

2016

Finland-Somalia Association



Finland-Somalia Association
Communication | Development | Culture

Building Bridges Between Somalia and Finland

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FINLAND-SOMALIA ASSOCIATION (FSA)

The Finland-Somalia Association was founded in 1986 and it is a non-governmental friendship association. The main purposes of the association are to strengthen the friendship of the Somalis and the Finns and to promote the visibility of Somali culture and history within the Finnish society. We also promote Finland-Somalia relationships, information sharing and help both communities to understand each other. FSA has also lead development projects in Somalia since 2001.

PROFILE

Contact

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Communication, Development & Culture

BACKGROUND

Finland-Somalia Association is a nongovernmental organization (NGO), which was founded in 1986 and subsequently registered in Finland. Association is also registered with Jubbaland Administration in Somalia. The organization was formed by Finnish healthcare professionals working in Somalia in 1980's and later on joined by Somalis who immigrated to Finland from the 1990's onwards.

The association is a non-profit association that supplements the Finnish Government's development efforts and activities. The association co-operates with Finnish and Somali associations and bodies promoting similar values. The Finland-Somalia Association publishes the KOOR journal twice a year; we also actively follow Finnish and Somali media, and participate in discussions.

In Somalia, FSA takes part in development projects and has implemented several projects in different parts of Somalia. The association aims to support, promote and improve healthcare services, the environment and livelihoods of the local communities it works with. The association operates in areas inhabited by pastoral communities who are highly dependent on livestock for their social and economic wellbeing – and which were under severe civil strife following the collapse of the Somali government in the early 1990's.

In Finland, FSA arranges yearly seminars, events, meetings, conferences and promotes cultural, historical and tourism-related activities between Somalia and Finland. The Finland-Somalia Association speaks on behalf of coordinated and successful integration, tolerance, and promotes a mature understanding of different cultures and communities. We also promote the participation of young people and women in the community.

FSA aims to achieve this through trainings, monitoring, and development of physical facilities, awareness creation and by strengthening community structures. As an institution, FSA has clear strategies and operational policies on how it conducts its affairs and interventions covering staff and personnel welfare, conduct and safety especially in emergencies considering the fragile environment in which the organization operates and implements projects.

FSA works at the grassroots level to enhance the capacity of communities it works with in order to respond to their basic needs and advocates for their needs and interests in both national and international arenas. For this reason, FSA brings together a number of intellectuals and professionals who have the skills to consolidate its institutional capability in working with the local administrations, governments, partners and international agencies operating in the region in delivering effective services to the poor communities and collaborating as an implementing agency and information-sharing partner.

The association designs and implements its projects through a participatory development model in order to empower local associations, partners and communities and to take their expressed needs in to account from the early planning stages, all through implementation and evaluation. Since its inception, FSA has built its reputation at the grassroots level by providing an amicable and cooperative working environment through a participatory approach, working with a 'zero tolerance to corruption message' in involving local communities.

Finnish Somali diaspora Finland-Somalia Association is very active among the Finnish Somali diaspora on development, communication, cultural discussions, publications as associations vice-chair is among writers of (Finnish Somalis book – 2015) covering communities 30 years of history in Finland. Association works also a bridge between Somalia and Somali diaspora in Finland also on development projects and promotes all collaboration aiming to help Somalia and community.



Finland-Somali Association core areas of concern in the association's work areas:

- 1) To build the capacity of health professionals of the maternity child health centers and institutions.
- 2) To promote the competences, sanitation, awareness and prevention of transmitted diseases in health institutions.
- 3) To promote HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, transmission and capacity within communities and health service delivery systems.
- 4) To promote environmental rehabilitation, awareness and to prevent environmental degradation, tree-cutting and soil erosion.
- 5) To promote peace, development spirit, good governance, freedom of expression and human rights.
- 6) To promote accountability, transparency, and equality in all our operations.

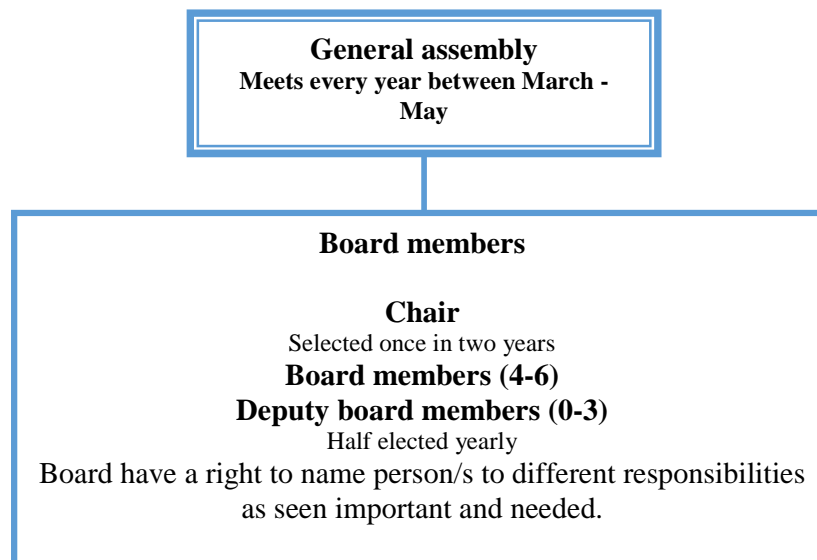
FSA association board

FSA's multidisciplinary board members and staff run the association activities. The board has the role of policymaking and developing the overall strategic plan of the organization, while the management has the task of implementing the activities.

Board members of 2015-16

Chair – Lea Vetri
Vice-chair - Yusuf M. Mubarak
Secretary – Nina Scönberg
Daud Ahmedey
Kadar Gelle
Ibrahim Hassan
Deputy member
Abdulkadir Farah
Jenna Savolainen
Suleqo Yusuf

Association chart



Vision

To advance an effective and sustainable network that has positive impact on both the integration of Finnish Somalis to the Finnish society and on helping Somalia's socio-economic development – free and universal healthcare services and status of the children, women and the under-privileged members of the society in all the activities we implement, take part in or initiate.

Mission

To promote community-empowerment through equitable access, sustainable development and mitigation in conflict resolution.

Objectives

FSA has set out to facilitate lasting and long-term impacts through a set of objectives to achieve its mission:

- To improve healthcare services of maternal child centers of the mainly pastoral communities through competence building, providing high-quality basic health services such as: laboratory services, vaccinations, access to basic medicines and to some extent delivery services to local communities, and to reduce human suffering in times of emergencies and vulnerabilities.
- To initiate environmental development for sustainable development that also embraces sound environmental conservation and management, hygiene and proper sanitation.
- To increase the capacity of local communities to manage their natural resources, promoting environmentally friendly projects and the revival and preservation of indigenous fauna and flora.
- To create awareness of HIV/AIDS transmission and promote prevention by extending primary healthcare services and quality education that transcends conventional (traditional) pedagogy to incorporate life skills, knowledge and expertise on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- To assist in providing a protective environment to survivors of sexual violence as well as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to set up a referral system for these groups.

Core values

FSA activities are guided by the following core values:

- Equity and fairness
- Accountability, transparency and anti-corruption
- Gender equality and human rights
- Professionalism and committed voluntary service
- Conservation of the environment

FSA Somalia projects profile

FSA has since its foundation had the chance to successfully carry out several projects with communities in Somalia. **FSA** has implemented the following development projects with funding from the Finnish government:

Project title	Started	Ended	Source of funding	Main sector	Sub sector	Region, District
1. Orphanage henhouse project (Hargeisa, 2001-2003)	Beginning 2002	End of 2013	*FMFA	Livestock	poultry	Somaliland, Hargeisa
2. Hospital staff training	Beginning	End of	*FMFA	Health	Health staff	Somaliland,

project (Borama, 2002-2003)	2002	2013			training	Borama
3. Tuberculosis care and training project 1 & 2 (Mogadishu, 2002-2007)	Beginning 2002	End of 2007	*FMFA	Health	Infectious diseases prevention	South, Mogadishu
4. MCH clinic and deliver services project (Afgoi 2003-2011)	Beginning 2003	End of 2011	*FMFA	Health	Maternal and child health (MCH)	South, Afgoi
5. MCH health center activities project (Afmadow 2011-2016)	Beginning 2011	End of 2016 (2017-20)	*FMFA	Health	Maternal and child health (MCH)	Jubbaland, Afmadow
6. Ramaad - environmental rehabilitation project (Afmadow 2014-2016)	Beginning 2014	End of 2016 (2017-20)	*FMFA	Environmental protection and rehabilitation	Environment	Jubbaland, Afmadow

*Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (*FMFA) is the main donor of all the projects funding with 85% contribution (rest 15% comes from Finland-Somalia Association (7,5% with voluntary work and 7,5% with financial contribution - fundraising))*

NB: Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information

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