

EXECUTIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS & PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER

Dr Abdulrazaq Yusuf Ahmed

MBCChB, MD, MPH, MSc(HM), PhD (Healthcare Economics), PhD (Demography & Social Sciences)

Director General, Social Health Insurance Authority, Federal Government of Somalia

Chairman of the Board & Founder, RIYAADA Institute for Leadership & Governance

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17+

years in health systems leadership

187

research outputs

225

Recorded peer-review reports across 27 journals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Somali physician, public-health executive, health-systems reformer and academic leader with more than 17 years of experience across national health financing, hospital transformation, emergency response, governance reform, research and executive education. Currently serves as Director General of Somalia’s Social Health Insurance Authority, leading institutional establishment and implementation of social health insurance to advance universal health coverage, strategic purchasing, provider readiness, quality assurance and financial protection.

Leadership signature

Evidence-informed reform with operational discipline: translating policy commitments into clear governance, practical financing arrangements, competent teams, measurable quality standards and public accountability.

Core expertise

Health financing and financial protection: social health insurance, universal health coverage, strategic purchasing and benefit-package implementation. | **Governance and institutional reform:** health-system governance, policy, regulation, federal-state coordination and institutional transformation. | **Service delivery and quality:** hospital leadership, quality improvement, patient safety, infection prevention and control, health security and service continuity. | **Knowledge and workforce development:** health workforce development, executive education, research, implementation science and health economics.

2026 - PRESENT Director General

Social Health Insurance Authority (SHIA), Federal Government of Somalia — Leads institutional establishment and phased implementation of social health insurance, including governance, enrolment strategy, purchaser-provider arrangements, provider readiness, quality assurance, strategic purchasing, benefit-package implementation, claims architecture and financial protection.

2025 - PRESENT Chairman of the Board & Founder

RIYAADA Institute for Leadership & Governance — Provides strategic direction for executive education, governance reform, institutional transformation, applied research, professional certification, publications and Somali-led knowledge platforms.

2021 - PRESENT Coordinator & Senior Lecturer, Postgraduate Tropical Medicine Programme

Benadir University, Mogadishu — Coordinates postgraduate learning and research; teaches tropical medicine, infectious diseases, epidemiology, research methods, health systems and health policy; mentors dissertations and professional development.

2013 - PRESENT Founder & Chairman

RUGSAN Consultancies and Research — Leads research, policy analysis, evaluation and institutional advisory work across health systems, social policy, governance and economic development.

MAY 2020 - SEP 2025 Director General / Chief Executive Officer

De Martino National Public Hospital, Mogadishu — Led national-referral hospital transformation through clinical governance, service continuity, patient-safety systems, quality improvement, workforce management, emergency, maternity and referral-service strengthening.

MAR 2020 - JUL 2022 National Incident Manager, COVID-19 Pandemic

Federal Ministry of Health, Somalia — Directed Emergency Operations Centre coordination, multi-agency response arrangements, surveillance, public-health interventions and continuity planning during the national COVID-19 response.

SEP - DEC 2025 Director, Human Resources Management & HRH Development

Federal Ministry of Health, Somalia — Provided senior direction for workforce planning, development, governance and implementation support across the national health sector.

2018 - 2022 Senior Advisor & Team Lead, Health Systems Strengthening

Federal Ministry of Health, Somalia — Supported primary health-care recovery, workforce capacity, governance arrangements and health-policy reform in fragile settings.

2012 - 2018 Director of Medical Services & Deputy Director General

Federal Ministry of Health, Somalia — Managed nationwide medical services, public-hospital administration and regulatory affairs; advanced quality improvement, pharmaceutical governance and controlled-substances policy.

Selected executive experience

- **Social Health Insurance Authority, Federal Government of Somalia:** Leads establishment and phased implementation of national social health insurance, including governance, enrolment strategy, strategic purchasing, benefit-package implementation, provider readiness, quality assurance, claims architecture and financial protection.
- **De Martino National Public Hospital:** Led transformation of a national referral hospital through clinical governance, patient safety, service continuity, workforce management, emergency care, maternity services and referral-system strengthening.
- **Federal Ministry of Health:** Served in senior national roles spanning COVID-19 incident management, health-systems strengthening, medical services, regulatory affairs, workforce development, pharmaceutical governance and public-hospital administration.

- **RIYAADA Institute and RUGSAN Consultancies:** Founded and chairs platforms for leadership development, governance reform, applied research, policy analysis, institutional transformation and professional education.

Technical leadership and policy contribution

- Provides national and technical leadership in social health insurance, universal health coverage, health financing, strategic purchasing, hospital governance, quality improvement, patient safety, infection prevention and health security.
- Contributed to WHO regional and headquarters consultation processes, bringing Somali health-systems, emergency preparedness, service-delivery and quality-of-care perspectives to technical discussions.
- Serves as National Lead Consultant for the Somalia National Nutrition Policy 2026–2030, supporting policy architecture, evidence integrity, governance, financing, implementation feasibility, accountability and monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Develops governance manuals, clinical standards, operational protocols, executive role profiles, HR and finance systems, performance-management tools and institutional accountability frameworks.

Research, academic and professional profile

- Internationally indexed researcher with work across health financing, health-system governance, hospital quality and safety, infectious diseases, health security, mental health, demography, equity and resilient systems in fragile settings.
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Healthcare Leadership and Journal of Global Health Economics and Policy; international peer reviewer across Scopus-indexed journals.
- Postgraduate teacher and mentor in tropical medicine, infectious diseases, epidemiology, research methods, health policy, health financing, leadership, governance, quality improvement and emergency management.
- Professional profiles include ORCID 0000-0002-6985-1087, Scopus Author ID 57222062380 and Web of Science ResearcherID ADD-3214-2022.

Education and affiliations

Qualifications: PhD in Demography and Social Sciences; PhD in Healthcare Economics; MSc in Health Management; MPH with infectious-disease focus; Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases; MBChB; MD professional credential. **Affiliations:** Fellow, Royal Society for Public Health; Fellow and Somalia Country Ambassador, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; FeSMA; ISQua Fellow; Health Systems Global; ISPOR.

Professional biography

Dr Abdulrazaq Yusuf Ahmed is a Somali physician, public-health executive, health-systems reformer and academic leader. He serves as Director General of the Social Health Insurance Authority of the Federal Government of Somalia, where he leads the institutional development and phased implementation of social health insurance as part of Somalia's pathway toward universal health coverage. His work focuses on building practical governance systems, strategic purchasing arrangements, provider-readiness mechanisms, quality-assurance standards and financial-protection approaches that can operate effectively in fragile and resource-constrained settings.

Across more than 17 years of service, Dr Ahmed has held senior leadership roles in Somalia's health sector, including Director General and Chief Executive Officer of De Martino National Public Hospital, National Incident Manager for the COVID-19 response, senior health-systems strengthening advisor and senior official within the Federal Ministry of Health. He has led hospital transformation, emergency response coordination, workforce development, clinical governance, patient-safety improvement, regulatory strengthening and institutional-reform initiatives.

He is also Chairman of the Board and Founder of the RIYAADA Institute for Leadership and Governance and Founder and Chairman of RUGSAN Consultancies and Research. Through these platforms, he supports executive education, applied research, policy analysis, Somali-led knowledge production and institutional capacity development. His academic and research work spans health financing, governance, hospital quality and safety, infectious diseases, health security, demography, equity and resilient health systems. He holds doctoral, postgraduate and medical qualifications and maintains active affiliations with international public-health, tropical-medicine, quality-improvement and health-economics networks.

Research portfolio, editorial board & peer-review service

Internationally indexed research profile

An internationally indexed health-systems researcher whose work examines health financing, social health insurance, governance, hospital quality and safety, health security, infectious diseases, mental health, demographics, equity and resilient systems in fragile settings.

2026 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Demography & Social Sciences — Paris American International University

2025 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Healthcare Economics — Swiss School of Business Research, Geneva

Master of Science (MSc), Health Management — International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, Rome

Master of Public Health (MPH), Infectious Disease focus — James Lind Institute

2023 Executive Certificate in Public Health Leadership & Research — James Lind Institute, Geneva — Award no. JLI-2023/984-AA

2019 Postgraduate Diploma, Tropical Medicine & Infectious Diseases — Medvarsity in association with the University of New South Wales, Sydney

2010 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) — Benadir University, Mogadishu

Doctor of Medicine (MD) — Professional credential