

IN THE FRAME...

# SOMALILAND

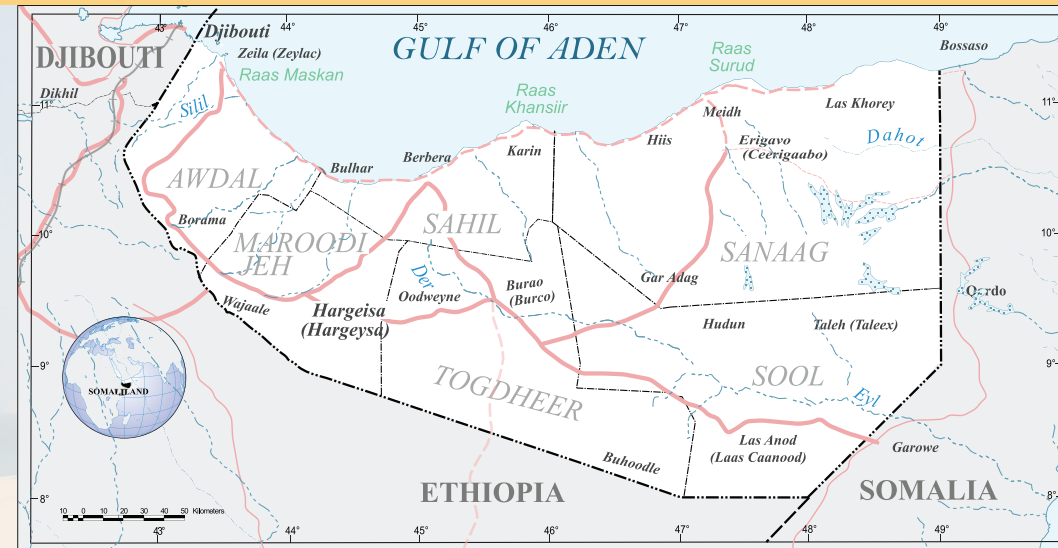


**Somaliland** is an autonomous region in northern Somalia with its capital in Hargeisa. Its area is defined by the previous State of Somaliland that won independence from Britain in June 1960, but five days later merged with former Italian Somaliland to form a united Somalia. Although not officially recognised as an independent state today, Somaliland has been in control of its own affairs since 1991 when it broke away from Somalia following years of bitter civil war. Somaliland has its own government, flag, army and currency. It even issues its own passports but is not officially recognised by the United Nations (UN) or any UN member states. It is the world's largest unrecognised territory.

In January 2024, Ethiopia made an agreement to use the Somaliland port of Berbera in return for promising to recognise Somaliland as an independent country in the future. This resulted in complaints from Somalia who recalled its ambassador from Ethiopia in protest and insisted that Somaliland remained a part of Somalia.

Somaliland is more stable than the rest of Somalia to the south which continues to be ravaged by violence between different clans. Another autonomous region of Somalia called Puntland (since 1998) borders Somaliland and there are disputed lands along the border between the two which sometimes leads to conflict.

**NOTE:** Due to its lack of official recognition, it is challenging to find data about Somaliland for the purposes of creating a country profile. What follows this front page is a profile for Somalia which incorporates the autonomous region of Somaliland.



A representative map of Somaliland by Siirski on Wikimedia Commons

IN THE FRAME...

# SOMALIA



Photo by Yasin Yusuf on Unsplash

**Somalia** is the easternmost country of Africa, in a region called the Horn of Africa.

The capital, Mogadishu, lies just north of the equator on the Indian Ocean. The climate is mainly hot and dry with savannah and semi-desert. Most of the country is flat with a mountainous zone in the north and several river valleys. Somalia includes the autonomous regions of Somaliland in the north and Puntland in the north east.

*In the frame: Somalia* explores Somalia's land, people, economy and more...



Maps from CIA World Factbook

Photo by Yasin Yusuf on Flickr

# IN THE FRAME...

# SOMALIA



## Land

**Area:** 637,657 sq km (46th largest in world)

**Major rivers:** Juba (1,004km), Shebelle (1,130km)

**Main Features:** Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa (3,025 km). This has allowed trade with the Middle East and the rest of East Africa. The highest point is Mount Shimbiris (2,460 m), located in the Ogo Mountains.

**Key resources:** uranium and largely unexploited reserves of iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt, natural gas, likely oil reserves.

**Land use:** Agriculture (70%), Forest (11%), Other (19%)

**Climate:** Mostly desert; northeast monsoon (Dec to Feb), moderate temperatures in north and hot in south; southwest monsoon (May to Oct), torrid in the north and hot in the south, irregular rainfall, hot and humid periods (tangambili) between monsoons.

Photo: Najeeb on Flickr

Photo: Yusuf som on Flickr

## People

**Population:** 17,597,511 (69th in world)

**Urban/Rural Population:**

Urban (47%)

Rural (53%)

**Major cities:** Mogadishu (capital) 2.6 million, Hargeisa 1.1 million

**Life expectancy:** 55 years

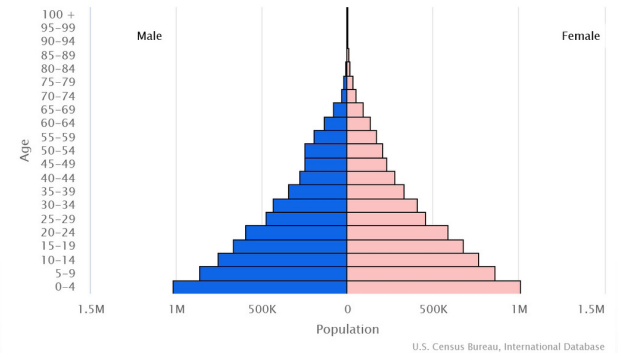
**Population structure:**

0-14 years: 47%

15-64 years: 50%

65 years and over: 3%

*A population pyramid (right) measures the number of males and females in each age group.*





## Education and Health

**Literacy rate:** no data available

**Years in school:** no data available

**Safe water:** 56% (people with access to safe water supplies)

**Safe sanitation:** 39% (people with access to safe sanitation facilities)

**Under 5 mortality rate:** 11.2 %

**Children under 5 who are underweight:** 22.5%

**Major diseases:** bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, typhoid fever, dengue fever, malaria, Rift Valley fever, sexually transmitted diseases: hepatitis B, schistosomiasis, rabies

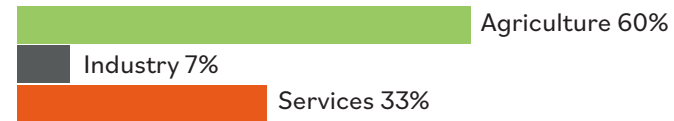
**Doctors:** 0.02 per 1000 people



## Economy

**Total wealth:** US\$ 10.42 billion

**Income (by sector):**



**Average income:** US\$ 592 per person

**Poverty:** 54% of people live in poverty

**Employment (by sector):**



**Unemployment rate:** 19%

Photo: Ismail Salad Osman Hajji dirir on Unsplash



Photo: Clay Gilliland on Flickr

## Culture

**Religions:** Sunni Muslim (Islam) (official, according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter)

**Ethnic groups:** Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including 30,000 Arabs)

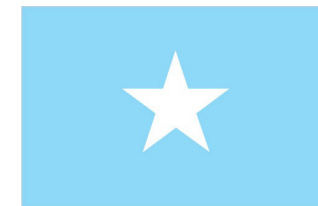
**Languages:** Somali (official, according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter), Arabic (official, according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter), Italian, English

**Sport:** Football is the most popular sport.



### The National Flag

The blue field was originally influenced by the flag of the UN but today is said to denote the sky and the neighbouring Indian Ocean; the five points of the star represent the five regions in the horn of Africa that are inhabited by Somali people: the former British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland (which together make up Somalia), Djibouti, Ogaden (Ethiopia), and the North East Province (Kenya)



### National Anthem

*Every nation has its own flag.*

*Every nation has its own flag.*

*Ours is like the sky without any signs of clouds*

*All of which we have come to love.*

*1. Oh you White Star, at your service we are  
Oh you White Star, at your service we are  
Superior you are, in any part of our land  
Be famous oh Star, like the sun*

*Chorus*

*2. On the day you arose, our hearts you have  
On the day you arose, our hearts you have  
Purified with pureness  
O Allah, do not dim the flag, pray we in this night*

*Chorus*

### National Bird

Superb Starling  
(*Lamprotornis superbus*)



BS Thurner Hof, Wikimedia Commons

Data from United Nations agencies, CIA World Factbook and other international data agencies. All information correct using latest available data as at December 2023.