



Country Profile: Somalia

Since the collapse of the central government in 1991, Somalia has been subject to widespread violence and instability. A Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was established in 2004 to guide the country through a transitional process to result in a new constitution and elections, planned for 2009. However, the nascent TFG remains fragile and lacks the capacity to provide services inside Somalia. General insecurity and inter- and intra-clan violence frequently occur throughout the country, and attacks and fighting between anti-government elements and TFG and Ethiopian forces take place regularly in Mogadishu and in regions outside the capital. The United States has no official representation inside Somalia.

In 1991, the northwest part of the country proclaimed itself the Republic of Somaliland and maintains a separate regional governing authority; however, Somaliland has not received international recognition as an independent state. The northeastern section of Somalia, known as the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, has also made efforts to establish a regional governing authority but has not claimed independence. Somalia's economy was seriously damaged by the civil war and its aftermath, but the private sector is trying to reemerge. Tourist facilities are non-existent. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Somalia for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Somalia
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Mogadishu
Boundary Countries:	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Mogadishu, Berbera, Garoowe, Galcaio, Boosaaso, Hargeysa, Baidoa, Merca, Kismaayo, Beledweyne
Country Size:	637,657 sq km
Population:	9,558,666

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Somali (official), Arabic, Italian, English
Currency:	Somali Shilling (SOS)
Predominant Religions:	Sunni Muslim
National Holidays:	Foundation of the Somali Republic, 1 July (1960); note - 26 June (1960) in Somaliland
Economic Status:	Despite the lack of effective national governance, Somalia has maintained a healthy informal economy, largely based on livestock, remittance/money transfer companies, and telecommunications. Agriculture is the most important sector, with livestock normally accounting for about 40% of GDP and about 65% of export earnings. Nomads and semi-pastoralists, who are dependent upon livestock for their livelihood, make up a large portion of the population.
Security:	no national-level armed forces
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Somalia Mogadishu, Somalia
Major Airports:	Airports: 67, Airports w/paved runways: 7 Mogadishu International Airport (MGQ/HCMM) Mogadishu Airport, Somalia, PO Box 310, Mogadishu, SOMALIA Tel: +252 80839, +252 80531

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