

Literature on social norms relating to security and justice in Somalia is very limited. This is unsurprising given the emergent nature of the social norms field globally. Of the 15 studies identified, most did not explicitly seek to address social norms. Of those that did, the majority focused on gender-based violence and have been included in a separate literature review. The studies that featured social norms were generally judged to be low-quality evidence.

Category of social norms intervention	Assessment of evidence strength	Examples from
No evidence		
Improving service delivery by primary S&J service providers (formal or informal), e.g. law enforcement officers/militia	No studies were found.	N/A
Improving service delivery by state or non-state judicial actors, e.g. state judges, traditional leaders	No studies were found.	N/A
Enhancing access to S&J services and institutions (formal or informal)	No studies were found.	N/A
Seeking to improve the professionalism/conduct of primary S&J providers.	No studies were found.	N/A
Seeking to influence service delivery more broadly, e.g. health/ education	No studies were found.	N/A
Limited evidence		
Targeting the prevention of S&J issues, e.g. physical violence, economic violence, violation of land rights	One high quality study was found in addition to one study of undetermined quality. The quality of the latter study could not be determined given that a midterm evaluation fact sheet was the only document that could be found. Both studies used a randomised controlled trial (RCT) design. Assessment of consistency of findings between studies was not possible due to the diverging focus of studies. Body of evidence limited to gender-based violence.	Mogadishu only

In the studies, social norms have varying degrees of influence on the selection of security and justice providers, state police officer conduct, inclusion of women and the traditional justice system (xeer).

Social norm	Location of finding
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Norms influencing selection of S&J provider

Appropriate

It is inappropriate for religious leaders to be sought as the first port of call for S&J issues	Somaliland
It is inappropriate for actors other than religious leaders to handle certain types of S&J issues	Somaliland

Acceptable

It is acceptable to consult the police for S&J issues	Somaliland; Jubbaland; Southwest state; Hirshabelle
It is acceptable to consult elders for S&J issues	Somalia (unspecified); Somaliland
It is acceptable for police to involve traditional leaders in the management of S&J cases	Somaliland
It is acceptable for state police or the courts to involve religious leaders in the management of S&J cases	Somaliland

Norms influencing the conduct of state police officers

Acceptable

It is acceptable to close the police station in the afternoon so that the officers can chew khat	Somalia (unspecified)
It is acceptable for police officers not to wear uniforms	Somalia (unspecified)
It is acceptable for the police to informally settle cases without recourse to courts or elders	Jowhar; Hargeisa

Possible

It is possible for the police to humiliate citizens	Jowhar/ Dollow/Baidoa
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Norms influencing the inclusion of women in the state police

Appropriate

It is inappropriate for women to become police officers	Somalia (Mogadishu, Baydhabo, Kismayo, Garowe, Qardho, Bosaaso, Borama, Hargeisa and Burao)
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Customary norms within the traditional justice system (Xeer)

Obligatory

It is obligatory for the Xeer decision be respected by all parties	Somalia (unspecified)
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Appropriate

It is inappropriate for Xeer hearings to be attended by persons with close family relationships with those involved in the controversy	Somalia (unspecified)
It is inappropriate for Xeer hearings to be attended by individuals who have a personal grievance against one of the parties	Somalia (unspecified)
It is inappropriate for Xeer hearings to be attended by persons who have already sat in judgment of the same case	Somalia (unspecified)
It is inappropriate for Xeer hearings to be attended by women	Somalia (unspecified)
It is appropriate for payment of the Diya to be undertaken by the clan collectively	Somalia (unspecified)

The literature shows that considering the strength of social norms is important when designing interventions as a different approach may be required when addressing strong versus weak norms. For example, an intervention that seeks to challenge a harmful norm that is considered acceptable may require magnifying the voice of those who are against the norm, while an intervention to address a harmful, yet obligatory, norm may require deeper work at the attitude level and the creation of coalitions that coordinate for collective action after having changed their attitudes. As such, the paper poses several potential research questions to explore social norms in the Somali context.

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.

1 Nancy Glass, Nancy Perrin N, Mendy Marsh M, et al. 'Effectiveness of the Communities Care Programme on Change in Social Norms Associated with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) with Residents in Intervention Compared with Control Districts in Mogadishu, Somalia.' *BMJ Open*. 9.3 (2019) 1-10.

2 Munshi Sulaiman, Elijah Kipkech Kipchumba, Mohammed Magan, *Fighting Harmful Social Norms in Somalia CHANGES Midterm Evaluation* (Nairobi: Save the Children Somalia, 2019).