

FACTSHEET

TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN SOMALIA

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION



RISK FACTORS

From 2017 to 2022, drought induced displacement, trafficking of women and girls by Al-Shabaab and measures taken COVID-19 have been key risk factors for women protection.

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

GOOD PRACTICES

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

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

The Baahi-Koob one-stop centre of Hargeisa – providing holistic support to GBV/SGBV survivors through centralized specialized services available in one location at free cost.

KEY FINDINGS

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
2017 TO 2022 (CTFMR)
MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM
1,810 GIRLS
13 BOYS

VICTIMS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE
2017 TO 2022 (MARA)
105 WOMEN
37 GIRLS
2 BOYS
1 MAN



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

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

TIMELINE TOWARDS THE ENACTMENT OF THE 2018 SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA



May 2018

Draft Sexual Offences Bill (SOB) unanimously approved by Council of Ministers.

Nov 2019

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

violation of Article 69*

June 2020

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

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

June 2018

Draft SOB sent to Parliament for debate and adoption.

December 2019

15 parliamentarians brought a motion to return the bill to Parliament for first reading in accordance with article 69.

December 2022

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

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

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

**the law of Sexual-Intercourse-Related crimes

RECOMMENDATIONS

ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION AND PROTECTION FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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

INTL PART Recommendations to the International Community

COMBATING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

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

INTL PART Prioritize addressing CRSV through supporting programmes that address underreporting and cultural stigma

INTL PART Establish and implement programs that tackle the root causes of CRSV, in particular the pre-existing forms of discrimination and violence against women

STRENGTHENING GENDER-SENSITIVE PROGRAMS AND RESPONSE

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

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

INTL PART Humanitarian responses to continue to systematically ensure GBV risk mitigation with GBV mainstreaming at all levels of the response

ENHANCING SURVIVORS SUPPORT

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

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

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

INTL PART For service providers to expand the geographical coverage and quality of GBV specialized services, including case management and psychosocial support

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

STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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