



## Vision

SFS envisions a peaceful, democratic Somalia in which all citizens have a meaningful voice in their government and the opportunity to thrive.

## Mission

SFS is committed to fostering peace and democratic institutions through its support for civil society, youth, women and other marginalized groups. SFS provides the space for and facilitates dialogue among Somalis of all backgrounds, building bridges and trust between different communities and stakeholders.

SFS would like to thank its partners that make its work possible:

Diakonia-Sweden

UNDP

Freedom House

National Endowment  
for Democracy

International Labour  
Organization

Education

Development Center

UNICEF

UN Political Office  
for Somalia

UN Population Fund

Books for Africa

Counterpart International

*SFS is fully committed to its mission and its partners, and it engages in an external financial audit every year.*



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**Somali Family**  
SERVICES

Working on Issues of:

- ◇ Democracy & Governance ◇
- ◇ Civil Society & Reconciliation ◇
- ◇ Education ◇
- ◇ Health ◇
- ◇ Marginalized Groups ◇



## Core Values

**Integrity.** Promoting the dignity of Somali people based on the principles of human rights, social justice, democracy, development and sustainable livelihoods.

**Innovation.** Exploring new ideas and developing workable approaches to benefit Somali communities.

**Effective & Responsive.** Using resources in a conscientious and transparent manner according to the needs of Somalis.

**Inclusive.** Embracing impartiality and diversity, working with Somalis of all regions and all clans.

**Engagement.** Uniting with national and international communities to build an equitable and sustainable future.

## Background

SFS is a non-profit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Established in 2003 to serve the Somali Diaspora, SFS has evolved to become a link between Somalia and Minnesota. SFS supports the Puntland Library and Resource Center in Garowe, Puntland, and has a regional office in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Program Areas

**Democracy & Governance.** SFS strives to build and strengthen the capacity of the Puntland government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and local religious and secular leaders to create sustainable institutions and mechanisms for citizens to participate in democracy-building and educational processes in Puntland.

**Civil Society & Reconciliation.** As civil society is a key pillar of democracy, SFS holds capacity-building trainings for other CSOs, and its Resource Center provides a much-needed platform for their work, dialogue and meetings. SFS supports peace-building efforts through its own work and that of the other CSOs it assists.

**Education.** Because SFS believes that education is the key to Somalia's future, it facilitates educational opportunities, provides skills trainings and assists in community development. SFS's Library and Resource Center has become a hub for students to gather and learn, as well as

take part in SFS's family literacy and civic education classes. SFS has also distributed over 2 million books to educational institutions in Somalia.

**Health.** It can be difficult for citizens to play active roles in their communities and state-building efforts if their minimum health standards are not met. Therefore, SFS conducts health education campaigns to raise awareness of healthy lifestyle practices, which especially reach out to mothers, children and other vulnerable groups.

**Marginalized Groups.** SFS works with women, girls, youth and other marginalized groups to ensure that they have a say in and benefit from the political and economic development of Puntland. It includes segments on human rights, and specifically women's rights, in its trainings. SFS also provides job skills and other training to youth to set them on a path to productive employment rather than violence.

