

Somalia

Information for applicants

Somalia

Somalia, or the Federal Republic of Somalia, is a federal nation state in the east of Africa on the Horn of Africa. The name is derived from the Somali people, who make up the majority of the population and also live in the neighbouring countries. Somalia was formed when the colonial territories of British and Italian Somaliland, which gained independence simultaneously in 1960 (the 'Year of Africa'), were combined. The national territory borders the Indian Ocean in the east, the Gulf of Aden in the north, Djibouti and Ethiopia in the west and Kenya in the south-west.

Working in Somalia

GIZ supports the federal government in Mogadishu and has project offices in the member states of Somaliland, Puntland and Jubaland where it implements. The increasing number of seconded experts (AMA) is based in the member state of Somaliland where suitable accommodation is available. In Puntland and Jubaland (and soon in Mogadishu), there are secure compounds with offices and accommodation, allowing for extended temporary travel options for seconded staff. This makes it possible to have comprehensive engagement with partners and target groups.

There is currently no German diplomatic mission in Somalia. The German Embassy in Nairobi, which maintains an office within the international airport in Mogadishu, is responsible for Somalia. Staff therefore must refer to Nairobi for consular services.

Additional information may also be obtained from the Federal Foreign Office.

Medical care

Medical services are not consistently available at European standards. Hospitals constantly experience shortages in the supply of medicine and other medical consumables. This notwithstanding, there is a clinic with satisfactory capacity in Hargeisa, Somaliland. In Mogadishu, medical care at the airport is good. Medical evacuations are possible from all locations of GIZ operations.

Travellers are advised carry a well-equipped travel medical kit and follow the medical instructions of the Foreign Office.

Living in Somalia

For those with duty station Somaliland, the rock art and caves in Laas Geel on the outskirts of Hargeisa, Berbera town, and the Ceelsheikh beaches are worth seeing. Even if the freedom of movement at Mogadishu International Airport is limited, one can still enjoy the sunsets on the beach.

Apart from Somali that is spoken by all, English, Arabic and Italian are used as commercial and educational languages. A small part of the Somali Bantu has retained the Bantu language Zigula. On the coast of Kismayo, small minorities speak dialects of Swahili.

Shops and services

Food and everyday items are available. The supply of European goods is limited. High-quality clothing, footwear and cosmetics are best procured when outside the country.

Climate

Somalia is one of the hottest regions in the world. The average maximum temperatures of the warmest months – in the north June to August and in the south March to April – are between 36 and 42 °C. The coolest months lie between 28 and 33 °C. The south has very small temperature differences throughout the year. The average monthly temperature in the capital, Mogadishu, is 27°C. During the winter months (December - February) Hargeisa tends to get quite chilly in the evening.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/somalia-node>

https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/somalia-node/somaliasicherheit/203132#content_5

<https://nairobi.diplo.de/ke-de/vertretungen/somalia>.

<https://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/33495.html>

<https://gizonline.sharepoint.com/sites/beezy/groups/1388/Pages/Home.aspx>

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Street address
Post code, town/city, country
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Eschborn 2017

Responsible/Editor, etc.:
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

URL links:
The providers of linked external websites are always responsible for their own content.
GIZ explicitly disassociates itself from all such content.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.