



S O D M A  
SOMALI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY



## Institutional Profile



# SOMALI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (SODMA)

## 1. Mandate and Legal Foundation

The Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) is the legally mandated national authority responsible for disaster risk management (DRM), emergency preparedness, humanitarian coordination, response, recovery, and resilience building in the Federal Republic of Somalia. SoDMA was formally established by Law No. 17 of 27 June 2016, following a Presidential Decree and endorsement by the Federal Parliament, granting it nationwide authority to lead and coordinate disaster management functions across Somalia.

Initially created in response to the catastrophic 2011 drought, which resulted in mass displacement and humanitarian suffering, SoDMA's establishment marked a pivotal step toward institutionalizing disaster management at the national level. Between 2017 and 2022, SoDMA operated under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. In August 2022, amid escalating humanitarian needs and repeated climate shocks, the Federal Government reactivated SoDMA as an autonomous federal agency, reinforcing national leadership and coordination in disaster response.

## 2. Disaster Risk Context and Strategic Importance

Somalia is among the most disaster-prone countries globally, facing recurrent droughts, floods, cyclones, epidemics, and conflict-related displacement. Although Somalia contributes negligibly to global greenhouse gas emissions, it is disproportionately affected by climate change, with increasing frequency and severity of hydrometeorological hazards. These shocks are compounded by decades of conflict, fragile infrastructure, environmental degradation, and chronic poverty.

Within this context, SoDMA plays a critical national role in coordinating preparedness, early warning, emergency response, and recovery efforts, working closely with Federal Member States (FMSs), local authorities, communities, the private sector, and international partners. Strengthening SoDMA's institutional and operational capacity is therefore central to Somalia's national resilience, humanitarian effectiveness, and long-term development agenda.

### 3. Organizational Structure and Core Functions

SoDMA is structured to provide strategic leadership, operational coordination, and technical oversight of DRM and humanitarian response. Its core functions include:



SoDMA's organizational design aligns with international DRM best practices and enables effective coordination across national and sub-national levels.

SoDMA operates through a structured departmental framework designed to support effective national disaster risk management, coordination, and response. Key departments include:

- **Office of the Commissioner**
- Department of Administration and Finance
- Department of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Department of Humanitarian
- National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC)
- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Recovery, Resilience
- Department of Research, Training, and Capacity Building
- Aid Diversion Prevention and Accountability Unit
- Logistics, Supply Chain Unit

These departments work in an integrated manner to ensure preparedness, timely response, coordination with Federal Member States and partners, and accountability across all disaster management functions.

## 4. Strategic Direction and Priority Areas

SoDMA's strategic direction focuses on transitioning from reactive, coordination-heavy response models to anticipatory, systems-based, nationally led disaster management. Priority areas include strengthening national DRM governance frameworks, operationalizing functional disaster information and NEOC systems, enhancing early warning and risk communication mechanisms, building emergency logistics and response readiness, and professionalizing DRM through structured training and certification.

To support this agenda, SoDMA has established a Center for Disaster Research and Capacity Building to promote applied learning, policy development, and institutional knowledge management.

## 5. Partnerships and South–South Cooperation

SoDMA recognizes that sustainable institutional capacity development requires long-term technical cooperation, systems transfer, and peer learning. As such, the Agency actively pursues South–South cooperation with countries that have demonstrated operational experience in disaster risk management.



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