

SECURITY AND JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS IN SOMALIA

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There is limited evidence for what works in security and justice programming in Somalia to contribute to long-term peace and stability. Evidence showing promise include interventions focused on institutional capacity building, community policing and increasing women's participation. Some studies also suggest promising results from interventions to make customary law more inclusive. However, there is almost no evidence showing longer-term impact. Limitations related to impact include the small scale of the programming, (a lack of) sustainability, and significant resistance from external factors. In addition, there are few independent studies exploring the effect of donor interventions in Somalia. Evidence of less effective interventions include those that have been top-down, state-centric, or overly ambitious in their approach.

Findings from the literature review on the context of security and justice in Somalia indicate:

- The hybrid order of Somali security and justice, which prioritises individual rights and is characterised by overlapping authorities and competing interests, is a reality that donors must work with.
- Somali citizens have complex and, at times, contradictory perceptions of security and justice providers, practices, and priorities. Studies from SSJP, for example, suggest high levels of public trust in formal institutions, such as the police, challenge pervasive understanding in much of the literature which suggests Somalis continue to have strong affinity for customary institutions.
- Customary practices may be effective in managing conflict within/between communities but often at the expense of individual rights.
- Customary practices tend to disadvantage women and those who are often marginalised the most.

The review identified 17 programme evaluations or reviews (including midterm and final evaluations and three SSJP annual reviews); five academic articles from peer-reviewed journals; 'lessons-learned' documents from international organisations including Saferworld and from USAID programmes; and several internal learning documents from the first phase of SSJP, including perception studies based on primary research.

See the next page for a summary of this literature.

Category of intervention or approach	Assessment of evidence strength	Examples from
Capacity-building of S&J providers	Limited	Somaliland & South-Central Somalia
Five programme evaluations found of mixed quality (e.g., studies cite anecdotal evidence, provide limited information about methodology); two peer-reviewed articles using anecdotal observations; one conceptual PEA study; one perception study and two internal SSJP learning documents.		
Community policing	Limited	Somaliland & South-Central Somalia
One mid-term and one final evaluation of mixed quality, together with a related lessons-learned document.		
Reform and codification of customary law	Limited	Somaliland & South-Central Somalia
Four programme evaluations of mixed quality together with an SSJP annual review and two conceptual studies.		
Improving women's access to justice and perceptions and trust in the police	Limited	Somaliland & South-Central Somalia
Three programme evaluations of mixed quality and a related lessons-learned study, together with an SSJP annual review.		
Community-led/bottom-up approaches	Limited	Somaliland & South-Central Somalia
Two programme evaluations of mixed quality and a related lessons-learned study; two conceptual studies; one academic journal article and an internal SSJP learning document.		
Impact of pre-existing peace and stability	Limited	Somaliland
One peer-reviewed academic article, and two other studies. All three are conceptual studies and do not provide empirical data.		

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.