

FACTSHEET

TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN SOMALIA

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION



RISK FACTORS

From 2017 to 2023, drought induced displacement, trafficking of women and girls by Al-Shabaab and measures taken to address COVID-19 have been key risk factors for women protection.

More broadly, the underlying condition for the occurrence of sexual violence in Somalia is **the ongoing conflict, impunity and the lack of a solid legal framework** for the protection of all persons from sexual violence.

GOOD PRACTICES

The National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants supports women who have disengaged from Al-Shabaab with specialised medical, psycho-social check-ups as well as educational and vocational training. Of the 1,327 women who were supported through the programme, at least five per cent reported that they had been forcibly married to Al-Shabaab members.

Three one-stop centres were set up in Baidoa, Dhusamareb and Kismayo to support survivors of GBV, under the Women, Peace and Protection joint programme led by the Federal Ministry of Women Human Rights and Development and supported by UN implementing entities.

The Baahi-Koob one-stop centre of Hargeisa provides holistic support to gender-based violence and sexual and gender-based violence survivors through centralized specialised services available in one location at free cost.

KEY FINDINGS

NUMBER OF VICTIMS REGISTERED THROUGH THE COUNTRY TASK FORCE ON MONITORING AND REPORTING (CTFMR) 2017-2023

2,007 GIRLS
13 BOYS

NUMBER OF VICTIMS REGISTERED THROUGH THE MONITORING ANALYSIS AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS (MARA) 2017-2023

129 WOMEN
43 GIRLS
2 BOYS
1 MAN



The year 2020 registered a considerable increase in sexual violence, particularly against children (79 per cent increase compared to 2019 according to the MRM) who were abused by actors in positions of authority following forced recruitment and/or abduction by armed groups.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

May 2018

Draft Sexual Offences Bill (SOB) unanimously approved by Cabinet.

Nov 2019

Bill returned by the Speaker to Cabinet for amendment with **no consultation** with relevant Committees.

Violation of Article 69 of the Provisional Constitution and the House of People Rules of Procedure

June 2020

Parliamentarians unsuccessfully attempted to introduce new legislation** **instead of debating the SOB** already approved by Cabinet.

December 2023

The Federal Ministry of Women, Human Rights and Development introduced a new draft law on sexual violence - the Offences of Rape and Indecency Bill that was approved by Cabinet.

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

June 2018

Cabinet sent SOB to Parliament for debate and adoption.

December 2019

15 parliamentarians brought a motion to return the bill to Parliament for first reading in accordance with Article 69 of the Provisional Constitution and the House of People Rules of Procedure.

December 2022

Bill sent for revision of the National Ulema Council, due to online attacks on high-profile supporters.

Somalia must urgently enact legislation for the protection of all from sexual violence

*The law of Sexual-Intercourse-Related crimes

RECOMMENDATIONS

ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION
AND PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**FGS
FMS** Recommendations to the Federal
Government of Somalia and
the Federal Member States

**INT
COM** Recommendations to the
International Community

COMBATting STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

**FGS
FMS** Carry out public awareness raising to address issues
of stigma for sexual violence

**INT
COM** Prioritize addressing conflict-related sexual violence through supporting
programmes that address underreporting and cultural stigma

**INT
COM** Establish and implement programmes that tackle the root causes of
conflict-related sexual violence, in particular the pre-existing forms of
discrimination and violence against women

STRENGTHENING GENDER-SENSITIVE PROGRAMMES AND RESPONSE

**INT
COM** Ensure programmatic funds allocation is conditional to gender
sensitive budgeting assessed through initial analysis and
monitored from inception to implementation of the project

**INT
COM** Design and implement projects that involve representatives of
traditional and religious elders as a way to strengthen community
support for the protection and prevention of sexual violence

**INT
COM** Humanitarian responses to systematically ensure GBV risk
mitigation with GBV mainstreaming at all levels of the response

ENHANCING SURVIVORS-SUPPORT

**FGS
FMS** Ensure that referral pathways across the country function
in an efficient and effective manner

**FGS
FMS** Ensure the establishment and operationalization of one-stop centres in all federal
members states and re-open the female disarmament, demobilization, and
reintegration centre for women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu

**FGS
FMS** Recognize the special needs of mothers and their children born out of rape and
sexual violence in conflict and afford them protection, rights, and benefits

**INT
COM** For service providers to expand the geographical coverage and quality of GBV
specialised services, including case management and psychosocial support

**INT
COM** Foster coordinated, multisector support to survivors and children born out of
conflict-related rape, particularly through the United Nations Action against
Sexual Violence in Conflict network

STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

**FGS
FMS** Ensure the implementation and complete the provisions in the national action plan
on ending sexual violence in conflict and the 2019 road map on Children and
Armed Conflict to address sexual violence by Somali security forces

**FGS
FMS** Ensure that national legislation and practices related to protection from sexual
violence are compliant with international human rights standards

**FGS
FMS** Ensure that prompt, victim-centered, independent, impartial investigations are
conducted into all sexual and gender-based violence ensuring access to justice
and reparations to survivors

**FGS
FMS** Ensure a prompt and lasting solution is found for the sourcing of chemicals
required for the Forensic Lab in Garowe to carry out DNA testing and ensure the
introduction of a specific DNA legal framework and the capacity building of judicial
personnel involved in the collection, conservation and transport of DNA samples

**FGS
FMS** Ensure the establishment of Women and Child Protection Units of the Somali National
Police in the Banadir Regional Administration and in all the federal member states

**FGS
FMS** Earmark, develop and monitor gender-sensitive budgets which take into account
the different requirements of men, women, boys and girls

**INT
COM** Support the Federal Government of Somalia to put in place legislation that
complies with international human rights standards to strengthen the
protection of all persons from sexual violence

