

The Horn Tribune

Vol V/ Issue 1627 Sunday 30 November 2025 (www.horntribune.com/info@horntribune.com) Jumada Al-Thani 9, 1447 AH

An Independent Weekly Newspaper of Dawan Media Group, Tel: 0634108231/0634424590/0634615145

Somaliland President Issues Urgent Humanitarian Appeal as Drought Pushes Over 1m USD into Crisis

State allocates US\$1 Million in Initial Government Funding and Calls for Immediate Global Support



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Republic of Somaliland's President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, popularly known as Irro, On 27th November, 2025 launched an urgent nationwide humanitarian appeal, warning that a rapidly worsening drought – triggered by the complete failure of both the 2025 the local Gu' and Deyr rainy

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Mohamoud Walaaleye
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Somaliland President Issues.....



seasons – now endangers the lives and livelihoods of more than one million people across Somaliland. In a passionately worded statement, the President called on donor governments, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, civil society, the private sector, and the wider business community to mobilize resources without delay. He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to lead and coordinate the response through the National Drought Response Committee (which is chaired by the Vice President) to ensure aid is delivered transparently, efficiently, and to those most in need. Citing the latest updates from the National Drought Response Committee and the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR), President Abdillahi described conditions as “rapidly deteriorating,” with severe impacts now affecting every region of the country. Latest assessments show that 1,037,370 individuals (172,895 households) are facing crisis-level or worse acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). The most critically affected areas are

Togdeer, Sanaag, Saraar, Maroodi-Jeeh, the wider Hawd pastoral zone, Awdal, Sool, Sahil, and Salel regions -country-wide in general. The drought has caused:

- Widespread drying of traditional water-ponds reservoirs (berkads)
- Severe strain on the few remaining functional boreholes
- Total collapse of pasture and rangeland resources
- Sharp rise in livestock deaths and distress sales
- Near-total crop failure and depletion of household food stocks
- Acute water shortages, forcing communities to depend on costly water trucking

President Abdirahman outlined six immediate priority needs:

1. Emergency water access – large-scale water trucking, borehole rehabilitation, and temporary storage solutions
2. Life-saving food assistance – direct food distributions and emergency cash transfers

- where markets remain functional
3. Rising malnutrition – rapid expansion of feeding programmes for children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly
 4. Livestock protection – emergency animal feed, veterinary treatment, and vaccination campaigns
 5. Agricultural recovery – distribution of drought-tolerant seeds and farming inputs for the next planting season
 6. Long-term resilience – investment in solar-powered boreholes, rangeland restoration, and livelihood diversification

The appeal comes just ten days after the Vice President’s 17 November statement that first raised the national alarm, highlighting how seriously the crisis has deepened. Humanitarian partners report skyrocketing water-trucking costs, rapidly climbing child malnutrition rates, and accelerating livestock mortality – threatening the primary livelihood source for the majority of Somaliland’s population. The President’s call for action builds on an earlier government pledge made just days ago, when he announced the allocation of US\$1,000,000 (one million U.S. dollars) as initial drought relief funding and urged all capable individuals and entities – both at home and abroad – to contribute with generosity and speed. Partners wishing to contribute or pledge support are requested to contact the National Drought Response Committee immediately.

President Holds High-Level Meeting.....

By M.A. Egge
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, who is popularly known as Irro, assured the USA government that the government of Somaliland is a dependable ally as far as crucial bipartisan and associated relations are concerned. The Head of State made the assurance as received on Wednesday at the Presidential Palace General Dagvin Anderson, Commander of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), U.S. Deputy Ambassador Justin Davis, and a large delegation accompanying them who are on an official visit to Somaliland. The meeting, which carried significant strategic importance, focused on strengthening cooperation between Somaliland and the United States—particularly in areas of security, regional stability, and the protection of shared interests in both the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.



President Abdirahman Irro briefed the U.S. delegation on Somaliland’s role in promoting peace, regional stability, and democratic governance. He highlighted Somaliland’s strong commitment to securing its borders, combating extremist groups, and ensuring the safety of international maritime routes through the Gulf of Aden. AFRICOM Commander Gen. Dagvin Anderson noted Somaliland’s strategic geographical position, crucial to the security of the Red Sea and the broader Horn of Africa. He emphasized the importance of

close cooperation between the two sides. Deputy Ambassador Justin Davis praised Somaliland’s contributions to peace, maritime security, and regional stability, commending the country’s well-organized security forces and its stable political environment. The Deputy Ambassador further stated that the United States views enhanced cooperation with Somaliland as important—particularly in strengthening security institutions and deepening bilateral ties. The President reaffirmed Somaliland’s readiness to fully

Dr. Edna Adan Ismail:....



Prize—often referred to as the “Asian Nobel Peace Prize. This recognition celebrates her lifelong dedication to advancing healthcare, women’s rights, peacebuilding, and community development in the Horn of Africa and globally. The award, presented annually by the Gusi Peace Prize Foundation in Manila, Philippines, honors just 15 individuals from over 1,000 nominees for their profound impact on humanity. The 2025 Gusi Peace Prize was jointly awarded to Dr. Edna and the former President of the Maldives, His Excellency Mohamed Waheed Hassan, along with 15 other recipients from various countries. The ceremony was opened with a du’a (prayer) led by a Sheikh from Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A Pioneer in Action
Born in 1937 in Hargeisa, Somaliland, Dr. Ismail trained as one of the first Somali women to study nursing and midwifery in the UK. She later became Somaliland’s first female Foreign Minister (2003–2006). Amid recovery and rebuilding, she founded the Edna Adan Maternity Hospital and Edna Adan University in 2002, funding them by selling her personal assets. These institutions have trained thousands of healthcare professionals, slashed maternal mortality rates, and spearheaded campaigns against

female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence. Now 88, Dr. Ismail continues her advocacy for Somaliland’s recognition and global health equity, embodying resilience in a region marked by instability. The Significance of the Gusi Peace Prize
Established in 2002 to honor WWII hero Captain Geminiano Javier Gusi, the prize—endorsed by the Philippine Senate—spotlights leaders in human rights, health, and education. Dr. Ismail’s selection underscores her “outstanding contributions to humanity through service, leadership, and humanitarian dedication,” especially in maternal health and women’s empowerment. This adds to her illustrious honors, including the 2023 Templeton Prize (the largest ever for an African woman), the French Légion d’Honneur, and the UN Population Award. An Enduring Legacy
From delivering babies in Somaliland clinics to forging diplomatic paths, Dr. Ismail has woven personal sacrifice into global change. The 2025 Gusi Peace Prize affirms her as a beacon of hope, showing how one life can foster peace through health and dignity. As she often says, her work is about “affirming the dignity of women.” Congratulations, Dr. Edna—Somaliland and the world stand taller because of you.

collaborate with the United States to bolster regional security and counter emerging threats, including those driven by major-power rivalries around the Red Sea and destabilizing activities by armed groups in the region. He also underscored the broad opportunities for cooperation in defense, economic development, investment, and essential public services. He stressed that Somaliland is a reliable partner for the United States, located in one of the most strategic areas of the Horn of Africa. He added that U.S. security and strategic interests in East Africa are closely aligned with the recognition of Somaliland, given Somaliland’s functioning democratic system, its national forces that have maintained stability for over 30 years and its strategic location central to U.S. regional policy.

The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding to deepen security cooperation, expand strategic operations, and jointly work to safeguard the Red Sea and ensure stability across the Horn of Africa—paving the way for a long-term, results-oriented partnership. The U.S. delegation later visited Berbera International Airport, the Berbera Port, and the coastal city of Berbera for further orientations. The meeting of the President with the US visitors comes immediately after several similar high-profile ones he had within the week with the EU, UK and Danish ambassadors. Within the same period the Head of State had a hectic week in gracing crucial maiden major congresses held in charting policies in the transport sector and health investments in the country.

Somaliland will not 'unlive' its.....



A Response to Mogadishu's former Foreign Minister Abdisaid M. Ali There's a quiet fatigue that comes from hearing your own story told for you, and told wrongly.

Last week, The East African published a guest essay by Somalia's former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Abdi Said, declaring, with an almost priestly finality, that Somaliland will never be recognized and that Somalia must therefore govern it. It was written with confidence. But confidence, as history often teaches, is not the same as correctness.

As Somaliland's former Minister of Foreign Affairs and its current Ambassador to Kenya, I believe it is appropriate to provide a response. The piece is built on a kind of fatalism, that recognition is a door long closed and that Somaliland should fold back into a Somalia-led framework. It is an argument dressed as realism. But it ignores the deeper truths of Somaliland's history, the legal realities of statehood, and the moral consequences of forcing a people to unlive their reality for the comfort of diplomatic convention.

Let's begin with the first claim: that recognition is not coming.

Somaliland does not ask the world to invent a new country. It simply asks that the world acknowledge what already exists. For thirty-four years, Somaliland has had its own government, constitution, elected parliament, army, police, currency, and borders, the very same borders the British left in 1960. In international law, that continuity matters.

The Montevideo Convention, the textbook definition of statehood, lists four criteria: a defined territory, a permanent population, a functioning government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states. Somaliland meets all four. In fact, it meets them better than some

recognized states struggling with legitimacy and governance, including the Somali government that the author is representing.

The African Union's own fact-finding mission to Somaliland in 2005 concluded that "the case of Somaliland is unique and self-justified." It recommended that the AU "should find a special method of dealing with this outstanding case." That recommendation was shelved, but not because it was wrong, only because the politics of the continent preferred silence to courage.

To say that "recognition is not coming" is less a legal truth than a political sigh. Recognition is a process. Slow, cautious, and often reluctant. But the absence of recognition does not invalidate existence. Taiwan is unrecognized by most of the world, yet fully sovereign. The same is true for Kosovo for many years, or even Israel in its early decades.

Somaliland is not a petition; it is a reality.

The article also argues that Somaliland has failed to prove itself because of the conflict in Las Anod. That a state, which faces internal dissent, cannot claim legitimacy. Fair point, but selectively applied. Which African state has not faced contested regions or political strain? The situation in the Las Anod district is painful and complex. It deserves empathy, not exploitation, as an argument against Somaliland's right to exist. Every state, from Ethiopia to Nigeria to Kenya, grapples with internal dissent. The difference lies in whether a government responds with reform or repression.

Somaliland's approach is to reconciliation, decentralization, and dialogue. The peace conferences of Borama, Hargeisa, and Burao in the 1990s were locally funded and community-led – a rarity in post-conflict Africa. That same tradition continues today.

To reduce an entire nation's legitimacy to one district conflict is to erase three decades of peacebuilding, elections, and institutional discipline. Somaliland is functional, stable, and accountable to its people. The Somalia that the article insists must govern Somaliland, on the other hand, remains mired in political infighting, weak federal institutions, and a fragile security environment where external actors hold significant sway. It is a state still struggling to govern itself, let alone a territory that has charted its own path for over thirty years.

The writer suggests that Somaliland should accept an autonomy deal under Somalia's federal system, and that this is the only "realistic" path. The irony is heavy. Somaliland tried union before. It was voluntary, brief, and disastrous.

In 1960, two newly independent territories, British Somaliland and Italian Somalia, merged to form the Somali Republic. It was a hopeful union, but the hope ended quickly. The people of Somaliland were politically marginalized, their officers purged from national

institutions, and their citizens bombed by their own air force in the 1980s. The genocide in Hargeisa and Burao remains etched into living memory.

When Somaliland withdrew from the union in 1991, it did not secede. It reclaimed its sovereignty. The act was one of self-preservation, not rebellion. The idea that Somaliland should now rejoin that same structure under a federal label is to ignore history's lessons and invite old wounds to reopen.

The article presents recognition as binary. That one is either recognized or not, legitimate or not. The world is more complex than that. Somaliland already operates as a state in all but name: it maintains bilateral relations, hosts foreign missions, signs investment deals, and partners with international organizations.

The expansion of Berbera Port, a crucial gateway to the Horn of Africa, along with regional counterterrorism cooperation, is an example of the growing bilateral partnership and increased American interest.

The politics of the Horn are changing. The Red Sea corridor has become one of the world's most strategic theatres. In this new geography, stability and predictability matter more than formal lines on a map. Somaliland provides both, while Somalia fails on all fronts.

Pretending that stability can only come through Mogadishu's authority is not realism; it's nostalgia for an order that no longer exists. Beneath all the legal and political arguments lies a moral one. The right of a people to govern themselves in peace should not be held hostage to others' political discomfort. The people of Somaliland have voted overwhelmingly for independence, 97% in the 2001 constitutional referendum. They have built their own democracy, their own systems, and their own sense of identity.

To tell them, after three decades of order and effort, that they must surrender all this because "Mogadishu does not like it" is to ask them to undo their own success. It is to reward collapse and punish stability and democracy.

The international system was not designed for courage. But moral clarity sometimes begins at the periphery. Somaliland has shown that African solutions can work. That peace can be built bottom-up, that democracy can grow without donors scripting it, and that sovereignty is not just a flag but a covenant between people and leadership.

Somaliland does not seek confrontation. We seek fairness. We seek dialogue between equals, not between a recognized and an unrecognized partner. Recognition should not be a reward for crisis,

Somaliland cabinet approves.....

The estimates are 22% higher than the previous year and covers for 11% deficit incurred from past years' estimates of 2022-24



By M.A. Egge

The 2026 National Budget Estimates has been approved by the Council of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland during their 43rd weekly session.

This happens to be the 35th national budget estimate of the country.

It was chaired by the President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, on Thursday at the Presidential Palace in Hargeisa.

The entire meeting was dedicated to discussing the 2026 National Budget Forecast save for a briefing on the country's overall security situation that was presented by the State Minister for Interior and National Security, Hon. Abdirashid Mohamed Ahmed (Magaalo).

It is 22% higher than the previous one hence has also covered for 11% deficit incurred during the past successive three years' budgets of 2022 to 2024.

Presentation of the 2026 National Budget Estimates forecast

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Aden, delivered a detailed briefing to the Cabinet.

Present at the session were the Accountant General, the Director-General of Finance, and the Director of the Budget Department and his deputy.

The 2026 National Budget, which is the 35th national budget and the largest in Somaliland's history, prioritizes:

- Strengthening social services
- Enhancing national defense
- Improving internal security
- Expanding economic infrastructure
- Protecting economic and fiscal stability

The Minister elaborated on the fact that previous budgets—2022, 2023,

corruption, and terrorism, but an acknowledgment of responsibility and performance.

As the late scholar Ali Mazrui once said, "Africa suffers not from too many states, but from too few viable ones." Somaliland is viable. It deserves to be engaged as such.

The world's reluctance to recognize Somaliland does not erase its existence; it only tests its patience. But history has a way of rewarding endurance.

and 2024—faced an average deficit of 11%, while the 2026 forecast represents a 22% increase in revenue compared to the 2024 budget. This means the Ministry has balanced the previous 11% deficit while achieving an additional 11% revenue increase going into 2026.

Key Budget Figures

- 2026 Central Government Budget Forecast: SL Shs 2,866,183,568,109
- 2025 Central Government Budget: SL Shs 2,593,431,251,887
- Difference: SL Shs 272,752,316,222 — an 11% increase over the 2025 budget.

The Minister also detailed the structure of the 2026 National Budget, broken down as follows:

1. Central Government Budget – 63%
2. Local Government Budgets – 12%
3. World Bank & African Development Bank Projects – 17%
4. Revenue-Generating Agencies – 8%

Total Combined National Budget for 2026 is thus SL Shs 4,584,959,018,356

Cabinet Approval

After the presentation, the Minister of Finance respectfully requested that the Cabinet approve the 2026 National Budget so it can be submitted to the House of Representatives on schedule.

The Head of State thereafter called for a tentative vote on the budget forecast in which: -

- 40 ministers voted in favor
- 1 voted against
- None abstained

A total of 41 ministers were present at the 43rd Cabinet session.

So, to those who say recognition will never come, I say: perhaps not tomorrow, but the moral arc of diplomacy, like that of history, bends. Slowly, quietly, and toward reality. About the Author

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Somaliland Engages AlHuda CIBE.....

Somaliland National Road.....



AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (AlHuda CIBE) is pleased to announce the commencement of a major strategic consultancy assignment with the Central Bank of Somaliland (BoS), marking a significant step toward establishing a fully developed Islamic banking and capital market ecosystem in the country. The inaugural meeting, held at the Central Bank of Somaliland headquarters, was attended by Mr. Muhammad Zubair-CEO, AlHuda CIBE FZ LLE UAE, Mr. Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi, Governor, Central Bank of Somaliland, Mr. Hamse A. Khaire - Deputy Governor, and Director of the Public Debt Management Department Mr. Abdirahman Omar Ibrahim. During the meeting, Governor Mr. Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi shared his perspective on this important initiative and highlighted the vision of the Central Bank of Somaliland for modern Islamic financial systems, he also added that Somaliland have a strategic vision to develop 100% Shariah-compliant banking and Financial System in the Country, the Director General of the Central Bank of Somaliland Mr. Yasin Jama Ahmed also expressed his commitment for fostering a conducive environment to the growth of Islamic banking products development, he also affirm his willingness to create a sustainable financial landscape that aligns with Islamic principles, promoting financial inclusion and stimulating economic development across Somaliland land financial institutions. The consultancy assignment entrusted to AlHuda CIBE encompasses a broad spectrum of interrelated developmental components. These include conducting extensive research and environmental assessments, designing a comprehensive suite of Islamic banking products, and guidance on Shariah governance framework. The work also covers the formulation of operational frameworks and manuals, capacity-building programs for banking professionals with pilot testing and recommendations, and the provision of ongoing Shariah advisory support. A major area of focus within this assignment is the development of

Somaliland's Islamic capital market, particularly the structuring of Sukuk as a sovereign and commercial investment instrument. Through this component, AlHuda CIBE will guide the Central Bank of Somaliland in establishing the regulatory and institutional foundations required for Sukuk issuance, capital market supervision, and long-term investment mobilization. This initiative is expected to significantly enhance Somaliland's ability to finance infrastructure, strengthen fiscal resilience, and attract both domestic and international investors seeking Shariah-compliant opportunities. Simultaneously, the project places strong emphasis on Islamic banking product development, ensuring that financial institutions in Somaliland will be equipped with modern, competitive, and fully Shariah compliant retail, corporate, and SME offerings. These efforts support the broader objective of promoting financial inclusion and fostering responsible economic development based on the principles of transparency, risk-sharing, and Islamic financing. AlHuda CIBE will undertake the development of Islamic banking operations for the Central Bank and

its commercial bank separately, recognizing the unique regulatory and institutional needs of each. Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, expressed his commitment to supporting Somaliland in this landmark transformation and emphasized the importance of a well-structured Islamic financial system in achieving sustainable economic growth. He also mentioned that the Islamic capital market & Sukuk are indispensable for the smooth development of Islamic Banking and Finance industry in any country. Islamic finance continues to demonstrate global relevance as a stable, asset-backed, and socially responsible financial model. Through this consultancy, Somaliland is strategically positioning itself to harness these strengths, ensuring that its financial sector evolves in line with international best practices while maintaining full Shariah compliance. AlHuda CIBE's technical expertise and global experience will play a pivotal role in shaping a modern, resilient, and inclusive Islamic financial ecosystem for the nation. *About AlHuda CIBE: AlHuda Center of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is a well-recognized name in Islamic banking and finance industry for research and provide state-of-the-art Advisory Consultancy and Education through various well-recognized modes viz. Islamic Financial Product Development, Shariah Advisory, Trainings Workshops, and Islamic Microfinance and Takaful Consultancies etc. side by side through our distinguished, generally acceptable and known Publications in Islamic Banking and Finance.*

Somaliland Investment.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye A high-level delegation led by the Director General of the Ministry of Investment and Industry, Mr. Abdifatah Ismail Duale, held a productive meeting yesterday in Riyadh with representatives of One Heart Investment Company as part of an ongoing official working visit. During the meeting, the Director General presented the Somaliland Investment Guide, highlighting the country's attractive opportunities and investor-friendly policies. One

Heart Investment expressed keen interest in exploring investment prospects in Somaliland, with a particular focus on key sectors including industry, energy, economic infrastructure, and broader development projects. The discussions underscore Somaliland's growing efforts to attract foreign direct investment and strengthen bilateral economic ties with Saudi Arabia and the wider Gulf region.



Mohamoud Walaaleye The National Conference on Finding Solutions to Road Traffic Accidents concluded today at the Serene Sarovor Hotel in Hargeisa with the unanimous adoption of a sweeping 17-point resolution aimed at halting the rising tide of road deaths and injuries that the Ministry of Transport has declared a "national disaster." The two-day summit brought together representatives from government ministries, transport cooperatives, freight and passenger companies, public transport operators (buses, taxis, and public vehicles), vehicle repair garages, universities, local and international organizations, academics, and delegates from friendly countries. Following in-depth discussions and analysis of Somaliland's road safety crisis, participants issued the following historic recommendations: 1.Immediate establishment of a National Road Safety Committee drawn from all road safety stakeholders and community sectors. 2.Urgent call for the House of Representatives to fast-track amendments to Traffic Law No. 56/ 2013, mandating seat-belt use, banning handheld mobile phones while driving, and requiring every vehicle to carry a first-aid kit. 3.Creation of a dedicated Road Safety Fund to finance essential safety programs. 4.Strict and full enforcement of all existing traffic laws, policies, procedures, and guidelines. 5.The Ministry of Transport to urgently develop specific policies and regulations for vehicles transporting school and university students, with compulsory vehicle roadworthiness checks and complete driver documentation. 6.Joint development by the Ministries of Transport & Road Development, Urban Development, local governments, and the Traffic Police of a comprehensive plan to upgrade and regulate public transport while maintaining current traffic standards. 7.All public and private hospitals directed to establish easily

accessible emergency services including 24-hour hotlines, ambulance services, and trauma centers, even in rural areas. 8.Substantial increase in the number, training, and equipment of the Traffic Police to ensure effective enforcement of road traffic laws. 9.Urgent decision to align vehicle types with the actual capacity and condition of Somaliland's roads. 10.Strengthening and formalizing coordination between all relevant ministries and agencies, including Transport, Urban Development, Health, Interior, and Religious Affairs. 11.Accelerated rollout of speed governors, mandatory vehicle safety inspections (MOT centers), and modern technology such as cameras at checkpoints and on inter-regional highways, supported by centralized data systems. 12.Completion of essential road safety infrastructure (signage, pedestrian crossings, and road markings) by local authorities and the Road Development Authority. 13.Nationwide rollout of compulsory vehicle insurance. 14.Full alignment of the National Road Safety Policy with Somaliland National Vision 2030, the National Development Plan III (NDP-III), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 15.Major nationwide awareness campaigns targeting drivers and the public on the risks and prevention of road accidents. 16.Incentives for importing brand-new (zero-mileage) vehicles through reduced customs duties, while increasing taxes on older used vehicles to encourage fleet modernization. 17.Decision to make the National Conference on Road Traffic Accidents a permanent biennial event. Closing the conference, organizers hailed the resolutions as a landmark turning point in Somaliland's battle against road traffic deaths. The Ministry of Transport is expected to submit the 17-point plan to the Cabinet in the near future and to convene the first implementation task force in the early months of 2026

U.S. Congressional Report Highlights Somaliland’s.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye

A new report submitted to the U.S. Congress by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) highlights Somaliland’s economic strength, strategic importance, and growing relevance in U.S.–China competition in the Horn of Africa.

In one of the clearest U.S. government references to Somaliland’s status, the

Commission writes that China “backed Somalia’s sovereignty claims to counter the emergence of a democratic foothold with proximity to the Gulf of Aden and its Djibouti base.” The report notes explicitly that Somalia has only ‘claims’ over Somaliland, stating:

“Somaliland declared its independence in 1991 and has a stronger economy than neighboring Somalia. Despite lacking formal

international recognition, the Commission states that Somaliland “has official relations with Taiwan,” and describes how Taiwan and Somaliland signed a “coast guard cooperation agreement” in July 2025 amid growing geopolitical pressure.

The **report adds** that U.S. Senator Ted Cruz has urged the administration to “recognize the region as a country,” while China’s Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa traveled to Mogadishu to push Somali authorities to reaffirm their “claims over the territory” and restrict visas or border access linked to Taiwan. The Commission concludes that Beijing has pressed governments across Africa to isolate both Taiwan and Somaliland, portraying the Horn of Africa as a central arena in U.S.–China strategic competition.

Dahabshiil CEO Hosts U.S. Diplomats and New AFRICOM Commander on Peace and Economic Ties

The CEO of Dahabshiil Group, Abdirashid Duale, held high-level talks in Hargeisa today with senior U.S. Embassy officials and the newly appointed Commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), General Dagvin R.M. Anderson.

“Our Group CEO, Abdirashid Duale, met with senior U.S. Embassy officials in Hargeisa—including Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Davis and Mr. Younger—to discuss peace, trade, and sustainable development in the Horn of Africa...We also welcomed the new @USAfricaCommand Commander, Gen. Dagvin R.M. Anderson @US2SOMALIA, along with a high-level U.S. delegation.” The meeting, shared on Dahabshiil’s X account, focused on strengthening cooperation in the areas of peace-building, trade facilitation, and sustainable economic development across the Horn of Africa.

Dahabshiil, the largest African-owned international money-transfer company, plays a pivotal role in the Horn of Africa’s region by channeling billions of dollars in annual remittances from the Somali diaspora to families in Somalia and Somaliland. These funds are widely regarded as a critical lifeline that helps maintain economic stability in an area still affected by conflict and political uncertainty.

The visit by General Anderson, who officially assumed command of AFRICOM earlier this month, marks one of his first engagements in the Horn of Africa and signals continued U.S. interest in deepening ties with Somaliland. Observers note that enhanced partnerships in the financial and security sectors could open new corridors for legitimate commerce while countering extremist financing networks and regional instability.

The meeting comes amid broader U.S. efforts to support resilient



financial systems and inclusive growth in East Africa, as

Washington recalibrates its strategic posture on the continent under the new AFRICOM leadership.

Government Delivers Emergency Aid to 400 Drought-Affected Families in Sahil Region



The Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs of the Republic of Somaliland, in partnership with the international humanitarian organization Muslim Hands, has provided comprehensive food rations and essential non-food items to 400 drought-displaced families who recently returned to the towns of Xagal and Laascidle in the Sahil region.

Each of the beneficiary households received full food packages alongside critical non-food items, including tarpaulins, jerry cans, and sleeping mats, to help them cope with harsh living conditions following months of severe drought.

The relief effort forms part of the Ministry’s ongoing response to the humanitarian challenges facing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, particularly in

drought-ravaged areas and settlement camps across Sahil and other regions.

The Ministry remains fully committed to supporting citizens affected by recurrent climate shocks and to continuing the partnership with organizations like Muslim Hands in reaching the most vulnerable.

Representatives from Muslim Hands commended the close cooperation with Somaliland authorities, noting that the collaboration has enabled swift and targeted assistance to families in urgent need.

With drought conditions persisting across the Horn of Africa, Somaliland officials have renewed calls for increased national and international support to avert a wider humanitarian crisis in the coming months.

Dahabshil Bank International.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Dahabshil Bank International has been honoured with two prestigious international accolades at the Moneyaura Awards Africa 2025, held on 28th November at a glittering ceremony in the Kenyan capital.

The Somali-owned bank walked away with the coveted Excellence in Mobile Banking and Excellence in Customer-Centric Banking awards, recognizing its outstanding innovation and commitment to putting customers first across its operations in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

The high-profile event, attended by senior executives from leading

banks, fintech companies, and digital payment providers across the globe, celebrated the continent’s top-performing financial institutions. Receiving the awards on behalf of Dahabshil Bank International was Vice Chairman Mr. Abdirahman Mohamed Said Duale, who thanked the organizers and reaffirmed the bank’s dedication to delivering world-class digital banking services to underserved communities.

The double victory further cements Dahabshil Bank International’s position as one of Africa’s fastest-growing and most customer-focused financial institutions.

President Concludes Somaliland’s Pioneer National Health Investment Summit



By M.A. Egge

The President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro presided over the closing of Somaliland’s first-ever National Health Investment Summit.

The event focused on strengthening health financing and exploring sustainable funding models to improve the nation’s healthcare services.

The summit examined strategies for securing adequate and sustainable health funding, with discussions centered on national health insurance, the role of local governments, and private-sector engagement.

The President thanked the Ministry of Health Development and

international partners for organizing the summit, describing it as a key national step toward expanding healthcare services and strengthening the health system.

He reiterated his administration’s commitment to prioritizing public health, noting the shift in global donor policies and the need for Somaliland to increasingly rely on its own capacities.

The President stressed that health investment is the backbone of national development, calling for both local and international cooperation.

He pledged that the government is committed to implementing the summit’s recommendations as Somaliland builds a modern and sustainable healthcare system.

JAMHUURIYADDA SOMALILAND
WASAARADDA MAALIYADA IYO
HORUMARINTA DHAQAALAHA



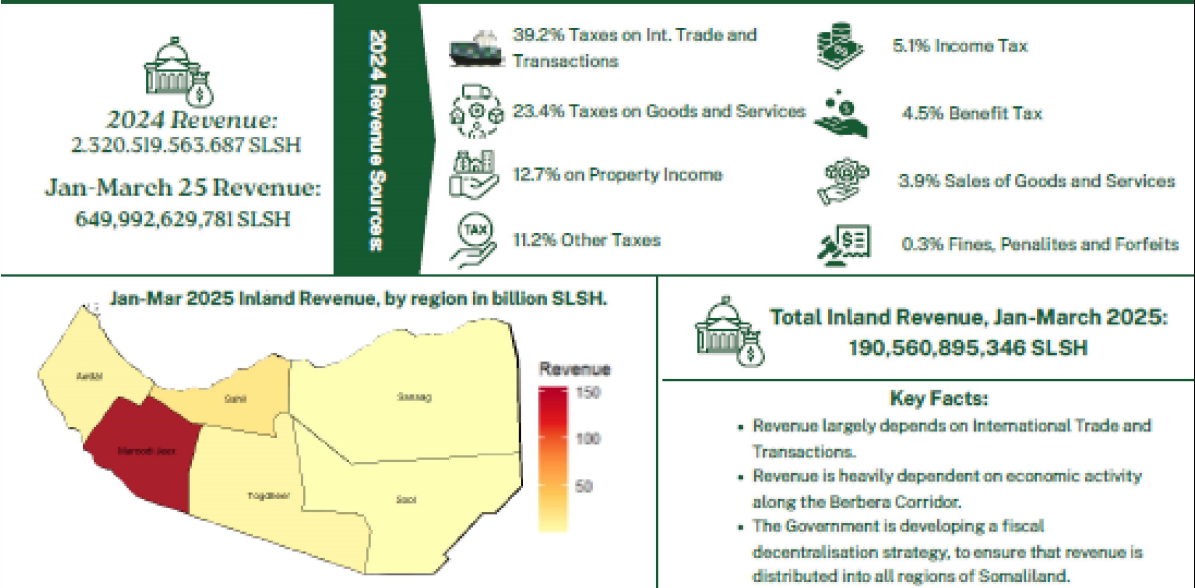
جمهورية صومالiland
وزارة المالية والتنمية
الاقتصادية

REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET DEPARTMENT

2025 Citizen's Budget Book

Revenue - Country Level Data



Expenditure - Explainer

Expenditure refers to how the Government spends its revenue to deliver public services and achieve development goals. This includes costs for health, education, infrastructure, security, and administration. Deciding how to allocate expenditure is difficult because resources are limited while needs are many. Furthermore, data is scarce for evidence-based decision-making. Thus, the decisions require carefully balancing short-term demands with long-term priorities and ensuring fairness across regions and groups.

Currently, the Government estimates its expenditure based on "Line Items." This means that the Government provides money based on salary expectations, materials, and other related expenses for the ministry to achieve its goals. However, the Government is planning to move away from Line Items and towards Program-Based Budget This is to ensure that money is used for programs aligned with the NDPII.

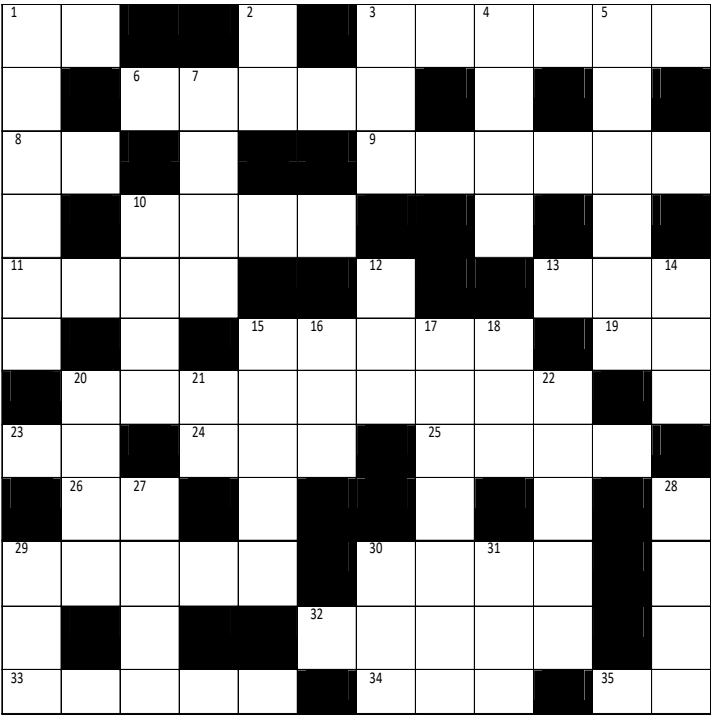
Government Priorities

The Government is committed to diversify the economy and make it more resilient. Furthermore, the Government also to ensure equal opportunities and access to infrastructure for everyone in the country. For this the Government plans to:

1. Improve the security in Somaliland by building capacity and increasing salaries of its staff.
2. Invest in deworming and develop Health Infrastructure across Somaliland.
3. Connect Economic Zones with Education Institutions and develop rural infrastructure.
4. Improve WASH Infrastructure and accelerate the utilization of rainwater.
5. Build more economic zones and incentives Industries in sectors such as Electricity, Plastic and Agricultural processing.
6. Develop Enforcements protection zones, such as Grazing Zones and Marine Protection Zones.
7. Increase coverage and share of renewable Energy.
8. Ensure Frameworks for timely and fair Elections.
9. Invest in communication efforts for Recognition.
10. Accelerate the commitment to build high quality and safe road Infrastructure. Improve housing quality and develop further ports.

THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



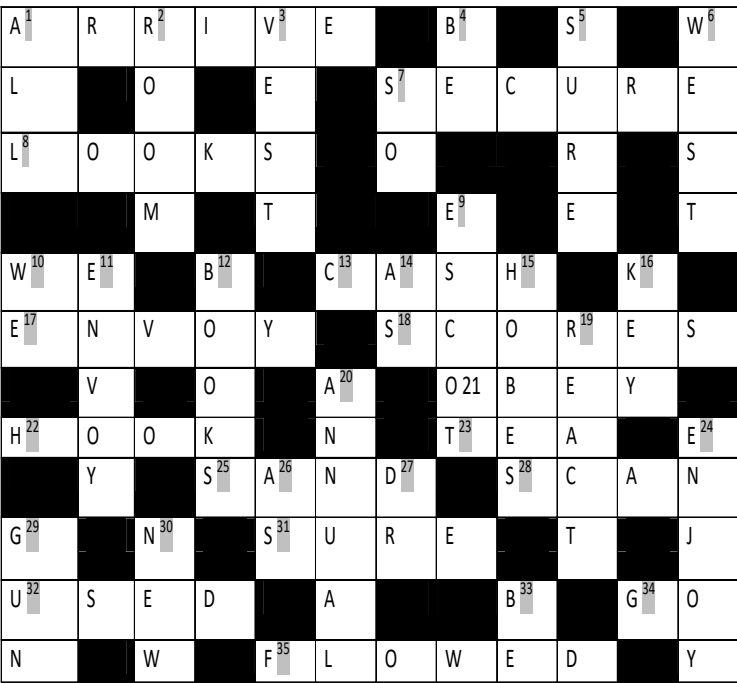
ACROSS

- 1 Therefore
3 have enough money.
6 Wait for
8 Being as
9 Escaping
10 Quantity used on papers
11 Eye or lookout
13 damaging/opposite of good
15 Municipal
19 Towards
20 Speech
23 Go off
24 Ocean
25 Change or control
26 Upon
29 Shouts or cracks
30 Ticket or meal
32 Salaries
33 Crash
34 Reddish
35 Remain

DOWN

- 1 Secure
2 not available in short forms
3 breakfasted
4 Stand facing
5 Repetition
7 Calendar week
10 Rootle
12 amount in cash
14 Puppy
15 Stairs
16 Drink
17 Juvenile
18 Ending
20 Shortly
21 BEING AS
22 Occasions
27 Surname
28 Family tree
29 Witnessed
30 Far away
31 Reddish

Previous Answer



Somaliland President Vows Swift Action on Road Accidents and Issues Urgent Drought Relief Appeal



Republic of Somaliland President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdirahman has pledged that his government will immediately implement all recommendations from the National Conference on

Finding Solutions to Road Traffic Accidents, describing the growing number of road crashes as “a national crisis that threatens lives, the economy, and the future of our youth.”

Speaking at the opening of the high-level conference organized by the Ministry of Transport and Road Development, President Irro commended the ministry's leadership, staff, and traffic police for their tireless efforts to ensure road safety. He also expressed gratitude to local stakeholders and international partners who supported the event. “Road traffic accidents have become a national problem that demands unified thinking, a comprehensive national strategy, strict enforcement of laws, and real political will,” the President declared. “Saving the lives of our

citizens is a sacred national duty and our highest priority.” He assured participants that every decision and recommendation emerging from the two-day conference will be transformed into an actionable National Road Safety Plan without delay. In a separate and emotionally charged address, President Irro issued an urgent humanitarian appeal for immediate assistance to communities devastated by severe drought now affecting every region of Somaliland. This is a distress call to all government institutions, friends of Somaliland, UN agencies, international and local

organizations, civil society, the Somaliland business community, and our diaspora, he said. Our people are suffering. We cannot wait. The President announced that the government has already allocated US\$1,000,000 (one million U.S. dollars) as initial drought relief funding and urged all capable individuals and entities, both at home and abroad, to respond with generosity and speed. The twin messages – decisive action on road safety and an urgent call for drought relief – underscore the mounting challenges facing the Republic of Somaliland as it grapples with both man-made and climate-related crises.

Senator Cruz: Minnesota Somali Fraud Rings Funneled Millions of Taxpayer Funds to Al-Shabaab Terrorists

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) unleashed a fierce critique on his podcast Verdict with Ted Cruz, slamming members of Minnesota's Somali community for orchestrating what he called the “most egregious welfare fraud in the country,” with stolen taxpayer funds allegedly funneled to the al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group Al-Shabaab. In a fiery episode co-hosted with Ben Ferguson, Cruz spotlighted a recent City Journal investigation revealing how fraud rings, predominantly involving Somali immigrants, have siphoned billions from state programs like Medicaid's Housing Stabilization Services and the Feeding Our Future scandal—defrauding over \$250 million in the latter alone. Federal counterterrorism officials confirmed to the report's authors that millions of these pilfered dollars were remitted to Somalia via informal hawala networks, where Al-Shabaab routinely extracts a cut, effectively making “Minnesota taxpayers the largest funder of Al-Shabaab.” “Somalis in Minnesota have funneled millions of taxpayer dollars to an Islamic terrorist organization,” Cruz declared in a teaser clip shared widely online. “This is a stunning story... Minnesota has become the epicenter of the most egregious welfare fraud in the country. And one of the principal drivers of that welfare fraud are Somali immigrants who are systematically gaming the welfare system. And then, shockingly, federal counterterrorism sources have confirmed that millions of those stolen taxpayer dollars have been sent back to Somalia, where they have ended up in the hands of Al-Shabaab, a terrorist group. This is a massive scandal.” The explosive report, penned by Ryan Girdusky and Christopher F.

Rufo for the Manhattan Institute, details how programs meant to aid vulnerable populations—such as housing for the disabled and child nutrition—were exploited through fake clinics, ghost clients, and inflated claims. Autism therapy providers in the Somali-heavy areas surged from 41 to 328 between 2019 and 2023, correlating with a spike in Medicaid payouts from \$2.6 million to \$21 million annually. In 2023, the Somali diaspora remitted \$1.7 billion to

Somalia—surpassing the nation's entire budget—with investigators tracing “untold millions” to terrorist coffers via clan-based transfers. Federal probes continue, with dozens charged in schemes that prosecutors describe as one of the largest welfare fraud waves in U.S. history. Law enforcement sources warn the full scope—and the precise amount reaching Al-Shabaab—remains unclear, but the implications are dire: a tribal

mindset clashing with a “bleeding-heart bureaucracy,” leaving Americans to subsidize terrorism abroad. The episode, “MTG Resigns—Why & What It Means, Plus Minnesota Taxpayers Are the LARGEST Funders of Al-Shabaab Terrorists,” has ignited national debate, with Cruz's remarks amplifying calls for reform amid accusations of media silence on the story.



Somaliland Parliament Launches Modern Conference Equipment with Support from NIMD and European Union

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland officially launched newly modernized conference and recording equipment on 24 November, 2025, marking a significant step forward in enhancing the efficiency and transparency of parliamentary proceedings. The upgrading project was jointly funded and implemented by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and the European Union (EU). Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Abdijalil Aw Dahir Afqarshe, Head of NIMD's Somaliland/Somalia Office, reaffirmed his organization's full commitment to strengthening democratic institutions in Somaliland, with particular focus on building the capacity of legislative bodies. “NIMD is fully committed to the development of democratic institutions in Somaliland, especially strengthening the capacity of legislative institutions,” Mr. Afqarshe said. He stressed that cooperation with international partners remains essential for establishing strong, effective institutions that advance Somaliland's democratic system. The new state-of-the-art equipment is expected to improve the quality of debates, streamline decision-making processes, enhance session recording, and eliminate

many of the technical challenges that previously disrupted parliamentary meetings. Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Yasin Mohamud Hiir (Faratoon), expressed profound gratitude to both NIMD and the European Union for their continued support. “This modern equipment will significantly reduce the technical obstacles we faced in the past and will greatly improve the overall effectiveness of the House,” Speaker Yasin stated. EU Ambassador Francesca Di Mauro, who attended the event, underlined the European Union's strong commitment to supporting parliaments and state institutions across Somaliland. “The European Union gives special priority to assisting parliaments and public institutions,” Ambassador Di Mauro said. She commended both the Somaliland House of Representatives and NIMD for their dedication to modernizing and increasing transparency in parliamentary operations. The launch is part of a broader, ongoing effort by NIMD and its international partners to promote transparency, efficiency, and institutional capacity within Somaliland's legislative bodies. Officials say the upgraded facilities will directly contribute to higher-quality legislative services and more productive parliamentary sessions in the years ahead.

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