



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - SOMALILAND

Country In Brief	<p>Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.5 million• Urban Population: 1.6 million <p>Size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 137,600 square kilometers <p>Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hargiesa (pop. 1.1 million) <p>Currency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Somaliland Shillings, USD <p>Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Somali, Arabic, English <p>Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunni Islam
Country Context and Government	<p>While the Italians colonized Somalia, Somaliland became a British protectorate in 1884. Somaliland is a self-declared sovereign state of Somalia that became independent in 1991 after years of civil war. The constitution was approved in May of 2001, and the government comprises three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. There is a parliament comprising two chambers, the House of Representatives and the House of Elders, and a President and Vice President elected through a three-party system.</p>

Education Overview

National Curriculum: Yes

Education System:

- Early Childhood Education

With a growing awareness of the importance of Early Childhood Education, there are a total of 184 ECE centers, 83% of those being managed by the private sector and NGOs, and the remaining 17% managed by the Ministry of Education.

- Islamic Education

Madrasas (centers of Islamic/Quranic education) are a common education choice in Somaliland and are distinct from public or private schools. They are overseen by the Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs, who are trying to oversee and harmonize the curriculum. These are private (for-fee) institutions. There are a total of 644 Madrasas, with 100,000 students in Hargeisa.

- Primary Education

There are 1,274 primary schools in Somaliland, 73.5% being public schools, and communities, NGOs, or individuals privately own 26.5%.

- Secondary Education

There are significantly fewer secondary schools in Somaliland than primary schools: only 210. One hundred eleven of those are public, and communities, NGOs, or individuals privately own 99.

- Higher Education

Many higher education institutions are for-profit. There is only curriculum harmonization for medical and education degrees, whereas all other degrees have unknown requirements.

Teacher Training

In the fall of 2022, the National Commission of Higher Education (NCHE) conducted a curriculum harmonization for all accredited teacher-training programs in Somaliland to standardize the required qualifications and courses required by teachers in primary and secondary schools in Somaliland.

In 2019, the Somaliland National College of Education was founded to provide in-service training and credentials for public school teachers to improve their skills and subject knowledge.

Literacy:

- Youth: 42% for school children ages 6 to 13.
- Adult: The overall literacy rate for adults is 31%, with females at just 26% and males at 36%.

Language of Instruction:

- Primary: Somali
- Secondary: English

<p>School System</p>	<p>Primary: 8 years (grades 1-8) Secondary: 4 years (form 1-4)</p> <p>Exams National Examinations for Primary and Secondary are administered each year in June. Students must receive a minimum grade to attend Secondary Schools and Higher Education Institutions.</p> <p>Primary National Examination: Students are tested on seven subject areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. Math 3. Somali 4. Arabic 5. Science 6. Islam 7. Social <p>Secondary National Examination: Students are tested on ten subject areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. Math 3. Somali 4. Arabic 5. Biology 6. Physics 7. Chemistry 8. History 9. Geography 10. Islam
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Teacher: Student Ratio There is an average of 50 students per classroom.</p> <p>Teacher Qualifications Only 55% of primary teachers in the country are trained, with only 10% being female.</p> <p>Fees Required Though public schools are ‘free,’ there can still be additional costs for families they cannot always afford. This can be an informal fee set by the school, uniforms, and materials such as pencils and notebooks.</p> <p>Regional Disparity There are 1,487 rural settlements in Somaliland, with 662 having no educational facility.</p> <p>Gender In primary schools, only 19% of teachers are female, whereas in secondary, that percentage is significantly lower at only 4%.</p>

	<p>For student enrollment, females have lower rates of enrollment compared to males, with the total enrollment for the primary school being 45% girls and 55% boys.</p> <p>Retention Student enrollment significantly decreases from grade 1 up to grade 8. The total student enrollment in the country for grade 1 was 49,840, reducing to 27,310 for grade 8.</p> <p>Academic Integrity There are widespread concerns with the integrity of national examinations that are administered across the country.</p> <p>Curriculum Language vs. Actual Language of Instruction While the national secondary curriculum is in English, teachers do not always have the required fluency and often instruct from English resources in Somali.</p> <p>School Ages Only 24% of age-appropriate children are enrolled in primary school, with only 13% of age-appropriate students enrolled in grade 1.</p>
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>The academic year for primary and secondary schools begins in August and continues until May or June. Different schools and regions have autonomy over their exact start dates.</p> <p>Certain regions have adjustments due to weather/climate and pastoral patterns. Students generally attend school for around 5 hours a day. During the holy month of Ramadan, students have shortened schedules due to fasting.</p>
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<p>Abaarso School of Science and Technology was approved for a pilot test in June 2020. It was the only official SAT test center in Somaliland for 2020-21.</p>
<p>ACT Test Centers</p>	<p>Abaarso School of Science and Technology is the only official ACT test center in Somaliland.</p>
<p>TOFEL/IELTS Test Centers</p>	<p>No TOEFL or IELTS testing centers are available in the country and prospective university candidates who need one of these tests are required to travel to Kenya, Ethiopia, or Djibouti.</p> <p>Duolingo English Test (DET) is currently the only recognized English proficiency test available in the country.</p>
<p>HALI Contacts</p>	<p>Elizabeth Ollerhead Director of Post Abaarso and Institutional Learning eollerhead@abaarsoschool.org</p>

	<p>Sophia LaPoint Development Manager slapoint@abaarsoschool.org</p>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Sources:

- <https://www.somalilandbiz.com/country-profile/>
- <https://mfa.govsomaliland.org/article/government-1>
- <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5ad453514.html>
- <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/a-global-view/africa/british-somaliland/#:~:text=Glossary-,Over view,was%20administered%20by%20a%20Commissioner>
- <https://moe.govsomaliland.org/article/commercialization-education-somaliland-and-social-injustice#:~:text=Further more%2C%20there%20are%20644%20madrasas,the%20population%20in%20the%20country>
- https://www.educationcannotwait.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Somaliland%20ECW%20MYRP_Final.pdf