

The evidence base for what works in gender, equality, and social including (GESI) in security and justice programming is limited. Existing evidence is weighted towards broad strategies that have had a positive impact across different types of programming and is drawn primarily from monitoring and evaluation reports and some anecdotal examples of success from external observers.

Issues women and other excluded groups face in Somalia include:

- Women, people with disabilities, internally displaced people (IDPs) and minority clans in Somalia are vulnerable to numerous violations relating to land tenure, including forced evictions and land grabbing. The absence of a land registry and the formal system's inability to provide legal certainty around land rights means that land disputes are common.
- Gender-based violence:
 - Rates of GBV in Somalia while not well documented but existing data indicates they are high.
 - Intimate partner violence is given significantly less attention than other forms of GBV (rape, sexual exploitation and abuse).
 - An estimated 98% of the female Somali population has experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, while forced and early marriage are practiced traditionally in Somalia and are legal under customary law.
- People with disabilities face numerous violations, including physical abuse, heightened risk of physical and sexual abuse, exclusion from employment and education. People with mental illnesses and disorders often face arbitrary detention, involuntary medication or inappropriate conditions due to lack of appropriate services.
- Women, internally displaced people and minority clans are more vulnerable to many security and justice challenges and face significant barriers to accessing justice.

Existing literature suggests that the challenges women and those from marginalised groups face in Somalia are interlinked and often mutually reinforcing. These barriers relate to:

- a lack of infrastructure, skills and resources (ranging from legislative gaps, lack of information, limited skills and training and a lack of coordination between justice institutions);
- entrenched social norms and beliefs that are built into the clan system, xeer and wider society;
- weak accountability and poor governance in formal system, with those who hold power able to influence justice processes;
- pluralist and clan-based structures which are recognised in federal, Puntland and Somaliland constitutions but not reconciled in practice – creating opportunities for corruption and for selecting the structure which is most advantageous to an issue.

Strategies and approaches that have had a positive impact on GESI and increasing access to justice and security for women and marginalised groups in the Somali context include:

- Applying an intersectional lens at each phase of project design can increase the participation of a broader range of people, increasing the likelihood that the impact of these projects will not be confined to only the most visible or privileged members of a particular group.
- Facilitating continuous community discussions in formats adapted to the needs and habits of the communities, and pre-training for women and marginalised groups to ensure their meaningful involvement in these discussions, has been effective in ensuring that the voices, needs and priorities of women and marginalised groups are better understood and incorporated into project design.

- Conducting stakeholder mapping and identifying champions has been effective in finding entry points or moving certain interventions forward, e.g., getting legislation introduced and seriously discussed by finding elders willing to advocate for it.
- There are also examples of interventions that have either experienced some successes, or which have yet to yield successes but may be expected to in the future, including one-stop centres for responding to rape cases, police oversight mechanisms and increasing the inclusivity of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

One-off training on access to justice, GBV, land rights and other issues relating to the rights of women and marginalised groups appear to have no effect. Likewise, though gender desks have been set up in police stations across Somalia, there is no evidence that they have had any impact on increasing access to justice and security.

Category of intervention	Assessment of evidence and sources	Examples from (location)
Intersectional	Limited	Across Somalia: listed examples in Mogadishu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAAAP (2017) 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Learning Brief': theoretical research, including one practical example of this working effectively • IAAAP (2018) 'Pathways to accountability for women and marginalised groups in the Somali context: The role of non-state actors': theoretical research • EAJ (2019) 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Analysis: theoretical research • EAJ (January 2020) 'Pathways and Institutions for Resolving Land Disputes in Mogadishu': theoretical research • Life & Peace Institute (2018) 'Learning From Kismayo': theoretical 		
Broad consultations	Limited	Across Somalia: listed examples across south central and Puntland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAJ (June 2020) 'Alternative Dispute Resolution Initiatives in Somalia': systematic review of evidence • IAAAP (2017) 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Learning Brief': theoretical research, including two practical examples, one of which included an observational study • Several NGO reports described one other practical example. 		
Stakeholder mapping and identifying champions	Limited	Across Somalia: listed examples in Afmadow District, Hargeisa, and Mogadishu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAAAP (2018) 'Pathways to accountability for women and marginalised groups in the Somali context: The role of non-state actors': theoretical research and non-systematic review, including five examples of this working effectively and one observational study on the perceptions community members have of certain champions • SDD EARF: theoretical research • IAAAP (2017) 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Learning Brief': theoretical research • NGO reports described other practical examples. 		
Facilitating collective action of marginalized groups	None	Across Somalia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAAAP (2017) 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Learning Brief': theoretical research • Life & Peace Institute (2018) 'Learning From Kismayo': theoretical research 		

Police-community dialogue	Limited	Mogadishu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDG (2019) 'Community-Police Dialogue and Cooperation: Lessons Learnt': theoretical research and observational studies • UN Women and Sidra Institute (November 2017) 'Assessment Study on Female Police Officers in Police Forces in Somalia': theoretical research 		
Police oversight mechanisms	Limited	Mogadishu IDP camps, Banadir, Jubaland State and South West State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO reports and news articles 		
Increase women in the justice sector	Limited	Somaliland, Puntland, and South-Central police/prosecutors; one female judge in Afgooye district
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women and Sidra Institute (November 2017) 'Assessment Study on Female Police Officers in Police Forces in Somalia': theoretical research • NGO reports and news articles 		
Mobile courts servicing IDP and remote communities	Limited for IDP/ rural communities None for women/ other marginalised groups	Across South Central, Puntland and Somaliland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP report: theoretical research and an observational study on perceptions of mobile courts • NGO reports 		
One-stop centres for responding to rape cases	Limited	Mogadishu, Lower/ Middle Shabelle, Afguin, Galgaduug, Kismayo, South Mudug, Hodan District; Afgooye; Hilliwa District, Garowe, Hargeisa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. A. Koshin and M. A. Botan (November 2017) 'Assessment Study on Female Police Officers in Police Forces in Somalia', UN Women and Sidra Institute: theoretical research • NGO reports and news articles 		
Increasing inclusivity of ADR	None	Across Somalia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAJ (June 2020) 'Alternative Dispute Resolution Initiatives in Somalia': systematic review of evidence • NGO reports and news articles 		

Background

This Briefing Note draws on one of several reports produced as part of a literature review under the Somalia Security and Justice Programme (SSJP), a UK government-funded programme supporting improvements to stability, security, and rule of law in Somalia.

The review is the first step in a six-month research process that will inform the design and delivery of primary quantitative and qualitative research on security and justice practices, priorities and norms in Somalia. It explored 'evidence of effective strategies to use security and justice reform to build the social contract and social covenant as a contribution to longer term peace and stability' in Somalia. It reviewed literature from Somalia and other fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) on security and justice interventions, social norms interventions and access to justice for women, girls and those from minority groups. The review offers an assessment of the quality of evidence based on DFID (2014) *How To Note: Assessing the strength of evidence*. (UK: London).

For further information, please visit www.ssjpg.org SSJP, the Somalia Security and Justice Programme is a UK government-funded programme supporting improvements to stability, security and the rule of law in Somalia.