FEDERAL REBUPLIC OF SOMALIA
SOMALIA NATIONAL BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

GOVERNANCE
STATISTICS REPORT
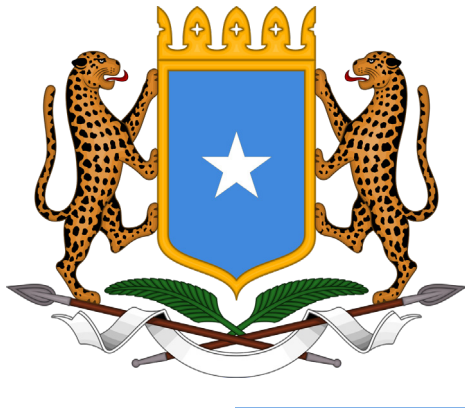
2nd EDITION

FOREWORD

It is with great honor that I present the Second Edition of the Governance Statistics Report, a comprehensive analysis of governance metrics that reflect Somalia's ongoing progress and challenges in fostering effective institutions and promoting stability. This Edition builds upon the foundation laid by the first report, offering enriched data on governance dynamics across key sectors such as Justice, Security, Political Participation, and Openness, with the addition of data on Stabilization and Cyber-Crimes.

The Report provides a data-driven assessment of Somalia's governance landscape, shedding light on critical issues such as the resolution rates achieved by justice institutions, the provision of rule of law services across regions, and the collaboration between federal and state-level agencies in ensuring public safety.

This Edition is built upon robust administrative data collection and rigorous analytical methodologies, ensuring that the findings presented are both accurate and reliable. By facilitating evidence-based policymaking, this Report serves as a vital resource for policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, and development partners. The data presented in this report can help identify areas requiring further attention, supporting actionable recommendations aimed at strengthening data availability across governance structures thereby improving service delivery, and fostering institutional reforms.

The Publication of this Report is a testament to the importance of data-driven governance and the necessity of continuous collaboration between stakeholders in strengthening Somalia's governance framework. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Civil Service Commission and the National Communications Agency, as well as the dedicated professionals at SNBS who contributed to the production of this report. Their efforts are invaluable in ensuring that governance data serves as a catalyst for informed decision-making and sustainable development.

As we move forward, I encourage all stakeholders to utilize the insights presented in this report to drive meaningful reforms and enhance Somalia's governance landscape. By working together, we can build more transparent, accountable, and effective institutions that serve the aspirations of the Somali people.

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Director General

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ABSTRACT

The 2nd Edition of the Governance Statistics Report provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of governance metrics across Somalia, offering valuable insights into key developments, emerging trends, and ongoing challenges within critical sectors such as justice, security, political participation, and openness. The report delves into various dimensions of governance, including the resolution rates achieved by justice institutions, the relative strength of the rule of law across regions, and the collaborative efforts between federal and state-level agencies in addressing crimes and maintaining security.

One of the report's significant findings highlights that while crimes remain relatively high, they are effectively managed through concerted efforts at both federal and state levels. Additionally, women continue to face significant underrepresentation in public and political domains, pointing to the need for targeted initiatives to promote gender equity. Despite regional challenges, Somalia's crime and homicide rates remain comparatively low compared to many countries in the region, underscoring the effectiveness of governance interventions in fostering stability. Furthermore, there has been notable progress in enhancing citizens' access to information, promoting transparency, and fostering greater public trust in governance processes.

This edition relies on robust administrative data collection and meticulous analysis, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of its findings. The report is designed to support evidence-based policymaking, encourage transparency, and reinforce accountability within Somalia's governance structures. By identifying critical areas for improvement and presenting insights, this edition aims to serve as a cornerstone for stakeholders including policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, and development partners that are dedicated to advancing governance and institutional reform in Somalia. Finally, the report provides recommendations and underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in data sharing and management in fostering sustainable governance and institutional development across the nation.

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List of Abbreviation

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AGO	Attorney General Office
CBS	Central Bank of Somalia
CSIRT	Cyber Security Incident Response Team
D4P	Data for Policy
DPA	Data Protection Agency
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FIMM	Fragility Index and Maturity Model
FMS	Federal Member States
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm
GBV	Gender Based Violation
IS	Islamic State
ISP	Internet Service Providers
KII	Key Informant Interview
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MoCT	Ministry of Communication and Technology
NCA	National Communications Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIRA	National Identification and Registration Authority
NSO	National Statistical Officer
PIN	Personal Identification Number
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SNBS	Somali National Bureau of Statistics

1.0 Introduction

1.1. Background

Over the past two decades, Somalia has made significant strides in rebuilding its governance structures, transitioning from prolonged instability to a more structured and accountable system. Efforts have been focused on strengthening security sector, which is a foundation for governance and development. Initiatives such as building national army, liberating the country from extremist groups, and improving law enforcement have been improving the safety of citizens and national stability. Investments in infrastructure, including roads, ports, and telecommunications, are also contributing to Somalia's social and economic progress, connecting citizens, and facilitating trade mobility.

"Governance" is understood in this report to refer to a multifaceted system or framework encompassing processes, functions, structures, rules, laws, and norms that emerge from the relationships, interactions, power dynamics, and communication within Goverment. It establishes the boundaries for acceptable behavior and practices guiding decision-making through the development and enforcement of rules and guidelines. Additionally, governance oversees the management, allocation, and mobilization of resources and capacities setting a clear direction to address collective needs, challenges, and problems effectively[1].

Praia City Group, established in 2015 by the UN Statistical Commission, focuses on Governance Statistics and plays a crucial role in standardizing data collection and analysis in this field. The group developed a comprehensive Handbook on Governance Statistics, which serves as a key guideline for governments, organizations, and researchers, providing a structured framework for measuring various aspects in the governance sector. According to handbook , Governance Statistics are fundamental to ensuring that the relationship between the State and its citizenry is transparent and accountable[2].

Governance as a dicipline can help to identify groups or sub-groups in the population that are most affected by the dysfunctions of governance systems, with a view of putting responsive and targeted policies in place.

UNECS refers Governance as systems, processes, and traditions through which a nation wields authority, fulfills its obligations, and oversees the use of its resources. It also involves institutions through which state authority is exercised. Formal governance in the state is exercised through major institutions, including Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branch of government. Some non-state actors that can influence how government exercises its authority include community organizations, businesses, and international entities[3].

Many view good governance a focus on tangible outcomes, the one that deliver essential services which citizens expect, such as security, healthcare, education, clean water, contract enforcement, property rights, environmental protection, voting rights, and fair wages. This approach aligns with the fundamental role of governments, which is to provide public goods for their people[4]. Similarly, good governance can be reflected in the efficient delivery of public services, higher participation given to certain groups in the population like the poor and the minorities, the guarantee that citizens have the opportunity [1]of checks and balances on the government, the establishment and enforcement of norms for the protection of the citizens and their property and the existence of independent judiciary systems[5].

The concept of Data for Policy focus on the use of data and evidence to inform policy decisions, the approach emphasizes leveraging data analysis and insights to shape and guide public policy development and implementation, prioritizing evidence based decisions over intuition or purely political motives. Policymakers rely on data to identify trends, evaluate outcomes, and allocate resources, directly affecting people's lives and business's overall performance

1 Bevir, Mark, Governance: A very short introduction. Oxford, UK, 2012.

2 Praia City Group, Handbook on Governance Statistics, 2015

3 The United Nations Economic and Social Council conducted an extensive review of the literature defining governance, 2006.

4 Rotberg, Robert, "Good Governance Means Performance and Results", 2014.

5 Grindle, Merilee. "Good Enough Governance: Poverty Reduction and Reform in Developing Countries", 2004.

The growing volume and complexity of data, influenced by advancements in technologies like artificial intelligence, present both opportunities and potential pitfalls for the policymaking community in using data[6].

D4P suggests that established themes, like public sector modernization and evidence- based policymaking, are now driving innovative solutions through new technologies and vast data sources. By leveraging 21st-century tools to tackle 21st-century challenges, there is a clear potential for cutting-edge solutions and real-time data. The opportunity for these solutions to be effective lies in successfully utilizing advanced analytics that are both timely and simple enough to support fast-paced policy decisions[7]. Answers to fundamental questions of whether or not, in what direction, and to what extent governing through information matters for substantive outcomes, for architecture of governance, and for institutional changes and normative outcomes all remain under- explored[8].

However, the success of this approach hinges on a comprehensive understanding of governance statistics and their critical role in a country's development. Governance statistics provide insights into the performance of institutions, the delivery of public services, and the adherence to democratic principles.

They form the backbone of systems that ensure accountability, transparency, and the rule of law, which are essential for maintaining trust in democratic processes. Governance Statistics is an important tool which plays a key role in evaluating the effectiveness of policies or identifying areas that require reform. Therefore, recognizing the significance of Governance Statistics is fundamental to fostering strong democratic societies and a well-functioning rule of law in the given country.

Additionally, governance statistics contribute to peace and stability by serving as early warning systems for potential conflict and violence. It allows for the proactive identification of risks, enabling timely interventions to prevent escalation; they also foster sustainable peace by offering regular assessments of State-society relations, ensuring that governance systems remain equitable and trusted by the population.

It is also vital tools for understanding, improving, and maintaining governance systems that promote justice, social cohesion, and human rights. Though, the effectiveness of governments is not a straightforward and consentient type of governance. Measurement and conceptualization of effectiveness is controversial and often used interchangeably with good governance[9].

This report investigates various aspects of governance, focusing on safety and security, the justice system, transparency, and political participation. It identifies existing gaps, highlights areas in need of improvement, and examines the underlying challenges hindering effective governance.

Through the assessment of these dimensions, the report provides   insights on recent trends. Additionally, based on our findings, the report guides policymakers, development practitioners, civil society actors, and other stakeholders in formulating strategies and interventions to enhan[1]ce governance and promote sustainable progress in the future.

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6 Corinna Turbes with Data Foundation Org, From Data for Policy to Policy for Data, 2024

7 Rose N. Governing by numbers: Figuring out democracy. Accounting, Organization and Society, 1991

8 Soma K, et el, article: Informational governance and environmental sustainability, 2016.

9 Andrews M. The good governance agenda: Beyond indicators without theory, Oxford Development Studies, 2008.

1.2. Purpose of the report

The primary objective of the Governance Statistics Report is to provide the Federal Government of Somalia with tools to monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving national development Objectives in Public and Political Participation, Access to Justice, Safety and Security and Access to Information. Additionally, it supports aligning these efforts with governance-related SDGs. By providing a robust framework for tracking key governance indicators, the report equips policymakers with tools to measure the effectiveness of strategies, assess the impacts of reforms, and ensure that governance reforms are not only effective but also fair. This approach promotes sustainable progress, fostering a society where every citizen has a voice in shaping the nation's future.

The report also serves as reference for individuals and institutions interested in governance statistics. This includes local and international NGOs, academic institutions and researchers exploring governance trends and challenges, and private sector entities aiming to understand the socio-economic landscape.

Furthermore, the report provides valuable information for international development partners, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and sustainable development.

1.3. Structure of the report

The report is organized into several key sections that guide the reader through the introduction, analysis, and recommendations; The description below is intended to help readers navigate the report and understand the flow of information.

Abstract: A concise overview of the report's message; providing readers with a clear view of what the report is all about.

Introduction: This section introduces background and the importance of the study. It outlines the purpose, scope, structure and limitations of the report to provide clear snapshot for understanding Data for Policy. Readers will also find an explanation of the rationale of the report methodology, the data that is used and the approach used to assess it at the same time.

Data Analysis: Here, the report presents core findings and statistical analyses in the form of graphs and charts and interprets the data and informant interviews in a vivid way. It also provides a deeper understanding of the implications of the data analysis, offering insights into what the findings propose at the time.

Recommendations: Based on the analysis, this section outlines specific, evidence based recommendations aimed at policymakers, development organizations, and other stakeholders. These recommendations focus on strengthening data availability in order to track progresses in political participation and rule of law in Somalia. The section also provides a conclusion which highlights key findings of the report.

1.4. Methodology

This Governance Statistics report utilizes administrative data collected from Key governmental data producers, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, Attorney General's Office, Civil Service Commission and the National Communications Agency. In addition to the administrative data, we also incorporated data from civil society organizations, the data from these institutions serves as the foundational baseline for the report.

In the previous report, administrative data played a central role in covering various aspects of the analysis. Additionally, the report incorporated statistical data on governance indicators, which were gathered from a diverse range of sources, including international organizations and civil society. Each key governance dimension such as Justice, Security, Inclusivity, and Openness was presented separately using a combination of administrative data, CPIA data, and civil society inputs.

This report adopts a mixed-methods design, which integrates both quantitative and qualitative research techniques, it also applies descriptive analysis to interpret the data collected from the MDAs. This approach systematically summarizes the data, allowing for a clear presentation of key trends, patterns, and statistics related to governance. Descriptive analysis is particularly helpful in highlighting areas such as security sector efficiency, accessibility to justice, crime statistics, and overall performance in governance.

The quantitative approach involves statistical analysis to measure and evaluate numerical data, enabling the identification of trends, making comparisons, and tracking significant changes over time. This approach will also facilitate a statistical comparison of percentage changes between the current and previous Governance Statistics reports to assess the gap.

The qualitative approach enriches the analysis by adding context and explanation to the numbers. This includes techniques such as Key Informant Interviews to assess the level of cybercrimes within the country, it also includes detailed narrative analysis explaining the relationship between governance trends to provide deeper insights.

The approach excludes individual stories or experiences without broader relevance or statistical backing to maintain objectivity, it also excludes any qualitative data that could not be cross-checked or verified for authenticity and reliability, opinions that were overly subjective and lacked connection to governance indicators or broader societal trends were excluded. The report applied, identified and selected the Key Informants by:

◊ Criteria: Selecting Informants based on their in-depth knowledge or experience relevant to the subject.

◊ Representation: Ensure diversity in profession and demographic characteristics in selecting informants.

◊ Consent: Informants were fully informed about the purpose of the interview and how their information was used.

◊ Confidentiality: Respect the confidentiality of the information provided and ensure anonymity if the informant requests it.

Additionally, the integration of statistical comparisons from previous and current trends help identify whether there has been progress or setbacks in key governance areas, guiding policy decisions and future recommendations. This mixed-methods approach ensures that the report not only presents hard data but also provides comprehensive explanations and insights that can drive informed decisions and improvements in governance systems.

1.5. Scope and Coverage

The geographical scope of this report covers the federal level of Somalia, drawing data from governmental MDAs to ensure that the analysis reflects the country's administrative framework and governance at the national level. The report examines Public and Political Participation, Access to Justice, Safety and Security and Access to Information, providing an in-depth look into key areas like justice, inclusivity, security and openness. It also aligns with SDG Goal 16, which focuses on promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, by assessing Somalia's progress in achieving inclusive decision-making, ensuring access to justice, and fostering effective law enforcement mechanisms.

This comprehensive assessment provides a clearer understanding of Somalia's standing in terms of political participation and rule of law outcomes and highlights areas where improvements can be made to strengthen the country's policy and institutional structures.

1.6. Limitations and Data Gaps

The Governance Statistics Report had several limitations due various challenges that confronted it during the data collection phase. Some of the major challenges include:

◊ There was a challenge in obtaining data from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, especially those holding sensitive data at the time. This hindered the scope, depth, and analysis of key governance areas.

◊ A gap in collaboration, specifically after data was made available. There were significant challenges in collaborating with MDAs to seek further clarifications or explanations. This lack of communication and the inability to obtain detailed context on shared data led to delays in data validation and a limited understanding of the data's true implications for analysis.

◊ The report experienced substantial difficulties in retrieving data from Puntland State due to ongoing political tensions and unresolved grievances within the region.

◊ The inability to access accurate and up-to-date data from Puntland resulted in an incomplete representation for this important FMS.

◊ There was a major challenge in obtaining data on cybercrimes, with no available records or reports on this topic at national level. This data gap hindered the ability to assess governance in the context of emerging digital security challenges, which are becoming increasingly significant in Somalia's evolving governance landscape. The report employed KII to bridge the gap and gain a comprehensive understanding of the prevalence, nature, and impact of cybercrimes across the country.

◊ The available data on the Stabilization Program was insufficient and did not provide the level of details required to thoroughly understand the progress in the liberated regions. The lack of comprehensive data in this area significantly limited the report's ability to assess the effectiveness and impact of stabilization efforts, a crucial part of governance in post-conflict areas.

Together, these limitations and data gaps posed significant challenges to the report's ability to fully capture the status of governance across Somalia; thus making the report less inclusive than originally intended.

These limitations forced SNBS to invest additional resources and time to mitigate or minimize the challenges in order to provide a complete and nuanced analysis of the report.

1.7. Need for Governance Statistics Survey

A comprehensive national Governance Statistics Survey is urgently needed to provide a detailed and accurate understanding of critical governance trends, including safety and security, justice, absence of corruption, and citizen satisfaction with national service delivery.

Such a survey is instrumental in creating a baseline for evaluating governance performance and identifying gaps that hinder progress toward effective and inclusive governance.

This survey is particularly important for several reasons. Firstly, it provides empirical evidence that helps policymakers and stakeholders make informed decisions about governance reforms. By tracking trends in safety and security, the survey can help identify regions with high crime rates or insecurity, enabling targeted interventions. Similarly, analyzing justice trends sheds light on access to legal remedies and the efficiency of judicial systems, highlighting areas where resources or reforms are required.

Moreover, by assessing the absence of corruption, the survey can reveal systemic vulnerabilities and help prioritize anti-corruption measures, promoting a culture of integrity and accountability within government institutions. Citizen satisfaction with national service delivery, such as education, health care, and infrastructure, is a critical measure of government performance. Understanding these satisfaction levels can inform resource allocation, service improvements, and policy adjustments to better address citizens' needs.

The data generated from this survey could be used to deliver a range of detailed reports, including:

◊ Reports that measure crime rates, public perceptions of safety, and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies.

◊ Reports that measure access to justice, court efficiency, and public confidence in legal institutions.

◊ Reports that analyze corruption levels across different sectors and regions and tracking progress on anti-corruption initiatives.

◊ Reports measuring public satisfaction with service delivery in areas such as police, education, health, water, and infrastructure.

◊ Reports that measure government transparency, responsiveness, and mechanisms for holding institutions accountable.

◊ Reports that make comparative analysis of governance trends across regions, including disparities in service delivery, security, and corruption.

Additionally, the survey data can serve as a foundation for monitoring Somalia's progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which focuses on peace, justice, and strong institutions. It would also enable regular tracking of the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) indicators, helping Somalia improve its standing in global governance benchmarks.

Ultimately, a national Governance Statistics Survey is a powerful tool to promote accountability, transparency, and public trust in government. It enables evidence-based policymaking, fosters public participation, and strengthens institutional frameworks, paving the way for sustainable development and improved governance outcomes.

2.0 ACCESS TO JUSTICE

2.1. SDG – Indicator 16.3.1

Indicator 16.3.1 focuses on the accessibility of justice and the efficiency of judicial systems, specifically the number of cases reported to the Attorney General's Offices at both the Federal Government and Federal Member State levels. In the year of 2023, a total of 37,271 cases have been reported to the AGOs of FGS and FMS, reflecting ongoing legal challenges and the demand for justice in Somalia. These cases encompass a wide range of criminal, civil, and administrative matters, illustrating the diverse nature of legal issues experienced by Somali citizens. As the administrative data shows, Somalia boasts a 94% resolution rate, showcasing that justice institutions are effectively fulfilling their responsibilities, particularly in Somaliland and Puntland, where the Rule of Law is notably stronger compared to other Federal Member States.

The breakdown of these 37,271 cases offers insights into the types of crimes, disputes, and legal concerns that have been brought to the attention of the authorities. This data can help identify trends, such as increases in particular types of crime or disputes, and highlight areas where the judicial system may need strengthening. For example, the cases could include a variety of legal categories such as family law, land disputes, commercial litigation, and criminal offenses, each of which may require different resources, approaches, and interventions.

Table 1.1: Percentage of People that Accessed Federal Judicial Systems to Resolve Disputes in 2023

Status	% Percentage
Completed	63.4%
Pending	36.6%
Total	**100%**

Figure 1.1: Percentage of People that Accessed Federal Judicial Systems to Resolve Disputes in 2023
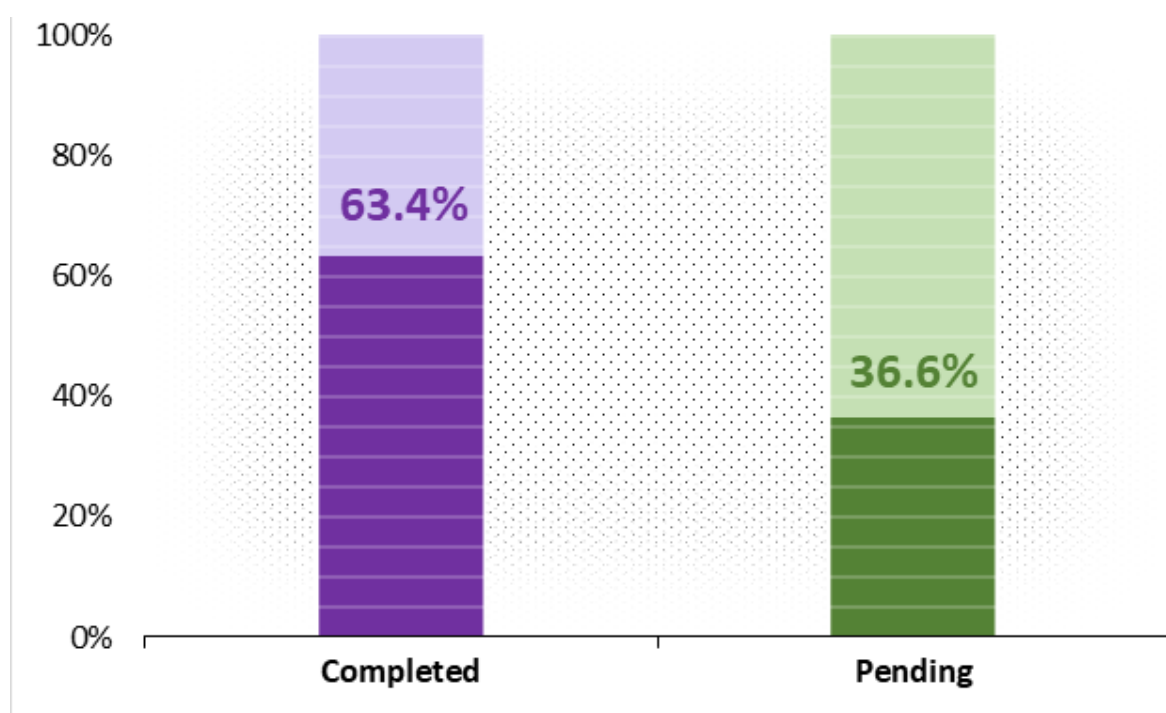
The graph gives a snapshot of how disputes are resolved in Somalia, particularly focusing on the judicial system. The key figures are that 63.4% of cases handled by the judicial system were closed and decided, while 36.6% of the cases are still pending subject for further investigation or legal proceedings. However, this data only reflects the cases that went through the formal judicial process and does not account for the considerable number of disputes that are resolved outside the courts through ADR mechanisms.

The figure of 63.4% represents cases that were fully resolved and decided by the judicial system; this means that over half of the individuals who accessed the formal judicial system for dispute resolution found a conclusion to their cases. It reflects a certain level of trust and reliance on the judicial system in Somalia, with people seeking legal remedies to address issues such as land disputes, family conflicts, business disagreements or other issues that might arise at the time.

However, the 36.6% of cases still pending indicates a significant delay or backlog within the judicial process. These cases are either awaiting further investigation by relevant authorities or have not yet gone to trial. These cases can point to several challenges within the judicial system, such as resource constraints, a backlog of cases, inefficient legal processes, or even delays in investigation. The presence of pending cases also suggests that many disputes take longer to resolve, which can contribute to frustration among citizens and affect the overall effectiveness of the judicial system.

In addition to the formal judicial system, a considerable number of disputes in Somalia are resolved through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. These include methods like mediation, arbitration, and the involvement of religious sheikhs and traditional elders. These alternatives are often more accessible, faster, and less expensive than formal litigation. For many Somali people, especially in rural areas, ADR is a preferred route because it avoids long delays, costs, and unpredictability associated with traditional court proceedings.

The widespread use of ADR helps alleviate the burden on the judicial system and provides an avenue for resolving disputes that is more in line with community practices and cultural norms; and by using these mechanisms, people can avoid the formal legal process altogether, reducing the demand on overburdened courts and potentially leading to quicker resolutions.

Figure 1.2 : Trends of Criminal Cases Reported to the Federal AGO by Month in 2023
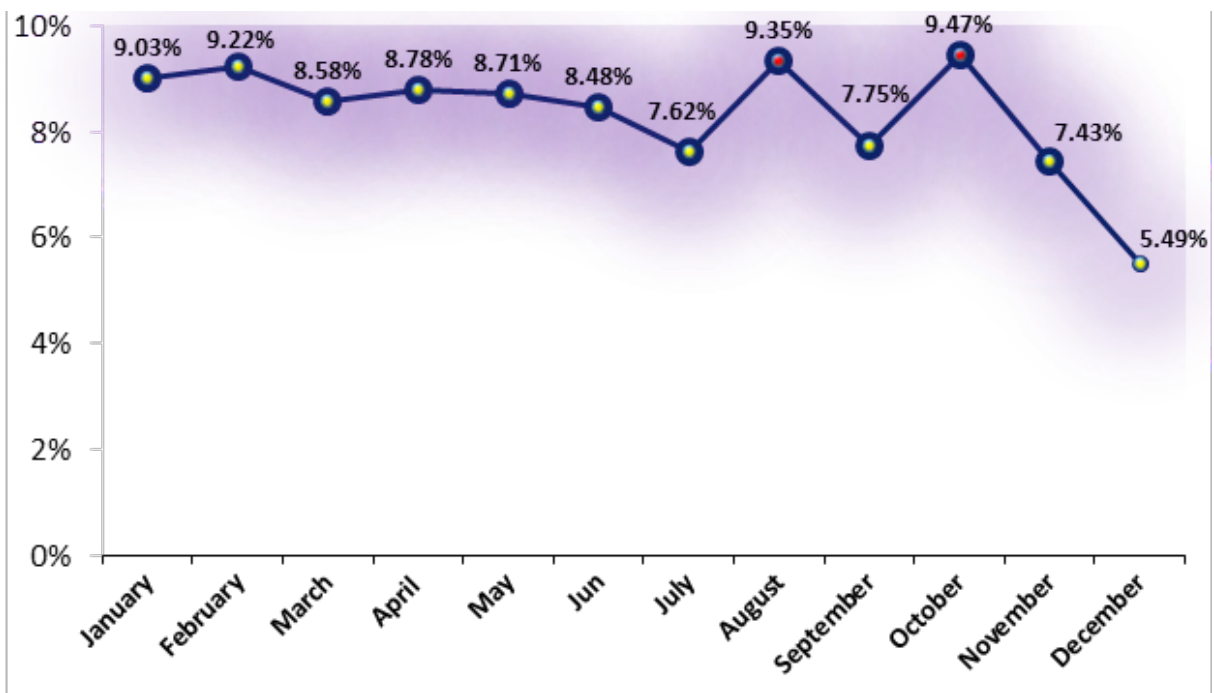
The office of the Attorney General filed 3,135 cases over the past year; with higher numbers in February, August, and October, and lower numbers in July, September, and December. These variations could be influenced by a mix of social, economic and judicial factors. By understanding these patterns, it becomes possible to better allocate resources, adjust strategies, and perhaps anticipate future trends in dispute filings.

Additionally, it suggests that there may be a shift toward informal dispute resolution methods in certain months, highlighting the need to consider both formal and informal systems when evaluating the overall landscape of dispute resolution in Somalia.

The fluctuation in the number of disputes filed in courts such as the lower number of cases filed in months like July, September, and December can be influenced by a combination of social, economic, and judicial factors.

◊ Fear of Security Issues: In certain regions, particularly those experiencing conflict or instability, individuals may hesitate to file disputes with the court system due to security concerns. If disputes involve sensitive matters such as land conflicts, family disputes, or political disagreements parties may fear retaliation, violence, or harassment either from other disputants or from external actors. This fear can discourage people from accessing the courts, particularly in volatile months or regions with heightened insecurity. In such cases, people might prefer to resolve disputes informally through community-based mechanisms or avoid legal action altogether.

◊ Financial Strain and Court Costs: Pursuing formal legal action can be expensive. Court fees, transportation costs to get to the court, and expenses for hiring legal representation can be a significant burden, particularly for individuals or families facing financial hardships. In Somalia, where economic conditions may be unstable for many, people who experience financial strain may not be able to afford the costs of filing a case or attending court hearings. This can lead to fewer disputes being filed in certain months when people are less able to access the necessary funds. For example, during times of economic downturn or after significant events (such as the end of the harvest season), people may prioritize basic needs and avoid legal proceedings due to financial constraints. On the other hand, in agricultural communities, there are certain seasons when people may be more financially stable after harvests or successful trade but there are also leaner periods, such as before or during the planting seasons. These economic cycles can influence whether or not people have the resources to engage in formal legal proceedings. During times of economic strain, disputes may go unresolved or may be handled through cheaper, informal mechanisms like mediation or arbitration.

◊ Overburdened Courts: Courts can become overburdened, especially in countries where judicial systems are not adequately resourced or staffed. A backlog of cases or a shortage of judges can result in delays, which discourages people from pursuing formal legal action, especially if they know it will take a long time for their case to be heard. If courts are already dealing with a high volume of cases, individuals may hesitate to file new ones, particularly during times when judicial resources are stretched thin. This could explain the lower filing rates during months when courts are particularly busy or understaffed.

◊ Reduced Operating Hours: Certain months such as during the holy month of Ramadan or around major holidays could see court closures, or courts may operate at

◊   reduced capacity. This would limit the availability of the judicial system and potentially result in fewer people filing disputes during these times. For example, if courts are closed for a few weeks during major religious festivals or national holidays, cases may be delayed, leading to fewer new filings during those months.

◊   -   Lack of Trust: In some cases, people may avoid the judicial system due to a perceived lack of fairness, transparency, or efficiency in how the courts operate. If the public feels that the legal system is slow, corrupt, or biased, they may be less likely to trust the courts and more inclined to seek informal dispute resolution. This lack of confidence in the formal system can be a significant barrier to filing disputes in the first place.

These factors can often work together to influence the number of disputes filed in a given month. For example: In months like July, September, and December, there might be a combination of financial strain security concerns, and judicial inefficiency that discourage people from pursuing formal legal channels.

Conversely, in months like February, August, and October, economic conditions could be more favorable, security may be more stable, or courts may be more accessible, people may feel more motivated to resolve disputes through formal legal means.

In conclusion, the number of disputes filed in the judicial system is not solely determined by the inherent nature of the disputes themselves, but by a complex interplay of social, economic, and judicial factors. Security concerns, financial barriers, cultural preferences for informal resolution, and the capacity of the judicial system all contribute to the fluctuation in dispute filings. These insights underscore the need for a multi-faceted approach to improving access to justice, which might include reducing the cost of legal proceedings, addressing security concerns, enhancing court efficiency, and promoting alternative dispute resolution methods.

2.2. Cases Reported to the AGOs and Courts in Somalia

The section on cases reported to the AGOs and courts in Somalia provides an overview of the volume, nature, and resolution of legal cases across the country. It highlights the efforts of justice institutions in addressing crimes, civil disputes, and other legal matters, with a focus on the effectiveness of case management and resolution rates. The analysis underscores regional variations, such as the relatively strong rule of law in Somaliland and Puntland compared to other Federal Member States, and emphasizes the growing reliance on formal justice systems alongside traditional and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Table 1.2: **Distribution of Cases Reported for Resolution to the Federal AGO by Case Type and Office**

Case type	Number of Cases	Resolved by AGO	Resolved by courts	Cases
Asset related cases	860	290	310	260
Homicide/assault	570	235	160	175
Financial crimes	212	7	20	185
GBV crimes	297	55	145	97
Substance abuse crimes	333	69	135	129
Human Trafficking crimes	79	9	24	46
Maritime crimes	41	0	36	5
Road traffic crimes	253	80	98	75
Total	**2,645**	**28%**	**35%**	**36.7%**

Figure 1.3: Distribution of Cases Reported to the Federal AGO by Type and Office in the 2023
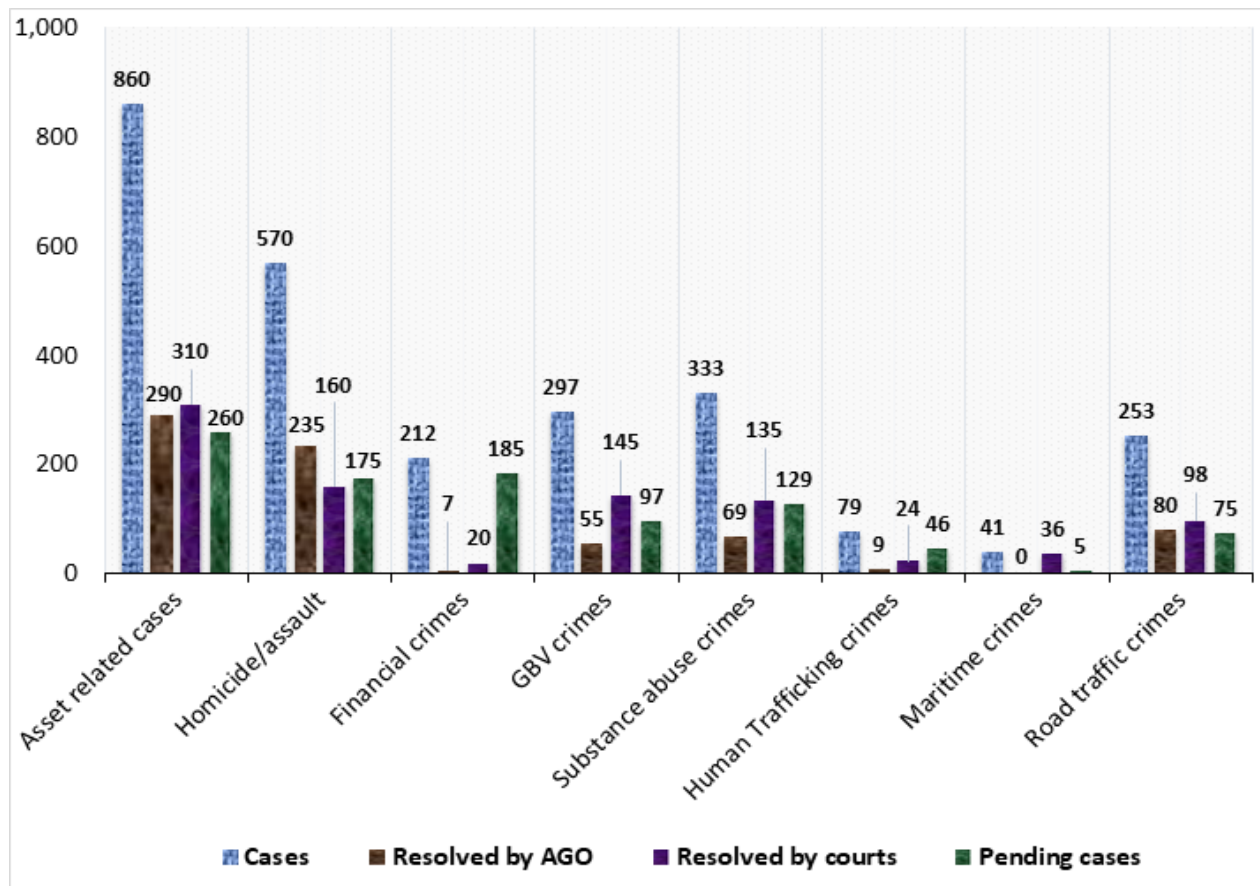
The data outlines 2,645 cases reported for resolution, categorized by case type. The resolution process involves actions taken by the Attorney General's Office, courts, or cases pending further investigation.

◊ Asset disputes, particularly those involving land, are the most frequently reported cases, accounting for 32.5% of all disputes. Land disputes in Somalia are deeply tied to the country's history of conflict, displacement, and unclear property rights. The prolonged civil war caused widespread displacement, leading to the destruction of property records and creating contested claims over land ownership. Many people who fled during the conflict returned to find their land occupied, sold, or claimed by others, resulting in disputes. This issue is further complicated by Somalia's reliance on clan-based land ownership, where power struggles and historical grievances between clans often fuel disagreements.

◊ The resolution of these cases is distributed almost evenly between the AGO and the courts. This suggests that both institutions play an active role in addressing these disputes, utilizing administrative and judicial mechanisms to resolve ownership conflicts or claims. However, a substantial portion of asset disputes remains unresolved and under investigation. This reflects the complex and often contentious nature of these cases, where gathering evidence, verifying ownership claims, and navigating overlapping legal systems require significant time and resources.

◊ Homicide and GBH crimes, account for 21.6% of total cases; this reflects the substantial occurrence of crimes or disputes involving harm or threats to life, including homicides caused by terrorist attacks, robberies, and crimes associated with street teenage gangs. These cases are indicative of deep-rooted challenges within the societal and security landscape. Homicides resulting from terrorist attacks are a significant factor in this category. Somalia has experienced prolonged instability due to activities of extremist groups, leading to targeted killings, bombings, and other acts of violence that result in loss of life. These attacks not only claim lives but also instill fear and disrupt the social fabric of communities Armed robberies that escalate into homicide cases are another prevalent issue. Such incidents often occur in urban areas, where poverty, unemployment, and inadequatesecurity infrastructure contribute to the rise in violent crime. Victims are often harmed during the commission of crimes, highlighting the intersection between economic desperation and criminal behavior. Additionally, street gangs AKA Ciyaal_weero contribute to homicides and violent crimes, particularly in densely populated or marginalized urban neighborhoods. These gangs often engage in turf wars, retaliatory killings, and violent robberies. The involvement of youth in such activities is typically driven by social factors, including lack of education, unemployment, and exposure to violence, creating a cycle of crime and insecurity. The AGO resolved 41.2% of the total cases in this category; this proportion suggests that the Office plays a critical role in addressing these disputes, likely through administrative decisions, mediation efforts, or by preparing cases for prosecution. Their efficiency in handling such cases may reflect their focus on swift resolution to prevent further escalation of violence. The courts resolved 28.1% of the cases, indicating that more complex or severe cases such as those involving homicides, terrorism, or gang related violence are escalated to the judiciary for formal adjudication. The courts' involvement underscores their essential role in delivering justice, particularly in cases that require in-depth legal scrutiny at the time. However, 30.7% of the cases, remain pending for further investigation. This significant portion highlights the challenges faced in gathering sufficient evidence, identifying perpetrators, or ensuring the safety

of witnesses. Pending cases may also result from resource constraints within law enforcement agencies or the complexity of cases, such as those involving organized crime or terrorist networks. These delays can prolong the suffering of victims and their families and undermine trust in the justice system.

◊ Financial crimes account for 8%, representing a smaller but still significant category of reported disputes. These cases typically arise from disagreements or conflicts over financial transactions, debts, contracts, or business dealings. Despite their relatively smaller proportion compared to other categories, financial disputes can have a far-reaching impact on individuals, businesses, and the broader economy. Out of the total financial disputes, only 3.3% were resolved by the AGO, cases 9.4% were resolved by the courts. This low resolution rate suggests that financial disputes often involve complexities that require substantial evidence, clear documentation, and careful legal examination. For example, disputes over unpaid loans, breach of contract, or fraudulent financial practices may necessitate forensic financial analysis and verification of records, which can slow the resolution process. The most striking aspect of this category is that 87.3% remain pending for further investigation. This large backlog likely stems from several factors, including insufficient documentation to support claims, difficulty in tracing financial transactions, or the absence of well-defined regulatory frameworks governing financial dealings. In Somalia, where informal economic practices are common, the lack of formal banking systems and contractual agreements can further complicate these disputes. Financial disputes may also reflect broader economic issues, such as high unemployment, poverty, or a lack of financial literacy. These disputes can involve individuals, families, or small businesses that operate in environments with limited access to formal legal or financial services. In some cases, disputes may arise due to fraudulent schemes or scams, where one party deliberately takes advantage of another's financial vulnerability. Resolving financial disputes effectively is critical for fostering trust in business transactions and economic activities. Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks, improving financial literacy, and promoting the use of formal contracts in business dealings can help reduce the occurrence of such disputes. Additionally, establishing specialized financial dispute resolution mechanisms, such as financial ombudsman services, can expedite resolutions and reduce the burden on courts and investigative bodies.

◊ GBV crimes account for 12.2%, highlighting a noteworthy issue from societal challenges and gender inequalities in Somalia. GBV disputes often involve incidents such as domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, forced marriages, and other forms of abuse primarily targeting women and girls. These cases represent not only a violation of individual rights but also a significant barrier to social cohesion and development.The total GBV cases, 18.5% were resolved by the AGO and 48.8% were resolved by the courts. This indicates that a majority of GBV cases are taken to court, suggesting their serious nature and the need for formal judicial intervention. GBV disputes often require extensive evidence collection, such as medical reports, witness testimonies, and forensic evidence, which makes their resolution more time-intensive and legally complex. The court system plays a crucial role in addressing these cases by ensuring justice for survivors and holding perpetrators accountable. However, 32.7% remain pending for further investigation. The high proportion of unresolved cases highlights several challenges. These challenges include cultural stigmas that discourage survivors from reporting incidents, fear of retaliation from perpetrators, and societal norms that sometimes normalize or excuse violence against

women. Additionally, weak institutional capacities, such as a lack of trained personnel to handle GBV cases and inadequate legal or support frameworks for survivors, further contribute to delays in resolution. GBV disputes often reflect deeper systemic issues, such as entrenched patriarchy, poverty, and conflict-related violence. In Somalia, ongoing instability exacerbates GBV, as women and girls in displaced or vulnerable communities are at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse and building specialized units within law enforcement and the judiciary to handle GBV cases with sensitivity and expertise can further ensure timely and effective resolutions.

◊ Substance abuse crimes account for 12.6% of the total cases, reflecting a critical societal issue in Somalia that affects individuals, families, and communities. These disputes typically involve conflicts or criminal activities arising from the production, distribution, or consumption of addictive substances, such as khat, weed, alcohol, and other drugs. Substance abuse is both a public health challenge and a legal concern, with significant implications for societal stability and development. Out of the total cases, 20.7% were resolved by the AGO, and 40.5% were resolved by the courts. This relatively high resolution rate suggests that authorities are actively addressing disputes related to substance abuse. Cases resolved by the AGO often involve administrative actions, such as penalties for minor offenses, while those resolved by the courts may include more serious offenses, such as trafficking, homicide, armed robbery and other serious offenses fueled by substance use. However, 38.8% remain pending for further investigation. This significant proportion of unresolved cases highlights challenges in handling substance abuse related disputes. These challenges may include difficulties in gathering evidence, identifying suppliers or traffickers, and addressing the root causes of substance abuse. The informal nature of drug trade networks and the lack of comprehensive rehabilitation programs for users exacerbate these issues. Substance abuse disputes are often linked to broader socio-economic problems, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational or recreational opportunities. In Somalia, khat consumption is particularly widespread and culturally entrenched, often leading to disputes over family neglect, financial irresponsibility, and workplace productivity. Other drugs, including narcotics and alcohol, are also becoming increasingly problematic in urban areas, contributing to criminal activities such as theft, violence, and gang-related conflicts.

◊ Human trafficking accounts for 3% of the total criminal offense cases and is often tied to the country's history of prolonged conflict, weak governance, and poor border security. These factors have not only facilitated large-scale illegal migration but have also created an environment conducive to trafficking networks. Many illegal immigrants arriving in Somalia come from poorer and conflict-affected countries, seeking to escape hardship and build a better life. Unfortunately, this vulnerable population often becomes a target for exploitation by traffickers who force them into labor, sexual exploitation, or other illicit activities. In addition to economic migrants, Somalia also attracts individuals with evil intentions as some of the illegal immigrants come to join terrorist organizations, using Somalia's instability as a gateway to further their extremist agendas. These individuals primarily originate from neighboring countries and the Middle East, taking advantage of Somalia's poor border patrol and lack of robust counter-terrorism measures. Others are wanted criminals with links to international terrorist groups, seeking to evade justice by hiding in Somalia's unregulated territories and their presence impairs the on-going security efforts to stabilize the country. Of the reported cases, 11.4% were resolved by the AGO, and 30.4% were resolved by

the courts. This relatively low resolution rate indicates the complexity of migration-related disputes, which often involve sensitive and multifaceted issues. However, a significant 58.2% remain pending for further investigation. This high proportion of unresolved cases highlights the challenges in addressing human trafficking cases. These challenges often stem from the lack of clear legal frameworks governing migration and the difficulty in verifying claims of legal status.

◊ Maritime crimes account for 41 cases, representing conflicts or disagreements related to Somalia's vast maritime territory and resources. These disputes, although smaller in number compared to other categories, hold significant importance due to Somalia's geographical position along the longest coastline in mainland Africa and its rich marine resources. Such disputes often involve issues like fishing rights, territorial waters, resource exploitation, and maritime boundary conflicts. These crimes are closely tied to Somalia's economic potential and security concerns; the IUU fishing by foreign vessels continue to be a major issue, depriving local fishermen of resources and causing tensions between communities and authorities. Conflicts also arise between local fishermen over fishing zones, particularly as competition for resources increases. Out of the total cases, none were resolved by the AGO, while 36 cases 87.8% were resolved by the courts. This high percentage of court resolutions highlights the complexity of maritime disputes, which often require formal adjudication through the legal system. Most of these cases are related to illegal fishing by foreign vessels, a pressing issue for Somalia; given the frequent looting of its marine resources. As the exploitation of Somalia's marine wealth constitutes a criminal offense, courts are directly involved in handling these cases to ensure justice and accountability and this approach reinforces the country's commitment to protecting its marine environment and ensuring sustainable use of its natural wealth. Only 12.2% remain pending for further investigation. This relatively small backlog suggests that most maritime disputes are prioritized and processed quickly, likely due to their potential economic and security implications. However, the pending cases may involve more intricate issues that may require more investigations at the time.

◊ Traffic crimes account for 253 cases, reflecting issues arising from road-related incidents, which include accidents, violations of traffic regulations, disputes over liability or compensation, and conflicts involving transportation systems. As Somalia's urban centers continue to grow and the number of vehicles on the roads increases, these disputes have become a significant area of concern for public safety and urban governance. Of the total traffic disputes, 31.6% were resolved by the AGO, and 33.6% were resolved by the courts. This relatively equal distribution between administrative and judicial resolutions suggests that traffic disputes vary in severity. Minor violations, such as fines for traffic offenses or minor collisions, are often handled by the AGO. More severe cases such as disputes involving injury, loss of life, or significant property damage where legal expertise and formal adjudication required are escalated to the courts. However, 29.6% remain pending for further investigation. This backlog indicates challenges in resolving traffic disputes efficiently. Contributing factors include insufficient traffic enforcement systems, lack of proper eyewitnesses, and difficulties in detaining drivers, especially in hit-and-run cases. Traffic disputes are deeply connected to the broader challenges of urban development and infrastructure. In Somalia, inadequate road networks, lack of traffic lights and the lack of enforcement mechanisms exacerbate these conflicts. The absence of standardized insurance systems or reliable public transportation also contributes to disputes, as victims often struggle to receive compensation or justice.

Figure 1.4: Distiribution of cases reported to Somaliland State by resolution in 2023
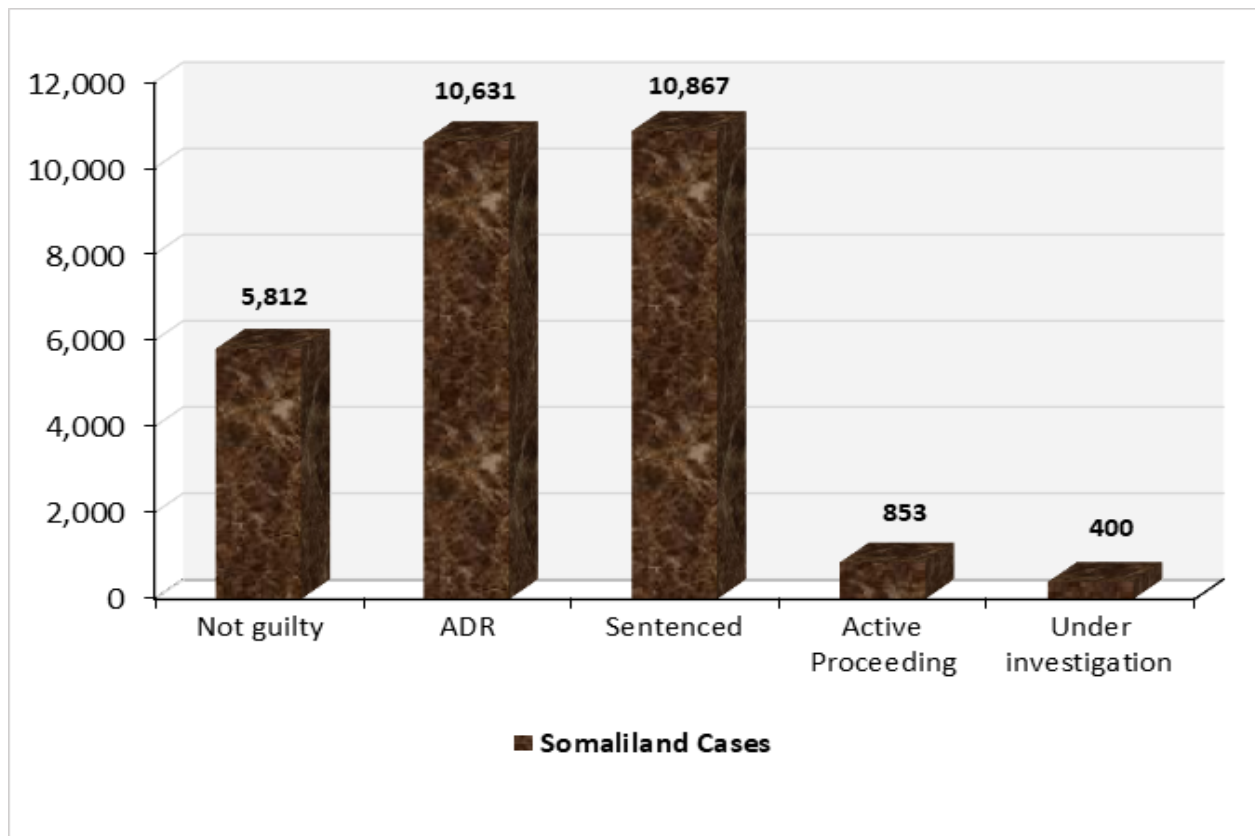
The criminal cases reported in Somaliland totaled 28,563, representing a significant volume of diverse crimes that highlight both societal challenges and the need for robust law enforcement and judicial mechanisms. Here's a detailed interpretation of the key categories mentioned:

i.   **Terrorism:** A total of 58 suspects were associated with terrorism related activities in Somaliland, representing a relatively small fraction of the total criminal cases as the State has worked to establish itself as a stable and self-governed region. However, terrorism continues to pose a significant threat to the State's efforts toward security, political and economic progress. This is not only a local issue but part of a broader global challenge, as extremism transcends borders and affects countries worldwide. For Somalia, the threat of terrorism remains particularly acute, as it directly undermines stability, governance, and economic development. Terrorist activities in Somalia often involve groups that are associated with Al-Qaeda and IS, which have carried out attacks targeting government institutions, civilians, and infrastructure. These acts aim to instill fear, disrupt peace, and challenge the authority of the state. The persistence of extremist ideologies is fueled by a combination of factors, including poverty, unemployment, weak governance, and the lack of access to education and economic opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

ii. **Road Traffic Crimes**: This category stands out as the most significant in terms of sheer volume, with 6,536 cases reported, making traffic-related crimes the largest contributor to the overall criminal cases in Somaliland. This staggering figure underscores the pressing challenges of traffic management and road safety in the region. The toll on human life is particularly devastating, with 198 lives lost and 4,890 individuals

sustaining injuries ranging from minor to severe. These numbers paint a grim picture of the human and economic cost of inadequate road safety measures. Furthermore, the economic cost of traffic-related crimes is substantial; medical expenses for the injured, loss of income due to fatalities, damage to vehicles, and the strain on healthcare systems place a significant burden on individuals and the state. Beyond financial costs, the emotional and psychological toll on victims and their families is immense, leaving a lasting impact on communities. The high frequency of traffic-related incidents reflects multiple underlying issues, such as:

◊ Poor road infrastructure in Somalia, characterized by unpaved roads, lack of proper signage, and inadequate pedestrian pathways, contributes significantly to accidents. Many roads are not equipped to handle the increasing number of vehicles, leading to congestion and unsafe driving conditions.

◊ Week enforcement of traffic regulations, with insufficient numbers of trained traffic officers and inconsistent application of penalties for violations. Reckless driving, speeding, lack of adherence to traffic laws, and the use of non-roadworthy vehicles further exacerbate the problem. A lack of systematic vehicle inspections means that many vehicles on the roads are unsafe, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

◊ Limited awareness of road safety, as many drivers and pedestrians lack proper education on safe road practices. For instance, a lack of understanding of basic traffic rules, such as right-of-way or the importance of seat belts, contributes to dangerous behaviors. Additionally, the absence of formal driving schools in many areas means that some drivers lack adequate training before operating vehicles.

iii. **Smuggling:** Crimes involving the smuggling of illegal substances such as alcohol and weed remain a persistent issue. These activities are likely fueled by demand and weak border control mechanisms. Smuggling not only violates laws but also threatens societal well-being, as it introduces illicit substances into communities. Somaliland is believed to be the leading region in Somalia where drugs and alcohol circulate, largely due to its proximity to the Ethiopian border, a key transit point for smuggling. Alcohol, which is prohibited under Somali law, is frequently transported across borders and distributed within the region, highlighting the challenges of controlling illicit trade in porous border areas. The circulation of these substances poses serious social, economic, and public health challenges, contributing to addiction, domestic violence, and criminal activities.

iv. **Homicide**: There were 66 cases of intentional killing reported in Somaliland, highlighting a serious issue of violent crime in the region. Out of these, 57 suspects were successfully apprehended by the police, leaving 9 still at large. This demonstrates a commendable success rate in bringing perpetrators to justice, reflecting positively on the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts and their ability to respond to such serious crimes. The high rate of apprehensions also underscores the commitment of law enforcement agencies to maintaining public safety and holding offenders accountable. While these cases are concerning, it is important to note that Somaliland remains one of the most peaceful and stable regions in Somalia, with significantly lower levels of violence and insecurity compared to other parts of the country. This relative stability allows for more efficient policing and better collaboration between authorities and communities. However, the fact that some suspects remain at large signals the ongoing challenges faced by authorities, such as resource limitations, difficulties in tracking fugitives, and gaps in intelligence.

v. **Rape Cases:** A total of 378 rape cases were reported in Somaliland, of which 324 suspects are currently in custody, while 59 remain at large. This demonstrates significant progress in apprehending perpetrators and bringing them to justice, reflecting positively on the efforts of law enforcement and judicial systems. However, these numbers also underscore the ongoing threat of sexual violence in the state and the urgent need for robust measures to protect vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. It is important to note that the actual number of rape cases in Somaliland could be significantly higher, as sexual violence is often underreported in Somalia due to societal stigma, cultural taboos, and fear of reprisal. Survivors may hesitate to come forward because of shame, victim-blaming, or concerns about family honor, which are deeply rooted in societal norms.

vi. **Domestic Crimes:** These encompass a wide range of offenses occurring within households or between individuals in close relationships. Domestic crimes often include physical or emotional abuse, disputes over property, or other family-related conflicts. The prevalence of such cases underscores underlying issues such as poverty, stress, and cultural or gender dynamics that influence household interactions, these cases may not pose significant legal challenges as the conflicts are resolved within a short period of time.

Table 1.3: Distribution of cases reported to the AGOs of the Federal Member States in 2023				
State	Total number of cases	Competed	Pending	Score
Somaliland	28,563	27,310	1,253	96%
Puntland	4,440	3,991	449	90%
Hirshabelle	63	42	21	67%
Southwest	967	765	202	79%
Jubaland	183	136	47	74%
Galmudug	410	345	65	84%

Figure 1.5: Distribution of Cases Reported to the AGOs of the Federal Member States in 2023
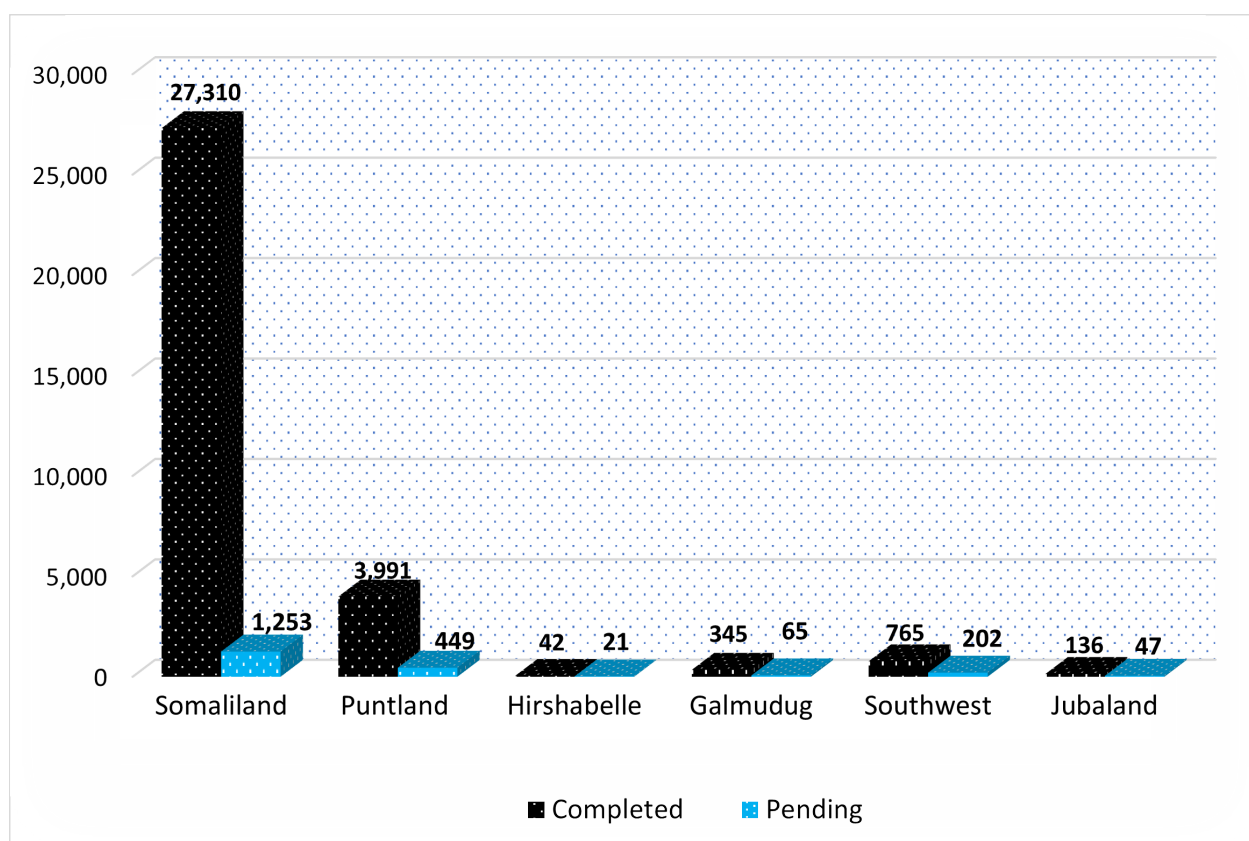
The data highlights that a number of 94% of people accessed FMS judicial systems across Somaliland and five federal Member States. Additionally, the data shows Somaliland's trends, the variation in the number of cases resolved may reflect not just differences in judicial efficiency but also underlying social and cultural factors, including levels of violence, armed conflict, and reliance on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

◊ Somaliland stands out with the highest number of reported cases across all regions; this highlights the efficiency and responsiveness of its law enforcement agencies in apprehending criminals and handling cases. The high volume of reported cases could also indicate a higher level of public trust in law enforcement and judicial systems to address grievances and uphold the rule of law. Furthermore, Somaliland boasts an impressive 97% resolution rate, underscoring its robust mechanisms for case management, investigation, and judicial processes. Such efficiency not only reflects the effectiveness of their institutions but also sets a strong example for other regions striving to enhance their legal and judicial frameworks.

◊ Puntland also demonstrated commendable performance in case resolution, achieving an impressive 90% resolution rate. This indicates the region's strong and effective law enforcement systems, supported by a judiciary that is both accessible and trusted by the public. The high resolution rate may also reflect Puntland's proactive approach to fostering collaboration between civil society organizations and authorities, creating a collective effort in combating crime and ensuring justice is served. This partnership likely enhances the efficiency of criminal investigations, the apprehension of offenders, and the overall judicial process. Additionally, it highlights the role of community engagement and active citizenship in maintaining law and order, contributing to a safer and more secure environment for residents.

◊ Hirshabelle has the fewest reported cases, which could indicate lower levels of violence or disputes brought to the judiciary. Alternatively, it suggests that many disputes are resolved outside the formal judicial system, through ADR mechanisms such as clan elders or religious leaders.

◊ Southwest stands out with the highest number of cases and a remarkable resolution rate, this suggests a strong judicial system capable of handling a significant caseloadefficiently. The high volume of cases may reflect a region where disputes are more frequently reported to the judiciary rather than being resolved informally.

◊ Jubaland has a moderate caseload and a 74% completion rate, Jubaland shows room for improvement. The relatively low number of cases could indicate that many disputes are settled outside the courts using ADR, or it may point to fewer instances of armed conflict and clan violence compared to the other regions.

◊ Galmudug resolved 84% of its cases, reflecting a strong performance but with some pending backlog. The moderate caseload suggests effective informal conflict resolution methods as clan elders and religious sheikhs play a significant role in promoting social closure and resolve disputes at the time.

The data reveals not only judicial efficiency but also the societal dynamics influencing the use of formal legal systems. States like Hirshabelle and Jubaland likely rely heavily on traditional mechanisms to maintain social harmony, while Southwest's high caseload and efficiency showcase a more institutionalized approach to justice. This comparison highlights the diversity in dispute resolution practices across Somalia's Federal Member States.

2.3. Demographics of Victims and Offenders involved in Legal Cases across Somalia

This section examines the age and sex distribution of both victims and offenders involved in legal cases across Somalia. This analysis provides critical insights into the populations most affected by or involved in crimes, revealing patterns and trends that inform targeted interventions. It highlights the prevalence of younger individuals in both categories, reflecting broader socio-economic challenges such as youth unemployment and limited educational opportunities. Additionally, the section explores the gender dynamics of justice, noting a higher prevalence of male offenders and the disproportionate vulnerability of women and children as victims. This demographic analysis serves as a crucial tool for shaping policies and programs aimed at crime prevention, victim support, and justice system reform.

Table1.4: Distribution of Victims Reported to the Federal AGO by Age and Sex in 2023		
Demographic Group	% Female Victims	% Male Victims
Under 18	4.39%	6.38%
18 - 35	16.96%	45.93%
35 - 65+	8.76%	17.59%

Figure 1.6: Distribution of Victims Reported to the Federal AGO by Age and Sex in 2023
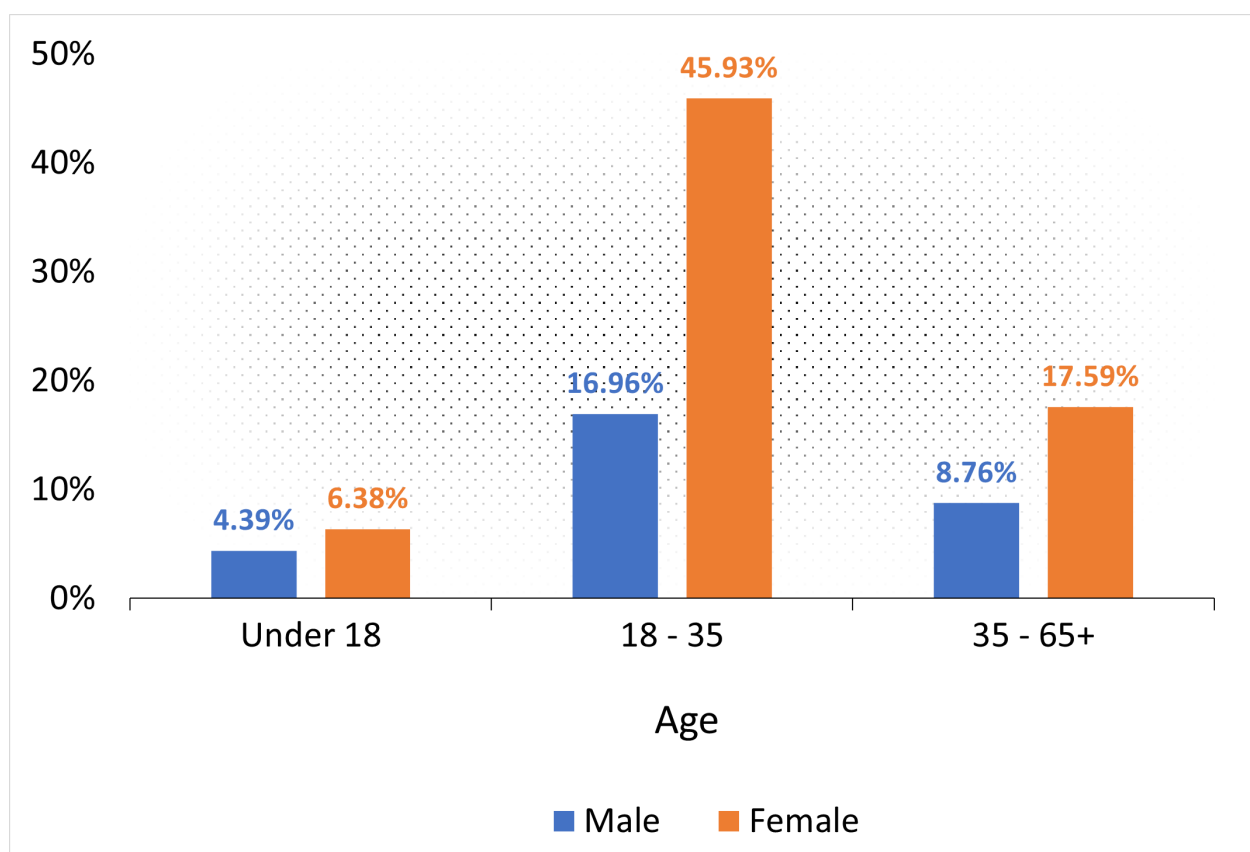
The data shows an overview of the percentage distribution of victims by age group and gender, revealing notable patterns and providing easy comparisons on the victims.

Among individuals under 18, the percentage of male victims is 6% and it is slightly higher than that of females 4%, suggesting that underage males may be more exposed to risks, possibly due to outdoor activities, gang motivated clashes, and so on. In the 18-35 age group, the disparity becomes more pronounced, with males accounting for 46% of victims compared to 17% for females. This makes adult males the most vulnerable demographic, likely due to their involvement in labor, conflicts, or other high-risk activities.

For the 35-65+ age group, the percentage of victims decreases for both genders, with males at 18% and females at 9%. This decline indicates reduced exposure to risk with age, although males still have a higher victimization rate, linked to their specific life circumstances. Across all age groups, males consistently represent a larger proportion of victims than females, highlighting their greater exposure to various vulnerabilities.

Nevertheless, the data also underscores the need to address the specific risks experienced by females, particularly in the 18-35 age range, where their victimization is notably higher than in other age groups.

Table1.5: Distribution of Offenders Reported to the Federal AGOs by Age and Sex in 2023		
Age Group	Sex	% Percentage
18-65+	Female	6.27%
18-65+	Male	83.28%
14-18	Children	10.46%

Figure 1.7: Distribution of Offenders Reported to the Federal AGO by Age and Sex in 2023
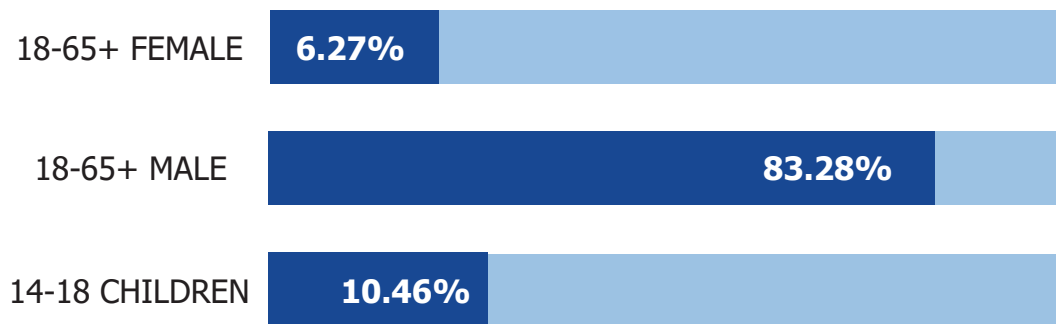
The data provides an insight into the demographics of offenders handled by the Public Prosecutor's Office in 2023, categorized by age group and gender.

The largest proportion of lawbreaking citizens falls into the 18-65+ male category, accounting for a significant 83% of the total. This suggests that adult males are overwhelmingly involved in criminal activities compared to other demographic groups. This high percentage could be attributed to various factors, including societal roles, economic hardships, or their involvement in environments with higher risks of conflict or illegal activities.

Females within the same 18-65+ age group constitute only 6% of the total offenders. This stark contrast with their male counterparts highlights the much lower engagement of adult females in criminal activities. Cultural norms, gender roles, or limited opportunities to commit certain types of crimes might contribute to this disparity.

The underage category accounts for 10% of the total offenders, which is relatively high considering their age. This figure indicates a limited but troubling involvement of minors in criminal activities. Such involvement could stem from factors like poverty, lack of education, gang involvement, or recruitment into criminal networks. The presence of children in crimes raises a red flag about societal conditions and the need for targeted interventions to prevent youth delinquency.

3.0 PUBLIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

3.1. SDG Indicator 16.7.1

Indicator 16.7.1: the proportional representation of women in national and local institutions highlights significant gender disparities in Somalia's political and governance structures. The total participation of women in both chambers of the parliament stands at 21%, a figure that, while reflecting some level of inclusion, still underscores a considerable underrepresentation of women in key decision-making roles. In comparison, the participation of women in the executive branch is notably lower, with women holding only 8% of Ministerial positions just two out of 25 Ministers. This imbalance is further reflected in the civil service, where women make up 26% of the workforce, still far from achieving gender parity in this crucial sector. These statistics paint a picture of a country where, despite some progress, significant gaps remain in women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions across both the public and private sectors.

3.2. Women Representation in Decision Making Seats

The section on Women Representation in Decision-Making Seats focuses on the participation of women in Somalia's legislative and executive branches. It highlights the persistent underrepresentation of women in these critical governance structures, reflecting broader societal and cultural barriers to gender equality. Despite national and international advocacy efforts, the proportion of women holding seats in parliaments and leadership roles within the executive branch remains significantly low. This section underscores the need for strengthened policies, inclusive practices, and affirmative actions to promote women's participation in decision-making, recognizing their vital role in shaping sustainable governance and development.

3.4. SDG Indicator 16.7.1c & 16.7.1d

Indicator 16.7.1c and 16.7.1d underline the proportional representation of women in both the lower and upper houses of the legislature. These indicators are crucial in assessing gender inclusivity in political decision-making and ensuring that women have a fair and equitable role in governance.

Table 2.1: Percentage of Women in Lower and Upper Houses in 2023				
Legislation	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Women (%)**
Upper-house	54	40	14	26%
Lower-house	275	221	54	20%

Figure 2.1: Percentage of Women in Lower and Upper Houses in 2023
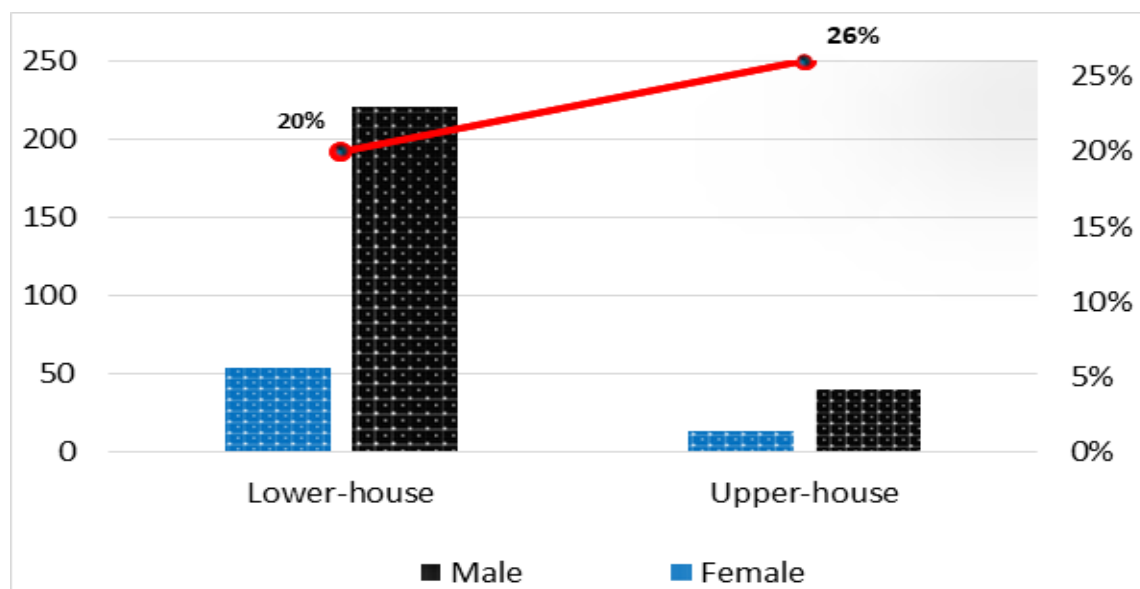
The data highlights the gender disparity in Somalia's political representation across the Upper and Lower Houses, underscoring the influence of cultural and societal norms in shaping decision-making roles.

In the Upper House, there are 54 members in total, of which 74% are male and only 26% are female. This indicates that men dominate the Upper House chamber, with women making up just over a quarter of its composition. Similarly, the Lower House has 275 members, of which 80% are male and 20% are female, further demonstrating an even lower representation of women in this chamber.

This disparity reflects the deeply ingrained cultural values that prioritize men as decision-makers and leaders in public and political life. In Somali society, traditional norms often assign men the primary role in governance and leadership, while women are typically relegated to supportive roles within households or communities. These cultural dynamics have historically limited women's access to decision-making platforms, including legislative institutions, despite their significant contributions to the socio-economic well-being of society.

The numbers reveal that even though there have been efforts to include women in politics, their participation remains minimal, as evidenced by their 26% representation in the Upper House and 20% in the Lower House. Such figures fall short of achieving gender parity, leaving legislative decision-making heavily skewed toward male perspectives.

This imbalance raises concerns about the inclusivity of governance in Somalia, as the underrepresentation of women limits the diversity of voices and perspectives in policymaking. It also highlights the need for deliberate strategies to address the challenging cultural norms that undermine women's potential of contributing to the on- going efforts of stabilizing the country.

Table 2.2: Percentage of Women in Executive Branch in 2023

Executive	Total	Male	Female	Women (%)
Ministers	25	23	2	8%

Figure 2.2: Percentage of Women the in the Executive Branch in 2023
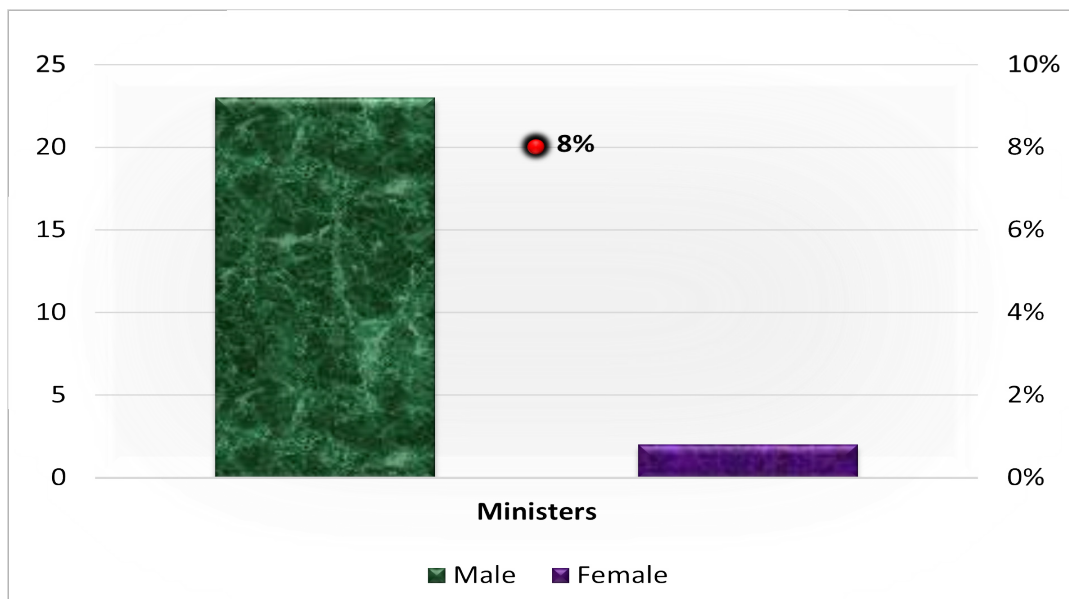
The data shows a breakdown of the gender composition of federal ministers in Somalia's executive branch, and highlights a significant gender disparity in the cabinet roles. Out of a total of 25 ministers, 23 are male, while only 2 are female. This imbalance underscores the overwhelming dominance of men in executive decision-making positions and the extremely limited participation of women in Somalia's federal government.

The low representation of women is often inspired by deep-rooted cultural and societal norms in Somalia that favor men for leadership and decision-making roles. Somali culture traditionally places men at the forefront of governance, often excluding women from public leadership positions. Women's roles are frequently confined to the private sphere, with societal perceptions and structural barriers limiting their ability to access high-ranking political or executive positions.

3.3. Civil Servant Representation

The section on Civil Servant Representation explores the composition and inclusivity of Somalia's public workforce, focusing on key demographics such as gender and regional representation. It sheds a light on the representation, particularly the underrepresentation of women in public service roles, and emphasizes the need for a more diverse and inclusive civil service to reflect the population it serves.

Table 2.3: Distribution of Civil Servents of the FGS and FMS by sex in 2023						
Gender	Puntland	Jubaland	Galmudug	South-west	Hirshabelle	Federal Government
Male	2,973	575	132	143	124	4,263
Female	1,157	124	43	23	28	1,488
Total	**4,130**	**699**	**175**	**166**	**152**	**5,751**

Figure 2.3: Distribution of Civil Servents of the FGS and FMS by sex in 2023
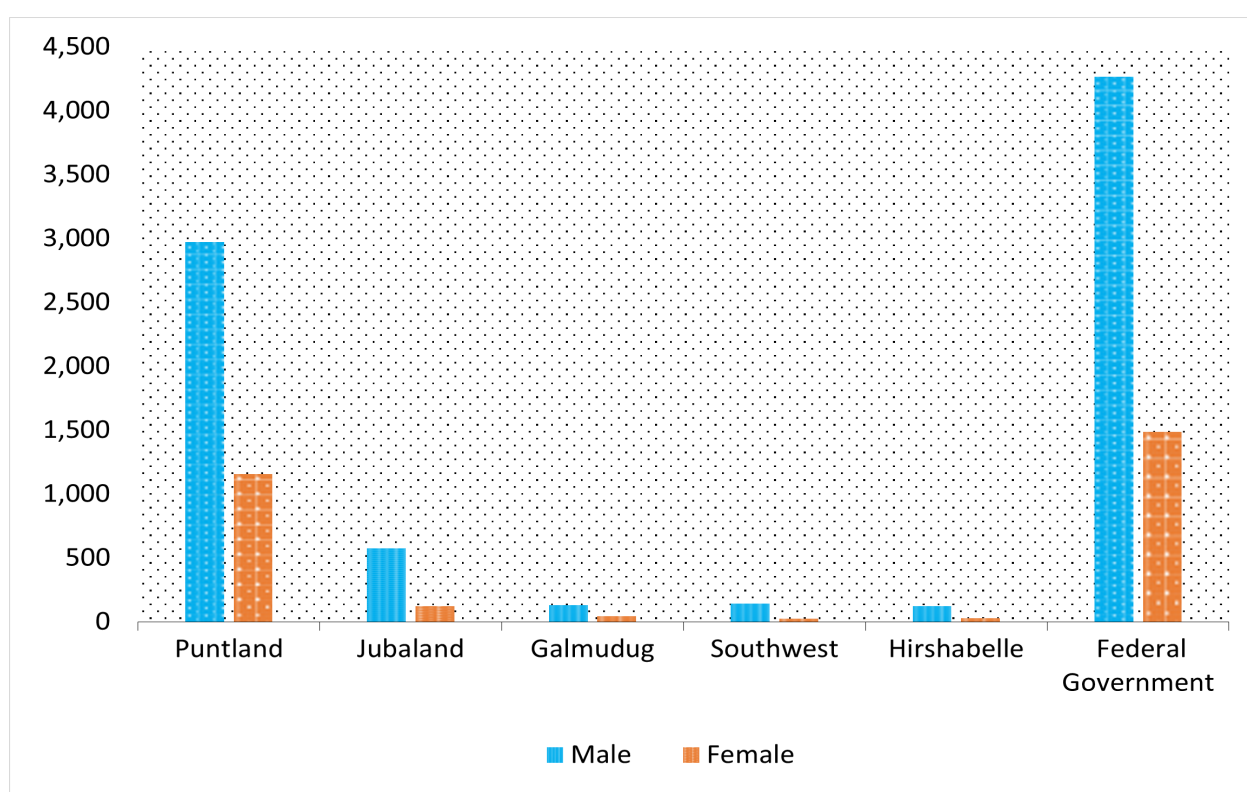
The figure provides a detailed breakdown of civil servants by gender across FGS and FMS, revealing a significant gender disparity in public sector employment. The current gender disparity in public employment presents a challenge to Somalia's broader efforts to build an equitable and inclusive society as the most recent data reveals a significant gender disparity among public employees in Somalia, with a total of 11,073 public employees. Men dominate the public workforce, accounting for a staggering 8,210 employees (74%), while women represent only 2,863 employees (26%). This disparity reflects the deeply entrenched cultural and societal norms that prioritize men in formal employment and decision-making roles, while women continue to face systemic barriers to equitable representation.

For instance, in Puntland, 72% are male and 28% are female. This shows that men dominate the civil service in this region, though its relatively higher proportion of women in civil service compared to other Federal Member States reflects a level of progress and maturity that aligns with its status as Puntland was the first Federal State established in Somalia. This achievement also highlights State's stronger governance framework and its efforts to promote women's inclusion in public service roles, setting a positive example for the other Member States. However, while the State has made notable strides, it is clear that it has not yet reached the ideal level of gender equity in civil service. With women constituting only 28% of civil servants in the State, there is still a significant gap to bridge in efforts to create a truly equitable public service system.

In Jubaland, shows 82% of male civil servants are and only 18% of female, the disparity highlights the second lowest number of female civil servants as the structural and cultural barriers of the State limit opportunities for women in the public sector. This stark imbalance reflects entrenched societal norms that favor men for formal employment and decision-making roles, leaving women marginalized in public service.

In Galmudug, the gender gap is slightly narrower with 75% male and 25% female, this shows a narrower gender gap compared to Jubaland. However, the data still underscores the persistent dominance of men in public service, suggesting that while Galmudug may be making incremental progress, much more need to be done to foster equitable representation of women.

The situation is more concerning in Southwest, where 86% of civil servants are male, leaving only 14% for female. This State has the lowest rates of female participation in civil service across Somalia, reflecting deep-seated challenges for women in accessing employment and leadership opportunities. Such an imbalance suggests the urgent need for targeted initiatives to empower women and address systemic issues that exclude them from public service in Southwest.

In Hirshabelle, the data mirrors that of Jubaland, with 82% of civil servants being male and only 18% female. This pattern of male dominance is consistent across many Federal Member States and points to a broader societal issue rooted in Somali culture that assigns men the primary roles in governance and public administration.

The persistent underrepresentation of women in the civil service across these regions calls for immediate action to address the systemic challenges experienced by women and by addressing these disparities, these FMS can pave the way for more inclusive governance and ensure that the perspectives and contributions of women are fully integrated into public administration and decision-making processes.

Table 2.4: Distribution of Permeant Civil Servants intake by the FGS from 2007 to 2023

Year	Male	Female	Total
2023	117	46	163
2022	136	62	198
2021	177	70	247
2020	128	26	154
2019	153	88	241
2018	180	75	255
2017	217	70	287
2016	545	154	699
2015	333	124	457
2014	682	206	888
2013	946	401	1,347
2012	191	54	245
2010	101	16	117
2009	115	30	145
2008	7	2	9
2007	78	4	82
Total	**4,263**	**1,488**	**5,751**

Table 2.5: Distribution of Permeant Civil Servants by Grade and Sex in 2023

Grade	Male	Female	Total
A	2,379	503	2,882
B	957	320	1,277
C	232	126	358
D	87	388	475
F	69	2	71
X	539	149	688
Total	**4,263**	**1,488**	**5,751**

Table 2.6: Distribution of Promoted Permeant Civil Servants by Sex in 2023

Promoted	Male	Female	Total
Director General/Commissioner	5	0	5
Director	31	9	40
Advisor	9	1	10
Head of Section	84	24	108
Official	3	1	4
Secretary	2	0	2
Assistant	2	0	2
Total	**136**	**35**	**171**

4.0 SAFETY AND SECURITY

4.1 SDG Indicator 16.1.1

Indicator 16.1.1 measures the homicide rate, which is typically expressed as the number of homicides per 100,000 population. In this case, the homicide rate in Somalia is reported as 2.5. The total number of homicide cases across all federal member states of Somalia is 465. This is the actual count of homicide incidents reported across the country.

A homicide rate of 2.5 still reflects serious concerns around crime and safety in Somalia. The 465 homicide cases over the course of a year, despite low, still represent significant loss of life, especially considering the challenges Somalia faces due to political instability, conflict, and limited law enforcement capacity in some regions.

Crime rate in Somalia is 203 incidents per 100,000 people, which appears relatively small when compared to neighboring countries. Despite Somalia's ongoing security challenges, the low crime rate can be attributed to several contributing factors. One key factor is Somalia's relatively small population when compared to neighboring countries, which means that while the total number of crimes might seem significant, the crime rate per capita remains lower. In addition to population size, traditional and religious values play a significant role in shaping the behavior of Somali society. Somali culture is deeply rooted in a system of customary laws (known as Xeer) that prioritize communal peace and respect for elders, and Islam, which heavily influences the moral framework of the population, discourages acts of violence and theft. This blend of traditional and religious values fosters a societal norm that is less inclined toward crime.

However, it is important to note that while the crime rate per 100,000 people may be relatively low, this does not necessarily reflect the full complexity of Somalia's security situation. The country continues to face challenges from armed conflicts, terrorism, and instability, which may lead to different forms of violence and insecurity that are not always captured in the crime statistics.ss

4.2 Homocide Crimes

The section on Crime Statistics provides an overview of reported crimes across Somalia, with a particular focus on homicide and other grievous offenses. It highlights regional variations in crime rates, reflecting differences in law enforcement capacity, socio-economic conditions, and community dynamics. It gives a snapshot on homicide rates and other serious crimes such as armed robbery, assaults, and gender-based violence that pose significant challenges. The analysis also underscores the efforts of federal and state-level authorities to combat these crimes through improved policing and justice sector reforms, while identifying areas that require further attention to enhance public safety and security.

Table 3.1: Distribution of Homicide Crimes in Federal Member States in 2023

Homicide	Total cases
Federal	109
Puntland	117
Galmudug	56
Southwest	47
Hirshabele	11
Jubaland	5
Somaliland	66

Figure 3.1: Distribution of Homicide Crimes in Federal Member States in 2023
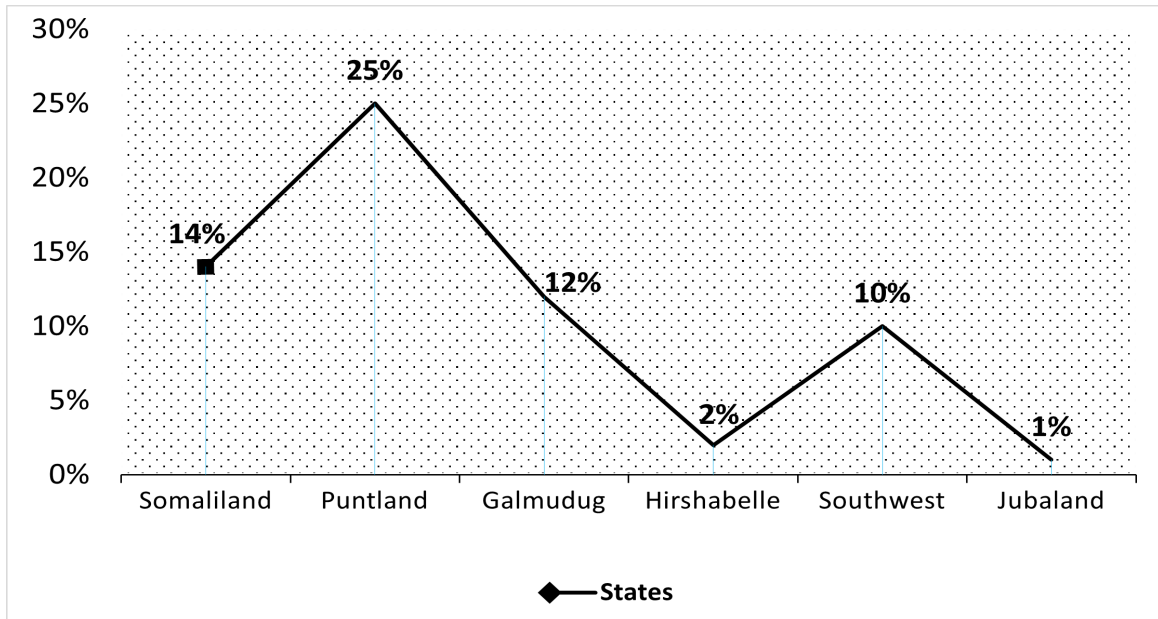
This distribution of homicide crimes across the Federal Member States of Somalia and Somaliland highlights varying levels of reported violence, which could be influenced by several factors, including population size, governance, security measures, socio- economic conditions, and cultural or traditional factors within each region.

◊ Puntland accounts 25% and it is the highest percentage of homicide crimes among all the Federal Membe States of Somalia. This is influenced by its relatively larger population centers, such as Garowe and Bosaso, which increase the likelihood of conflicts due to urban density and diverse demographics. Bosaso, as a major port city, facilitates cross-border trade and movement, but this also introduces criminal elements, such as smugglers and traffickers, who may resort to violence. Additionally, weak border control allows illicit trade and the trafficking of weapons, contributing to insecurity. The region's proximity to Yemen further exacerbates the problem, as it enables the flow of weapons and other lethal supplies. Puntland faces security challenges, including periodic attacks by extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab and the IS, particularly in the Galgala Mountains. These groups carry out assassinations, bombings, and other forms of violence. Clan-based conflicts over resources, land, or political influence also play a significant role in the high homicide rate, with disputes often escalating to revenge killings. Furthermore, rural areas in Puntland lack adequate law enforcement, making it difficult to prevent or address violent crimes effectively. Politically, Puntland's internal rivalries over control of resources power lead to violent disputes. The region's extensive coastline also poses a challenge, as it is vulnerable to piracy, illegal fishing, and maritime conflicts, which can sometimes result in violence. Socio-economic factors, such as high unemployment rates among youth and widespread poverty, exacerbate the issue, driving some individuals into criminal activities, including violent crimes. These interconnected factors collectively contribute to Puntland's high homicide rate.

◊ Somaliland, with 14% of the reported homicide crimes, holds the second-highest share among the regions. Despite being relatively more stable than other parts of Somalia, this stability does not completely insulate it from violent crimes. Urbanization in key cities like Hargeisa and Berbera plays a significant role, as these urban centers attract

large populations due to better economic opportunities and services. Higher population densities in these cities often result in increased social tensions, disputes, and competition over limited resources, which can escalate into crimes, including homicides. Clan-related disputes also contribute significantly to the homicide rate in Somaliland. Clans remain a central part of the social and political fabric in the region, and disagreements over land, resources, or political influence can spiral into violent confrontations. These conflicts are sometimes exacerbated by deep-rooted historical grievances or the absence of effective conflict-resolution mechanisms. In rural areas, limited law enforcement resources further compound the problem. The scarcity of police presence and judicial systems in remote regions allows disputes and violent incidents to go unaddressed or unresolved. This lack of formal mechanisms to maintain order and deliver justice enables crimes, including homicides, to persist without adequate deterrence. Together, these factors underscore why Somaliland accounts for a significant portion of homicide crimes despite its relative stability compared to other Somali regions.

◊ Galmudug, with a homicide rate of 12%, faces several interconnected challenges that contribute to this figure. Inter-clan conflicts are a major driver of violence in the region, as disputes over resources, land, or political influence are common and often escalate into deadly confrontations. These conflicts are deeply rooted in the social structure of Galmudug, where clans play a dominant role in governance and resource allocation. The lack of effective conflict resolution mechanisms exacerbates these tensions, leading to recurring cycles of violence. Another significant factor is the presence of armed groups and militias, particularly in areas with weaker governance. Galmudug's central location makes it vulnerable to activities by insurgent groups such as Al-Shabaab, as well as local militias that operate with little oversight. These groups not only contribute directly to violence but also create an environment of insecurity, which undermines law enforcement and allows criminal activities, including homicides, to thrive. Economic struggles further fuel the homicide rate, particularly in urban centers like Dhusamareb. High unemployment rates, poverty, and limited opportunities for economic advancement create desperation among the population, especially among the youth. This economic hardship drives some individuals into criminal activities as a means of survival, increasing the likelihood of violent incidents. The combination of inter-clan conflicts, weak governance, and economic struggles makes Galmudug particularly vulnerable to high levels of homicide crime.

◊ Southwest State, with a homicide rate of 10%, experiences a moderately high level of violent crimes driven by a combination of political instability, socio-economic challenges, and clan-based conflicts. The presence of insurgent groups like Al- Shabaab significantly contributes to the insecurity in the region. These groups engage in targeted assassinations, bombings, and other violent acts, which not only increase the homicide rate but also destabilize the region and make it difficult for law enforcement to operate effectively. The region's socio-economic hardships further exacerbate the situation. Widespread poverty and food insecurity create heightened tensions within communities, as individuals and families struggle to secure basic needs. These hardships can lead to crimes of desperation, disputes over limited resources, and, in some cases, violent altercations that escalate into homicides. Clan-based disagreements, particularly in rural areas, are another major driver of violence in Southwest State. Clans play a central role in the social and political structure of the region, and disputes over land, water, and political representation frequently arise. In the absence of effective conflict resolution mechanisms, these disagreements often turn violent, further contributing

to the homicide rate. Together, these factors paint a picture of a region grappling with complex and interrelated challenges that fuel its relatively high rate of violent crime. Hirshabelle, with only 2% of the reported homicide crimes, records a significantly lower proportion compared to other regions. One key reason for this is the region's lower population density, which naturally reduces the frequency of interactions that could lead to conflicts. In areas with fewer people, disputes over resources or personal altercations are less common, leading to fewer opportunities for violence to escalate into homicides. Another factor is the concerted effort by both local and international actors to stabilize the region. Hirshabelle has benefited from targeted peacebuilding initiatives and security interventions, which have helped reduce violence and improve local governance. These efforts often include capacity-building for law enforcement and programs aimed at fostering community cohesion, which can help prevent conflicts from turning violent. Additionally, there is a heavy reliance on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation by elders and religious leaders. These traditional approaches to conflict resolution play a crucial role in maintaining peace at the community level. Rather than escalating disputes through formal legal systems or unchecked violence, many issues are resolved amicably through negotiation and consensus. This cultural practice significantly reduces the occurrence of homicides in the region, contributing to Hirshabelle's relatively low crime rate.

◊ Jubaland has the lowest homicide rate at 1%, which can be attributed to several factors. One possible reason is the improved security measures in key urban centers like Kismayo, where government forces and regional authorities have made significant strides in stabilizing the area. These improvements in security, including the presence of Somali National Army troops and African Union Transition Mission in Somalia forces, have contributed to a reduction in violent crimes, including homicides. However, the low homicide rate may also reflect the possibility of underreporting. In certain areas, particularly in remote or conflict-affected regions, crimes may not be fully documented due to limited access to formal judicial or law enforcement systems. The absence of proper reporting infrastructure, especially in rural areas, may lead to a significant portion of crimes, including homicides, going unrecorded. Another contributing factor is the control of certain areas by Al-Shabaab, which has made it difficult to accurately track or report homicides. Al-Shabaab controls parts of Jubaland, particularly in rural regions, where its presence severely limits the ability of authorities or international organizations to gather reliable crime data. In these areas, the political and security climate makes it nearly impossible for homicide reporting to be consistent or accurate. Cultural factors play a significant role in reducing the homicide rate in Jubaland. The region has a strong cultural reliance on traditional or religious methods of conflict resolution, such as mediation by elders or religious leaders. These mechanisms are deeply ingrained in the social fabric of the region and often prevent disputes from escalating into violent crimes. Rather than allowing conflicts to result in homicide, local leaders intervene early to resolve issues amicably, thus helping to maintain peace and prevent violent outcomes. The homicide cases in Somalia's FMS has shown some positive changes over the past year with 12% decrease. This suggests a progress in the number of homicides compared to previous years, reflecting a potential trend toward reducing violent crime across the country. The reduction in homicides in these Member States is a significant achievement, indicating progress in improving security and reducing violence. However, continued attention and effort are needed to build on this progress, address challenges in areas that still experience high levels of violence, and work towards achieving long-term peace and stability across the entire country.

4.3. Crime Data

Table 3.2: Distribution of Human Trafficking Crimes by Federal Member States in 2023

Human Trafficking Crimes	Total cases
Federal	79
Puntland	7
Southwest	7
Jubaland	-
Galmudug	-
Hirshabele	-

Table 3.3:   Distribution of Financial Crimes by Federal Member States in 2023

Financial Crimes	Total cases
Federal	212
Puntland	83
Jubaland	3
Southwest	-
Galmudug	-
Hirshabele	-

Figure 3.2: Distribution of Reported Crimes by Federal Member States in 2023
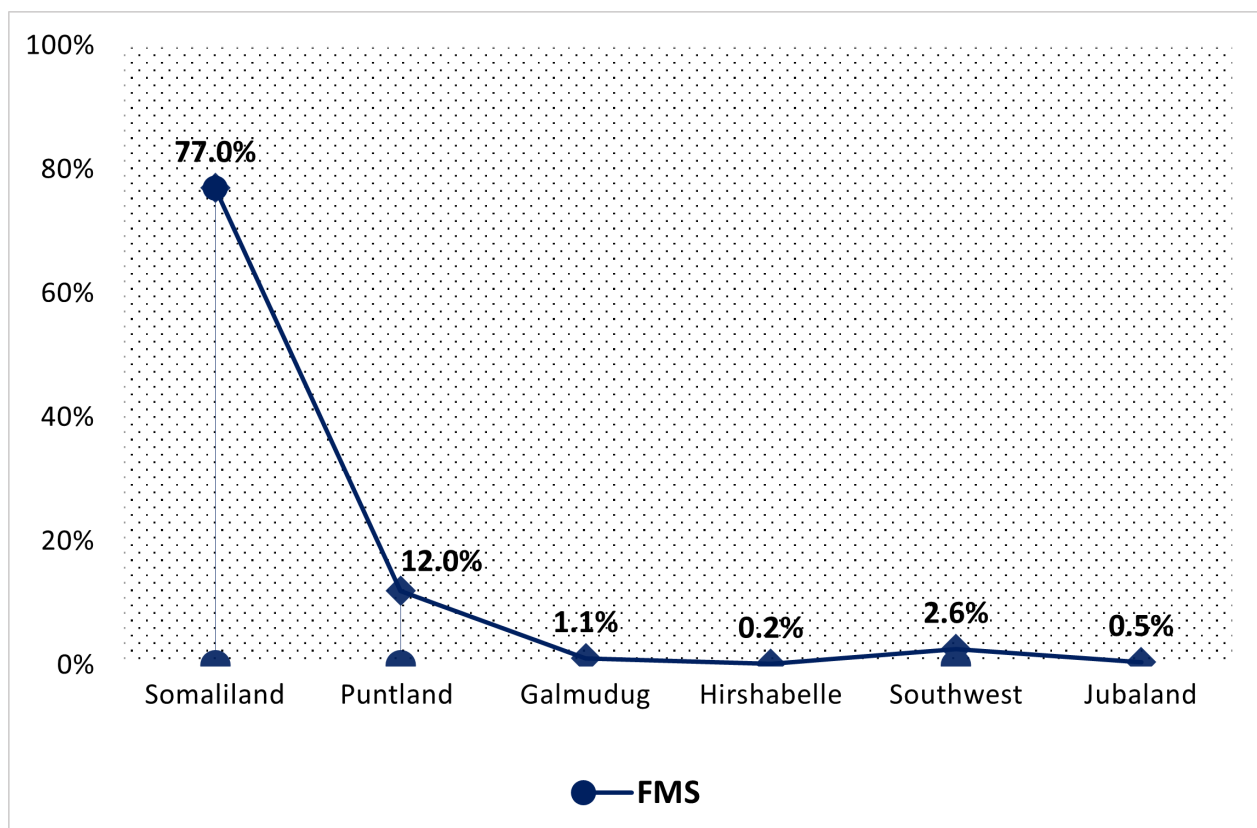
As the data shows, Somaliland accounts for 77% of the reported crimes, which is a significant proportion compared to the other regions; the likes of homicide, smuggling, terrorism, traffic crimes, and so on. This is not necessarily due to instability or widespread violent crime but rather the effectiveness of law enforcement in the region. The presence of well-established and responsive law enforcement agencies is a significant factor in this high number of reported homicides. In Somaliland, the police are effective at apprehending criminals, which likely results in a higher number of documented cases, as compared to other regions where crimes may go unreported or unresolved. Additionally, the strong public trust in law enforcement and the cooperative relationship between the authorities and civil society also contribute to the efficient tracking and prosecution of criminal activities. Contrary to this, urbanization in key cities like Hargeisa and Berbera, the persistence of clan-related revenges, and the limited law enforcement resources in rural areas all contribute to the higher homicide rates in Somaliland. These factors create an environment where conflicts are more likely to escalate into violent crimes.

Puntland with 12% has relatively higher crime rate compared to other FMS, these include; homicides, smuggling, traffic crimes, property disputes, domestic disputes, financial crimes, piracy and so on. This high rate is largely influenced by the region's law enforcement structure as the State has better law enforcement capabilities, which helps to apprehend criminals effectively, resulting in higher crime reporting compared to other FMS. The public trust in the police and the strong cooperation between law enforcement agencies and society also ensure that crimes, including homicides, are more frequently documented

However, in addition to the strong law enforcement system, factors such as the region's population size, high unemployment, and poverty also contribute to the elevated crime rate. The pressure of economic hardships can lead to criminal behavior, including violent crimes, as individuals seek ways to survive or settle disputes. Additionally, clan-based revenge is a significant factor in Puntland's homicide rate. Clan rivalries and disputes over resources or political control can often escalate into violence, further raising the homicide figures in the region. These factors combined make Puntland's crime rate higher compared to other Federal Member States.

Hihabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland collectively exhibit a relatively low total crime rate of 3.3%, which can be attributed to a combination of social, cultural, and security factors within these Federal Member States. A key contributing factor is the smaller population size across these regions; particularly Hirshabelle and Jubland. The potential for criminal activity is naturally reduced in low populated areas as communities tend to be more tightly knit, where social bonds and mutual oversight discourage anti-social behavior. A smaller population also means fewer opportunities for large-scale criminal enterprises to take root, as the dynamics in smaller communities often involve greater interpersonal awareness.

However, in some areas of these states, regions controlled by Al-Shabaab present another layer of complexity in crime reporting. In areas under Al-Shabaab's influence, criminal activities may go unreported due to the militant group's tight grip on local governance and their general hostility toward state-run justice systems. This means that, while crimes may indeed occur, they are often not documented or addressed through formal channels, leading to a lack of visibility in crime statistics.

Another significant factor contributing to the relatively low crime rate in these regions is the strong cultural reliance on traditional conflict resolution methods. In Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland, religious sheikhs and elders play a central role in managing and resolving disputes without necessarily involving the formal judicial systems. These

traditional leaders, revered for their wisdom and moral authority, are often called upon to mediate in both personal and community conflicts. Their involvement typically results in informal, yet effective, resolutions that avoid escalation into criminal behavior. The preference for this culturally ingrained system means that many issues, from familial disputes to clan-related tensions, are dealt with at the community level, fostering peace without the need for formal police intervention or court cases.

The role of these elders and religious figures is critical in maintaining social order and preventing the breakdown of peace. Their ability to provide guidance based on both religious teachings and traditional customs serves to deter violent confrontations and the commission of criminal acts. This practice of mediation is deeply embedded in the societal fabric of these regions and has shown to be effective in reducing tensions and preventing situations from spiraling into more serious crimes.

 The total number of crimes reported in Somalia's FMS in 2023 has seen a decrease when compared to the previous year 2022, marking a positive trend in the overall crime situation. The decrease, although slight, amounts to a 0.93% reduction in crime rates. This reduction, while low, indicates that efforts to address crime in the region may be yielding some positive results. However, given the challenges that remain, especially in terms of insecurity and the underlying causes of criminal activity, it is clear that more targeted interventions are still necessary. Continued investment in law enforcement, community programs, and policy reforms aimed at crime prevention will be essential to build on this progress.

4.4. Stabilization Data

Stabilizing newly liberated areas is a critical step in ensuring sustainable peace, security, and development. The Stabilization Program is designed to support areas recovering from conflict by restoring governance, rebuilding infrastructure, and providing essential services. A key component of this initiative is the use of the Fragility Index and the Maturity Model, which assess and rate a large number of areas across the Federal Member States. These tools provide a structured approach to measuring stability, governance capacity, and resilience, enabling more targeted and effective interventions.

The Fragility Index evaluates various factors such as security conditions, institutional strength, economic stability, and social cohesion, offering a data-driven assessment of vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, the Maturity Model categorizes areas based on their level of stabilization and progress, guiding decision-makers in prioritizing resources and support. Together, these frameworks help identify gaps, track improvements, and ensure that stabilization efforts align with the specific needs of each region.

This section of the report provides a detailed analysis of how the Fragility Index and Maturity Model are applied across the Federal Member States, highlighting key zones that achieved stability, those that are on truck and those that are vulnerable or fragile and need more targeted interventions at the time.

Figure 3.3: Distribution of FIMM District Ratings Across FMS in 2023
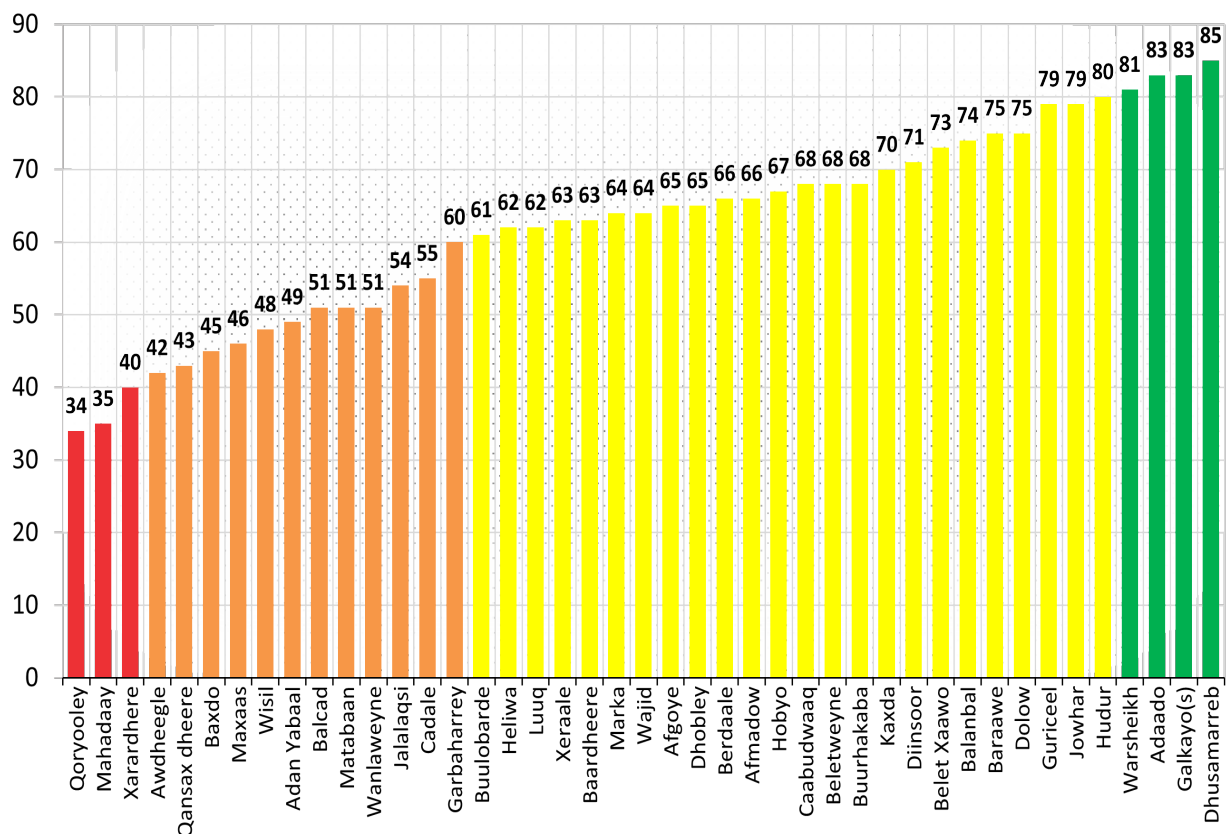
The data presented in the graph7 offers a detailed breakdown of various regions in terms of their stability, governance, security, and development. Each location is assigned a score based on these criteria, with different color codes indicating the level of stability.

◊ The green areas, which include Dhusamareb, Adado, South Galkayo, and Warsheikh, are considered stable, as they have achieved scores above 80 out of 100. These cities are recognized as secure and well-governed, enjoying a high level of social, economic, and security stability. Notably, three of these cities Dhusamareb, Adado, and South Galkayo are located in Galmudug. This suggests that Galmudug as a region is experiencing significant progress in governance and security. The fact that these cities are stable highlights the success of local administrations in managing security, promoting governance structures, and improving overall living conditions. The high scores reflect strong local leadership, effective law enforcement, and the presence of development initiatives.

◊ The yellow marked locations, such as Guriel, Jowhar, Beledweyne, Balanbal, and Luuq, have scores above 60 and are categorized as Maturing Cities. These areas are not fully stable but are on a positive trajectory towards achieving full stability. Their progress in terms of security, governance, and socio-economic development is evident, but they still face challenges that prevent them from being as stable as the green areas. The score of 60 indicates that these cities are gradually overcoming issues such as insecurity, infrastructure deficits, or weak governance structures. They are on track to reach full stability with continued efforts, but further investment in peacebuilding, governance, and development is needed.

◊ The orange areas, such as Baxdo, Maxas, Balcad, Mataban, and Wisil, score above 40, signifying that they are Vulnerable to security shifts. These regions face significant challenges that could destabilize them. With scores in this range, these locations are susceptible to security threats from groups like Al-Shabaab or other insurgent factions, which may undermine their progress. The presence of militant groups in or around these areas creates an environment of uncertainty, hindering social, economic, and security advancements. As a result, these regions are at risk of setbacks in their development trajectory, as violent conflicts and instability deter potential investments and disrupt local governance.

◊ The red marked areas, including Harardhere, Qoryoley, and Mahaday, have scores above 20, indicating that they are in a fragile state and far from full stability. These areas are categorized as Fragile, meaning they are highly vulnerable to violence, unrest, and governance challenges. For example, Harardhere, which was recently liberated from Al-Shabaab, is still recovering from the damage inflicted by the militant group. The social, economic, health, and security sectors in these areas have been severely impacted, and it will take considerable time and effort to rebuild them. The challenges in these locations are not just immediate but structural, requiring long-term investment in rebuilding infrastructure, restoring governance, and re- establishing security. These regions face an uphill battle to achieve stability, and the recovery process may take years, depending on local, national, and international support.

5.0 CYBER CRIME

5.1 Cybercrimes

A. Key Informant Interviews on Cybercrimes

This is a snapshot from a qualitative in-depth interviews with individuals possessing comprehensive knowledge of cybersecurity and its far-reaching impact on our communities in this modern era. Given the absence of administrative data on cybercrimes for quantitative analysis, the primary goal of this Informant Interviews is to gather valuable insights on cybercrimes in Somalia by identifying the types, magnitude, and effective mitigation strategies to address the growing threat of cybercrimes in the country.

The participants for this study were carefully selected from the National Communication Authority which is a key institution that has the mandate of preventing, mitigating, and addressing cybercrimes. Additionally, the study incorporated perspectives from independent experts outside the public sector who possess deep expertise and firsthand understanding of Somalia's cybersecurity landscape. The interview questions focused on the following critical areas:

◊   An exploration of the current cybersecurity landscape in Somalia, including the most prevalent types of cybercrimes affecting the citizens.

◊   An evaluation of the measures being implemented by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to raise public awareness about cybercrimes and MoCT's collaborations with international partners to address this growing issue.

◊   Identification of specific applications or online platforms that are frequently exploited by cybercriminals to scam individuals or organizations in Somalia.

◊   An evaluation of the steps being taken to enhance Somalia's legal framework for combating cybercrimes, including the introduction of new laws, regulations, or amendments.

Through these focused inquiries, the report aims to provide a comprehensive qualitative analysis of cybercrimes in Somalia. The findings will offer a detailed understanding of the issue and by combining insights from public sector authorities and independent experts, this report seeks to bridge knowledge gaps and contribute to the formulation of actionable solutions to address cybercrime effectively in Somalia.

B. Interview Transcription

Interviewee 1:Anonymous (Social Media Influencer and Software Developer)

The discussion sheds light on the alarming rise of cyber-attacks in Somalia, with a particular focus on scams targeting individuals through popular social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and TikTok. According to the interviewee, these cyber-attacks are primarily driven by phishing scams a deceptive technique where hackers trick individuals into providing their personal information by using fake links, emails, or fraudulent applications.

I. Key Cyber Attack

a. Fake Links: One of the most common methods used by hackers is distributing fake links. These links are often disguised to appear legitimate, leading unsuspecting users to believe they originate from trusted sources. For instance, messages claiming monetary prizes or account updates are sent to individuals. Examples of these messages include:

◊ "Congratulations! You have won $1000. Please click this link to claim your prize."

◊ "Your account needs to be updated. Click here to secure your account now." Once a user clicks on the link, they are redirected to a fraudulent webpage mimicking an official site. The webpage may prompt users to enter sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords, or financial details. This information is then exploited by the hacker to gain access to personal accounts, often leading to identity theft or unauthorized financial transactions.

b. Fake Applications: Another prevalent strategy is the use of fake applications designed to steal personal information and financial resources. These applications are disguised as legitimate tools or services, often preying on the trust of the public. The interviewee highlighted a notorious case involving an app called KUEX, which scammed users out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

◊ "KUEX appeared to be an official financial application, promising services that seemed too good to be true. Unfortunately, many people fell victim to it, entering their financial information and losing significant amounts of money" The interviewee emphasized the need for greater public awareness to recognize and avoid such fraudulent applications, as well as the importance of verifying app authenticity before downloading.

c. Email Messages: Fake email messages are another method commonly employed by cybercriminals. These emails are designed to deceive recipients into providing personal information or clicking on malicious links. The interviewee noted that the emails often appear professional and convincing, making it difficult for individuals to discern their fraudulent nature. Once a user complies with the request, their information is captured, leading to unauthorized access to their accounts or financial loss. Examples of such emails include:

◊ "Your account has been compromised. Click this link to reset your password immediately."

◊ "Important: Verify your identity to continue using our services."

II. Interventions needed

The interviewee expressed deep concern over the impact of these cyber-attacks on Somali society, noting that the lack of awareness and technical literacy among the population makes them particularly vulnerable. Social media platforms, while offering tremendous opportunities for communication and connection, have also become a playground for cybercriminals targeting unsuspecting users.

To combat these threats, the interviewee recommended the following measures:

◊ The government, along with private sector stakeholders, should launch educational campaigns to inform the public about common cyber-attack methods and how to avoid them.

◊ Authorities should implement stricter regulations to monitor and combat online fraud, including establishing legal frameworks to prosecute cybercriminals.

◊ Providing technical training to individuals, particularly young people, to enhance their ability to identify and respond to cyber threats.

◊ -Engaging with social media companies to improve security measures and ensure quick responses to fraudulent activities reported by users.

The interviewee concluded by stressing that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. While individuals must remain vigilant, it is equally important for authorities and organizations to take proactive steps to protect citizens from falling victim to these malicious attacks.

Interviewee 2: Anonymous (IT expert, Cybersecurity lecturer)

The interview provided an insightful overview of the growing threat of cybercrimes in Somalia, exacerbated by weak institutional frameworks and the rapid expansion of technology. The interviewee highlighted several alarming trends in cybercrime, particularly those exploiting social media platforms and online scams.

I. Prevalent Cybercrimes in Somalia

a. Crimes on Social Media Platforms: Cybercriminals frequently target individuals through popular social media platforms. These attacks often involve hijacking personal accounts by obtaining login credentials. Once in control of an account, scammers demand a ransom from the victim for its return. "In more severe cases, hackers exploit private photos or videos stored on these accounts, using them as blackmail. Victims are threatened with the public release of sensitive material unless they pay the demanded sum. This type of exploitation causes both emotional and psychological distress, leaving victims feeling helpless and vulnerable"

b. Crypto currency Scams: A rising number of scams occur on platforms like Telegram, where scammers create enticing advertisements to lure victims. These ads promise unrealistic returns on investment, such as: "Invest $100 today and receive $300 within 24 hours!" Many individuals, trusting the legitimacy of these advertisements, transfer money to the scammers. After receiving the funds, the scammers immediately block the victims, rendering them unable to communicate their grievances or recover their money. The interviewee noted personal acquaintances who fell victim to such scams, highlighting how widespread the issue has become. According to the interviewee, financial scams are among the most damaging types of cybercrime. Victims not only lose their hard-earned money but also suffer significant psychological consequences, including feelings of shame, anxiety, and loss of trust in others. The emotional toll of such experiences can be long-lasting and challenging to overcome.

II. **Contributing factors**

The interviewee outlined several reasons why cybercriminals find it easy to target Somalis:

◊ Many individuals lack basic digital literacy, making them vulnerable to phishing scams and fraudulent schemes.

◊ Scammers often exploit the general public's limited knowledge on crypto currency and foreign exchange markets, promising unrealistic returns to trick victims into investing their fake platforms.

◊ Somalia currently lacks effective policies, specialized agencies, and enforcement mechanisms to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cybercriminals. This lack of accountability emboldens scammers to continue their activities unchecked.

III. **Proposed Strategies to tackle Cybercrimes**

The interviewee emphasized the importance of both individual vigilance and systemic reforms to mitigate the threat of cybercrime. Key strategies include:

a.   Individual Protective Measures:

◊ Avoid Clicking on Suspicious Links: Always verify the reliability of the sender before interacting with unknown links.

◊ Use Strong Passwords: Passwords should include a combination of numbers, uppercase and lowercase letters, and special characters.

◊ Avoid Unofficial Websites: Refrain from entering passwords on websites that lack the "https://" security symbol, as these are likely fraudulent.

◊ Enable Two-Factor Authentication: This additional security layer can prevent hackers from accessing accounts even if they obtain the password.

◊ Keep Devices and Software Updated: Ensure that all devices and applications are running the latest versions to protect against known vulnerabilities.

◊ Government and Institutional Interventions: Relevant authorities should create a dedicated agency equipped with highly skilled technicians and enforcement personnel. This agency would focus on:

◊ Preventing cybercrimes through public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives.

◊ Investigating reported incidents and identifying perpetrators.

◊ Apprehending and prosecuting cybercriminals to deter future offenses.

The interviewee stressed that combating cybercrime requires a collaborative effort between individuals, organizations, and government institutions. Public awareness campaigns are particularly crucial, as they empower individuals with the knowledge needed to protect themselves. Simultaneously, systemic changes, such as the establishment of a robust legal and enforcement framework, are essential to address the root causes of cybercrime and create a safer digital environment for all Somalis. They underscored that as Somalia continues to embrace technological advancements, it is imperative to prioritize cybersecurity as a national concern. Failure to address this growing threat could lead to significant economic and social consequences, undermining the country's progress in the digital age.

Interview 3 : National Communications Agency (Cybersecurity team)

1. Current status

Cybercrime in Somalia is an escalating concern as the nation becomes more digitally connected. As more Somali citizens and businesses rely on online services, cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities in digital infrastructure. The NCA of Somali government has recognized the importance of cybersecurity and has begun implementing measures to tackle these challenges. However, the country faces significant challenges in addressing the evolving cyber threats.

Types of Cybercrime in Somalia

◊ Fraud and Financial Scams: remain one of the most prevalent forms of cybercrime. Common scams include phishing emails, fake investment schemes, and fraudulent websites targeting individuals and businesses. The widespread use of mobile money platforms, which are vital in Somalia's economy, has led to a rise in mobile- based fraud, including unauthorized transactions and SIM card swapping.

◊ Hacking and Unauthorized Access: cyber incidents have increased as cybercriminals target government agencies, businesses, and individuals to gain unauthorized access to sensitive data. The lack of strong cybersecurity measures within many organizations creates an environment conducive to hacking attacks. Criminals often exploit weak security systems to infiltrate critical networks, access private data, and conduct malicious activities.

◊ Identity Theft and Data Breaches: are growing concern, particularly as more personal information is stored and shared online. Cybercriminals often target individuals or organizations with insufficient data protection measures to steal sensitive information, which is then used for fraudulent purposes, including unauthorized transactions or opening fake accounts.

◊ Online Harassment and Cyberbullying are significant issues, especially on social media platforms. These offenses often target specific individuals, such as journalists, activists, and women, and include spreading false information, online threats, and defamation. Cyberbullying is also prevalent, particularly in a country with a young with low awarness and knowledge in technology.

◊ Ransomware and Malware Attacks are increasingly becoming a concern. These attacks encrypt valuable data, and cybercriminals demand payment in exchange for its release. Furthermore, malware is used to infect systems, steal data, or cause disruptions to organizations, often crippling operations and causing financial losses.

2. Measures being taken by the Ministry of Communications & Telecommunications and the National Communications Agency to raise awareness about cybercrimes

◊ Cybersecurity Training Programs: In January 2025, the MOCT launched a training program in Mogadishu aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of 100 government employees, focusing on cybersecurity. The first phase of the program began with 30 participants from over 15 government agencies. This initiative seeks to strengthen the capacity of government staff to address the growing challenges of cyber threats and online crimes.

◊ Somali National Cybersecurity Forum: In November 2024, the NCA, in collaboration with the MoCT hosted the Second Somalia National Cybersecurity Forum in Mogadishu. This annual forum brought together stakeholders from government institutions, telecommunications and technology companies, ISPs, banks, and civil society organizations. Discussions centered on fostering meaningful partnerships among government, private sector, and citizens to combat cybercrime and enhance Somalia's cybersecurity resilience.

◊ Development of Cybersecurity Regulations, Strategies and Policy: The MOCT has developed key regulations such as cybersecurity bill, Cybercrime Act and National Cybersecurity Policy, Strategy, Governance and Institutional Structure as well as Guidelines for the Protection of Critical Information Infrastructure/

◊ Establishing National CSIRT: The NCA is currently in the process of establishing the National Computer Security Incident Response Team, which will serve as the primary point of contact for cyber incidents at the national level.

◊ Public Awareness Campaigns: The NCA and MoCT regularly raise cybersecurity awareness and conduct public campaigns through social media and the NCA website. These initiatives aim to educate the public about the importance of cybersecurity and promote safe online practices.

3. Applications or online platforms commonly used to scam the law abiding citizens

◊ Facebook: Fake profiles are used to spread misinformation, conduct romance scams, and promote fraudulent investment schemes. Scammers may also use compromised accounts to target friends and family with phishing links or requests for money.

◊ WhatsApp: is used to distribute phishing links, spread false information, and conduct advance-fee scams.

◊ Telegram: is the most dangerous app and exploited to spread scams and misinformation to a large number of people quickly.

◊ Cryptocurrency Applications: The CBS issues this advisory to inform and warn the public about the risks associated with virtual assets such as Bitcoin, Stable-coins and other cryptocurrencies. These apps often promise high returns on investments and engage in pyramid schemes. These digital currencies are not recognized as legal tender in Somalia, and no financial institution in the country is currently licensed to conduct activities and operations relating to exchange, transfer, payment, investment, or any other services using virtual assets.

◊ Mobile Money Applications: Scammers use social engineering tactics to trick users into revealing their PINs or sending money to accounts. They also exploit vulnerabilities in

the platforms or use fake mobile money agent accounts to conduct scams.

◊ SMS Messaging: Scammers use send SMS messages with phishing links or fraudulent offers, attempting to trick users into clicking on malicious links or providing personal information.

4. Steps being taken to strengthen Somalia's legal framework and technological infrastructure

The Federal Government of Somalia has initiated several legislative measures to strengthen its cybersecurity posture:

◊ Cybercrime Act: This act is currently awaiting parliamentary deliberation and aims to establish legal provisions for addressing cybercrime.

◊ Cybersecurity Bill: Under review by the cabinet, this Bill seeks to provide a comprehensive framework for national cybersecurity efforts.

◊ E-Transaction Law: This law is designed to regulate electronic transactions, ensuring secure and reliable digital commerce.

◊ Data Center: Somali had established National Data Center

◊ NIRA and DPA: Somalia established NIRA and National Data Protection Authority (DPA).

◊ National CSIRT Policy and Guideline: Developed Policy and Guideline to the National CSIRT.

◊ National Payment System: CBS had fully implemented NPS

Somalia has actively pursued international collaborations to enhance its capabilities and capacity in addressing cybersecurity challenges. These efforts include partnerships with global organizations, bilateral agreements with technologically advanced nations, and engagement in regional initiatives to strengthen cyber defense mechanisms.

◊ The World Bank: Provides funding and technical assistance for cybersecurity programs, supporting efforts to enhance cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities.

◊ OIC-CERT (Organization of Islamic Cooperation): Somalia is a full member of OIC-CERT and actively participates in the annual cybersecurity conference and regional Cybersecurity Week. Somalia also submits an annual CSIRT activity report, contributing to the collective knowledge and strengthening regional cooperation in cybersecurity.

◊ Africa-CERT: Somalia is a full member of Africa-CERT and engages in all activities aimed at sharing knowledge and experience among member countries, fostering regional collaboration to enhance cybersecurity.

◊ EACO: Somalia is a member of the East African Communications Organization and actively participates in all working groups, including WG 3: ICT Applications, Consumer Protection Issues, and Cybersecurity.

◊ GFCE: Somalia also a member of The Global Forum on Cyber Expertise.

◊ ITU – GCI: Somalia collaborates with the Global Cybersecurity Index and submits its progress report on cybersecurity, based on five key pillars. This collaboration enables Somalia to review and score its cybersecurity efforts both regionally and globally, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with international best practices in cybersecurity governance, legal frameworks, technical capabilities, organizational

6.0 OPENNESS & ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1. SDG Indicator 16.10.2

Indicator 16.10.2: Somalia's under-amendment Constitution affirms that "every person has the right of access to information held by the state". This constitutional guarantee reflects the country's commitment to transparency and accountability. In recent years, Somalia has made remarkable progress in improving the accessibility and dissemination of public information. Judicial hearings are now publicly broadcasted to enhance accountability and ensure justice is seen to be done. Relevant authorities have also taken significant steps to share their information on various public programs and initiatives, promoting citizen awareness and participation.

However, it is important to note that certain categories of information, particularly those pertaining to national security, are understandably exempt from public disclosure. This ensures that sensitive information, which could compromise the country's security or strategic interests, is handled responsibly and shared only when deemed appropriate. Despite these necessary restrictions, Somalia continues to advance toward greater openness, demonstrating a balanced approach between transparency and security in its governance practices.

6.2. Violations against Journalists

The section on Violations Against Journalists highlights the risks and challenges faced by media professionals in Somalia, including threats, harassment, arbitrary arrests, and even violence. These violations reflect broader issues of press freedom and the safety of journalists operating in a complex socio-political environment. The analysis underscores the critical need for stronger legal protections, enforcement mechanisms, and collaborative efforts between media stakeholders and authorities to create a safer environment for journalists.

Figure 4.1: Distribution of Violations Against Somalia Journalist in 2023
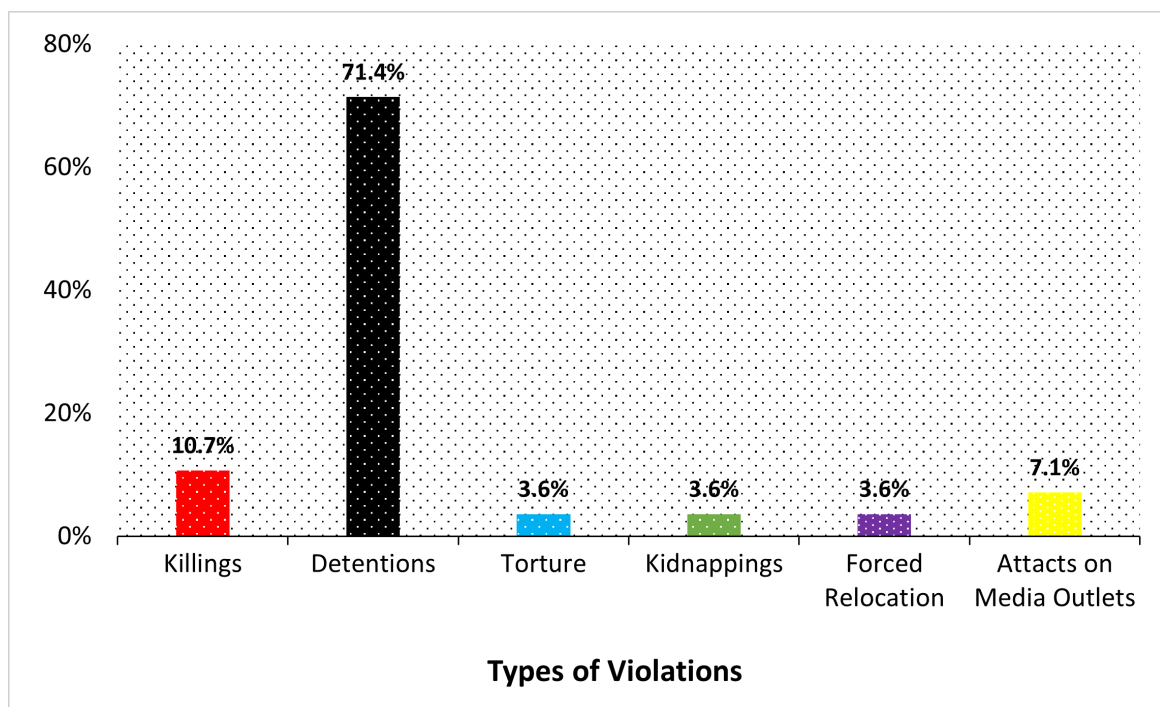
Between May 2023 and May 2024, 28 incidents of violations against Somali journalists were documented. Among these were three cases of killings: one journalist was targeted in Abudwaq District, Galmudug; another lost their life in a suicide bombing in Mogadishu; and a third succumbed to injuries sustained years earlier from a bomb

attached to their car. Additionally, 20 journalists were detained, one was tortured, and another was kidnapped. One journalist was forced to leave their area due to threats, while a radio station and a television station were attacked and subsequently shut down.

6.3. Access to Information

This indicator highlights the importance of good governance and the protection of fundamental freedoms. It focuses on evaluating whether legal and institutional frameworks enable citizens to access information held by public authorities. Achieving this indicator is crucial for fostering accountability, empowering citizens, and ensuring informed participation in decision-making processes.

The Provisional Constitution of Somalia explicitly recognizes the right to access information as a fundamental constitutional right. Article 32 of the Constitution highlights this right, emphasizing its importance in promoting transparency and accountability within governance. This provision ensures that citizens can access information held by public institutions, empowering them to hold government officials accountable and participate in decision-making processes. However, the right to information is not absolute and may be subject to limitations. These limitations include protecting national security, public safety, and personal privacy. Any restrictions must comply with the law and align with international human rights standards to prevent abuse and maintain a balance between transparency and legitimate concerns.

Access to information in Somalia has seen notable improvements in recent years, reflecting the government's efforts to enhance transparency and accountability. One significant step is the introduction of weekly briefings by the Federal Government, where officials from Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism provide updates on the key events and developments of the week. These briefings serve as a platform to inform the public about policy decisions, progress on national initiatives, and responses to pressing issues, ensuring that citizens remain engaged and aware of governmental activities.

Similarly, law enforcement agencies have adopted the practice of holding weekly briefings to share updates on security operations, crime prevention efforts, and other

matters related to public safety. These briefings not only foster trust between law enforcement and the public but also provide an avenue for accountability in addressing security concerns.

In the judiciary system, a progress has been made in promoting transparency through live broadcasts of judicial hearings on national and local television channels. High- profile cases, particularly those involving public officials accused of corruption, are publicly aired, ensuring that citizens can witness justice being served. This approach has strengthened public confidence in the legal system and reinforced the importance of accountability for those in positions of power.

Despite these progresses, there is always room for improvement in ensuring access to information in Somalia. Challenges such as limited infrastructure, political interference, and security constraints continue to hinder the full realization of this right. Expanding access to information to rural and marginalized communities, strengthening institutional frameworks, and ensuring the safety of journalists are essential steps toward building a more informed and inclusive society.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Governance Statistics Report provides a comprehensive analysis of Somalia's governance landscape, highlighting significant achievements and ongoing challenges across key sectors. The findings reflect the country's complex realities as it strives to build resilient institutions, ensure justice, and promote transparency, all while grappling with deeply rooted societal and structural challenges.

◊ In access to justice, the staggering number of 37,271 cases reported across federal AGOs, Somaliland, and the Federal Member States underscores both the demand for legal resolution and the capacity challenges faced by the judiciary. These crimes include homicide and GBH crimes, property related disputes, financial crimes, maritime crimes, road traffic crimes, human trafficking, crimes associated with terrorism and the ideologies that fuel them, substance abuse crimes, GBV crimes, burglary and many other crimes and disputes reported to the authorities. Somaliland and Puntland emerge as regions with the highest caseloads, accounting for 89% of reported cases, while Jubaland and Hirshabelle report the fewest, with just 0.7%. These findings reflect disparities in access to justice systems and reporting mechanisms across the regions. Conversely, the low caseloads in Jubaland and Hirshabelle suggest either underreporting or limited access to judicial resources, or the use of ADRs.

◊ In political and public participation, the underrepresentation of women across all branches of governance remains a glaring concern. Women hold only 21% of legislative positions, 8% of cabinet roles, and 26% of civil servant positions, with no representation in the judiciary. This lack of inclusion, particularly in the judiciary, reflects entrenched cultural and societal norms that restrict women's leadership opportunities. Such systemic exclusion not only undermines gender equity but also limits the diversity of perspectives in decision-making processes. Addressing these gaps will require transformative reforms, including education and advocacy campaigns, gender-sensitive policies, and institutional frameworks that actively promote women's participation at all levels of governance.

◊ In safety and security, the findings paint a mixed picture. On one hand, the report notes a 12% decrease in homicide cases and a 0.93% reduction in overall crime rates, signaling progress in crime prevention and law enforcement efforts. On the other hand, the homicide rate of 2.5 per 100,000 people and a crime rate of 203 incidents per 100,000 people highlight persistent challenges to public safety. While these rates appear relatively low compared to neighboring countries, they remain a significant concern for the Somali population, affecting citizens' sense of security and quality of life. Encouragingly, the report highlights advancements in peacebuilding, with districts categorized based on their stability, allowing for targeted interventions in conflict resolution and development. However, Somalia's cybersecurity vulnerabilities remain a critical issue, with the country at risk of cyber threats that could undermine governance, economic stability, and public trust.

◊ In openness and access to information, the federal government has demonstrated commendable progress by increasing the availability of public information. Initiatives such as the public broadcasting of judicial hearings and the publication of government information reflect a commitment to transparency. However, the report also identifies serious violations against journalists, with 28 cases of murder, detention, and torture recorded. These violations pose a direct threat to press freedom and undermine the role of journalism in fostering accountability and informed public participation. Protecting journalists and ensuring their ability to operate freely and safely is essential for strengthening democratic governance and the free flow of information.

Collectively, these findings present a nuanced picture of Somalia's governance progress. The country has made meaningful strides in areas such as crime reduction, peacebuilding, and transparency, laying the groundwork for more inclusive and effective governance. However, significant challenges remain, particularly in the areas of gender representation, equitable access to justice, cybersecurity, and the safety of journalists.

Addressing these issues will require a concerted, collaborative approach involving government institutions, civil society, and international partners.

Overall, while Somalia has made noteworthy progress in areas such as crime reduction, peacebuilding, and transparency, the report highlights significant challenges that remain, particularly in justice access, gender representation, and journalist safety. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts by government institutions, civil

society, and international partners. By tackling these challenges, Somalia can strengthen its governance framework and lay a solid foundation for sustainable development and social cohesion.

7.2. Recommendations

The Recommendations section emphasizes data-driven solutions that focus on improving data availability, fostering coordination, and enhancing collaboration across Somalia's governance structures. It highlights the need to strengthen data collection and management systems to ensure timely and accurate information for decision-making.

Additionally, the recommendations advocate for improved cooperation between federal and state-level institutions, as well as partnerships with international organizations to address data challenges effectively. Key recommendations include:-

◊ The report recommends to strengthen collaboration with relevant institutions to formalize data-sharing protocols through Memorandums of Understanding or similar agreements by leveraging the legal bindings of the SNBS to collect national statistical data as set under Article 28, this legal provision compels government institutions, agencies, and other relevant entities to share administrative data with the SNBS.

◊ SNBS should offer capacity-building programs for government agencies, Federal Member States, and other stakeholders to enhance their ability to collect, manage, and share accurate data. This will establish a uniform framework for data collection and reporting across institutions to ensure consistency and comparability of data.

◊ The report recommends the establishment of a centralized, secure, and accessible data repository managed by the SNBS. This repository should integrate data from all relevant institutions and serve as a reliable source for future governance reports and research. This repository should have a tiered access levels to protect sensitive information while promoting openness for publicly shareable data.

◊ Convene regular forums with government agencies, FMS, civil society, and other stakeholders to build trust and discuss the importance of data in policy-making. These forums should introduce incentives, such as recognition or technical support, for institutions that demonstrate strong cooperation in sharing administrative data.

◊ Identify and collaborate critical areas where data is missing, particularly Puntland State of Somalia where data is not fully captured from the relevant institutions.

This collaboration with the identified FMS will create systems that capture any administrative data that is needed at the time.

◊ Publish periodic updates on the progress made in addressing data challenges, highlighting both successes and persistent barriers. Collaborate with international partners to access resources and expertise for improving data systems and fostering a culture of data sharing.

◊ The SNBS Governance Statistics Section team alongside admin data producers should get opportunities to learn from other countries' experiences in overcoming similar data-related challenges and incorporate these lessons into Somalia's national statistical system.

By implementing these recommendations, SNBS can address the challenges encountered in accessing administrative data, improve data reliability, and create a more robust foundation for evidence-based governance. Strengthening data systems will enhance future reporting and also foster trust and cooperation among stakeholders, contributing to Somalia's overall governance and development goals.

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Appendix 1: Case Statistics, Judicial Access, and Demographic Data Tables

Table 1. Case Distribution and Resolution Status

Case type	Number of cases	Resolved by AGO	Resolved by courts	Pending cases
Asset Related Cases	860	290	310	260
Homicide/Assault	570	235	160	175
Financial Crimes	212	7	20	185
GBV Crimes	297	55	145	97
Substance Abuse Crimes	333	69	135	129
Human Trafficking Crimes	79	9	24	46
Maritime Crimes	41	0	36	5
Road Traffic Crimes	253	80	98	75

Table 2. Federal Judicial System Access

Status	Percentage
Completed	63.4%
Pending	36.6%

Table 3. Offender Distribution by Age and Sex

Age group	sex	Percentage
18—65+	Female	6.27%
18—65+	Male	83.28%
14—18	Children	10.46%

Table 4. Victim Distribution by Age and Sex

Demographic group	%Female Victims	% Male Victims
Under 18	4.39%	6.38%
18–35	16.96%	45.93%
35−65+	8.76%	17.59%

Table5. Cases Reported by Month

Months	Percentage of Cases Reported	Month	Percentage of Cases Reported
January	9.03%	July	7.62%
February	9.22%	August	9.35%
March	8.58%	September	7.75%
April	8.78%	October	9.47%
May	8.71%	November	7.43%
June	8.48%	December	5.49%

Table6. Distribution of Violations Against Somalia journalist

Incident Type	Percentage	Incident Type	Percentage
Killings	71.4%	Kidnappings	3.6%
Detentions	10.7%	Forced	3.6%
Torture	3.6%	Attacks on Media Outlets	7.1%

Appendix 2: Gender Representation in Legislative and Executive Branches

Table7. Gender Distribution in Legislative and Executive Branches

	Total	Male	Female
Legislative Branch			
Upper House	54	40	14
Lower House	275	221	54
Executive Branch			
Ministers	25	23	2

Appendix 3: Civil Servant Demographics, FIMM Ratings, Crime Statistics, and Case Management by State/Region

Table8. Civil Servant Demographics, Crime Statistics, and Case Management by State/Region

State/Region	Total Civil Servants	Male Civil Servants	Female Civil Servants	Homicide Crimes (%)	Total Cases	Completed Cases	Pending Cases	Score (%)	Reported Crimes (%)
Federal Government	5,751	4,263	1,488	35%	2,645	1,673	972	63%	7.1%
Puntland	4,130	2,973	1,157	25%	4,440	3,991	449	90%	12%
Galmudug	175	132	43	12%	410	345	65	84%	1.1%
Hirshabelle	152	124	28	2%	63	42	21	67%	0.2%
Southwest	166	143	23	10%	967	765	202	79%	2.6%
Jubaland	699	575	124	1%	183	136	47	74%	0.5%
Somaliland	-	-	-	14%	28,563	27,310	1,253	96%	77%

Table9. Distribution of FIMM District Ratings Across FMS in 2023

District	Rating	District	Rating	District	Rating	District	Rating
Qoryooley	34	Wanlaweyne	51	Afgoye	65	Balanbal	74
Mahadaay	35	Jalalaqsi	54	Dhobley	65	Baraawe	75
Xarardhere	40	Cadale	55	Berdaale	66	Dolow	75
Awdheegle	42	Garbaharrey	60	Afmadow	66	Guriceel	79
Qansax dheere	43	Buulobarde	61	Hobyo	67	jowhar	79
Baxdo	45	Heliwa	62	Caabudwaaq	68	Hudur	80
Maxaas	46	Luuq	62	Beletweyne	68	Warsheikh	81
Wisil	48	Xeraale	63	Buurhakaba	68	Adaado	83
Adan Yabaal	49	Baardheere	63	Kaxda	70	Galkayo(s)	83
Balcad	51	Marka	64	Diinsoor	71	Dhusamarreb	85
Matabaan	51	Wajid	64	Belet Xaawo	73		

Appendix 4: Key Informant Interview Questionnaire

Subject: Cybercrime in Somalia

Dear

The Governance Statistics Section of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics is conducting a study on the Rule of Law, with a specific focus on understanding the current state of cybercrime in Somalia. Your expertise and insights are invaluable to this effort. We kindly request your assistance in answering the following questions. Your responses will contribute significantly to our understanding of this critical issue and inform the development of effective policies to address cybercrime in Somalia. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Section	Question/Field	Options / Response
Respondent Information	Name (Optional)	_____
	Organization	_____
	Gender	☐ Male ☐ Female
	Age Group	☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–35 ☐ 36–65+ ☐ Prefer not to say
1. Overview of Cybercrime	1.1 Current state of cybercrime in Somalia	☐ Very high ☐ High ☐ Moderate ☐ Low ☐ Very low
	1.2 Most prevalent types of cybercrimes	☐ Online fraud ☐ Hacking ☐ Identity theft ☐ Online harassment ☐ Phishing ☐ Malware attacks ☐ Other (specify): _____
	1.3 Emerging trends or patterns in cybercrime activities	☐ Yes (specify): _____ ☐ No ☐ Not sure
2. Awareness and Education	2.1 Does MoC or NCA actively raising awareness about cybercrimes?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
	2.2 Measures used to raise awareness	☐ Public awareness campaigns ☐ Educational programs ☐ Workshops/seminars ☐ Social media campaigns ☐ Collaboration with NGOs/private sector ☐ Other (specify): _____
	2.3 Effectiveness of awareness initiatives	☐ Very effective ☐ Somewhat effective ☐ Neutral ☐ Not very effective ☐ Not effective at all
3. Tools and Platforms	3.1 Applications/platforms commonly used for scams	☐ Facebook ☐ WhatsApp ☐ Instagram ☐ Telegram ☐ Fake websites ☐ Online marketplaces ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. Tools and Platforms	3.1 Applications/platforms commonly used for scams	☐ Facebook ☐ WhatsApp ☐ Instagram ☐ Telegram ☐ Fake websites ☐ Online marketplaces ☐ Other (specify): _____
	3.2 Specific platforms used for phishing or identity theft	☐ Yes (specify): _____ ☐ No ☐ Not sure

4. Legal and Technological Framework	4.1 Strength of Somalia's legal framework on cybercrime	☐ Very strong ☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Weak ☐ Very weak
	4.2 Recent legislative developments or reforms	☐ Yes (specify): _____ ☐ No ☐ Not sure
	4.3 Measures to improve technological infrastructure	☐ Strengthening cybersecurity systems ☐ Training law enforcement ☐ Establishing cybercrime response teams ☐ Collaborating with international partners ☐ Other (specify): _____
	4.4 Plans or collaborations with international partners	☐ Yes (specify): _____ ☐ No ☐ Not sure
5. Additional Insights	5.1 Biggest challenges in combating cybercrime	☐ Lack of public awareness ☐ Weak legal framework ☐ Limited technological infrastructure ☐ Insufficient law enforcement capacity ☐ Lack of international cooperation ☐ Other (specify): _____
	5.2 Recommendations to improve National cybersecurity status	☐ Strengthen cybersecurity laws ☐ Increase public awareness campaigns ☐ Enhance law enforcement training ☐ Invest in technological infrastructure ☐ Foster international partnerships ☐ Other (specify): _____

Thank you once again for your valuable input. Your responses will play a crucial role in shaping our understanding of cybercrime in Somalia and in developing strategies to address this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Governance Statistics Section

GOVERNANCE STATISTICS REPORT