

Literature on how social norms related to security and justice in fragile and conflict-affected settings is limited. Social norms – with varying degrees of influence – fall into a few categories: norms influencing corrupt conduct of government officials; indirect social norms upholding corrupt behaviour; social norms concerning gender and corruption; and social norms within the formal and informal security and justice system.

Norms identified in the literature in three or more contexts include:

Strongest norms:

- It is obligatory to ensure your extended family's survival.

Strong norms:

- It is appropriate for government officials to demand bribes
- It is appropriate to recruit and promote government officials based on personal connections
- It is appropriate to reciprocate favours
- It is appropriate to offer gifts as a sign of respect – this is not always perceived as corruption.

Weak norms:

- It is acceptable for government officials to ask for sexual favours from a woman.

Findings from the literature show that:

- Programming should be corruption-sensitive, and theories of change should highlight specific context and respond to the realities of what drives corrupt behaviour with high quality evidence.
- A mass media campaign which facilitated dialogue and advocacy for gender equality legislation contributed to changes in young people's attitudes and behaviour around gender but had limited impact in changing attitudes towards violence against women and girls (high quality).
- A programme combining a range of interventions (education for children, conflict resolution training for parents, establishing community peace committees and

capacity building) had encouraging results.

Research gaps remain including understanding how social norms interventions identify and empower influencers to resist corruptions, empower those who are marginalised and tackle non-state corruption.

The review draws on nine studies from several FCAS contexts, including Burundi, DRC, South Sudan and Yemen.

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.ssjprog.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.