



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - SOMALILAND

<p>In Brief</p>	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>Somaliland Population: 3.5 million Somaliland Size: 137,600 sq km/53,128 sq mi</p> <p>National Curriculum: Yes</p> <p>Literacy: 27% (1999) Male Youth Literacy: 74% (2012) Female Youth Literacy: 55% (2012)</p> <p>Years of Public School: Primary: 8 Secondary: 4</p> <p>Language of Instruction: Somali or Arabic</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: May-June</p>
<p>Education Overview</p>	<p>A Broken System</p> <p>By nearly every indicator, Somaliland’s education system is broken. Fewer than one-third of all primary school-aged Somaliland children are enrolled in primary school at all. Of those that start, fewer than 60% make it to fifth grade on time.</p> <p>At the secondary level, fewer than 10% of secondary school-age children are enrolled. Despite a nominally English curriculum, classes are taught in Somali or Arabic, and students graduate from secondary schools unable to form simple sentences in English, and knowing some math but only through rote memorization.</p> <p>Teacher absenteeism is high, pay is low (or nothing, in some cases), and fewer than 50% of teachers have a diploma at all.</p> <p>Students are in school five days per week, but only from approximately 8am – 11:30am, and they are normally dismissed before lunch. Only 46% of schools have water, and only 39% of schools have drinkable water. In both English and math, there are approximately 15 students for each usable secondary school textbook. Cheating on the national exam and other assessments is rampant, and in many cases ignored or even facilitated by supervisors. There is very little difference in quality between public and private schools.</p> <p>Continuing Education Abroad</p> <p>A very small number of students continue their education outside of the country. A</p>

	<p>handful of scholarships are available in Turkey, China, Uganda and Kenya, but these are often given out based on clan ties or connections to those in power.</p> <p>Over the past three decades, approximately 60 students total have continued their education in the United States, and every one of them has come from Abaarso School of Science and Technology, a boarding school outside Hargeisa and HALI Access Network member. Even counting outliers, no other students in the country have come close to being qualified to earn scholarships to US colleges and universities.</p> <p>Key Indicators Primary school net enrollment rate: 33.3% (boys: 36.2%, girls: 30.3%) Secondary school net enrollment rate: 9.5% (boys: 10.8%, girls: 8.0%) Primary school teacher:student ratio: 1:27 Secondary school teacher:student ratio: 1:24.8 Primary school classroom:pupil ratio: 1:52.7 Secondary school classroom:pupil ratio: 1:55</p> <p>A Note on Data Data on Somaliland education is extremely difficult to find, for a number of reasons. First, Somaliland’s education system is among the worst in the world, and its government lacks capacity and resources to track performance.</p> <p>Second, most data available is lumped together with data from across Somalia, as Somaliland is an unrecognized state. Finally, Somalia (not to mention Somaliland) is one of the most difficult places on earth to gather data. Somalia is violent, unstable and remains a hotbed for terrorism; there are high levels of corruption and weak rule of law, and a large percentage of the population is nomadic and has little or no formal education. Data in this fact sheet comes from a 2013/14 yearbook released by the Somaliland Ministry of Education and UNICEF.</p>
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>Somaliland schools operate on a northern hemisphere calendar, beginning classes in September and ending in May or June. The school year does not normally start until national exam results are graded, which can take 3-4 months as this is done entirely by hand. Even during the school year, classes are inconsistent, with frequent and long breaks for religious holidays. Days at most schools are short – students arrive around 8 am and leave school for the day around 11:45 am.</p>
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<p>No test centers are available in the country. Any student attempting to take the SAT must go to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This is either two days or more (one-way) by land, or a \$300+ flight from Hargeisa.</p>
<p>ACT Test Centers</p>	<p>Abaarso School of Science and Technology is the only official ACT testing center in Somaliland.</p>
<p>IELTS/TOEFL</p>	<p>No testing centers are available in the country. Because of the difficulty accessing the TOEFL and IELTS, colleges and universities are required to waive this requirement or seek other ways of demonstrating English proficiency.</p>

Best Time to Visit Schools	Anytime during the school year, which operates on a northern hemisphere calendar. Visitors should not come during Ramadan or Eid.
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Source:

- Republic of Somaliland Education Statistics Yearbook 2013/14, Somaliland Ministry of Education
- Higher Education, March 2015, http://www.unicef.org/somalia/education_17272.htm