



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA  
SOMALIA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

# WOMEN AND MEN IN SOMALIA

Second Edition



Facts and Figures  
2022

July 2022


The information contained in this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission but with acknowledgement of this publication as a source.


**Suggested citation:**


Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, Federal Government of Somalia, *Women and men in Somalia, Second Edition, 2022*


**Additional information about the survey can be obtained from:**


The Somalia National Bureau of Statistics.

 [snbs@nbs.gov.so](mailto:snbs@nbs.gov.so)

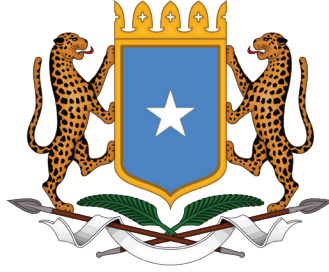
 [www.nbs.gov.so](http://www.nbs.gov.so)

 [@NBS\\_Somalia](https://twitter.com/NBS_Somalia)

 [@nbssomalia](https://www.facebook.com/nbssomalia)

 [@nbs\\_somalia](https://www.instagram.com/nbs_somalia)

This report was produced by the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, with support from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Statistics Sweden, and the World Bank Strengthening Gender Statistics project.



NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
**SOMALIA**

WOMEN AND MEN IN SOMALIA



Second Edition

Facts and Figures 2022





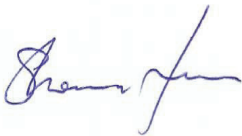
## Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce the second edition of the booklet “Women and Men in Somalia” produced by the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS). The statistics show the situation of women and men in many different areas of life. By making the situation for women and men more visible, the statistics can contribute to the ongoing development in Somalia.

We are at a juncture in our country’s development where women constitute more than half our population. Any discrimination based on gender is an obstacle not only to economic growth but also to human development in general. The National Bureau of Statistics expresses its gratitude to all institutions of the Federal Government and private sectors in availing the requisite data to produce this publication.

The National Bureau of Statistics is committed to the production and dissemination of integrated statistical information that meets the international standards quality requirements. Comments and suggestions that may help to enrich the next edition of Women and Men in Somalia are welcome from users of this publication, or in case one thinks of other data that may be included in future editions, please get in touch using the contact details below. This document can also be obtained from the National Statistics website; [www.nbs.gov.so](http://www.nbs.gov.so).

It is my sincere hope that the statistical information in this publication will be useful to the readers in making informed decisions. I am confident that the new strategic direction of SNBS, which focuses on expanding statistical coverage through coordination, will adequately address the knowledge and information needs of the country.



---

Sharmarke Mohamed Farah

**Director General**  
**Somalia National Bureau of Statistics**

# Table of Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Definition of terms</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Guide for Readers</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Population</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 2: Health</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Education</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter 4: Work and Economy</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Influence and Power</b>	<b>18</b>

## List of Tables

Table 4.1: Permanent civil servant intake, 2007-2016	13
Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of permanent civil servants by grade and sex, 2016	14
Table 4.3: Youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment nor education/training (NEET) by sex, 2019	17
Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of lower house parliament seats by sex, 2017	18

## List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Population distribution by age and sex, 2020	1
Figure 1.2: Household headship by place of residence and sex, 2020	2
Figure 2.1: Prevalence and treatment of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) by sex, 2020	3
Figure 2.2: Prevalence and treatment of fever by Sex, 2020	4
Figure 2.3: Diarrhea treatment by sex, 2020	5
Figure 2.4: Nutritional status of children by sex, 2020	5
Figure 2.5: Initial breastfeeding by sex, 2020	6
Figure 2.6: Micronutrient intake among children by sex, 2020	6
Figure 2.7: Prevalence of chronic diseases by sex, 2020	7
Figure 2.8: Prevalence of disability by sex – 2020	7
Figure 2.9: Specific types of disabilities by sex, 2020	7
Figure 2.10: Smoking or using tobacco by sex, 2020	8
Figure 2.11: Use of Khat by sex. 2020	8
Figure 3.1: Primary enrolment by region, 2019/2020	9
Figure 3.2: Secondary enrolment by region, 2019/2020	10
Figure 3.3: Gross Attendance Ratios (GAR) for primary and secondary by sex, 2020	10
Figure 3.4: Net Attendance Ratios (NAR) for primary and secondary by sex, 2020	11
Figure 3.5: Gender Parity Index for primary and secondary, 2020	11
Figure 3.6: Formal Primary Teachers by sex, 2019/2020	12
Figure 3.7: Formal secondary school teachers by sex, 2019/2020	12
Figure 4.1: Selected key labor force indicators by sex, 2019	14
Figure 4.2: Employment to population ratio by sex and age group, 2019	15
Figure 4.3: Labor Force Participation Rate by sex and age group, 2019	15
Figure 4.4: Employed persons by sex and occupation in the main job, 2019	16
Figure 4.5: Unemployment rate for population 15 years old and over by sex and age group, 2019	16
Figure 5.1: Top officials in government offices, 2017	18

---

## Definition of terms

### Gender Equality

Gender Equality is the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex in authority, opportunities, allocation of resources or benefits and access to services. It is therefore, the equal valuing by society of both women and men.

### Gender Equality in Somalia

It is the principle that women and men have access to equal opportunities to realize their full potential to contribute to the country's social, economic & cultural development. Gender Equality is an important goal and a means for achieving Development goals.

### Somali National Gender Policy

The goal of this Policy is to promote gender equality and Sustainable human development in Somalia by ensuring that Equal value is placed on the contributions of women and men as equal partners in post conflict reconstruction processes and National development. The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development is in charge of development, co-ordination and review of this policy.

---

## Guide for Readers

The information in this booklet is collected from different surveys and administrative data. The source is given in conjunction with each table/graph. In most places, the tables and graphs provide absolute numbers and/or proportions (%) for certain attributes for both women and men.

Proportions (%) are used in two ways:

- Proportion (%) of all women and proportion (%) of all men with certain characteristics, such as unemployment rate.
- Distribution of sex within a group, such as head of household

The total figures in the tables are not always in agreement with the partial figures because of rounding off.





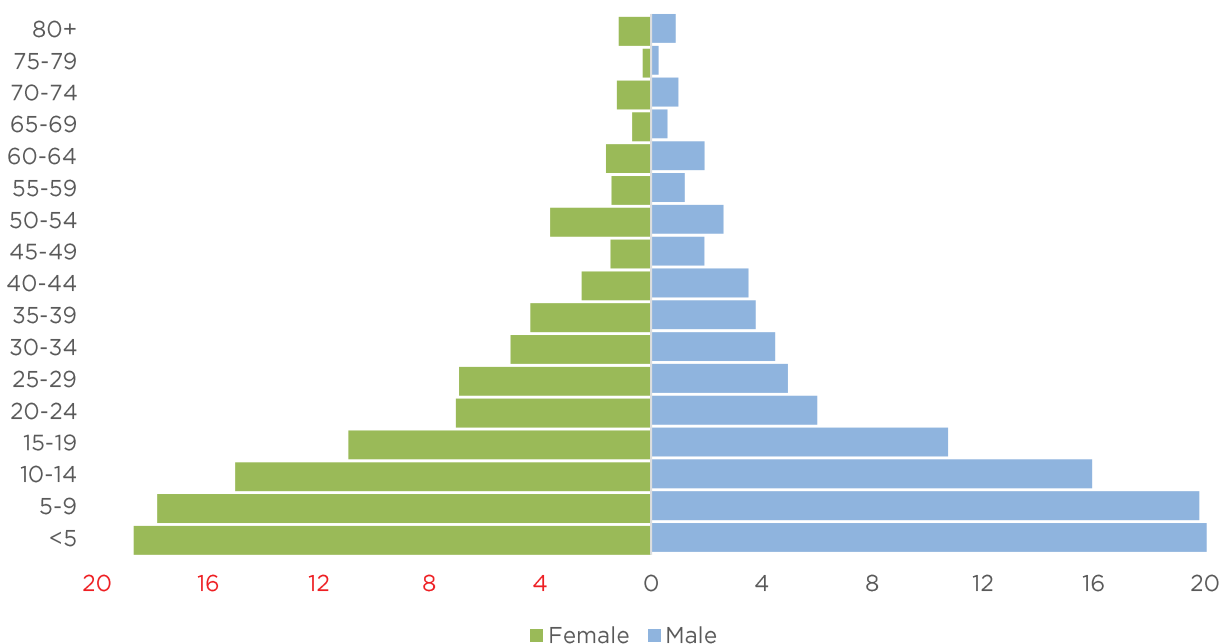
# Chapter 1

# Population

The chapter on population gives background information to the statistics presented in the booklet. It provides information about women and men in Somalia. Age and sex are important demographic variables that are the primary basis of demographic classification in vital statistics, census and surveys. They are the basis for studying patterns of mortality, fertility, fertility preference, age at first marriage and other information about the inhabitants of a country. It also captures the distribution of households by the sex of the head of household.

Figure 1.1: Population distribution by age and sex, 2020

Percentage of Population

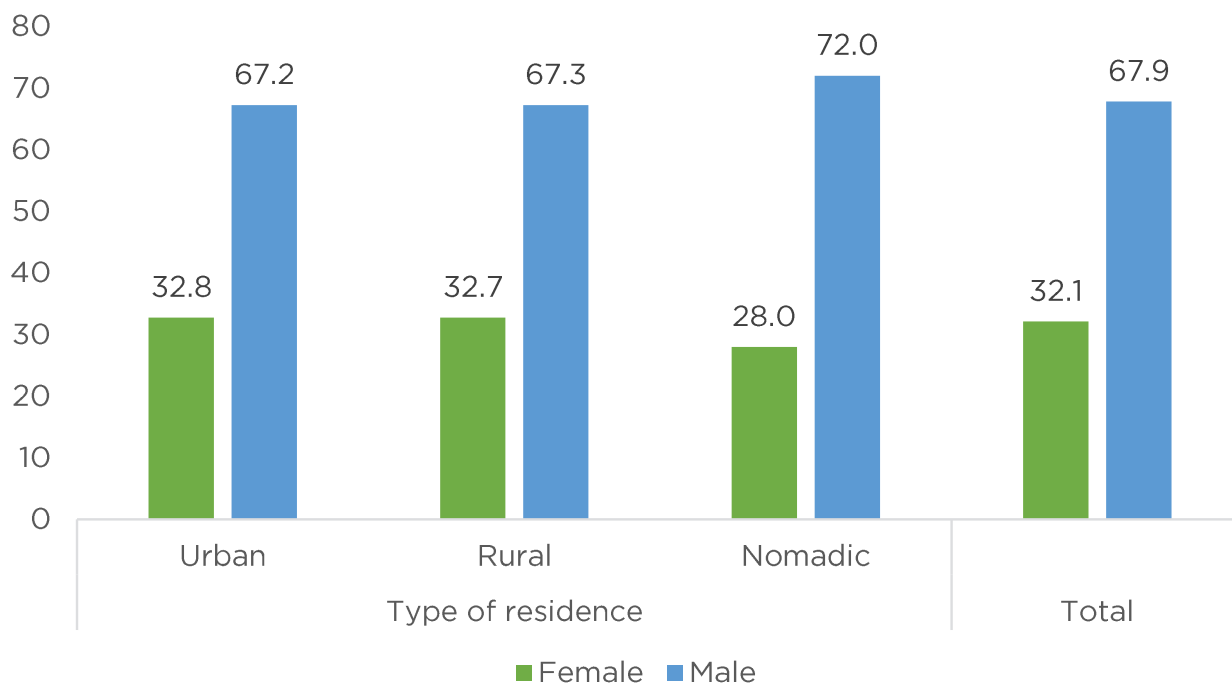


Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

The population pyramid of Somalia is in line with a developing country's population where there is a high fertility and mortality rate, which demographically represents a young population. Figure 1.1 shows that there are more boys than girls among children under 15 years of age, and more women than men at the older ages.

Figure 1.2: Household headship by place of residence and sex, 2020

Percent distribution



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of households by the sex of the head of household, according to urban, rural and nomadic residence. About one-third (32 percent) of households are headed by women (33 percent of urban and 33 percent of rural households, and 28 percent of nomadic households).



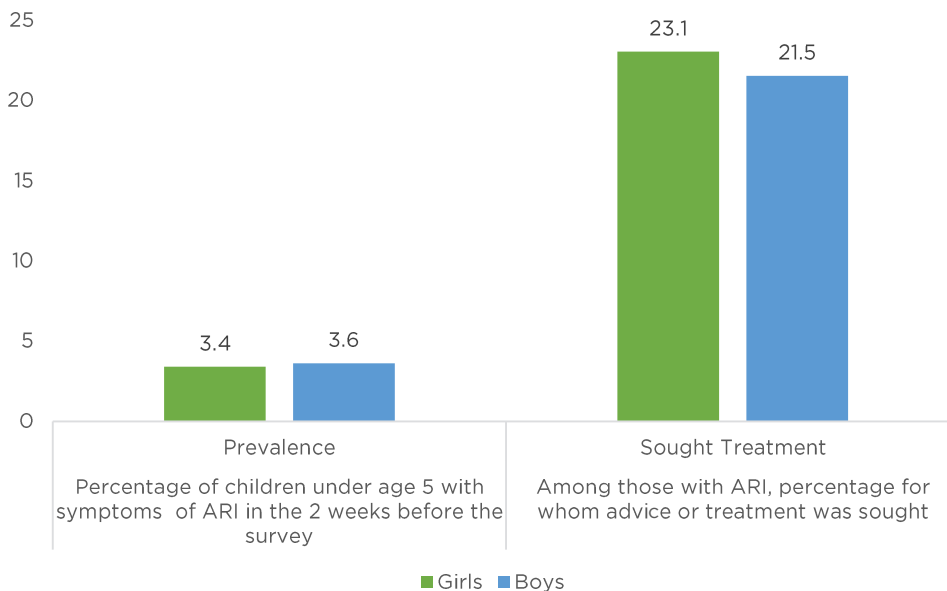
# Chapter 2

# Health

This chapter presents information on child health, nutritional status of children, chronic diseases, disability, and social habits. Child health includes treatment practices (particularly contact with health services) among children suffering from three childhood illnesses: acute respiratory infection (ARI), fever, and diarrhea. It also provides information on the prevalence of chronic diseases, disability and common types of disability as well as selected social habits.

Figure 2.1: Prevalence and treatment of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) by sex, 2020

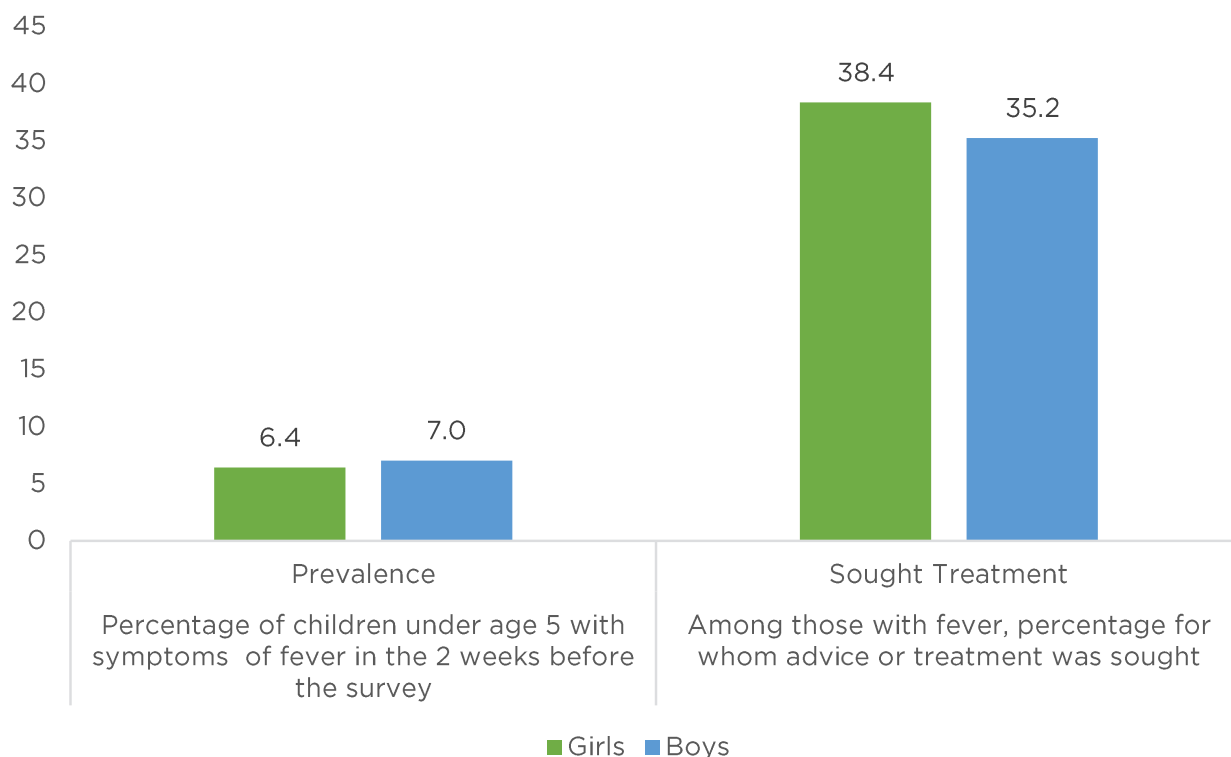
Percent



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.2: Prevalence and treatment of fever by Sex, 2020

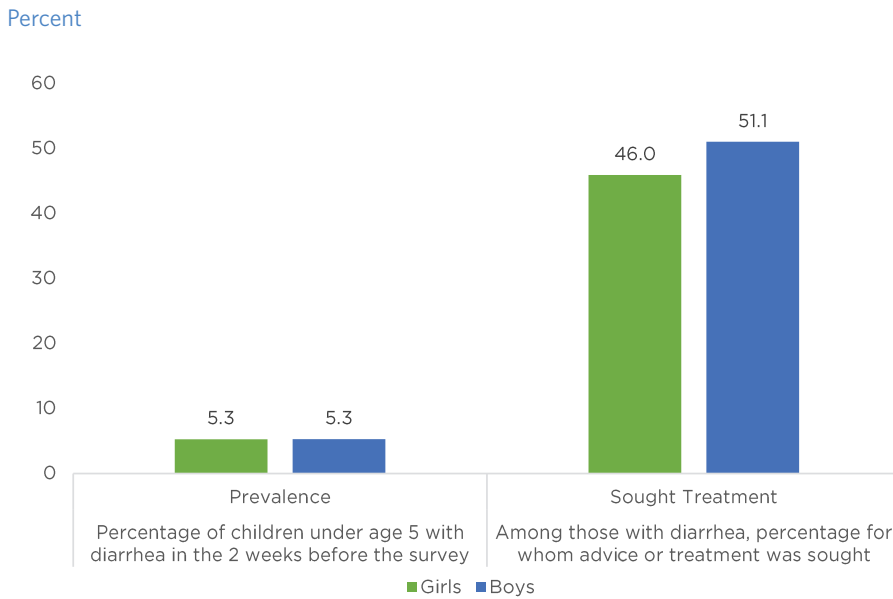
Percent



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.2 shows the percentage of children under age 5 with symptoms of fever in the 2 weeks preceding the survey and among those with fever, the percentage for whom advice or treatment was sought. Overall, the prevalence of fever was roughly the same among boys than girls at 7 percent and 6 percent, respectively. In contrast, the proportion of girls who sought advice was higher than boys at 38 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

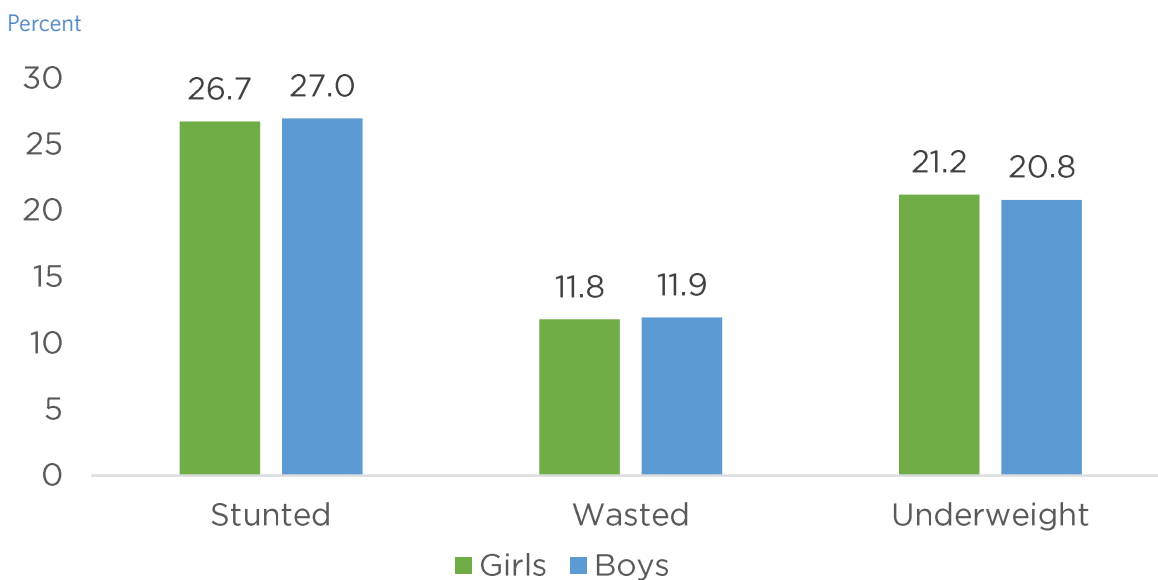
Figure 2.3: Diarrhea treatment by sex, 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.3 shows that there is no variation by sex in the prevalence of diarrhea. However, there is a disparity between boys and girls who sought advice or treatment with 51 percent of girls reporting being treated compared to 46 percent of boys during the 2 weeks prior to the survey.

Figure 2.4: Nutritional status of children by sex, 2020



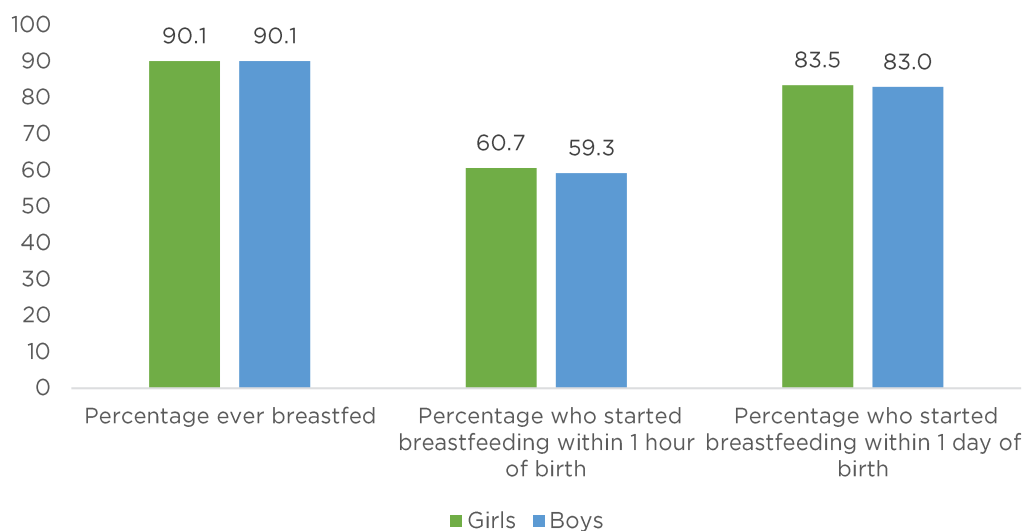
Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.4 shows the percent of children under five years classified as malnourished according to three anthropometric indices of nutritional status (stunted, wasted and underweight) by sex. There is no significant difference between boys and girls across the three indices, with both roughly around 27 percent stunted, 12 percent wasted and 21 percent underweight



Figure 2.5: Initial breastfeeding by sex, 2020

Percent of children breastfeeding <sup>1</sup>

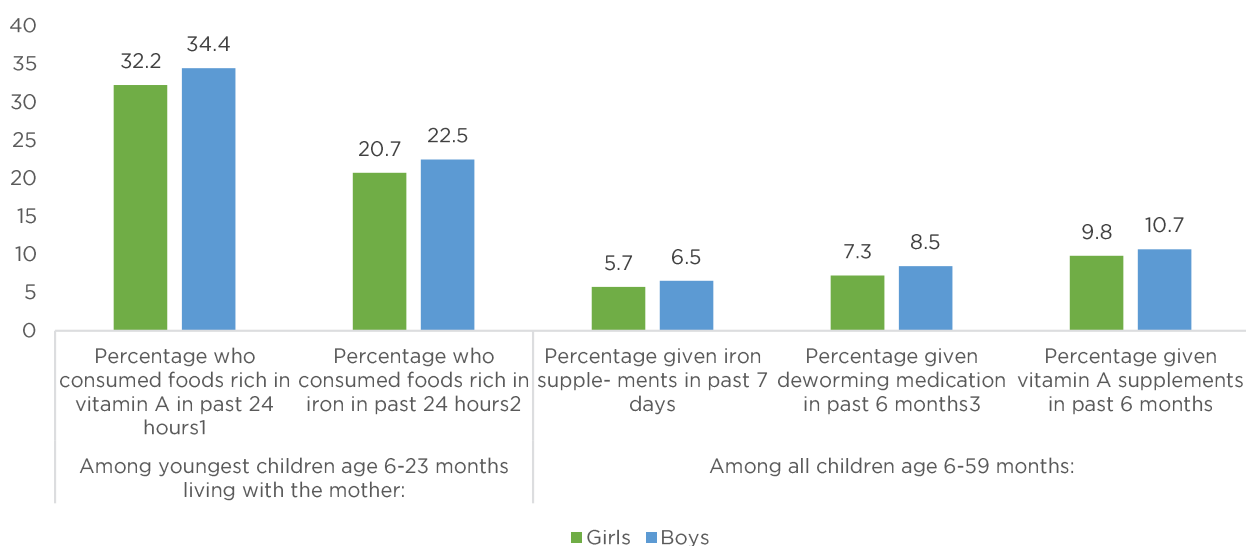


Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

As presented in Figure 2.5, analysis by sex shows that the breastfeeding rate within the first hour of birth for boys and girls are almost the same at 59 percent and 61 percent respectively.

Figure 2.6: Micronutrient intake among children by sex, 2020

Percent of Micronutrient <sup>2</sup>



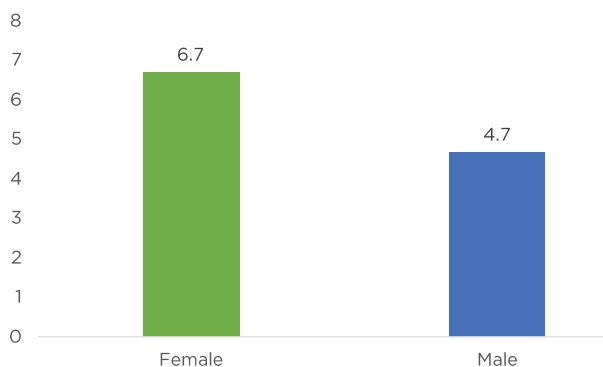
Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

<sup>1</sup>Among last-born children who were born in the two years preceding the survey, the percentage who were ever breastfed and who started breastfeeding within one hour, within one day of birth

<sup>2</sup>Among youngest children age 6-23 months who are living with their mother, the percentages who consumed vitamin A-rich and iron-rich foods in the day or night preceding the survey, and among all children 6-59 months, the percentages who were given vitamin A supplements in the six months preceding the survey, who were given iron supplements in the past seven days, and who were given deworming medication

Figure 2.6 shows that there was slightly higher proportion of boys than girls who consumed foods rich in Vitamin A and Iron in the day or night preceding the survey at 34 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Similarly, slight differences in the prevalence of boys and girls given iron supplements in the seven months preceding the survey were reported at 7 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

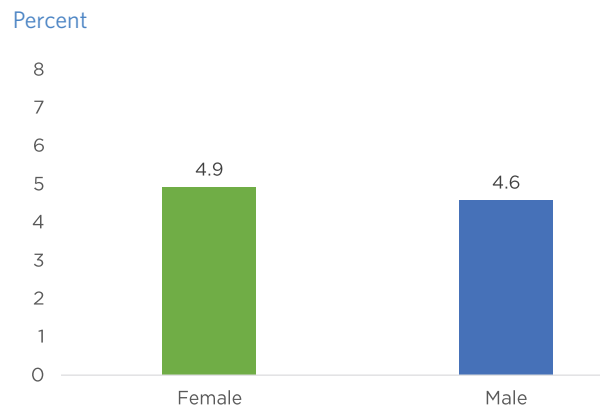
Figure 2.7: Prevalence of chronic diseases by sex, 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.7 presents the percentage of household members who have at least one chronic disease. Overall, chronic disease is slightly higher for females at 7 percent compared to males at 5 percent.

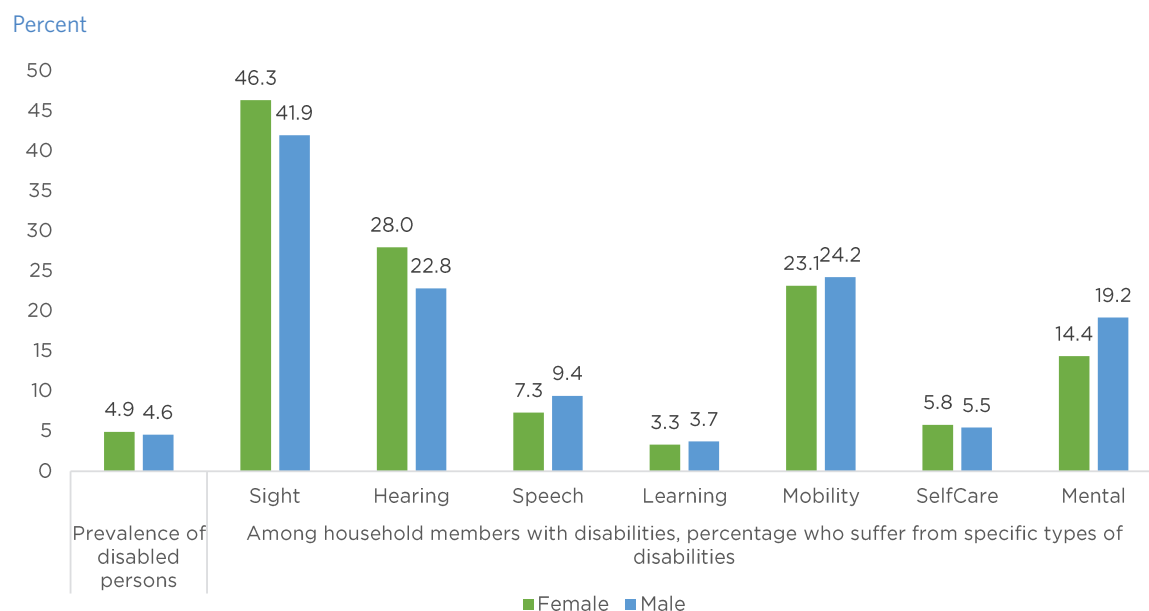
Figure 2.8: Prevalence of disability by sex – 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.8 indicates the prevalence of household members with disabilities by sex. Males and females have similar disability rates at 4.9 and 4.6 percent, respectively.

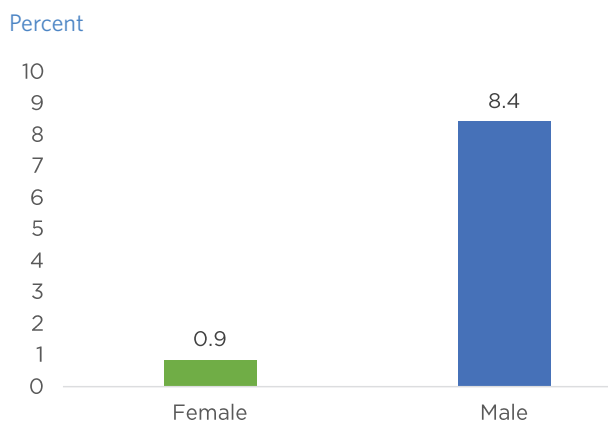
Figure 2.9: Specific types of disabilities by sex, 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.9 shows the percentage of household members who suffer from specific types of disabilities by sex. Disabilities in sight and hearing are higher for women at 46 percent for sight and 28 percent for hearing, while men have a higher rate of mental (19 percent) and mobility (24 percent) disabilities.

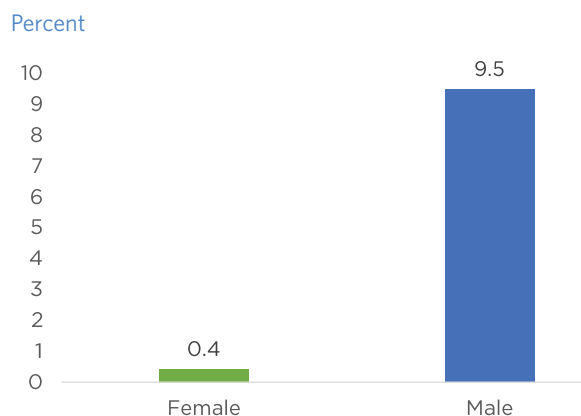
Figure 2.10: Smoking or using tobacco by sex, 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.10 shows the percentage of household members aged 10 years and older, who smoke cigarettes or use tobacco by sex. Smoking cigarettes or using tobacco is very low among women, below 1 percent, whereas 8 percent of men smoke or use other tobacco products.

Figure 2.11: Use of Khat by sex. 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 2.11 shows the percentage of household members aged 10 years and older, who chew khat or have chewed khat. It shows there are significant gender differences in this practice—0.4 percent of women chew or have chewed khat, whereas 10 percent of men stated they chew or have chewed khat.

<sup>3</sup>Khat (also spelt 'Qat') is a plant found in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Khat leaves are chewed as a stimulant and are said to cause euphoric effects.

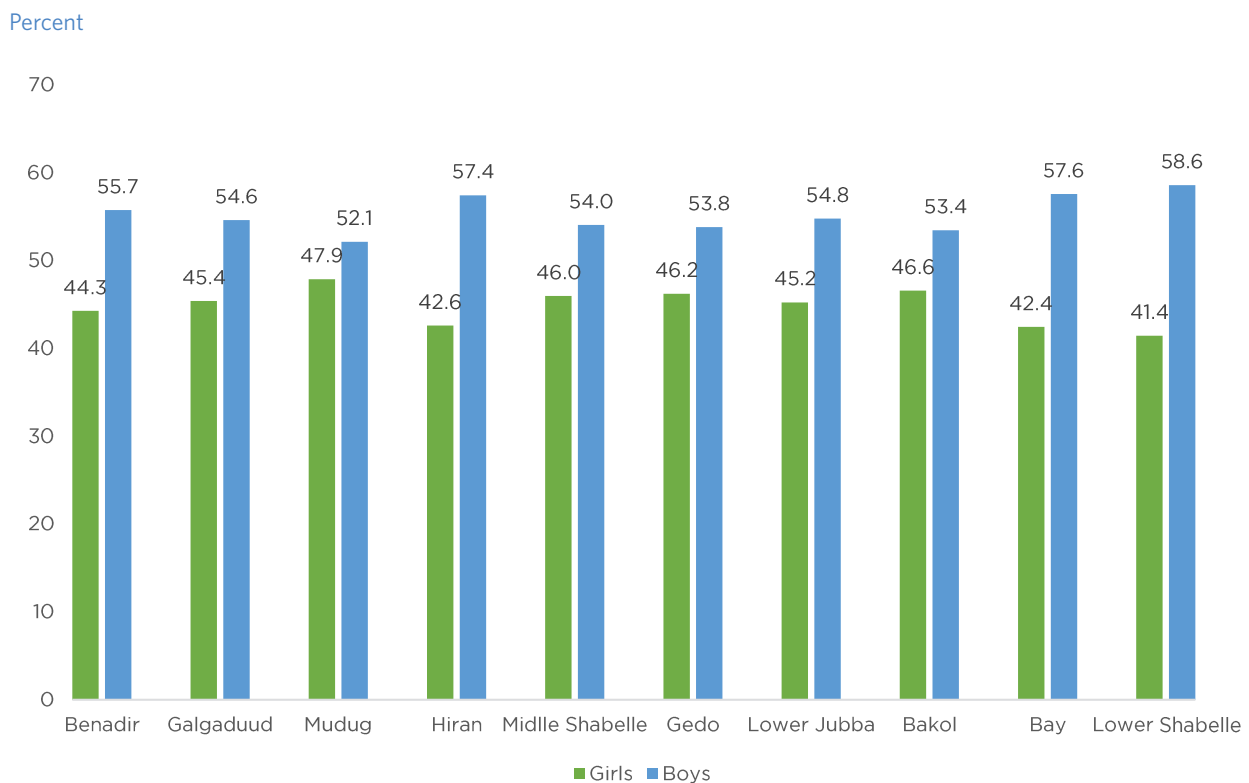


# Chapter 3

# Education

This chapter presents information on education. It focuses on primary and secondary school enrollments. Information on education will assist policymakers and program managers as they are implementing and monitoring the current education sector strategic plan in formulating appropriate interventions to increase school enrollments as well as improve the Gender Parity Index (GPI) for primary and secondary school.

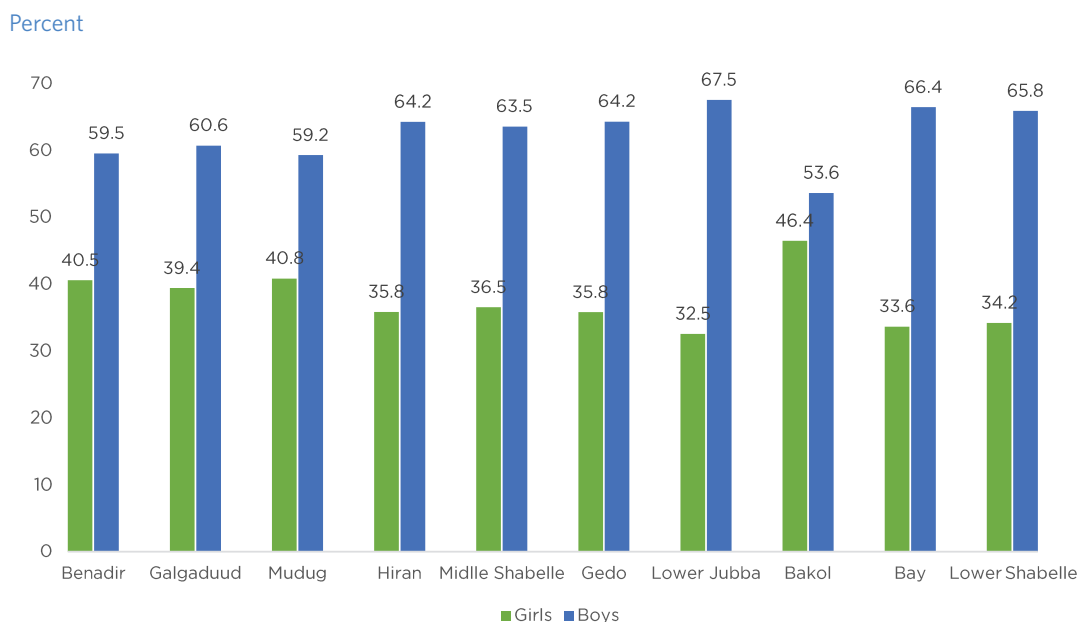
Figure 3.1: Primary enrolment by region, 2019/2020



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, 2021

Figure 3.1 shows the primary school enrollment by region and sex. Overall, primary school enrollment is lower among girls across regions compared to boys. Girls' primary school enrollment was higher in Mudug region at 48 percent followed by Bakol region at 47 percent, whereas Lower Shabelle was the lowest at 41 percent.

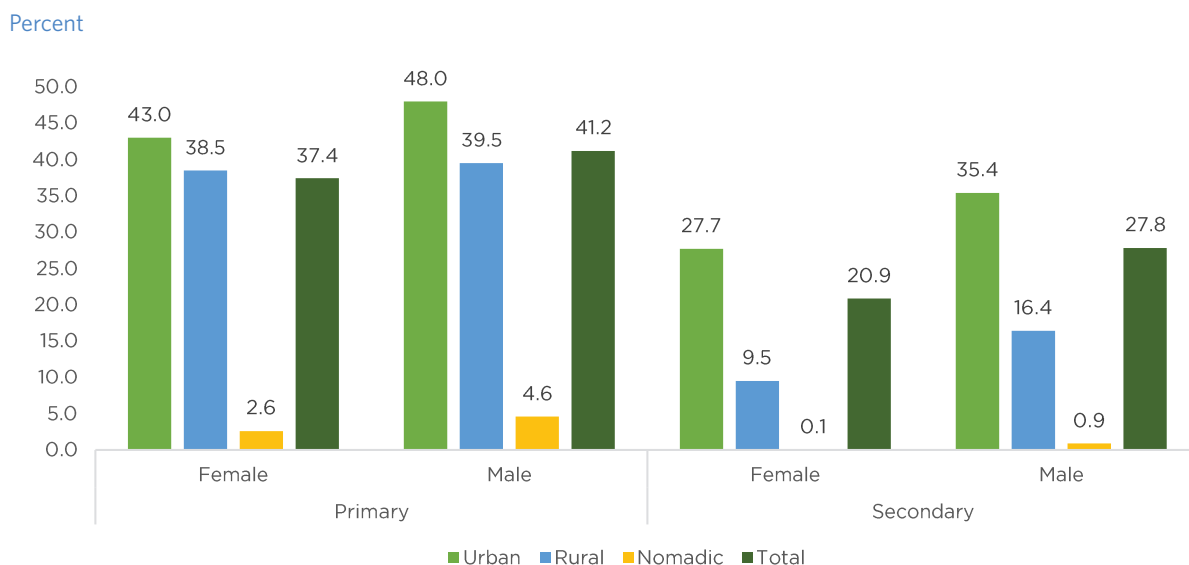
Figure 3.2: Secondary enrolment by region, 2019/2020



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, 2021

Figure 3.2 shows secondary school enrollment by region and sex in 2019/20. The secondary school enrollment is lower among girls across regions compared to boys. The lowest girls’ secondary school enrollment was observed in Lower Jubba region at 33 percent while the highest girls’ secondary school enrollment was Bakol only at 46 percent.

Figure 3.3: Gross Attendance Ratios (GAR) for primary and secondary by sex, 2020

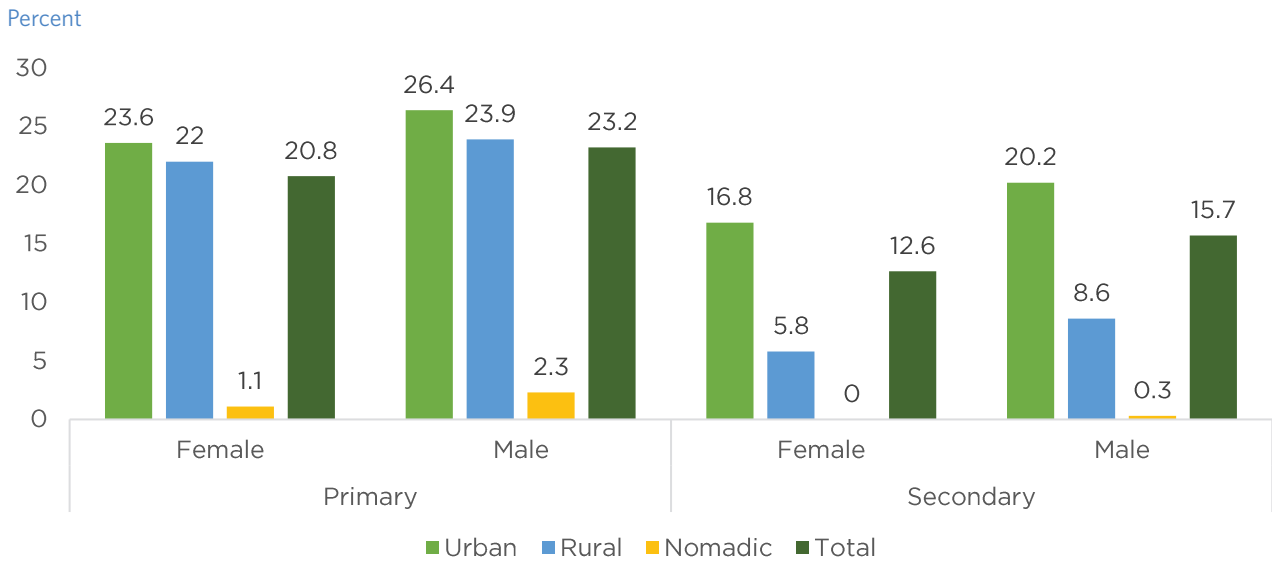


Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 3.3 shows that there is little difference between the Gross Attendance Ratios (GAR) of boys and girls at the primary level (41 percent and 37 percent, respectively). The GAR is higher for boys than girls at the secondary level (28 percent and 21 percent, respectively). The GAR is lower among girls across the three domains (urban, rural and nomadic areas) compared to boys.



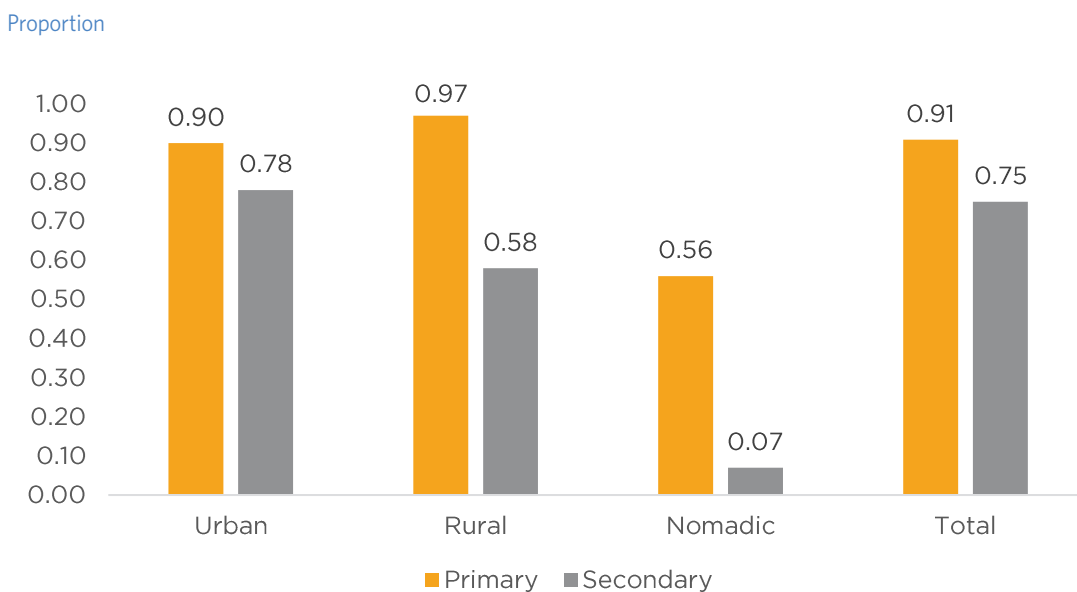
Figure 3.4: Net Attendance Ratios (NAR) for primary and secondary by sex, 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

Figure 3.4 shows that there is little difference between the Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) of boys and girls at the primary level (23 percent and 21 percent), respectively. The NAR is lower among girls across the three domains (urban, rural and nomadic areas) compared to boys.

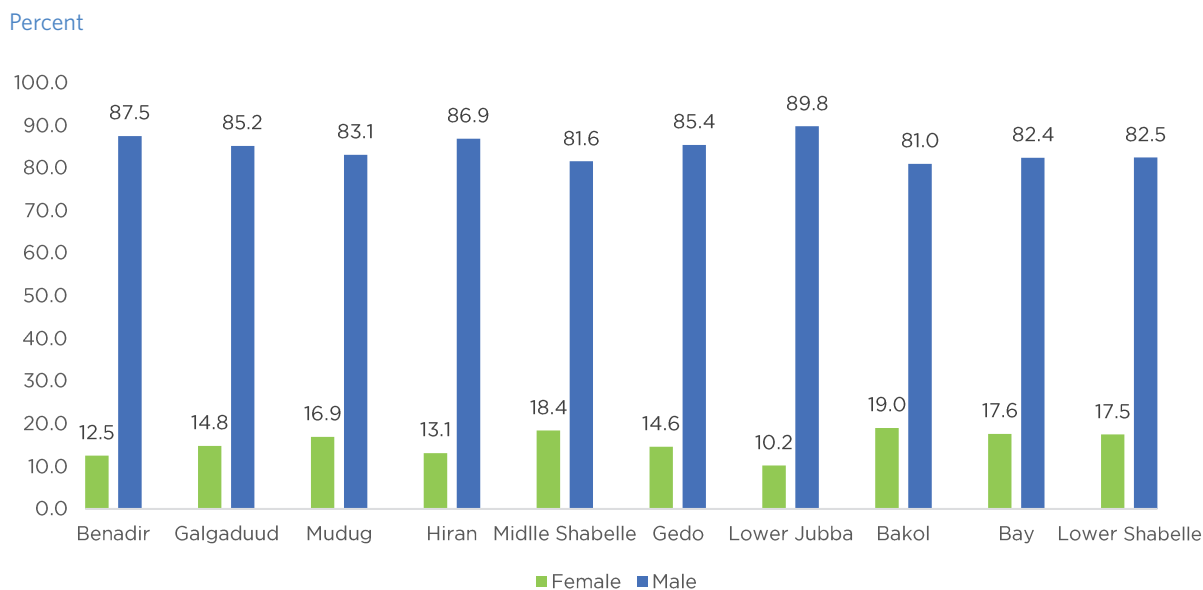
Figure 3.5: Gender Parity Index for primary and secondary, 2020



Source: Somali Health & Demographic Survey 2020

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is the ratio of girls to boys' values of a given indicator. A GPI between 0.97 and 1.03 indicates parity between the genders. A GPI below 0.97 indicates a disparity in favor of boys. A GPI above 1.03 indicates a disparity in favor of girls. In Somalia, the GPI indicates a disparity in favor of boys for both primary and secondary levels across the three domains (urban, rural and nomadic areas) as shown in Figure 3.5.

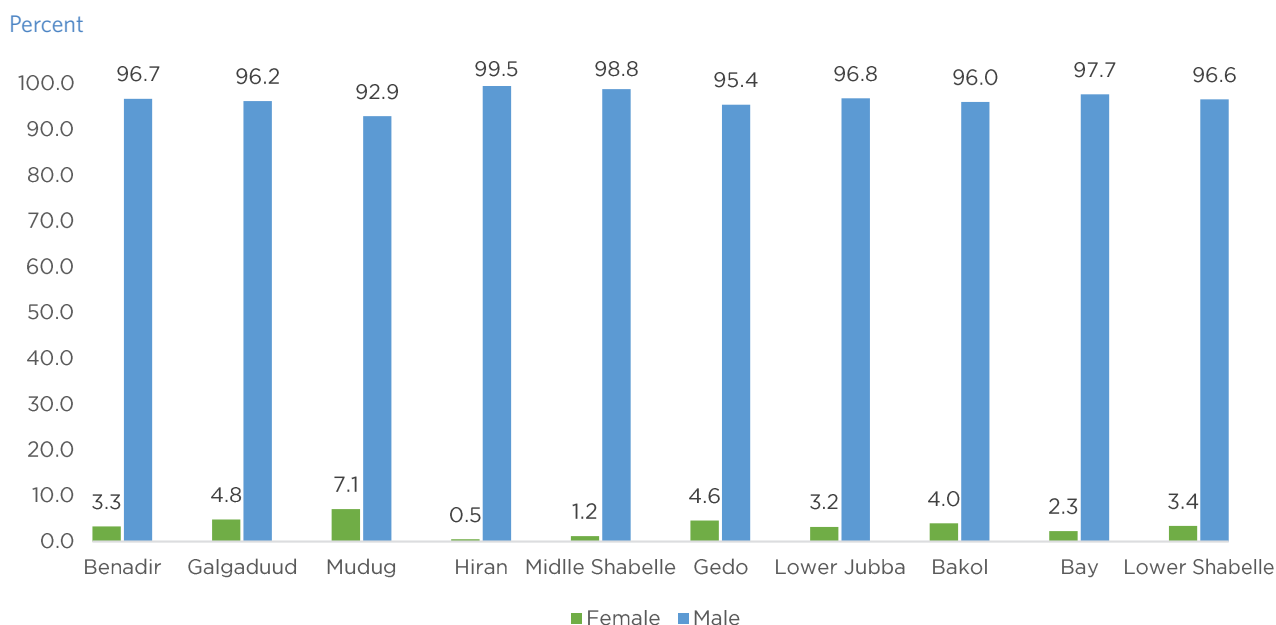
Figure 3.6: Formal Primary Teachers by sex, 2019/2020



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, 2021

Figure 3.6 shows that formal primary schools are dominated by male teachers across the regions. Generally, less than 20 percent of primary teachers are females in all the regions. However, there is apparent disparity of female teachers across the regions with the highest female primary teachers were in Bakol region at 19 percent whereas the lowest was in Lower Jubba region at 10 percent.

Figure 3.7: Formal secondary school teachers by sex, 2019/2020



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, 2021

Formal schools for both primary and secondary schools are dominated by male teachers across the regions. Figure 3.7 shows that female secondary school teachers were the highest in Mudug region at 7 percent and lowest in Hiran region at 0.5 percent.

# Chapter 4

## Work and Economy

The chapter on work and economy includes statistics on the permanent civil servants, the labor force participation rate, employment status, employment-to-population ratio, employed persons by occupation and participation in own-use producers. Three key measures of labor market activity are the unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate, and the employment-to-population ratio.

Table 4.1: Permanent civil servant intake, 2007-2016

Years	Number		Percent	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
2016	132	535	19.8	80.2
2015	154	424	26.6	73.4
2014	279	941	22.9	77.1
2013	522	1,307	28.5	71.5
2012	71	245	22.5	77.5
2011	80	213	27.3	72.7
2010	24	144	14.3	85.7
2009	32	156	17.0	83.0
2008	5	15	25.0	75.0
2007	6	120	4.8	95.2

Source: Somali National Civil Service Commission

Table 4.1 shows that there were significant variations of the number of civil servant intakes over the years by sex. It has been observed that men dominate as civil servants, however, there was a relative increase in the percentage of women who were joining as civil servants from 5 percent in 2007 to 27 percent in 2015, but it sharply declined to 20 percent in 2016.

Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of permanent civil servants by grade and sex, 2016

Grade	Female		Male		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
A	365	14.9	2,092	85.1	2,457
B	313	22.7	1,066	77.3	1,379
C	104	33.7	205	66.3	309
D	418	83.6	82	16.4	500
F	-	0.0	82	100.0	82
X	104	15.4	574	84.6	679
Total	<b>1,305</b>	24.1	<b>4,101</b>	75.9	5,406

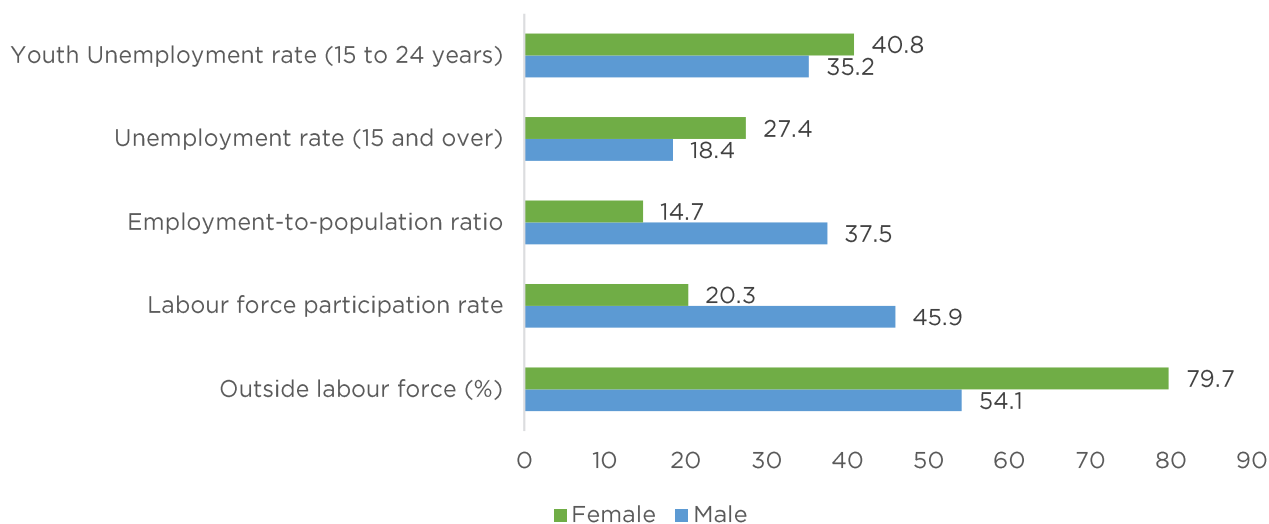
Source: Somali National Civil Service Commission

Legend	
A= Bachelor degree and above	D= Cleaners
B = Secondary Certificates	F= Professional Skills
C= Intermediate Certificate	X= Technical Skills.

Table 4.2 shows the percentage distribution of government employees by grade and sex. Percentage of women in the civil servants is low at only 24 percent compared to men at 76 percent. In terms of grades, the majority of female government employees are cleaners at 84 percent.

Figure 4.1: Selected key labor force indicators by sex, 2019

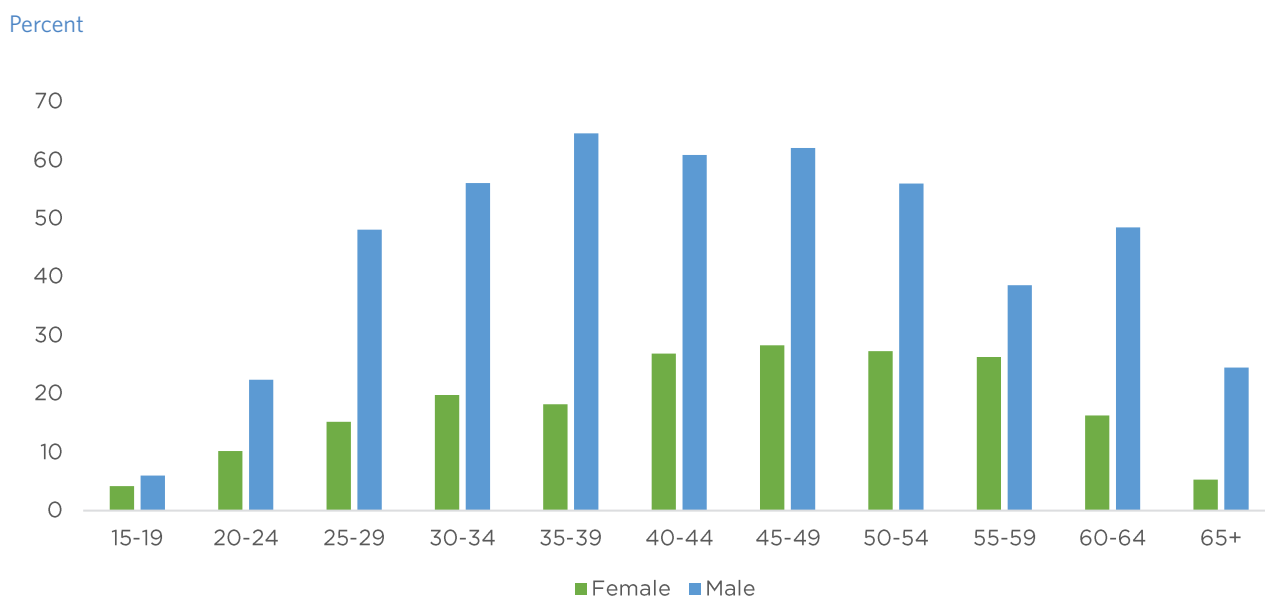
Percent



Source: Labor Force Survey Somalia 2019

The unemployment rate in Somalia was higher among women at 27 percent compared to 18 percent for men. Also the youth unemployment rate was at 41 percent for women compared to 35 percent for men.

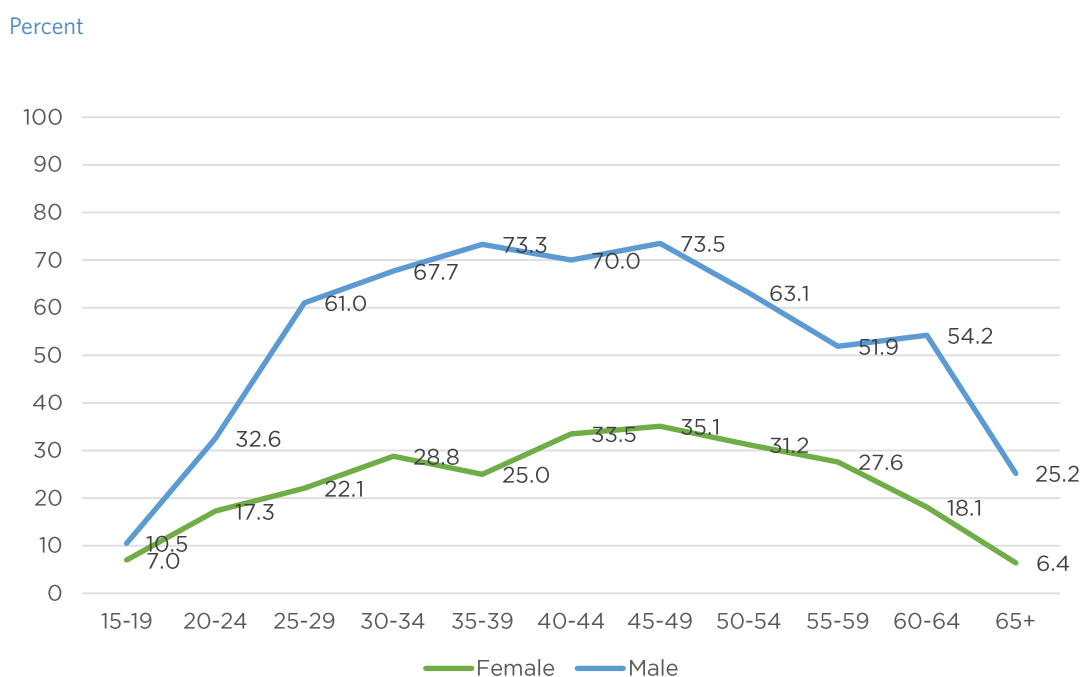
Figure 4.2: Employment to population ratio by sex and age group, 2019



Source: Labor Force Survey Somalia 2019

Generally, employment to population ratio shows fewer women than men in the same age group are employed and the disparity of women and men increases as the age increases with the highest gap difference being observed at the age groups (30-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49) as shown in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.3: Labor Force Participation Rate by sex and age group, 2019



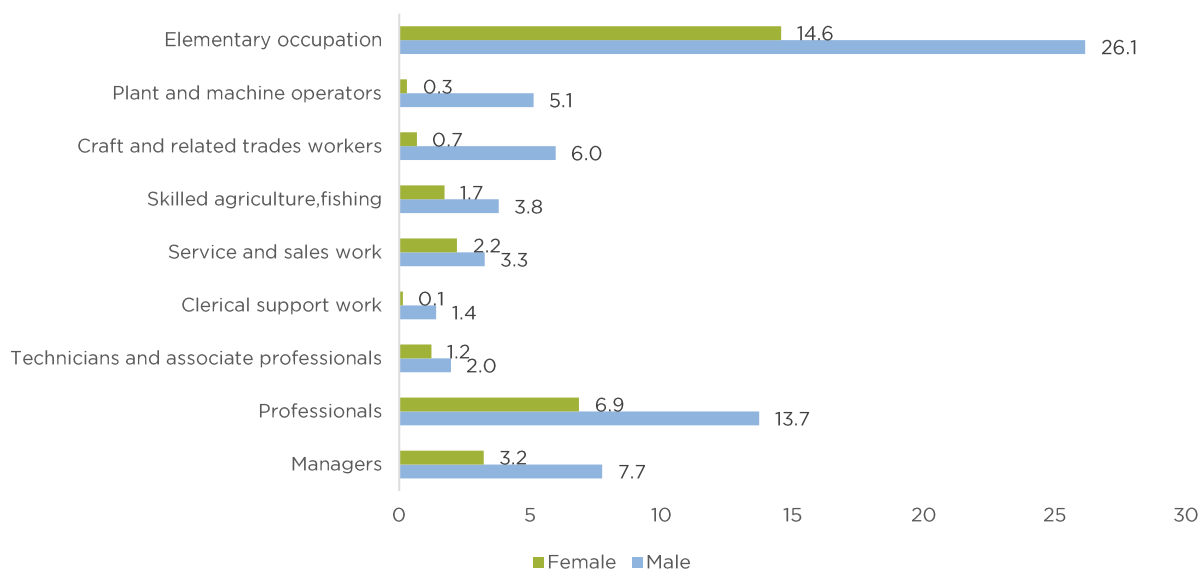
Source: Labor Force Survey Somalia 2019

Figure 4.3 shows the labor force participation rate by sex and age group. Overall, the labor force participation rate of males was higher than that of females across all age groups. For example, in the age group 35-39 years, male labor force participation rates were 73 percent compared to 25 percent for females.



Figure 4.4: Employed persons by sex and occupation in the main job, 2019

Percent

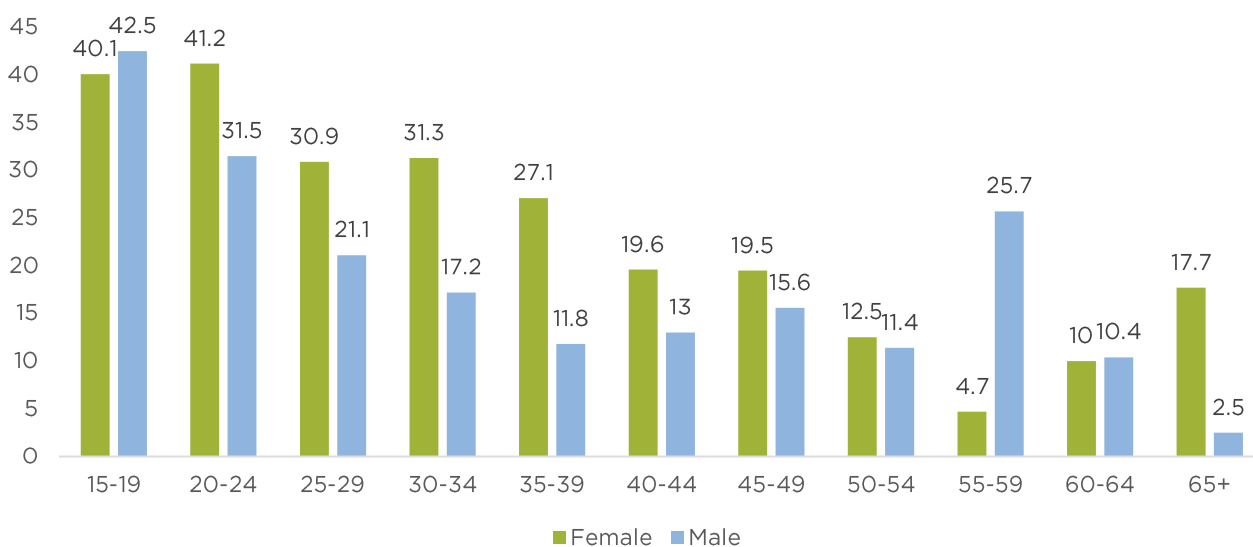


Source: Labor Force Survey Somalia 2019

It was also observed that there was a lower proportion of females engaged in professional and managerial positions as compared to males as shown in Figure 4.4.

Figure 4.5: Unemployment rate for population 15 years old and over by sex and age group, 2019

Percent



Source: Labor Force Survey Somalia 2019

Generally, the younger age groups tended to have higher unemployment rates – with those aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 having the highest unemployment rates. It was also observed that unemployment rates for females were higher only for the 15 to 19 and 55 to 59 age groups, while all other age groups showed higher unemployment rates in males than in females as shown in Figure 4.5.

Table 4.3: Youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment nor education/training (NEET) by sex, 2019

	Total	Female	Male
Total number of youth population (15 to 24)	<b>1,438,377</b>	<b>748,618</b>	<b>689,759</b>
Number of youth not in employment, education or training, NEET, (15 to 24)	636,008	375,910	260,098
Percentage of youth not in employment, education or training, NEET (15 to 24)	44.2	50.2	37.7

Source: Labor Force Survey Somalia 2019

The NEET provides a measure of the youth who are outside the educational system and not in employment. A high NEET rate implies a relatively precarious situation as these young people besides being unemployed shall lack the skills to improve their situation and thus risk becoming socially excluded. Table 4.3 shows that the NEET rate is higher among the female youth (50.2percent) than among the male youth (37.7 percent).



# Chapter 5

## Influence and Power

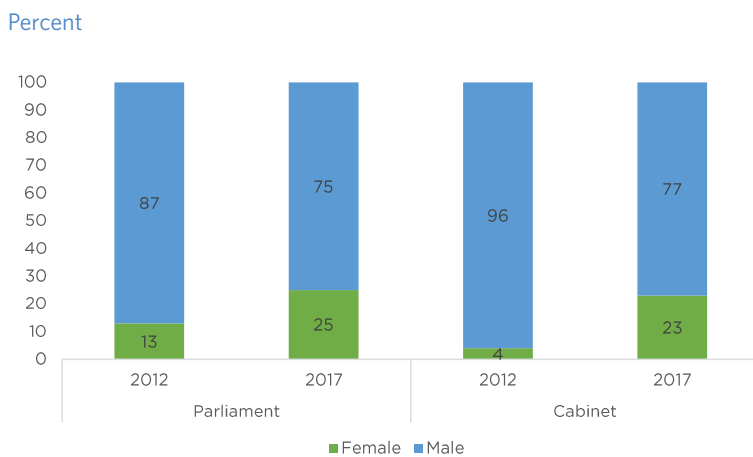
Women’s capacity to promote gender sensitive development inside government in order to achieve gender equality is limited by their level of power. This chapter on Influence and Power contains information on the gender distribution in parliament and the government, as well as how it has evolved between 2012 and 2017.

Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of lower house parliament seats by sex, 2017

Year	Female	Male
2017	25	75
2012	13	87

Source: Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) 2017


Figure 5.1: Top officials in government offices, 2017



Percentage distribution of parliament members by sex. Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1 show that female participation in parliament increased from 13 percent of parliamentary seats in the 2012 election to 26 percent in the 2017 election. Whereas the percentage of females in the cabinet increased from 4 percent in the 2012 government to 23 percent in the 2017 government.


Source: Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) 2017





 XARUNTA HAY'ADDA  
ISTRATIISTIMADA QARANKA  
دائرة الإحصاء الوطنية  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS





 [www.nbs.gov.so](http://www.nbs.gov.so)

 [@NBS\\_Somalia](https://twitter.com/NBS_Somalia)

 [@nbssomalia](https://www.facebook.com/nbssomalia)

 [@nbs\\_somalia](https://www.instagram.com/nbs_somalia)

 +252-61-3700080

 [snbs@nbs.gov.so](mailto:snbs@nbs.gov.so)