA



WHITE FOR PEACE AND
STABILITY IN THE REGION

GREEN FOR THE NATURAL WEALTH
OF THE PUNTLAND STATE



POSSIBILITIES

- Investment and business development that could include:
 - Profession/skills training
 - Import/export
 - English centers
 - Services (accounting, digital or technical services, etc.)
- Healthcare
- Teacher/trainer in schools or other education centers
- Animal husbandry/Agriculture
- Arts, poetry, ethnomusicology

Time for Breakthrough

There have been breakthroughs among Somalis in other locations. There is breakthrough happening with the myriad Yemeni populations along the northern Horn's coast. Why not among the Somali in Puntland? The time is coming; **God is doing a new thing**. Is He calling you to play a part?

pray

- May God raise up many global workers to strategize and pray, to prepare and plan, and to be ready to walk through the doors God will open.
- May the small proximate communities of new believers have their hearts opened to Puntland to go and sow into the void.
- May God grant favor upon this independent state that desires peace and stability but not at the cost of severing ties with greater Somalia.