**SOMALIA**

**State of play**

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| Overview  The EU has been an importantpartner in the development of the education sector, over many years, investing over EUR 100 million in education in Somalia between 2007-2021, taking a sector-wide approach to the support of primary and secondary education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education. The EU has used a range of modalities to support Somali education authorities in strengthening systems for delivery and continuity of good quality and equitable education. The focus on strengthening the education system, improving gender equality, climate resilience and green and digital skills for youth contributes to Global Gateway priorities.  EU funding (2021-2027) will be EUR 80.75 million / Committed (as of 2023): EUR 25 million  Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funding is USD 223.2 million (2017–2023). Under the GPE 2025 Strategy, Somalia is eligible for USD 170.94 million.  Education Cannot Wait has an ongoing USD 5 million **First Emergency Response** (FER). USD 36 million is available for the next **Multi-Year Resilience Programme** (MYRP).  DG ECHO funding for education in emergencies constitute close to 10% of the humanitarian assistance in the country, and amounts to over EUR 20 million since 2020. |

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| Team Europe  Team Europe Initiative **Climate Action through Clean Energy Initiatives and Climate-resilient Economy** (DE, DK, NL, IT, SE + EIB, KfW) will ensure access to green skills through joint efforts of EU-Germany-Netherlands in education and TVET.  DG ECHO delivers Education in Emergencies (EiE) interventions to newly displaced populations and communities affected by displacement, with a focus on hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas in Southern Somalia and the disputed regions between Somaliland and Puntland.  Finland contributes to UNICEF’s country programme (EUR 7.6 million). Italy and Netherlands provide higher education scholarships for Somali youth. |

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| Education partnerships  The EU is involved in sector coordination forums, Cluster and Local Education Group, facilitates annual Joint Reviews of the Education Sector (JRES) and is the coordinating agency for the GPE. Partners include GPE, World Bank, UN agencies, ECW, ADRA, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Africa Educational Trust, CARE, GIZ, Save the Children, Finn Church Aid, NRC, USAID, Qatar and Norway. |

**Key challenges**

Somalia has made significant progress in education. However, it continues to have one of the lowest rates of school enrolment in the world. Poverty levels prevent parents from sending their children to school. Only 20% of school-aged children finish primary school. Rural areas face accessibility challenges and gender inequalities persist throughout the education system. Merely a quarter of the female population and half of the male population are literate, with pastoralist communities facing particular disadvantage. Between 50% and 80% of teachers across the country lack formal training and receive inadequate and inconsistent pay.

**EU added value**

The EU plays a leading role in the education sector in Somalia in terms of financing, policy dialogue and coordination. This support takes a sector-wide approach, with a focus on strengthening systems and addressing priorities in the education authorities’ strategic plans. Through projects implemented by competitive selected NGO Consortia, EU has contributed to substantial increases in access, as well as improvements in school quality, through national curriculum, textbooks and teacher guides, teacher training, management and payroll systems, community engagement, and strengthened capacity at national, sub-national and school levels.

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| **Access**  Scuola | Since 2001, through EU support, 17,000 teachers were trained, 3,000 teachers supported with salaries/incentives and 210 new schools (and 1,370 new classrooms) were built. Between 2018-2021, 2.084 million students enrolled in primary education and 204,320 students enrolled in secondary education with EU support. 11,345 people benefited from institution or workplace-based TVET and skills development interventions funded by the EU.[[1]](#footnote-1) In 2022, DG ECHO funding to education in emergencies supported over 70,000 school-aged children and young people, their teachers and caregivers who were affected by humanitarian crises. |
| **System strengthening**  **Ministry of education icon set. university illustration sign collection. school  symbol Stock Vector | Adobe Stock** | Through the **Somalia State Building and Resilience Budget Support Programme (SRBC)** (2018-2021) under the EU-Africa Trust Fund, the EU helped the federal government to improve Public Finance Management and increase of the role and capacity of the Somali authorities in service provision, especially in education. A new budget support programme will build on the SRBC and seek to increase public investments into Somalia’s education system.  The EU also finances Technical Assistance (mostly from diaspora) to support system strengthening and has partnered with the World Bank on teacher payroll system development. |
| **Higher Education and Vocational Training** | Under Erasmus+:   * 46 Somalian students, researchers, and staff have benefited from Erasmus+ short term mobility to Europe; 35 students and staff from Europe have moved to Somalia (2014-2021). Between 2022-2024 additional 21 students and staff will benefit from mobility to two European countries, while five Somali universities will host around 12 Europeans. * Seven Somali students have been awarded the Erasmus Mundus joint master’s scholarship (2014 – 2022). Another 30 have benefited from HE scholarships supported through other EU funded projects. * The Safe Motherhood CBHE project helps developing Nursing and Midwifery Teachers’ and Students’ Competencies in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, involving higher education institutes in Somaliland, Kenya, Finland and Estonia (2023-2026). * The Developing Capacities in the Area of TVET for Green Energy Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa CBVET project focuses on enhancing the labour-market orientation and relevance of VET courses in the green energy sector and improving the competencies, skills and employability potential of students, involving partners from Poland, Norway, Cameroon, Kenya and Rwanda (2023-2025). * Somalia is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa with a Jean Monnet Chair. |

The EU and the Federal Government of Somalia held an Article 8 Political Dialogue in March 2023. The high-level and political engagement with the FGS will be continued with a joint commitment to socio-economic growth, through increased provision of basic services, education and digital solutions for people in urban and selected rural areas.

The EU works in coordination with GPE and ECW in Somalia. GPE contributes to improved access for disadvantaged children, better teaching and learning outcomes through teacher training, incentives for teachers, teaching and learning materials, and strengthened institutional systems for better service delivery. ECW support infrastructure enhancements including building and rehabilitation of classrooms and learning labs and construction of WASH facilities with gender-segregated latrine blocks, teacher professional development, awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of education and nutritious school meals.

**Ongoing EU Programmes**

The EU support to education in Somalia in 2021-2027 period focuses on expanding access (including of girls and out-of-school children), strengthening teacher quality and management, encouraging greater government contributions to the financing of education, maintaining support for TVET and higher education.

With the **Education Access and Quality Improvement Programme (EAQIP)** programme (2022-2026), the EU will contribute to the following results:

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| **System strengthening**  Ministry of education icon set. university illustration sign collection. school  symbol Stock Vector | Adobe Stock | Capacity of public institutions to lead, monitor, and manage the education system will be enhanced. A systematic approach to school financing will be institutionalised through school and capitation grants. |
| **Access**  Scuola | Access to equitable quality education at primary and secondary levels will be increased through grants to Save the Children Denmark, Care Netherlands, and ADRA. **100,000 children and young people** especially those from marginalised groups such as girls, children with disabilities, pastoralist and rural areas, will be targeted. Education opportunities for displacement-affected communities will be expanded in close coordination with DG ECHO’s EiE actions and partners. |
| **Equity** | Girls' education will be promoted through advocacy, scholarships, gender sensitive teaching, female teachers as role models and dignity kits.  Education facilities will be constructed, rehabilitated and equipped to cater to the needs of girls and children with disabilities.  Learning materials, braille and assistive devices for children with special education needs will be provided. |
| **Skills** | **1,200 young people** will receive scholarships for demand driven certified skills training, including green and digital skills. Basic literacy and numeracy education will be provided to out of school youth. Links will be created with formal education systems helping the youth back into lower and upper secondary education. |
| **Higher Education** | Partnership with the University of Kenyatta will help strengthen quality assurance and accreditation and building capacity in higher education institutions. It will support linkages between Somali HEIs and EU-funded action on Harmonization for the African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (II) Initiative. |

1. 2022 Annual report on the implementation of the European Union's external action instruments in 2021 - The staff working document <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/856702c5-7b64-11ed-9887-01aa75ed71a1/language-en?WT.mc_id=Searchresult&WT.ria_c=69794&WT.ria_f=6651&WT.ria_ev=search&WT.URL=https%3A%2F%2Finternational-partnerships.ec.europa.eu%2F> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)