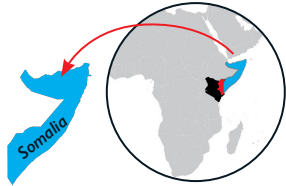


# Somali

## Unreached People Group

### Somalia

Decades of conflict and civil wars have virtually destroyed the Somali economy and infrastructure and split the country into areas under the rule of various entities.



The Somali people have sought shelter across eight countries in the northeastern portion of Africa (the “Horn of Africa”) and the Middle East. They are one of the most homogenous people groups on the African continent; sharing a common language, faith, and cultural heritage that is an integral part of their nomadic lifestyle.

Several hundred thousand Somalis have been internally displaced.

There are more Somali people living outside of Somalia than inside.

### Population



Kenya	2.8 million
Somalia	8.4 million
Ethiopia	6.7 million
World	>20 million

### Religion



The Shafi'i Muslim majority observes standard prayers, yet women do not wear the veils. Many turn to the *wadaad* (religious expert) for blessings, charms and advice in worldly matters.

### A Nomadic People

The most widely recognized symbol in Somalia is the camel which provides meat, milk, transportation, income, and status for those who own one.



### Language

Somali  
National language

Arabic  
Second Official Language

English  
A colonial language

Italian  
A colonial language

**38%**  
of Somalis  
can read.

### What's In A Name

Somali is derived from the phrase “so maal,” which translates to “Go milk a beast for yourself!” This is a rough expression of hospitality!

### Engaging with God

Missionaries have been focusing on Somalis for decades, but there is little fruit to show for the efforts. Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) face severe persecution as Somalia’s Muslim culture is very conservative and tribal. Many have been killed with a mere suspicion of conversion to Christianity.



ALL NATIONS

Sources: [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net), [britannica.com](http://britannica.com) and [everyculture.com](http://everyculture.com)

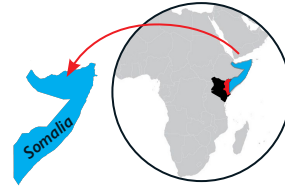
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