



Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia.

Department of Diaspora Affairs
Department Profile

Introduction

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is a designated governmental body that carries the responsibility of Somalia's Foreign, and International Cooperation policy. The Ministry oversees bilateral and multilateral relations with foreign States globally to promote and protect Somalia's interests and to contribute towards realizing the Federal Government's overall foreign policy objectives.

Somalia welcomes and supports Somalis around the world that want to return back home keeping in mind the interest of Somalia's national security. The Federal Government understands the importance of the Diaspora coming back and investing in their country. A country is built on sacrifices, and Somalia is significantly improving by Diasporas returning and sacrificing for their nation.

Migration is a global challenge which must be resolved with various developmental tools. Illegal migration poses great risks to both Somali citizens and their families and has caused much heartbreak to too many already. Many Somalis live across the world enjoying the rights citizenship of their adopted countries. The vast majority of the Somali Diaspora are well integrated into their new societies and are contributing positively to both their adopted homes and societies and Somalia.

Overseas Somalis have always maintained a strong connection with their homeland, Somalia. A connection which cannot be diminished with distance or time. Over the years, many Somalis have returned to Somalia as tourists, visitors and investors, and have made sterling contributions to Somalia's social and economic growth through their involvement in philanthropy, investment, tourism or as re-migrants.

Increasingly, Somalia is recognizing the power of its diaspora and the role the diaspora plays in their home country's economic development, beyond humanitarian aid and remittances. Diaspora investment is the main channel of interest that the government is promoting.

In recognition of the important role the Diaspora can play as a contributor to Somalia's national development and in keeping with the Ministry's Strategic Plan to actively engage the Somali Diaspora in developmental efforts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation has re-established and merged the Department of Diaspora Affairs to allow for a structured engagement aimed at strengthening relations and dialogue, to foster national development.

The Department of Diaspora Affairs (DODA) was founded in Feb 2013. The main objective behind the establishment of the department at the Ministry was to establish an office that focuses on the importance of Diaspora mobilization and engagement towards national sustainable development. This essential initiative resulted in the department's emphasis on how to strategize Somali Diaspora's development efforts such as

crucial financial remittances, the creation of vital bridges between their host- and home country, access to international markets, Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), knowledge transfers and various other socio-economic development efforts.

DODA will be a major tool of Diaspora engagement and will be guided by the National Diaspora Policy, with its primary responsibility being the realization of the goals of the policy.

DODA will shape a more strategic relationship with the Somali Diaspora, which will bring benefits both to Somalia and its global community. It will significantly contribute to national development through productive, mutual, and sustainable Diaspora engagement.

Policy Frameworks

Foreign Policy

Somalia's Foreign Policy recognizes the diaspora as one of its five main focus areas. There is a significant untapped potential regarding Somalia's diaspora community towards the country's sustainable development. These include Foreign Direct Investment, knowledge transfer, social remittances, technology transfer amongst other crucial contributions. Somalia's Foreign Policy, therefore, seeks to facilitate the Diaspora's integration into the national development agenda. The Foreign Policy states 6 objectives concerning Diaspora integration:

- Provide effective and responsive consular services
- Facilitate the participation of Somalis abroad in national reconstruction and development
- Develop unified advocacy programs for Somalia's interests
- Explore the concept of creating a social development fund to enable the Diaspora to tangibly contribute to Somalia's rebirth
- Promote access by Somalis to the international labor market Diaspora skills for local international development

National Development Plan 9

Somalia's National Development Plan (NPD-9) also highlights the importance of Somalia's Diaspora community towards the country's development efforts. Diaspora is mentioned in almost every chapter. NPD-9 recognizes Somalia diaspora's financial, skills, and human development contributions to the country. In particular, it acknowledges the importance of understanding the humanitarian-development nexus and the diaspora's role in providing assistance in times of crisis. The NPD-9's human capital development strategy also states to crucially strategize brain-gain due to large numbers of returning highly skilled Somalis from the Diaspora.

In both Policy framework and NDP-9, Somali Diaspora is of great importance towards sustainable development in Somalia. The Department of Diaspora Affairs, therefore, serves as the departmental government body to mobilize and strategically utilize Diaspora contributions and resources to the country.

VISION

To envision sustainable socio-economic development through a cooperative relationship with our Diaspora Community.

MISSION

To strategically mobilize the Somali Diaspora as agents of change in Somalia. We achieve this through steering Diaspora's resources efficiently towards sustainable development. This involves mechanisms to utilize Diaspora networks, human, financial, economic, cultural, and political capital towards achieving prosperity in Somalia. These objectives are achieved through a holistic collaboration and coordination between government ministries, the private sector, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and Diaspora organizations/associations abroad.

Core Values

In order to effectively and efficiently engage and mobilize diasporas, the Department, Management and Staff shall be guided by the following core values:

1. **Focus and Priority on Diaspora:**
Placing diasporas first and continuously striving to meet and surpass their expectations.
2. **Professionalism and ethical standards**
Subscribing to the highest level of ethical standards, professionalism, transparency and accountability
3. **Innovation and Creativity**
Promoting an innovative culture and creativity based on international best practices
4. **Teamwork**
Promoting teamwork to meet goals and targets
5. **Good Governance**
Employing high ethical standards, adopting global corporate governance principles, and equity and gender balance in both recruitment and career development opportunities.

Strategy

DODA strategy aligns and achieves with government goals under three main ways: creating awareness about opportunities for diaspora business investments in Somalia, lobbying for national reform inclusion of Somalis living abroad and transforming remittances into sustainable development finance. The Department achieves its objectives by collaborating with partner/stakeholder organizations in activities with shared interest and value.

Departmental Sections

- Migration and Labor (International Employment)
- Direct Diaspora Investment
- Diaspora Engagement
- Culture & Research

The Diaspora Department includes four sections. The Director serves as the lead of the department in general and direct the guiding and monitoring individuals to the four sections towards achieving their overall objectives. The department's team comprises four section heads, assistant director, senior departments advisors and a deputy director led by Director General that takes on a coordinating and administrative role to ensure an efficient workflow. The four respected sections have their own section heads who monitor, lead, train, and manage their staff. They also conduct research and set goals to ensure that overall day-to-day operations run smoothly to serve their respective diasporas.

Sections Description

1. The Migration and Labour section (International Employment)

focuses on migration and labour relations in Somalia. It aims to identify and tackle core migration and labour issues that take place in the wider Somali community such as exploitation of migrant workers, and lack of information infrastructure. This section's main objectives include creating awareness regarding migrant rights, strengthening ties with the host countries where Somali migrant workers mainly reside and creating frameworks that limit brain-drain from Somalia towards ways to mobilize these valuable assets in sustainable development efforts.

2. The Diaspora Engagement Section

aims to connect the Somali diaspora residing outside, and inside Somalia to the sustainable development of Somalia. This is done through connecting diaspora communities and organizations to crucial issues such as disaster responses, human capital development, technical assistance, and any other form of exchange and transfer of talents and capital.

3. The Culture and Research Section

aims to celebrate Somalia's rich culture through the preservation and promotion of the art and culture of Somalis. With a significant diaspora community living outside of Somalia, this section aims to build strong ties with the Somali diaspora to create an identity connecting to Somalia through appreciating heritage and unleashing new and inspiring forms of expression for all.

4. The Diaspora Direct Investment Section

investigates Somali diaspora investment and its developmental outcomes in Somalia. This section aims to establish frameworks to connect to Somali diaspora community to the country's national market and economy. This includes identifying and tackling bottlenecks such as access to information to ensure the optimization of diaspora investment.

General objectives of the Department are as follows:

The Ministry of Foreign Policy and International Cooperation provided various policy perspectives of the government through Department of Diaspora Affairs regarding its commitment to the Diaspora, drawing the linkages between their areas of engagement and how the Diaspora can be involved.

1. To promote and strengthen relations between the Government of Somalia and the Somali Diaspora;
2. To promote a better understanding of Somalia's development Plan and priority areas of focus within Diaspora communities;
3. To engage the Somali Diaspora by encouraging them to contribute towards Somalia's National Development Plan;
4. To facilitate the formal establishment of a structured mechanism to engage the Somali Diaspora;
5. To create and manage a database which will profile the Somali Diaspora in the different countries and regions;
6. Develop a website and comprehensive database of Somalis in the Diaspora.
7. To act as a communication bridge between the Government of Somalia and the Somali Diaspora.
8. To create a One-Stop-Shop for overseas Somalis who may wish to engage in investment, trade, doing business in Somalia, philanthropy or make contributions to Somali communities.
9. To provide assistance to persons who are interested in re-migrating to Somalia.

Specific objectives include the following:

The following programs and activities have been drawn to achieve the above objectives in 2022-2026:

- Develop a website and comprehensive database of Somalians in the Diaspora.
- Engage the Diaspora community to solicit their views for an effective Diaspora Engagement Policy.
- Sensitization and engagement tour of selected countries with large number of Somali about government policies and engagement strategy.
- Offer advice sections to address individual concerns ranging from business setup, land registration, queries about dual citizenship and offer institutional support for individual initiatives and projects.
- Lobby and advocate for the removal of employment restrictions on dual citizens.
- Organize trade and Investment fair-matching, linking and facilitating Diaspora ideas and concepts to Government initiatives.
- Improve capacity of Diaspora Desk Officers in Somali Missions abroad to be able to address the needs, problems and concerns of our Diaspora community.
- Facilitate dialogue among Diaspora Government appointees in Somalia to share knowledge and transfer best practices to improve their organizations.
- Strengthen the bond between Somalia and its citizens in the Diaspora.
- Engage second generation Diaspora citizens through Diaspora National Service scheme.
- Carry out publicity/awareness campaign in the media, both conventional and social.

Roles and responsibilities.

DODA will achieve its objectives by focusing its activities on the following responsibilities:

- Work under the Somali Diaspora Policy to effectively reach the full developmental efforts of the Somali Diaspora towards their home-country Somalia through facilitating the participation of Somalis abroad in the national reconstruction.
- Work under the guidance of Somalia's Foreign policy pillar 5 (Diaspora Engagement) to facilitate the Diaspora's integration into the national development agenda by strategically mobilizing Diaspora skills for local development
- Formulating and implementing measures aimed at engaging, maintaining, and developing a relationship with the Somalia diaspora living abroad and inside Somalia
- Develop unified advocacy programs for Somalia's interests abroad
- Strategically mobilizing the diaspora community to fulfil their crucial development role in the sustainable development efforts through promoting strategies focused on reversed brain-drain
- Create innovative campaigns promoting social culture and norms on the pretext of involving the Somali diaspora across the world to help them learn about their cultural heritage both in their host-countries and Somalia through the collaboration with the related ministry of cultural heritage i.e Know Somalia Program
- Serve to effectively co-ordinate diaspora direct investment in the country through formulating and implementing a direct-diaspora investment framework
- Organize events to create a formal diaspora investment network to boost diaspora connectivity
- Connect diaspora community to institutions that aid the processes of diaspora direct investments
- Establish frameworks promoting awareness among migrants about their rights in the host country.

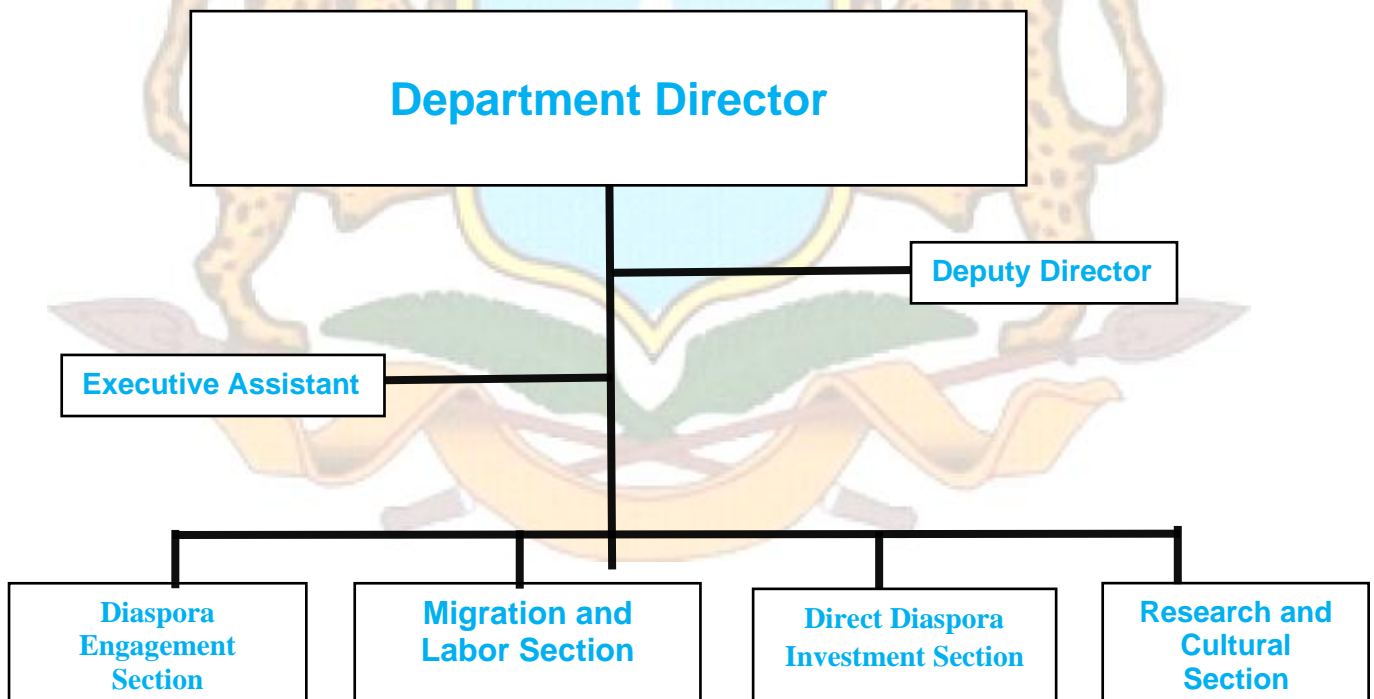
- Establish frameworks that control irregular migration and widespread exploitation of undocumented workers at the source of transit and destination countries.
- Serve as a key department link for diaspora's returning to the country to other government institutions
- **Exploring**, relaying and facilitating social and economic opportunities for the improvement of Somalians residing in Somalia and host countries;
- Promoting and facilitating the Diaspora to avail their skills, abilities and experiences to various sectors of Somalia;
- Establishing mechanisms to promote and support the assimilation and integration of the Diaspora in the host countries and work with Somali organizations to contribute to programs and initiatives implemented by Ministries, Departments and agencies to ensure the safe, resettlement of the Diaspora in Somalia;
- Promoting collaboration between companies, associations and individuals in Somalia and the host country to pursue opportunities for trade and investment for Somalia, in key existing and emerging areas;
- Promoting and facilitating the development and strengthening of Diaspora groups such as taskforce, associations, Community-based Organizations in locales where none exist;
- Partnering with Somalia Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to explore ways of improving service delivery to Diaspora communities;
- Developing mechanisms to connect and engage Diaspora youth and young people to develop and maintain their affinity to and interest in Somalia;
- Promoting Diaspora awareness and engagement of the laws and policies on issues in the host country and Somalia and facilitate mechanism for advocacy; and
- Developing mechanisms to encourage research on the Diaspora, its composition, distribution, interests and issues.
- To provide technical advice to Diaspora participation in relevant sector in the country;
- To coordinate and sensitize the participation of MDAs and Non-State Actors in activities relating to the Diaspora;
- Facilitate and advise the Diaspora to access investment opportunities in the country;
- Coordinate labor arrangements and agreements with other countries with a view to promote and secure decent international employment for qualified Somali candidates.
- Facilitate promotion of public awareness and foster public understanding of the Diaspora, its potential and needs;
- Initiate and coordinate preparation of cabinet and policy papers for the review of legislations and policies.
- facilitating the establishment of productive and meaningful synergies between Diaspora Civic, Professional, Community and Development associations and their local counterparts in Somalia and; promoting the opportunities and mitigating the challenges associated with the country's existing Diaspora policies and directives.
- Interface with the Diaspora community, including but not limited to Community-Based Groups, Alumni Associations and individuals in their respective regions, to obtain a clear understanding of the issues and interests within the Diaspora community;
- Regularly meet with the Somali Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post under whose jurisdiction they falls, to collaborate on solution-oriented activities, seek support in executing their roles, providing information on matters of Diaspora affairs and to be briefed on the Government of Somalia's priority areas.

OUR SERVICES.

- Business Advisory at Diaspora Desks in Somali Abroad Missions
- Matching and Linking Diaspora ideas and concepts to Government initiatives
- Lobbying and Advocacy for increased participation for the Somali Diaspora in our political and economic discourse
- Diaspora Trade and Investment Facilitation
- Organizing Trade and Investment shows for Diasporas (Host and Home)
- Return Migrants Advisory and Support Service
- Diaspora National Service
- Diaspora Desk Service at our Missions Abroad
- Organizing and Coordinating Diaspora Events Home and Abroad
- Volunteer Faculty

Structure of The Department

The Department of Diaspora Affairs structure is composed as following Sections.



Address: Afgooye Road-KM 5, Mogadishu, Federal Republic of Somalia.

E-mail diaspora@mfa.gov.so website: www.mfa.gov.so

Department Location.

DODA operates from its headquarter in Ministry of Foreign Affairs Compound in Mogadishu, a secure office space for its day-to-day operations. The offices are a few meters away from Aden Abdulle International Airport (AAIA). It provides staff with the environment and atmosphere that enables them to achieve its goals and also provides diasporas proximity and ease of access as well as file enquiries with the Office.

END

