

SOMALILAND YOUTH VIOLENCE AND YOUTH ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING: BASELINE SURVEY



August 2015

Somaliland National Youth Organization Umbrella
(SONYO)

T: +252-63-4427327/+252-63-4457703

E: sonyoed@gmail.com

W: <http://www.sonyoumbrella.com>

Interpeace Regional Office for Eastern and Central
Africa (ECA)

T: +254 710 607 373 or +254 733 605 290

E: eca@interpeace.org

W: www.interpeace.org

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This baseline report was prepared by Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO) and Interpeace Somali Programme.

Lead Researcher: Deqa Osman

SONYO Project Team: Saeed Ahmed, Abdirisak Eid, and SONYO Staff

Research Support: Khadar Osman and Professor Zaam and the data collection team

Other Support: SONYO Chairperson (Siyad Omar Ali), SONYO umbrella 7th National Council, SONYO member organizations, SONYO Regional Coordinators, Ministry of Interior (MoI), and Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Tourism (MoYST)

Editors: Jessamy Garver-Affeldt and Jesse Kariuki

Editorial Support: Abiosseh Davis, David Muller and Lisa Apitz

Research Consultant: Jennifer Gaskell

Senior Research Advisors: Abdirahman Osman Raghe and Ulf Terlinden

Design and Layout: Amir Media Ltd

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TABLE OF CONTENT

Table of Content	iii
Abbreviations	iv
List of figures	v
List of tables	v
Foreword	vi
SONYO in Somaliland	vii
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
1.0 INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Background and Rationale	8
1.2 Definitions	8
1.3 Methodology	8
Survey Questionnaire	9
Focus Group Discussions	10
Key Informant Interviews	10
Gender	10
Limitations	11
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
2.0 CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	12
2.1 Perceptions of the Major Cause of Youth Violence	12
2.2 Different Perceptions between Urban and Rural Youth	12
2.3 Unemployment	13
2.4 Poor Education	14
2.5 Khat	15
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
3.0 ACTORS – VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS	16
3.1 Victims	16
3.2 Perpetrators	17
3.3 Gang Groups as Actors	18
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
4.0 SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE – RAPE	19
4.1 Incidence of Rape	19
4.2 Perception of Triggers of Rape	20
4.3 Rape as a Taboo Subject	21
4.4 Law and Justice in Cases of Rape	22
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
5.0 EXISTING INSTITUTIONS	23
5.1 Who do you Trust to Address Youth Violence?	23
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
6.0 YOUTH AS PEACEBUILDERS AND DEMOCRATIC ACTORS	26
6.1 Expanding Youth Civic and Democratic Participation	27
6.2 Improving Youth Situation and Constructive Engagement	27
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
7.0 KEY FINDINGS	27
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	28
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>	
9.0 ANNEXES	30
Annex I: Survey Questionnaire	30
Annex II: Guideline questions for key informant interviews	36
Annex III: Guideline questions for focus group discussions	37

ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
KII	Key Informant Interview
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
PAR	Participatory Action Research
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SONYO	Somaliland National Youth Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

List of figures

Figure 1: Survey respondents by age	9
Figure 2: Survey respondents by region	9
Figure 3: Survey respondents by gender	11
Figure 4: Cause of youth violence	12
Figure 5: Perception on causes of youth violence, urban/rural breakdown	13
Figure 6: Youth violence vs. type of formal education	14
Figure 7: Parts of the day when violence is perceived to be most frequent	15
Figure 8: Types of violence by gender	17
Figure 9: Drivers towards membership to gangs	18
Figure 10: Baahikooob-Number of cases, January to December 2009-2013	20
Figure 11: Triggers of rape	21
Figure 12: Reporting of rape incidents	22
Figure 13: Perception on trust on existing legal frameworks to deal with youth violence	24
Figure 14: Justice for Victims	24
Figure 15: Judiciary system vs. customary law	25
Figure 16: Trust to deal with youth violence	25
Figure 17: Leadership in tackling youth violence	26
Figure 18: Perception on the best way to prevent violence among the youth	26

List of tables

Table 1: Breakdown of victims by region	16
Table 2: Perpetrators of youth violence	18
Table 3: Summary of Cases received, January 2009 to December 2013	20
Table 4: Triggers of rape	21

FOREWORD

Peace in its full capacity - both conceptual and functional - has been a principal agenda item in Somaliland which all citizens have been supporting and striving for. It has been regarded as an important enabling factor that helped Somaliland in achieving great statebuilding achievements, such as self-sponsored institution-building and deepening democratic rule based on a hybrid of egalitarian governance and traditional elements. The relative peace and security on the ground has served Somaliland well for the last few decades.

Hailed as a beacon of hope for its political triumphs in a usually volatile Horn, there is a story in Somaliland which does not quite warrant the same reverence; that is the state of the nation's youth. Although for the last two decades Somaliland's development has made possible relative improvement in the areas of development, democratisation and peace, there are still some major challenges for different sections of its populace, particularly its youth.

Somaliland is a country with an incredibly youthful population, and it is the youth who are bearing the biggest burden of many of the socio-economic problems that exist within the country. In connection with these challenges, it is not surprising that the issues of violence and social unrest have boiled to the surface and raised some alarming concerns about young people and their future prospects. At the same time, this has inspired renewed interest in how to best intervene and understand these problems through systematic and in-depth quality research and subsequent activities, projects and strategies for all stakeholders to partake in.

It is SONYO's belief that this majority youth population cannot be ignored if peace is to be strengthened. In order to design initiatives for effective youth engagement, an important first step is to generate information which can feed into decision-making processes. SONYO Umbrella therefore found it critical to undertake a baseline survey on young people's perceptions regarding trends, prevalence and the underlying causes of youth violence, their participation in it as well as its impacts on them. In partnership with Interpeace and with the generous support of the European Union, SONYO is proud to present the Somaliland Youth Violence and Youth Role in Peacebuilding Baseline Survey.

Saeed Ahmed

Executive Director SONYO Umbrella

SONYO in Somaliland

SONYO's mission is to improve the quality of life of the youth through provision of services and programmes tailored to their social, physical, mental and spiritual development.

SONYO is a youth-owned, non-partisan, non-political and non-governmental umbrella organisation comprising 54 youth civil society organisations (CSOs). Being registered under the Ministry of National Planning and Development and the Attorney General's Chambers, SONYO has been operating for over a decade. Since 2003, SONYO has implemented key programmes and projects in all six regions of Somaliland focusing on capacity building for youth CSOs; youth mobilisation for active citizenship, peacebuilding and participation in democracy; policy advocacy; and youth economic empowerment. Over the period of its 11-year operations, SONYO has acquired a great deal of expertise and institutional strength. Due to its experience in engaging with youth empowerment, social reconciliation and cohesion initiatives, SONYO is well-placed to engage with youth-at-risk, diverting them from harmful activities and fostering their inclusion in society's mainstream.

SONYO is governed by young Somaliland leaders, under an organisation comprising a three-tiered structure. Underpinned by strong principles and core values, which are highly-respected within SONYO's institutional and management arenas, SONYO responds to the pressing problems of youth, as identified through Participatory Action Research (PAR)¹ and the work of its secretariat and member organisations. It seeks to mobilise all concerned stakeholders in order to ensure a comprehensive roadmap for the empowerment of the youth of Somaliland is in place.

¹PAR is a methodology, which enables a large number of stakeholders to take an active part in processes of change and to develop consensus-based solutions.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

It is estimated that 70% of Somaliland's population is below the age of 35 years, and from the Somaliland perspective people up to the age of 30 are considered youth. The substantial size of the youth population is not matched by a corresponding understanding of their status and the socio-economic challenges they face. Unfortunately, there are limited records, statistical data and research into issues affecting young people, which make this national baseline survey report crucial. The weaknesses and scarcity of data sources can lead to misconceptions that fuel alarmism about threats posed by young people, which in turn may lead to official measures more geared towards punishment than capacity-building. This lack of information can also make it difficult to draw up or effectively strategize positive approaches towards youth development and progress by key stakeholders.

The development of this survey was inspired and influenced by a prevailing perception that youth violence is on the rise. People have been particularly alarmed by what appears to be an increase in gang formation and activity, and a rise in sexual and gender-based violence. At the intersection of these two issues is gang rape, something which traditionally was not at all common, but which now seems to be increasingly prevalent.

Building on the work of the SONYO Youth Status Survey Report 2011, this report seeks to understand the perceptions young people have about trends in youth violence, including extent, actors and causes. It also seeks to lay a foundation for youth empowerment by asking youth what is needed to improve their ability to play a positive role in society. This information will feed into a roadmap for youth empowerment in Somaliland, which will be overseen by SONYO and other key stakeholders.

By raising awareness about the causes and effects of youth violence, it is hoped that prevention can be achieved and effective alternatives found. Youth have great potential, either to upset the balance of Somaliland's still fragile peace and stability or to strengthen it further. It is crucial that we empower them to achieve the latter.

1.2 Definitions

In this study **youth** is defined as young people between the ages of 15 and 30 years. The survey questionnaire's target population was within this age range.

SONYO understands **youth violence**, based on the definition of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, exerted by or against children, adolescents or young adults, which results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation". This description is particularly effective for use within this survey report as it highlights both physical and emotional impacts of violence on young people.

1.3 Methodology

Once the foundational parts of the survey were laid out through a desk-based literature review, the research was carried out by means of qualitative and quantitative methods, through a survey questionnaire, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Gender was given specific attention, while several limitations were encountered, as detailed below.

Survey Questionnaire

The survey questionnaire (see Annex I) consisted of a mix of close and open-ended questions and was administered to a sample of 1'200 young people under the age of 30 across all the regions of Somaliland.

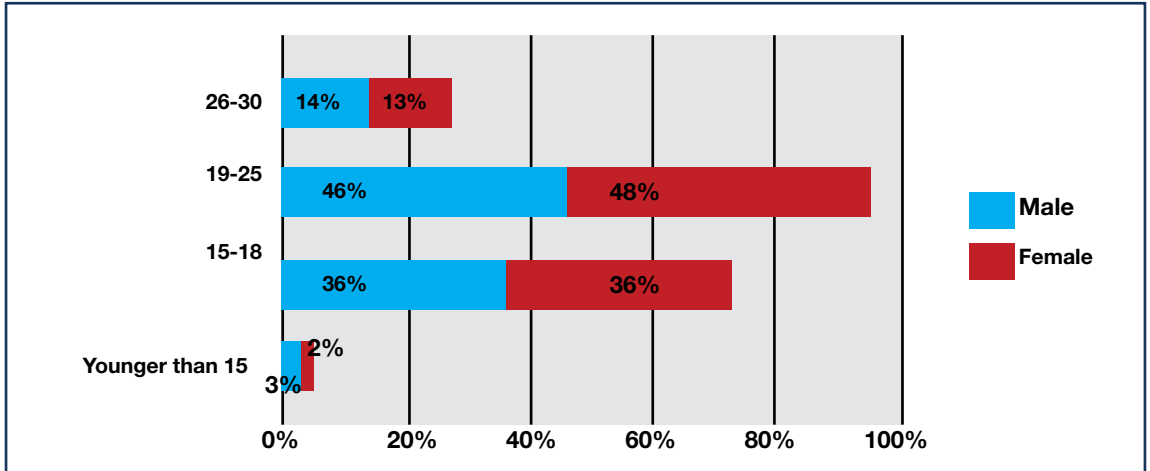


Figure 1: Survey respondents by age

Due to the large geographical area that the study was aiming to reach and the unavailability of a sampling frame of the target group, this survey has selected a three stage cluster sampling method. A predetermined number of people were set to be interviewed in each region, proportionate to the region's population based on data from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Somalia census and from votes cast in the 2010 elections.

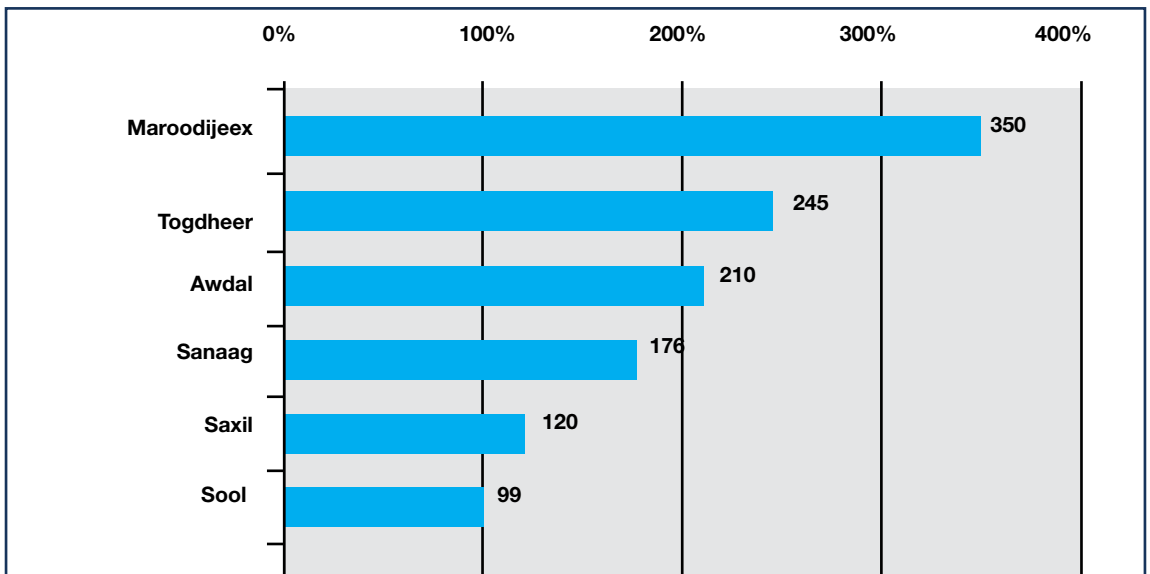


Figure 2: Survey respondents by region



All six regional capitals were selected for inclusion in the survey, with approximately 60 to 70% of respondents drawn from these locations. SONYO and its research team made a deliberate decision to take an urban focus with this survey as the majority of the population lives in these locations and certain worrying trends, such as the rise of gang groups, tend to have an urban setting. 87% of respondents come from an urban setting, while 13% live in a rural environment. This means that the findings of the report are mainly representative of the urban youth perception of youth violence. This reflects the existing focus on youth violence in urban settings. The inclusion of rural youth respondents nevertheless provides useful information on some of the issues raised, either validating widespread perceptions or highlighting possible differences.

In addition to the regional capitals, districts of the six regions were taken as primary sampling units. Out of the 36 districts, 9 districts were deliberately selected to capture the largest, and in some cases also the second largest district after the regional capital. The major town in each district was then the focus for interviews, again to try and include as much of the population as possible and because of the urban focus of the questionnaire. Villages formed secondary sample units. A pre-fixed number of villages were selected randomly from each region, and in every village the survey targeted a predetermined number of respondents.

The survey respondents were representative of youth from specific groups, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), marginalized communities, youth in conflict with the law, khat chewers and the disabled. These groups were accessed via secondary schools, universities, youth centres and on the streets. Once located, the questionnaire was administered by enumerators who were paired with respondents from the same gender. This was deemed important given the apparent cultural sensitivities and the nature of the questions being asked in the secondary section of the survey (focused on sexual and gender-based violence).

Focus Group Discussions

A total of ten FGDs were held with young people from different backgrounds (same as for the questionnaire) of which four were in the major urban cities (Borama, Hargeisa, Burco and Cerigaabo), and six in rural locations (Boon (Borama), Sheikh (Saaxil), Gabiley (Maroodi Jeex), Odweeyne (Togdheer), Ceel Afweeyn (Sanaag) and Oog (Sool)).

The FGDs were a very important element of the research (see guideline questions in Annex III). Given the limited availability of existing data on the topics under study, it was considered crucial to have more in-depth conversations to explore reasons behind different perceptions and provide a fuller explanation of people's beliefs. The FGDs also allowed for more open responses that went beyond the limited number of pre-determined answers from the survey.

Key Informant Interviews

There were a total of eight KIIs conducted outside of Maroodi Jeex region and six KIIs within Hargeisa. Key informants were people with particular expertise and knowledge on the topics under discussion. Through their own experience and role in the community, it was felt that they could bring a useful perspective to the perception of youth respondents in the survey and focus groups (see guideline questions for KII in Annex II).

The individuals interviewed represented various sectors of society and could be described as key stakeholders (youth employment organisation, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, government officials in the Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Justice, local councillors, police and legal aid workers).

Gender

Gender considerations played a vital role and were consistently interwoven in the survey process from the preliminary to the implementation phase. During the training for the enumerators and regional supervisors, a special session by an official with

a background in gender issues from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) was given to the female enumerators. It provided guidance on how to approach questions related to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Also, given the sensitive nature of the questions in the secondary part of the questionnaire, only female enumerators were assigned to interview women respondents. Lastly, to create a comfortable space for female participants to express their views on all aspects of the survey content, female-only focus group discussions were also included in the composition of FGDs. However, one limitation of the data is that in the random selection of participants, females were less frequently encountered, and only make up 38% of the overall survey respondents.

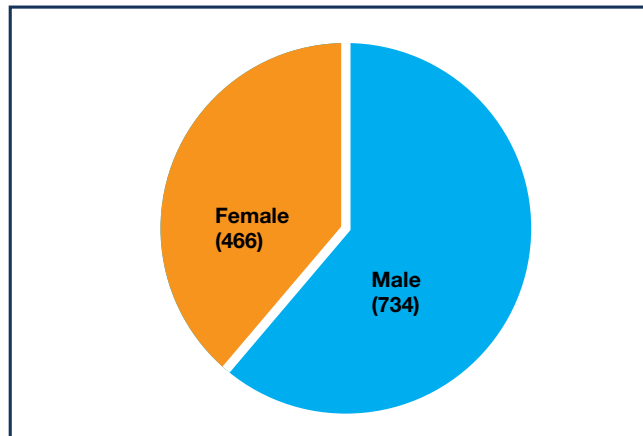


Figure 3: Survey respondents by gender

Limitations

The urban focus and lower survey participation of females have been discussed above. Moreover, the sensitive nature of some of the questions asked might have led to bias in answers, especially those relating to whether respondents had perpetrated violence (and what types) or had ever been a victim of youth violence. Similarly, the sensitive nature of SGBV questions most likely led to a bias in the type of answers given. However, the data collected remains useful in providing some baseline information for further action.

In general, the terms used in the survey were not defined for respondents. It was felt that the terms as given in Somali were very clear, and it is only in translation that some uncertainty can arise. In cases where the English version of a term could be open to interpretation, we have tried to provide the understanding of the term that would be common from the Somali version. However, one place in particular where the lack of definition could be said to be a limitation is in the case of the term “youth violence”. As this was not defined in advance, it was left up to the respondent to interpret “youth violence” as narrowly or broadly as they saw fit. This could mean that in some cases very small incidents were considered by respondents to constitute youth violence, leading to less consistency regarding the severity of incidents respondents interpreted in this way.

2.0 CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

2.1 Perceptions of the Major Cause of Youth Violence

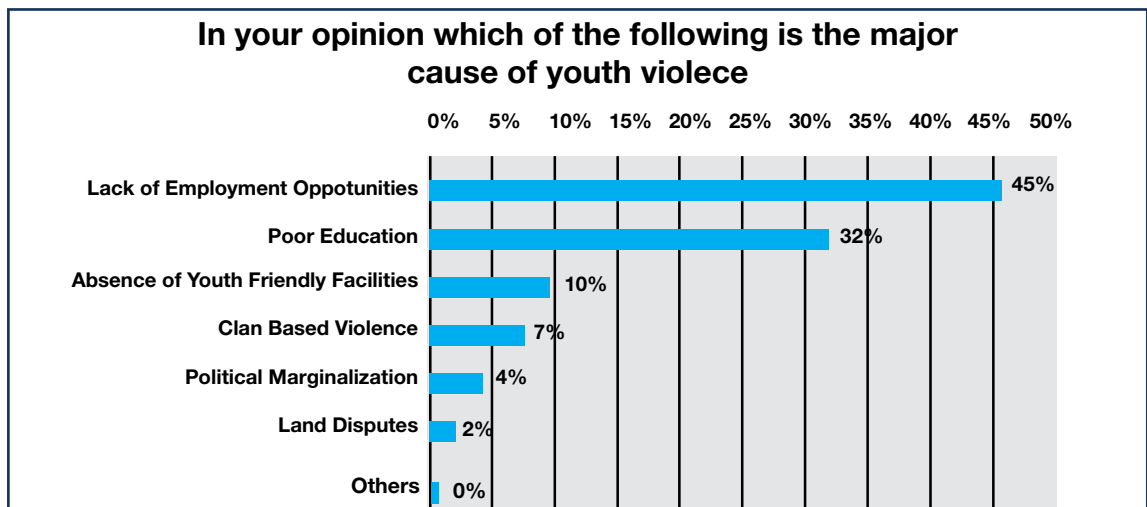


Figure 4: Cause of youth violence

Survey respondents identified what they believe to be the major cause of youth violence, as seen in Figure 4. FGD responses to the open-ended question “What could be causes of youth violence?” bear out the above table, with issues related to unemployment and poor quality education mentioned in almost all FGDs across Somaliland. Equally emphasised in the FGDs was the issue of substance abuse, and these factors are all broken down further in the sections below.

However, the FGDs also highlighted additional factors that are perceived as contributing to youth violence. These were the interrelated issues of “inexperience” and “peer pressure”. It was perceived by discussants, youth themselves, that young people are easily influenced by others, which can lead to bad decisions and problematic behaviour. Additionally, their lack of experience can mean that they do things without understanding the consequences or the magnitude of the problems they can cause.

Factors related to weak family structure and lack of opportunities for productive engagement of free time were also seen as important by FGD participants. While some simply mentioned “idleness” or “too much free time,” others specified lack of sports / extracurricular facilities as problematic.

2.2 Different perceptions between urban and rural youth

As discussed, Figure 4 shows the overall distribution of responses of all survey respondents, and indicates unemployment to be the factor most frequently perceived to be the major cause of youth violence. However, when the responses are broken down between urban and rural respondents, some interesting differences emerge. Whereas 51% of urban youth believe lack of employment is the major cause of youth violence, only 11% of rural youth perceive this to be the case. On the other hand, 50% of rural youth see clan-based conflicts as the major cause of youth violence, compared to only 1% of the urban youth polled. This stark divide implies a need for diversified programming which target rural and urban youth in different ways. Disparities in

perception on this question were more pronounced between rural and urban youth than between other categories, including male/female.

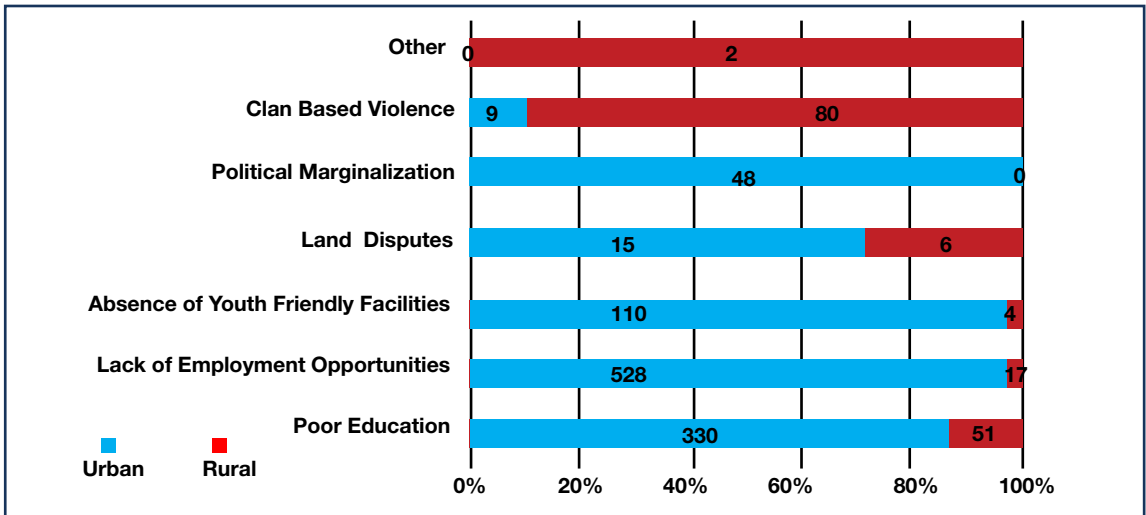


Figure 5: Perception on causes of youth violence, urban/rural breakdown

2.3 Unemployment

When asked about which of several factors was the major cause of youth violence, nearly half of the respondents (45%) indicated that they believe it to be lack of employment opportunities. This was the most frequent response overall, though bearing in mind that it was emphasised much more among urban youth than among rural youth.

The above-mentioned perception was also reflected in the FGDs. Respondents frequently pointed out that they see a strong relationship between unemployment and youth violence. One perceived reason that came up quite often is that when youth are addicted to khat, and are unemployed, they will do everything possible to get money to support their habit, even committing crimes.

Of those surveyed, 32% admitted to committing youth violence, although this relies on respondents' honesty and therefore may not be fully accurate. Based on the perceptions indicated above, one would expect that the percentage of unemployed youth who admit to committing youth violence would be higher than other groups. However, this was not the case. While 30% of unemployed youth said they had perpetrated violence, 36% of employed youth and 44% of youth business owners said the same. This raises interesting questions about why business owners might admit to committing violence at a significantly higher rate than the average, but it also calls into question the assumption that unemployment and youth violence always go hand in hand.

“Youth violence is due to our negligence of our younger generation and deprivation of their rights to quality education, proper parenting and guidance. Youth with plenty of free time form gang groups in their neighborhoods and cause problems to themselves and to the community at large, because there is no outlet for them and they have nowhere else to go.”

KII with religious leader, Hargeisa



2.4 Poor Education

Poor education is perceived by survey respondents to be the second most important contributing factor to youth violence, as indicated by 32% of youth interviewed. This was true for both rural and urban youth.

The majority of respondents had received formal education and/or are currently students, making it hard to draw direct conclusions from the survey data about differences in education relating to youth violence. However, the focus group participants shed some light on this issue, suggesting that it is not education alone, but the quality of education received, which may make a difference in whether or not youth commit violence.

The issues of poor discipline and very limited engagement that youth are getting from the education system were discussed by FGD participants and key informants. There was general agreement that the education system is not good, and that lack of resources and qualified teachers is a real problem. It was also mentioned that there is a difference between public and private schools in this regard, with the better management and opportunities afforded by private schools helping to better engage students.

Of those youth who have received formal education and have admitted to committing youth violence, the results show a trend within the levels of formal education attained. Those who have completed university show the lowest percentage of youth violence committed, while those only completing primary school show the highest level.

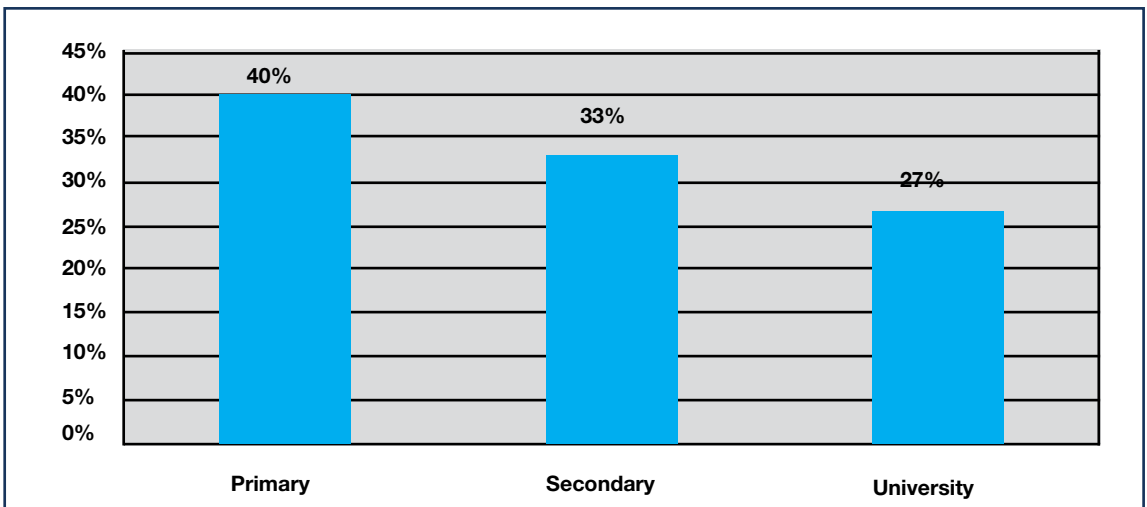


Figure 6: Youth violence vs. type of formal education

One way to interpret this could be that even if the quality of education is not excellent, at least youth who are in schools for a longer period of their lives are occupied with school activities and have less free time to become engaged in violence. There could also be other explanations, such as a greater sense of opportunity and better economic prospects for youth who go further in the education system, which may deter them from engaging in violence.

Among respondents there was a strong perception that having a lot of free time encourages engagement in youth violence, which was indicated by 88% of those surveyed. The perception that unstructured time leads to youth violence is echoed by the fact that 82% of respondents believe that the majority of youth crime is committed during school holidays.

When comparing respondents' participation in extracurricular activities to their involvement in youth violence, we see that 27%

of those who said they participate in extracurricular activities also admitted to committing youth violence, which is less than the 32% of respondents who had admitted to this overall. At the same time, the percentage of those who said they have not participated in extracurricular activities but have committed youth violence is 36% - a bit higher than the 32% overall total. This provides some support to the perception that youth with more free time are more likely to commit violence.

Unfortunately, youth have limited opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. According to the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Tourism there are only 23 football and 26 basketball grounds registered in the six main cities of Somaliland (Hargeisa, Borama, Berbera, Burco, Erigavo, Sool). However, it is not clear that these are all functional, and therefore this may be an overestimation.

2.5 Khat

When asked if there is a strong connection, some connection, or no connection between seeking money to buy khat and committing violence to get it, 59% of the respondents perceived a strong connection. This finding was also consistent across rural and urban youth.

According to FGD participants across the regions, it is believed that youth committing violence to get money for their addiction are fuelled by two things. First, youth who chew often do not wish to make their addiction public and therefore asking a relative for money to buy khat is not possible. Second, due to the high unemployment rate among youth, it can be difficult for them to personally finance their addiction.

This issue was discussed at length in the focus groups, with participants indicating that they believe there are particular times of the day when youth are more likely to commit violence in order to seek money to buy khat. This is when the first part of the “khat chewing session” elapses and a top-up is required to continue fully enjoying the effect of the drug. In Somali slang, this phenomenon is called “Kala-go.” The timing of Kala-go was identified as late evening to early night, which corresponded with a time (7 – 9 pm) perceived by 53% of the surveyed respondents as the period when youth violence is most frequent.

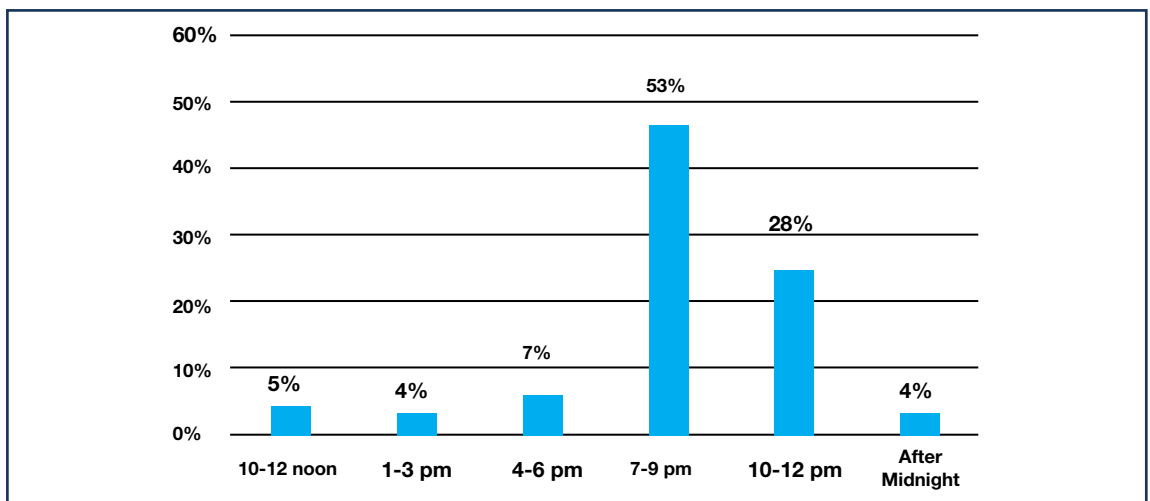


Figure 7: Parts of the day when violence is perceived to be most frequent

Survey respondents perceive the majority of youth violence (85%) to be committed during the night. 53% of the respondents reported 7-9 pm as the time when the majority of youth violence takes place, 28% of them indicated 10-12 pm and 4% said “after midnight”. Another factor that could also contribute to violence at night is the issue of poor street lighting. More than half



of the respondents (53%) believe that insufficient street lighting provides an opportunity for youth to commit physical violence “all the time” followed by 41% who stated that it “sometimes” provides an opportunity. This finding was true of males and females, urban and rural youth.

3.0 ACTORS – VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS

3.1 Victims

The majority of youth (63%) who were interviewed in this survey said they have been victims of youth violence. This breaks down by region with a staggering 85% of youth from Awdal saying they have been victims of youth violence, followed by 68% from Maroodijeh, 62% from Saxil, 55% from Sool, 53% from Togdheer and 46% from Sanaag.

Table 1: Breakdown of victims by region

Region	Have you been a victim of YV?	
	Yes	No
Awdal	178	32
Maroodijeh	237	113
Sanaag	81	95
Saxil	74	46
Sool	54	45
Togdheer	131	114
Total	755	445

In total, 87% of female and 48% of male respondents indicated they had been victims of youth violence, and the extremely high percentage of female victims conforms to a widely stated perception of the survey, which found that 78% of the respondents believe the main victims of youth violence are females.

When broken down by region, the percentages of female respondents who report having been victims of youth violence are striking: 100% of female respondents from Awdal; 99% from Maroodijeh; 86% from Togdheer and 82% from Saxil. There are comparatively fewer females who reported having been victims of youth violence in Sool and Sanaag, with 65% and 58% respectively.

The results also reveal a strong connection between disability and youth violence. 71% of those respondents who reported disability said they had been victims of youth violence.

IDPs are believed to be the most vulnerable group to one major form of violence, SGBV, with 51% of the respondents stating this perception. This was also reinforced by FGD findings, in which discussants mentioned lack of family/community support, poverty and lack of protection from security and government institutions as key reasons for IDP vulnerability.

The survey data also reveals that youth have close proximity to violence. The overwhelming majority of respondents (68%) had witnessed physical violence at least once in the last month prior to the survey. Among male respondents, 77% had witnessed violence, while only 54% of females reported having done so. The percentage of rural youth who had witnessed violence in the previous month was, at 58%, slightly lower than the overall total and the percentage of rural female youth who had done so was only 31%. This reinforces the idea that the experience of youth violence is not always the same between urban and rural youth.

“I know of many people who have been victims of robbery and youth violence. A work colleague of mine told me his story when a mob of young gangs in our neighborhood stopped him and took his mobile and a laptop and some money in his ZAAD account. They threatened him with sharp, huge machetes. Luckily, he was not hurt because he didn’t resist. He had to give them all they wanted to save his life. He reported to the police but unfortunately nobody was arrested.”

Male FGD participant, Burao

3.2 Perpetrators

Of those surveyed, 32% admitted to having committed youth violence (34% of males and 29% of females). These figures rely on the respondent answering honestly, and therefore may be under-reported. Figure 8 shows the distribution of types of violence committed. Interestingly, while males have admitted to committing a variety of crimes, female perpetrators say overwhelmingly that they committed “grievous bodily harm.” However, what is defined in English as “grievous bodily harm” could encompass a variety of less severe physical confrontations/injuries as understood in Somali. In this case it is generally considered to describe physical fighting.

Additionally, it is important to remember that while there were several choices for answers, respondents only chose one option, meaning that some categories may be underrepresented either by respondents not wanting to admit to committing crime at all, or only admitting to one type when in fact they have committed several.

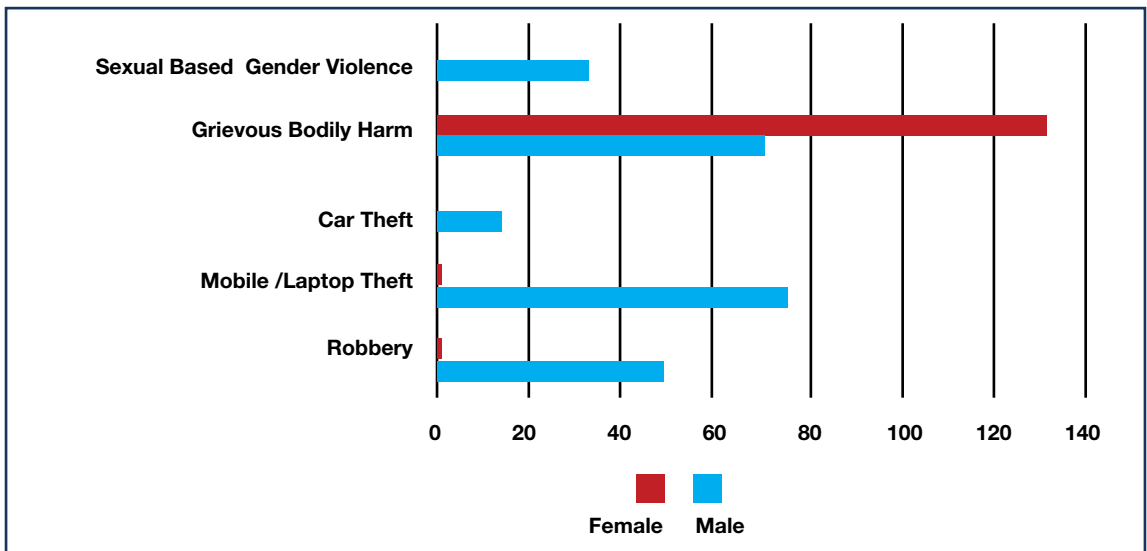


Figure 8: Types of violence by gender

When it comes to perception of who commits youth violence, urban youth in the 15-18 age bracket are seen as the most likely perpetrators, as reported by 54% of the respondents. While it may seem that disability would deter youth from committing crime, 42% of youth with a self-reported disability have admitted to committing youth violence. As this figure is higher than the 32% of general respondents who have admitted to committing violence it could be worth researching further how young people with disabilities see the issue of youth violence and whether the challenges they face make them more likely to engage in violence.



The regions Awdal and Maroodijeh have the highest number of youth overall who have admitted to having committed youth violence with 49% and 37% respectively. The two regions also have the highest number of female youth respondents that admitted to having committed violence, with 47% and 31% respectively, as well as male youth respondents, with 52% and 40% respectively.

Table 2: Perpetrators of youth violence

Region	Have you ever perpetrated YV?	
	Yes	No
Awdal	102	108
Maroodijeh	130	220
Sanaag	53	123
Saxil	23	97
Sool	17	82
Togdheer	59	187
Total	384	816

3.3 Gang Groups as Actors

Youth violence can be committed by individuals or groups. When asked how much they agree with the statement “Most of the youth crimes are committed by gang groups”, the overwhelming majority of respondents (80%) said they agree or strongly agree. Despite the fact that gang groups are often seen as more of an urban problem, this perception was consistent across urban and rural respondents.

The issues of gang rape and gang robberies have emerged substantially in the FGDs, particularly in urban areas. The participants have shown serious concern over recent gang rape incidents in Hargeisa.

When asked what could be the major driver towards gang participation, unemployment was again perceived to be the most important factor, and was viewed as such by both urban and rural youth.

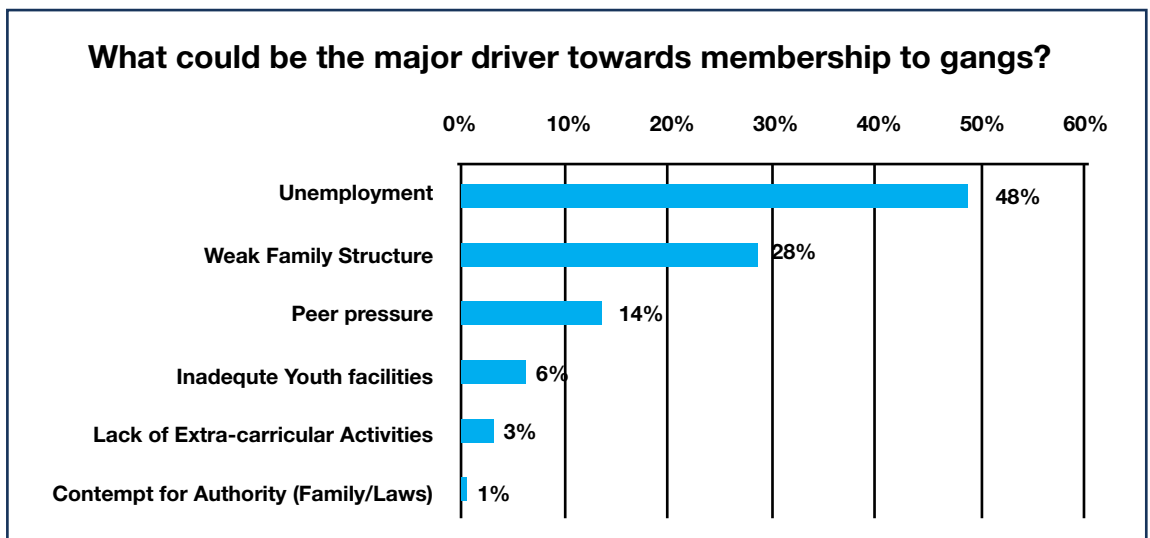


Figure 9: Drivers towards membership to gangs

The FGDs and the KIs affirm the above findings as the participants frequently mentioned the frustrations that result from unemployment and an uncertain future as a major driver towards gang membership.

“I was shocked to learn that my 15 year old son and the kids in the neighborhood are involved in criminal gang activities. They were extremely active and causing mayhem in the neighborhood. I have learnt that they blocked the main road to our neighborhood with stones and mugged people. I got upset with my son and warned him to stay away from the gang activity, but that was not possible until I had to pay his membership due for the current month and for the upcoming two months, simply because I was taking away one of their members. It was honestly disturbing to hear this. I have informed the police about this and now there are patrols in our neighborhood and things are coming back to normal.”

Male FGD participant, Hargeisa

4.0 SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE – RAPE

Some of the questions on sexual and gender-based violence were administered to all the respondents, both males and females, to get an overview of the issue of rape. Additional secondary questions were designed just for the female respondents. Due to the sensitivities of the rape questions, female enumerators received training about how to approach them and were asked to collect this information with caution.

Many of the female survey and FGD participants were reluctant to engage freely in discussions about rape. Although it was made clear by enumerators that their information remained confidential, it was apparent that many found it difficult to be talk about this subject. This therefore raises some questions about the true extent of affected victims.

4.1 Incidence of Rape

Female respondents were asked if they had ever been victims of rape. Out of the 466 females interviewed, 74 (almost 16%) responded in the affirmative.

While the majority of respondents (63%) did not believe rape to be the most prominent type of violence in Somaliland, when the respondents were asked to what degree they agreed with the statement “Cases of rape are on the rise in Somaliland” the vast majority of the respondents (80%) agreed to the statement (44% strongly agreed and 36% agreed). The responses are similar among both urban and rural youth. A higher percentage of females (52%) strongly agree with the above statement than do males (40%).

Although the FGD participants echoed the perception that rape is not the most prominent type of violence in Somaliland, they were very vocal about its significance as a major crime compared to other forms of violence committed, such as mobile/laptop theft, robbery and physical fighting.

“Rape is not as frequent as other types of youth violence in the country. However, it is on the rise at an alarming rate and is taking new forms. We are seeing 21 young men raping two young women. This is a very serious crime and Allah is watching how we deal with it. Many of the perpetrators are never caught and many cases go unreported. The sad part is how it’s dealt with. The victim is stigmatized, the family feels ashamed instead of fighting for the right of their daughter and most of them conceal the facts and the right of the victim is lost between two chiefs. Personally, I believe this is another crime and has no place in the religion.”

Traditional leader, Hargeisa



While the information from survey respondents can only show a perception of an increase in rapes, data from an unpublished report from Baahikoob confirms that reported SGBV cases are on the rise, at least in Hargeisa. A total of 748 victims reported being sexually assaulted within the span of 5 years in the Hargeisa region only. The overwhelming majority of the victims are females (78.6%) with almost half of them younger than 15 years of age. The number of male victims is quite surprising, with 160 male victims, comprising almost 21% of the total victims reported over the span of 5 years.

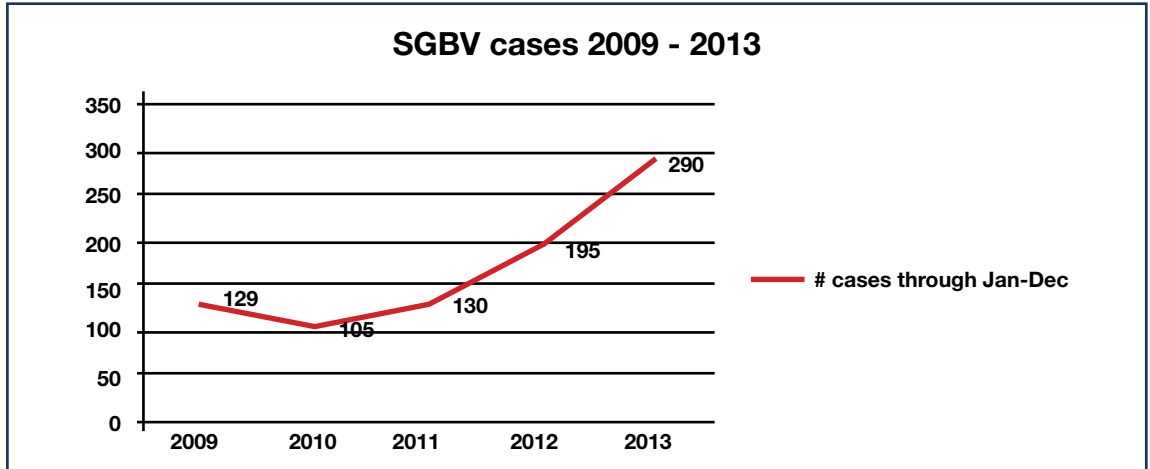


Figure 10: Baahikoob-number of cases, January to December 2009-2013

Table 3: Summary of cases received, January 2009 to December 2013

Gender	Age Groups			Total
	1-15 years	16-30 years	Above 30 years	
Female	292	263	33	588
Male	157	3	None	160
Total	449	266	33	748

4.2 Perception of Triggers of Rape

In order to better understand some of the reasons rape may be occurring, the respondents were asked to rate the degree to which the following three options are triggers of rape: drug or substance abuse, violent media consumption and dowry rise.

These options were chosen because they were considered to reflect the prevailing societal opinions on why rape is committed in Somaliland. Dowry rise is believed to do so because it delays marriage; violent media consumption because with an increase in mobile technology people have much greater exposure to a wide range of content, including violent material which may serve as a negative influence; and drug or substance abuse because it is seen as lowering inhibitions, making it easier to commit an act such as rape.

The respondents were fairly evenly divided about the degree to which these factors contribute to rape, with violent media consumption showing the greatest "strength" as a contributing factor (745 respondents rating it 3 or 4 compared to 695 for dowry rise and 590 for substance abuse).

Table 4: Triggers of rape

Rating (1-Weak to 4-Strong)	Drug or Substance Abuse	Dowry Rise	Violent Media Consumption
1.00	276	96	129
2.00	334	409	326
3.00	188	572	374
4.00	402	123	371
Total	1200	1200	1200

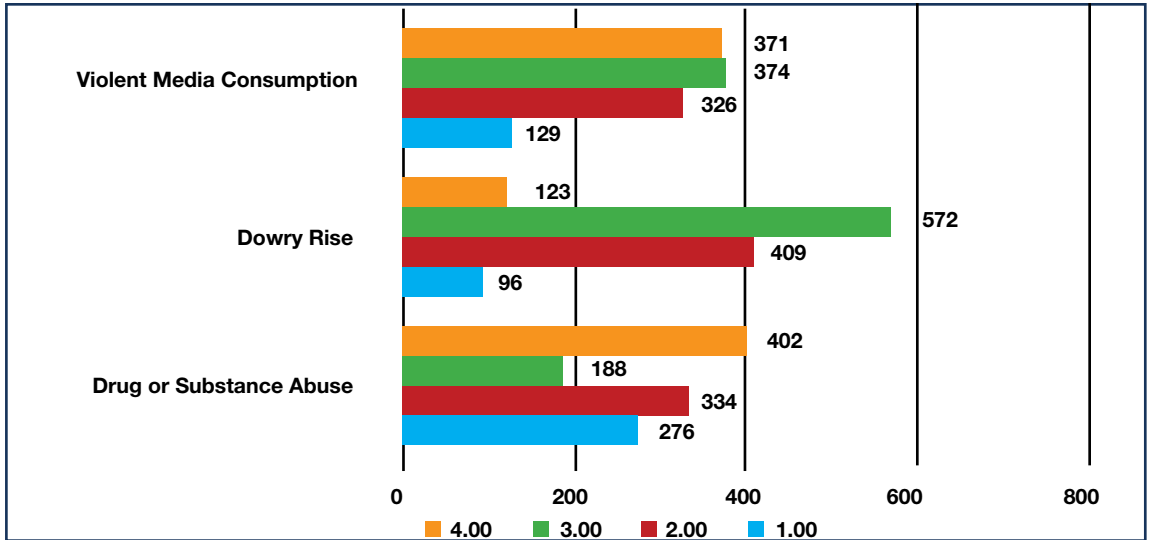


Figure 11: Triggers of rape

On the other hand, FGD attendees mentioned high dowry and rising marriage expenses the most as factors leading men to commit rape, with one respondent summing it up as “rape seems to be cheaper”. With almost as much frequency, discussants stated drug or substance abuse, the weakness of the judiciary system, unemployment and the application of customary law as causes that encourage rape in general. The consumption of violent media was also mentioned in FGDs as a contributing factor to rape, but with less frequency than the above mentioned issues.

4.3 Rape as a Taboo Subject

According to the FGDs, rape is a very sensitive issue in the Somali community and anything to do with rape is unmentionable. Both the qualitative and the quantitative data of the survey show that most community members do not believe that they know victims or perpetrators of rape. 77% of respondents (consistent across both genders) stated that they did not know any perpetrators of rape, and 61% say that they do not know anyone who has been affected by rape. This impacts how rape cases are handled in the community. It is common for families of both victims and perpetrators to conceal the crime within their family structures. A greater proportion of female respondents are aware of someone who has been affected by rape, with 44% answering positively against only 36% of the male respondents.

“In our community rape is a taboo and information regarding rape is limited. Victims are stigmatized, and therefore many cases go unreported as the victims fear for their future of not being married. Families conceal as much as possible as such occurrences give them a bad name in the community. There are not many specific institutions that deal with rape that the victims can approach. If someone would go the nearest police station, often there are no female police officers in the police stations.”

Female FGD participant, Berbera

The majority of the self-reported rape victims in the survey (68%) stated they are not aware of any existing relevant institutions that deal with rape cases. For all the female respondents, there was also a general lack of awareness about existing relevant institutions that deal with rape cases, with the vast majority of them (70%) reporting that they do not know of such institutions. In keeping with the above, and the taboo nature of rape, female respondents (including, but not limited to, the 74 self-reported victims of rape) expressed that family members were the people to whom victims first reported their rape 85% of the time, with mothers being the first to know in approximately half of the cases. This indicates that mothers would be an important target group for awareness-raising on how to deal with rape.

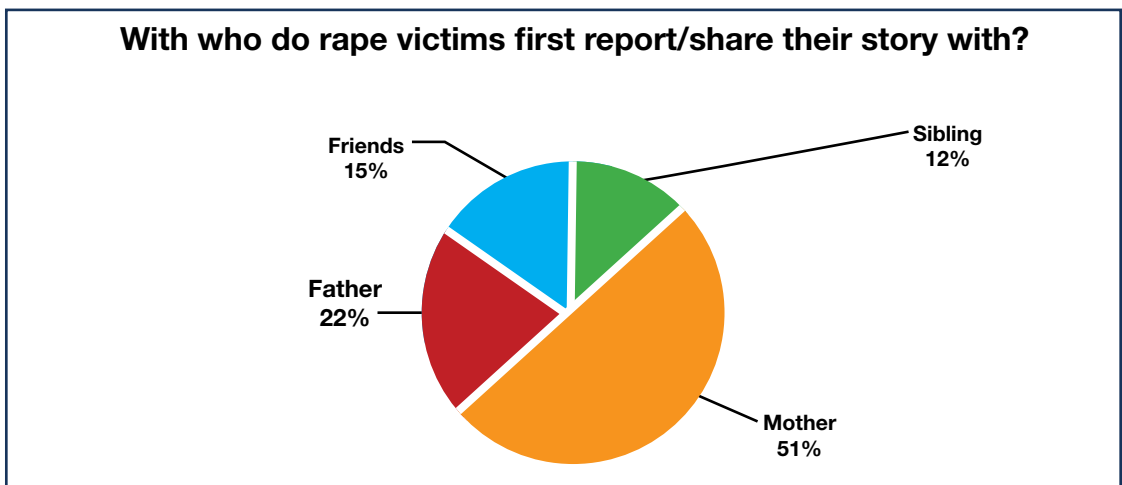


Figure 12: Reporting of rape incidents

When asked the question “do most rape victims report their cases?” only 30% of the female respondents (including, but not limited to, the 74 self-reported victims of rape) answered in the affirmative. In the FGDs participants were asked why they believe many cases of rape go unreported. “Fear of parents/family/community reaction” and “fear of the perpetrator” were mentioned most frequently, followed by “fear for her future”, “social stigma” and “no belief in fair justice.”

4.4 Law and Justice in Cases of Rape

Of the 16% of rape victims among the female respondents of the survey, the majority (77%) said their cases were dealt with through the traditional system, whereas only 13.5% went through the formal court system. Some 9.5% reported that their cases have not been dealt with at all.

A similar picture emerges from the unpublished Baahikoob report, which shows that from 2009 to 2013 the number of cases agreed by the parties through the customary law was – at 222 – almost double the number – 128 – of cases dealt with by the court.

The data from most of the FGDs affirms this finding as their discussions focused on how families of the two sides (victim and perpetrator) collaborate to withdraw their cases from the courts and settle the problem through Xeer Jajab, i.e. customary law.

The participants have discussed in detail the pros and cons of this process. Most of the FGDs clearly stated that the drawbacks of the customary law in dealing with rape cases outweigh its benefits. Many discussants reported widespread exclusion of victims from the process as the matter is taken as men’s business. The victim is left out and the Xeer Jajab between the two sides is deemed more important than anything else. Another downside of the traditional system that was frequently mentioned was the neglect of the long-term psychological effects on the victim.

Although currently most of the rape cases are dealt with through the customary law, 80.4% of the female survey respondents believe that rape cases are not best dealt with in this manner. In addition, 62% of the female respondents believe that the nature of the role played by the traditional leaders in rape cases is negative. The majority of these think the traditional leaders, especially chiefs who are usually involved in the rape cases, punish the victim twice by marrying her to the rapist without punishing the perpetrator. This is believed to encourage more rape incidents.

From the FGDs it was revealed that due to prolonged case investigations that occur on the judiciary side, customary law often becomes the only option for the families of the victims and perpetrators. The FGDs and the KIs have condemned in the strongest terms marrying victims to their rapists and paying Xaal compensation as discussants think that it encourages young men to perpetuate more crime against women.

“For God’s sake - it is a crime. They are punishing her for the rest of her life. That is why many of the victims do not want to be known when they are raped. I have heard countless numbers of cases of such marriages which have failed within the first few weeks of their marriage. This is not a marriage that comes as a result of mutual consent and love; therefore it is bound to fail.”

Female FGD participant, Sool

5.0 EXISTING INSTITUTIONS

5.1 Who do you Trust to Address Youth Violence?

A majority of the respondents (53%) said that they didn’t take any action when they witnessed someone committing youth violence. This was true for 52% of the male respondents and 56% of the female respondents. Of those who said that they had reported youth violence, 24.4% went to the police and 22.1% informed their parents/guardians.

This could be due in part to the low trust for existing legal frameworks (understood as the formal judiciary) in dealing with youth violence reported by the respondents, with 73% indicating that they trusted these institutions either “a little” (34%) or “not at all” (39%). The majority of the youth who perpetrated youth violence (74%) are found within this group of low/no trust.

The trust for the existing legal frameworks that deal with youth violence remains low among both urban and rural youth as well as across genders. There seems, however, to be greater trust for existing legal frameworks among rural youth (36%) than among urban youth (26%).



Sool and Saxil showed a higher percentage of respondents who do not trust existing legal frameworks “at all”, with 53% and 48% respectively. In the case of Sool, the longstanding dispute and disagreement about whether the region should belong to Somaliland or Puntland may be a factor in lowering trust in government institutions in general. It is likely that answers to this question also reflect political affiliations.

Business owners seem to be the employment group that trusts existing frameworks the least, with 49% not trusting them “at all”. This significantly differs from the 39% of the general respondents who gave that answer.

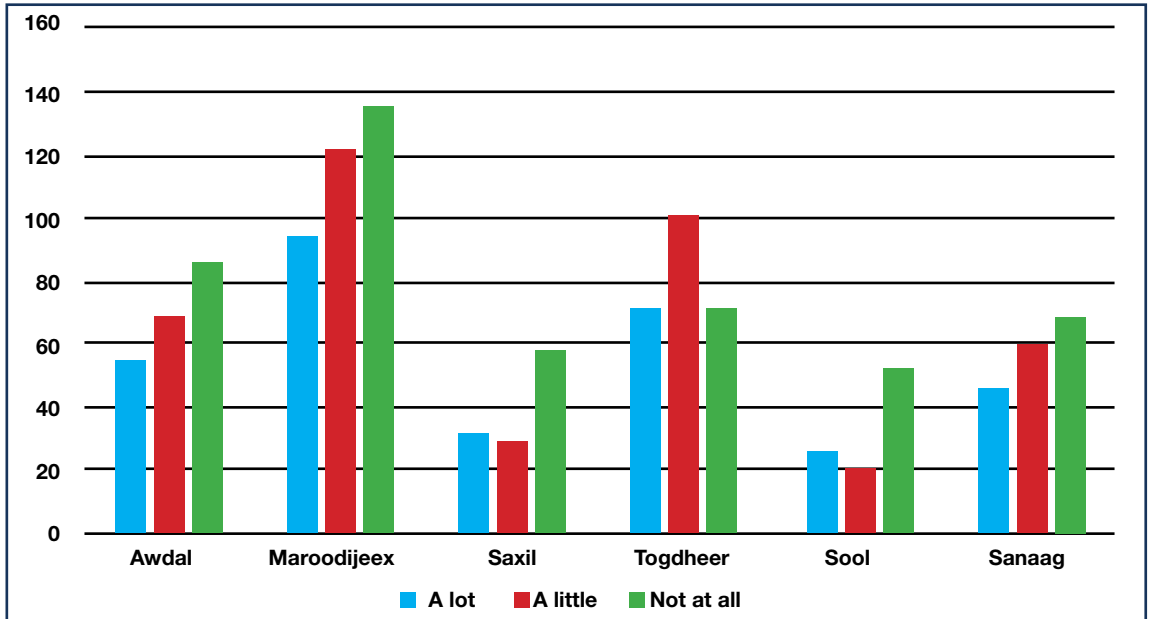


Figure 13: Perception on trust on existing legal frameworks to deal with youth violence

Youth’s experience with the legal system might also have some influence on their trust for the system. When asked if the victims of youth violence receive fair justice, more than 74% of the respondents said no (disagree or strongly disagree).

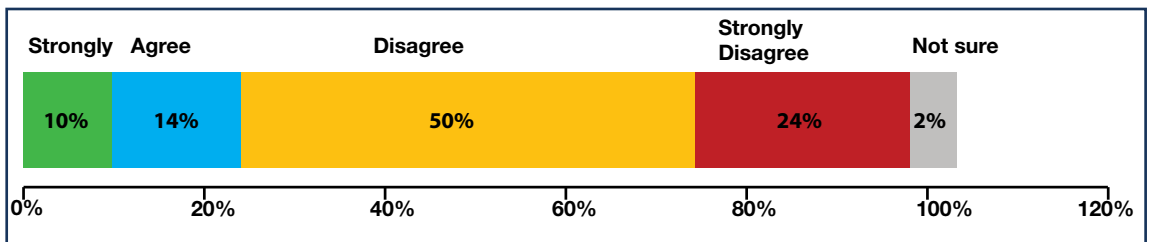


Figure 14: Justice for victims

Youth have shown mixed feelings about the efficacy of the judiciary system in dealing with youth violence issues, with 37% of respondents finding it “not effective at all”. However, the customary law is deemed relatively effective in dealing with youth violence, with 78% of respondents describing it as “very effective” or “rather effective”. This may be attributed to the fact that this system is familiar – people have seen customary law in action, may have been involved in cases that apply this law, and are likely to know how it works. Additionally, customary law may be seen as providing faster outcomes than the judiciary system.

However, the perceived effectiveness of the customary system decreases when the issue of rape is singled out from other types of youth violence.

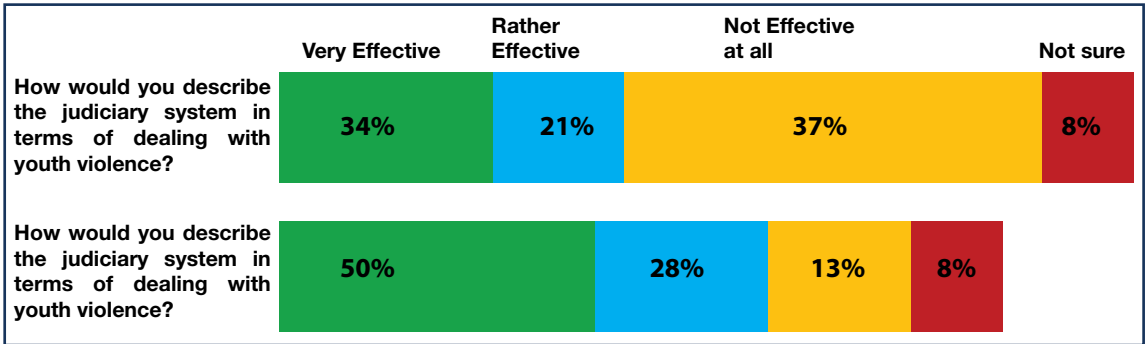


Figure 15: Judiciary system vs. customary law

“The public have a long-standing history of mistrust of the judiciary system. Going to court is seen as shame and dishonour. Women in particular have the least trust for the judiciary system, and because we are the only ones who can accompany our kids when something happens to them due to the missing role of fathers, we rarely go to the courts. We prefer to call the traditional leaders.”

Female FGD participant, Gabiley

The majority of youth respondents (34%) said that they trust “NGOs (including youth civil society organisations)” in addressing youth violence. However, when asked who should take the lead in tackling youth violence, NGOs only received 4% of the responses, with government getting the largest number (36%). This could be interpreted as a desire to strengthen local ownership and empowerment.

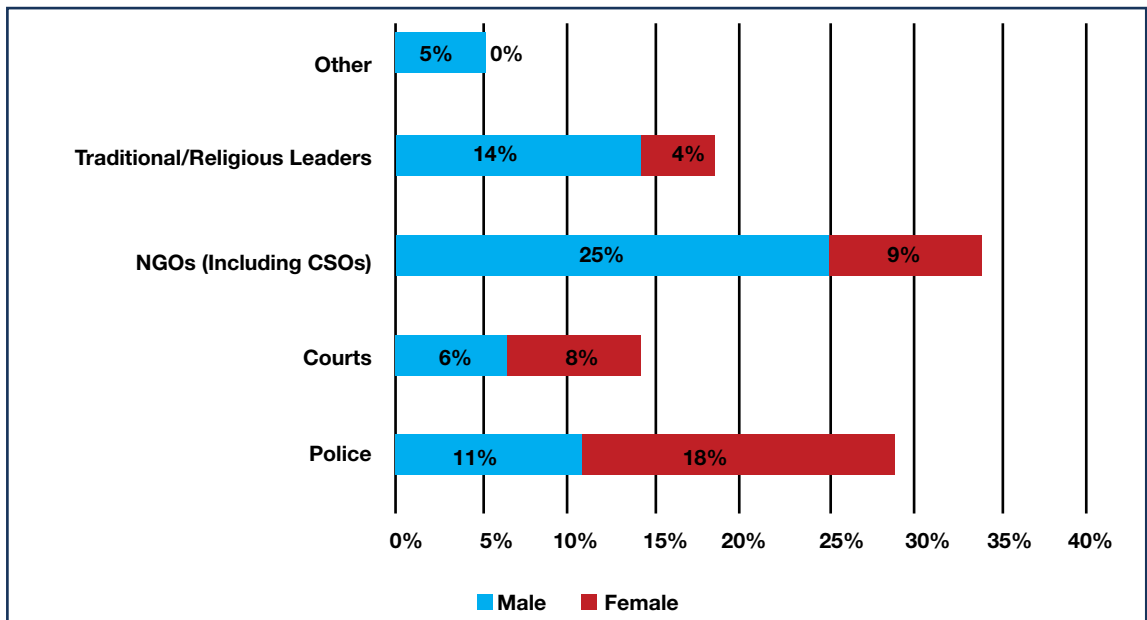


Figure 16: Trust to deal with youth violence

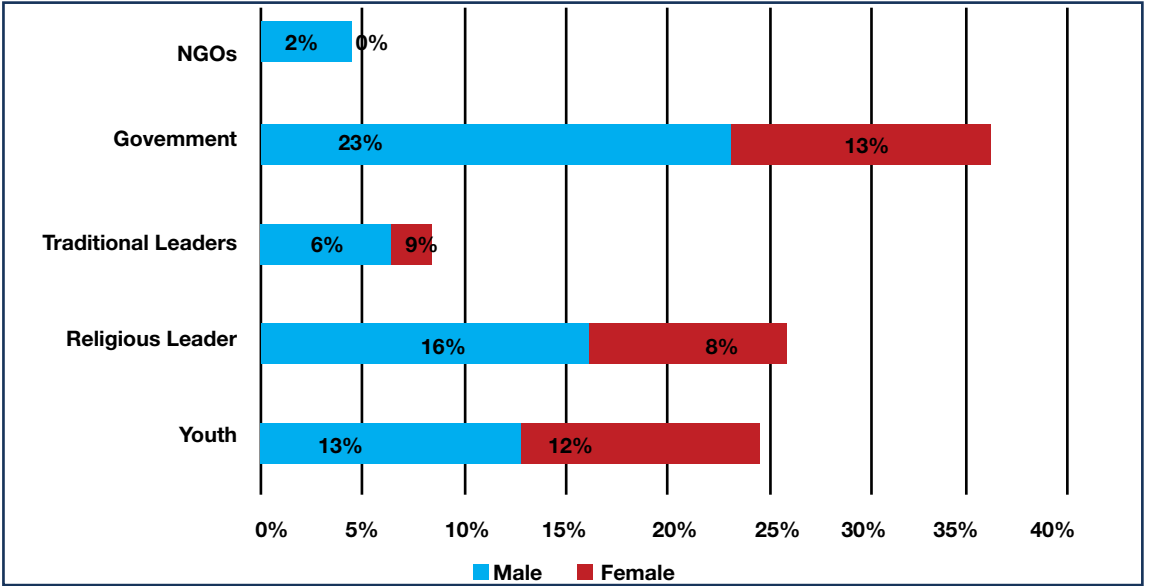


Figure 17: Leadership in tackling youth violence

6.0 YOUTH AS PEACEBUILDERS AND DEMOCRATIC ACTORS

Survey respondents also had the opportunity to share their perspectives on how to improve their own status in society, preventing youth violence and enhancing their ability to be productive and positive actors within Somaliland.

Respondents were asked what they think is the best way to prevent violence among young people. The option with the highest response (38%), “more jobs for young people”, resonates with the perception shown elsewhere in the survey that unemployment is an important factor contributing to youth violence and gang involvement.

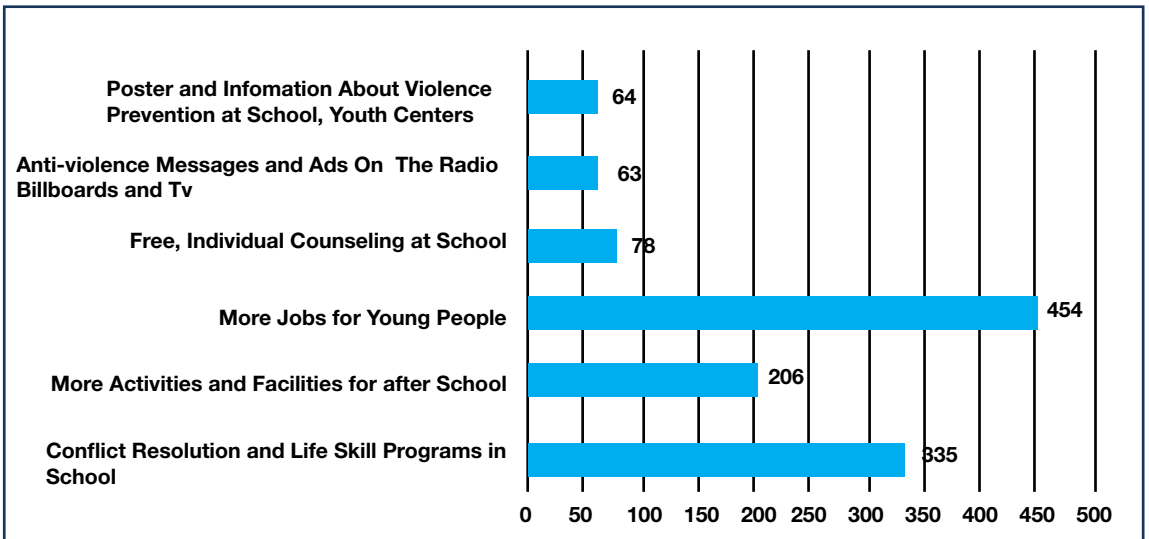


Figure 18: Perception on the best way to prevent violence among the youth

6.1 Expanding Youth Civic and Democratic Participation

Additionally, the respondents were asked an open-ended question on measures to be taken to encourage greater youth democratic participation and civic engagement. From the many different qualitative responses to this question, two aggregated categories were drawn and specific issues that came up from the responses are stated below.

Approximately 38% of the respondents suggested measures that are related to improving youth civic engagement through the provision of leadership trainings, providing freedom to participate in politics and development without restrictions.

Approximately 34% of the respondents believe youth can become more active in civic and democratic processes if they are effectively engaged in productive activities. Approaches that came up from the qualitative responses include: engaging youth through entertainment and community integration programs, offering youth free professional counselling and information about jobs, and fostering employment opportunities.

6.2 Improving Youth Situation and Constructive Engagement

The respondents were asked a second open-ended question on what they would do if they were in charge to improve the situation of youth and to encourage them to play a constructive role in their communities. The respondents mentioned a multitude of ways that youth could be empowered.

Most of the qualitative responses generated from this open-ended question are related to establishing an environment that is “youth friendly.” The establishment of more sports facilities emerged in 64% of the responses provided.

A similar question was asked to participants in the focus group discussions. FGD respondents cited establishment of employment opportunities most frequently, and provision of sports facilities was another top answer. Creation of youth awareness campaigns and provision of free quality education were also very frequently mentioned.

7.0 KEY FINDINGS

The present study undertook survey questionnaires, focus group discussions and key informant interviews to understand the perceptions of youth violence among young people in Somaliland. Key findings with regards to contributing factors, actors, sexual and gender-based violence, existing institutions and contributions of youths to peace and democratic progress are as follows:

- There is a large perception gap between rural and urban youth on the factors contributing to youth violence in Somaliland; with 51% of urban youth citing “lack of employment opportunities” as the major cause of youth violence, but only 11% of rural youth agreeing with that statement. By contrast, 50% of rural respondents identified “clan-based violence” as the major cause of youth violence;
- Lack of opportunities for productive engagement are perceived as the major cause of youth violence; with unemployment and poor education being identified as the major cause of youth violence by 45% and 32% of respondents respectively, and 82% of respondents believing that youth violence occurs during school holidays. Along these lines, the creation of jobs for young people is seen by 38% of the respondents as the best way to prevent violence among young people. Moreover, 64% of respondents believed that more sports facilities would contribute to improving the situation of youth;

- Two specific issues were deemed to be exacerbating factors in youth violence: Khat chewing and gang violence. 59% of respondents believe that there is an “extreme” connection between seeking money to buy khat and committing violence to get it; and 80% believe that “most of the youth crimes are committed by gang groups”;
- Different groups within society are disproportionately affected by youth violence; with 63% of respondents saying they had been victims of youth violence. 87% of female respondents and 71% of those with a disability identified themselves as victims of youth violence; IDPs were perceived to be the most vulnerable group to SGBV by the majority of respondents (59%);
- Whereas the majority of respondents (63%) did not believe rape to be the most prominent type of violence in Somaliland, this specific type of violence is seen by 80% of the respondents as being on the rise and its significance as a major crime was reinforced in FGDs;
- Most rape victims report the crime first to their mothers (51%), or at least to another family member (85%);
- Justice in cases of rape is poorly understood and negatively perceived. 70% of female respondents stated they were not aware of any “existing relevant institutions that deal with rape cases”. Moreover, 80% of female respondents asserted that rape cases were not best dealt with by customary law. In FGDs, customary law was identified as a contributing factor to rape;
- The majority of respondents (73%) have “little” to “no trust” in existing legal frameworks to deal with youth violence; however, customary law is deemed quite effective in dealing with youth violence – contrary to rape cases specifically –, with 78% of respondents describing it as “very effective” or “rather effective”;
- Respondents believe that the government (36%), religious leaders (26%) and youth themselves (25%) should take the lead in addressing youth violence.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Unemployment – perceived as a major cause of youth violence – should be addressed with priority. Given financial constraints on relevant government ministries, partnerships should be pursued involving the private sector, development partners, diaspora and the government in order to create opportunities for youth. Local investment schemes for youth entrepreneurialism should be encouraged.
- Additional outreach and research should be directed towards groups particularly vulnerable to youth violence – females, IDPs and youth with disabilities. They must be included in a process that leads to better mechanisms of prevention and protection.
- Urban and rural youth have some different perceptions about causes of youth violence and how youth violence manifests itself, and therefore violence prevention initiatives should be tailored to consider these differences.
- In dealing with rape cases, the judiciary system needs to be strengthened and the role of customary law reconsidered.
- There needs to be better awareness of existing resources for dealing with SGBV, as well as creation of new resources. Special outreach efforts should be made to mothers, as they are frequently the first person a rape victim reports to.
- Current school curricula need to be reviewed and made contextually relevant to Somaliland. Additionally, there should be a greater effort made to integrate creation of employable skills into the curricula: ensure the curricula receive input from stakeholders that employ the majority of youth; integrate practical learning with theory in the curricula; and engage all stakeholders, including employers, in the review process.
- A culture of volunteering and internship programmes for youth should be promoted, given that the youth gain much needed experience and practice their theoretical knowledge in a real work place.
- As youth have the tendency to attract their peers to join good causes, peer-to-peer centred development programmes for youth should be encouraged; as should be a culture where young people can also spearhead

the efforts against youth violence.

- Youth forums should be carried out throughout the regions to allow young people to share their concerns and the issues that affect their lives, and to involve them in identification of and dialogue about potential solutions.
- Sports and recreation should be promoted as a method of preventing youth violence and drug addiction, and providing the opportunity for the youth to practice good behaviours. In doing so, both young men and women need to have access to appropriate and beneficial recreational opportunities.
- There is a need to develop community-based coalitions against khat – including religious and traditional leaders, parents, schools, youth themselves – to raise awareness on its dangers and create social pressure against its use.
- It will be important to foster a multi-stakeholder conversation about non-violent approaches to combat gang involvement, drawing on lessons learned from other contexts.
- The government should promote the role of the youth in decision-making.



9 ANNEXES

Annex I: Survey Questionnaire

Annex II: Guideline questions for key informant interviews

Annex III: Guideline questions for focus group discussions

Annex I- Survey Questionnaire

These questions were administered to all the respondents who took part in the survey.

Introduction

Welcome. Enumerator introduces herself/himself

The Youth Violence Baseline Survey is a comprehensive nation-wide study which gives baseline information on the trends, dynamics and actors of youth violence as well as the underlying causes. The study covers Maroodijeex, Awdal, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool.

You were selected because you represent a particular group in society which is in some way important to the baseline data the survey aims to unfold; therefore it is crucial we get your view on youth violence, including rape.

The results of the survey will be used to help create a clear picture of different types youth violence in order to plan and design comprehensive policy, legislative and programming agendas which promote youth participation in activities and processes which help prevent youth violence. State confidentiality of their information and anonymity of their identity. Please turn off any devices which may interrupt our interview. Thank you. (It is essential that enumerators read this part before starting question 1)

Questionnaire

Personal information

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1) Area of permanent residence
.....</p> <p>2) Gender</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Female</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) Male</p> <p>3) Age group</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Younger than 15</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) 15-19</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c) 20-25</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d) 26-30</p> <p>4) Marital status</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Single</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) Married</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c) Divorced</p> | <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d) Widowed</p> <p>5) Are you currently a student?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Yes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) No</p> <p>6) Type of education</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Formal</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I. primary</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">II. secondary</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">III. university</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) Informal</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I. Quranic school</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">II. Vocational training</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">III. Other.....</p> <p>7) Do your parents work?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Yes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) No</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c) Deceased</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a1) If yes, who?</p> |
|---|--|

- I. Mother
 - II. Father
 - III. Both
- 8) Professional status
- a) Employed
 - b) Unemployed
 - c) Business owner
- 9) Do you have a self-reported disability/health problem
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Prefer not to answer

Causes and triggers of Youth Violence

- 10) How would you define Youth Violence?
- 11) In your opinion, which of the following is the major cause of youth violence?
- a) Poor education
 - b) Lack of employment opportunities
 - c) Absence of Youth friendly facilities
 - d) Political marginalization
 - e) Clan based rivalries
 - f) Land disputes (not over personal land but families)
 - g) Other.....
- 12) Most of the youth crimes are committed by gang groups
- a) Strongly Agree
 - b) Agree
 - c) Disagree
 - d) Strongly disagree
 - e) Not sure
- 13) What could be the major driver towards membership to gangs?
- a) Unemployment
 - b) Weak family structure (in search of another network)
 - c) Peer pressure
 - d) Inadequate youth facilities
 - e) Lack of extra-curricular activities
 - f) Contempt for authority (family/laws)
- 14) Is there connection between seeking money to buy khat and committing violence to get it?
- a) Extreme connection
 - b) Some connection
 - c) No connection
- 15) Most murder cases happen accidentally rather than being pre-meditated
- a) Strongly agree
 - b) Agree
 - c) Disagree
 - d) Strongly disagree
 - e) Not sure
- 16) Does insufficient street lighting provide opportunities for physical violence to be committed?
- a) All the time
 - b) Sometimes
 - c) Not at all
- 17) Does irregular/inadequate transportation enable perpetrators to commit youth violence?
- a) Strongly agree
 - b) Agree
 - c) Disagree
 - d) Strongly disagree
 - e) Not sure

Actors: Perpetrators and Victims of violence

- 18) Which of the following age group are the main perpetrators of youth violence?
- a) Younger than 15
 - b) 15-19
 - c) 20-25
 - d) 26-30
- 19) Have you ever perpetrated youth violence?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- a1) If yes, what type (Choose all that applies)
- I. Robbery
 - II. Mobile/Laptop theft
 - III. Car theft
 - IV. Grievous Bodily Harm
 - V. Sexual based violence
 - VI. Other.....
- a2) If yes, why did you perpetrate the above crime?
- I. Revenge/retaliation
 - II. Peer pressure



- III. No particular reason
IV. Other.....
- 20) Have you ever been a victim of youth violence?
a) Yes
b) No
a1) If yes, what type? (Choose all that applies)
I. Robbery
II. Mobile/Laptop theft
III. Car theft
IV. Grievous Bodily Harm
V. Sexual based violence
VI. Other.....
- 21) Do you know of anyone who has been a victim of youth violence?
a) Yes
b) No
a1) If yes, what type? (Choose all that applies)
I. Robbery
II. Mobile/Laptop theft
III. Car theft
IV. Grievous Bodily Harm
V. Sexual based violence
VI. Other.....
a2) What was the nature of the victim? (Choose all that applies)
I. Relative
II. Friend
III. Neighbor
IV. Stranger
- 22) Do you know of anyone who has perpetrated youth violence?
a) Yes
b) No
a1) If yes, who? (Choose all that applies)
I. Family member
II. Relative
III. Friend
IV. Stranger
a2) If yes, what action did you take?
I. Reported to police
II. Informed parent/guardian
III. Did not take any action
- 23) If you found yourself or someone else in a violent situation, who would you inform?
a) Parent
b) Teacher
c) Police
d) Friend
e) Sibling
f) Doctor
g) Religious leader
h) No one
i) Other.....
- 24) Which of the following group are the main victims of youth violence?
a) Females
b) Males
- 25) Which of the following tools do youth violence perpetrators mainly use?
a) Knife
b) Stick
c) Rock
d) Firearm
e) Other.....
Setting and trends
- 26) In your opinion, where is youth violence most frequent?
a) Urban settings
b) Rural settings
c) Both
d) Not sure
- 27) When does the majority of youth violence take place?
a) During school holidays
b) During school
c) Other.....
- 28) Does having a lot of free time encourage youth violence?
a) Yes
b) No
- 29) Where does sports-related violence usually occur?
a) Football grounds
b) Residential areas
c) Other.....
- 30) Which of the following options does sports-related violence mainly lead to?
a) University/School fights
b) Rape
c) Other.....
- 31) During what part of the day is youth violence

most frequent?

- a) 7-9 am
- b) 10-12 noon
- c) 1-3 pm
- d) 4-6 pm
- e) 7-9 pm
- f) 10-12 pm
- g) After Midnight

32) Where do you witness the majority of physical violence?

- a) At school
- b) In neighborhood
- c) At home

33) How often did you witness physical violence in the last month?

- a) Never
- b) 1-3 times
- c) 4-6 times
- d) 7-10 times
- e) more than 10 times

34) Do you participate in any extra -curricular activities?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- a1) If yes, what kind?
 - I. Football
 - II. GYM
 - III. Watching sports games
 - IV. Internet usage
 - V. Other.....

Gender Based Sexual Violence; rape

35) Rape is the most prominent type of youth violence in Somaliland

- a) Strongly Agree
- b) Agree
- c) Disagree
- d) Strongly disagree
- e) Not sure

36) Cases of rape are on the rise in Somaliland

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Strongly disagree
- d) Disagree

e) Not sure

37) In your opinion, where are rape cases most frequent?

- e) Urban
- f) Rural
- g) Both
- h) Not sure

38) Do you know anyone who has perpetrated rape?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- a1) if yes, what action did you take?

- I. Reported to police
- II. Informed elders
- III. No action

a2) If you reported to police, what was police action?

- I. Arrested (but freed or held indefinitely without charge)
- II. Arrested and Prosecuted
- III. No action

39) Do you know anyone who has been affected by rape?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- a1) if yes, specify the nature of the victim (choose all that applies)

- I. Family member
- II. Relative
- III. Friend
- IV. Neighbor
- V. Stranger

40) Which of the following group is the most vulnerable against gender based sexual violence?

- a) Disabled
- b) IDPs
- c) Minorities
- d) Rural
- e) Other.....

41) From 1 (Weak) to 4(Strong), how would you scale the following triggers/causes of rape? (circle option)

a) Drug or substance abuse

1 2 3 4

b) Dowry rises

1 2 3 4

(option 2 in xeer law states perpetrator should

marry his victim)

c) Violent media consumption

1 2 3 4

(internet/TV/games-enactment of negative treatment of women)

Frameworks, existing institutions (informal or formal), Opportunities & Interventions

- 42) How would you describe the judiciary system in terms of dealing with youth violence?
- Very effective
 - Rather effective
 - Not effective at all
 - Not sure
- 43) How much do you trust existing legal frameworks which deal with youth violence?
- A lot
 - A little
 - Not at all
- 44) How would you describe the effectiveness of customary law in addressing youth violence?
- Very effective
 - Rather effective
 - Not effective at all
 - Not sure
- 45) Which of the following remedies is the best option in dealing with perpetrators of youth violence?
- Imprisonment
 - Rehabilitation
 - Application of customary law (such as marriage to victim, compensation (Xaal)
- 46) Do youth violence victims receive fair justice?
- Strongly Agree
 - Agree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - Not sure
- 47) How aware are you about youth violence prevention?
- Very aware
 - Somewhat aware
 - Not aware
- 48) I think the best way to prevent violence among young people is to offer
- Conflict resolution and life skills programs in schools
 - More activities and facilities for after school
 - More jobs for young people
 - Free, individual counseling at schools
 - Anti-violence messages and ads on the radio, billboards, and TV
 - Posters and information about violence prevention at school, youth centers
- 49) Which of the following groups should take the lead in tackling and addressing Youth Violence?
- Youth
 - Religious leaders
 - Traditional leaders
 - Government
 - NGOs
 - Other
- 50) Who do youth look up to the most for leadership and guidance?
- Government leaders
 - Traditional leaders
 - Religious leaders
 - Celebrities
 - Other
- 51) Which of the following groups do you trust most when it comes to dealing with youth violence?
- Police
 - Courts
 - NGOs (including Youth Civil Society Org)
 - Traditional/religious leaders
 - Other.....
- 52) Youth Violence should be seriously taken into the national agenda for debate
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly disagree
 - Disagree

Youth as Peace-builders and democratic actors

- 53) The role of the Somaliland youth in decision-making is very limited
- Agree

- b) Strongly agree
 - c) Disagree
 - d) Strongly disagree
- 54) Which of the following barriers pose the biggest challenge to youth democratic participation?
- a) Cultural prejudice (age discrimination by elders)
 - b) Socio-economic barriers (unemployment, poor education etc)
 - c) Political marginalization
 - d) Other
- 55) Do you believe youth rights are protected in Somaliland?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 56) Do you feel that youth civil society organizations have the capacity to promote youth rights and participation?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 57) Which measures can encourage greater youth democratic participation and civic engagement?
- 58) Are existing strategies to help youth in Somaliland effective?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - b1) if not, how can they be improved?
- 59) If you were in charge, what would you do to improve the situation of youth and to encourage them to play a constructive role in their communities?

Secondary Questions

These questions will be focused on female respondents. They could either be victims of rape or not. They can be from specific groups such as IDPs, marginalized, disabled etc. These questions will be collected by female enumerators only given the sensitive nature of the questions being asked. Try to gain access to these respondents via NGOs dealing with SGBV victims/Hospital groups/Paralegals etc.

Introductions

These questions are useful in helping us to uncover some important information on rape. We take into account the

sensitive nature of this topic, therefore, please feel free to ask for a break or to discontinue if you begin to feel uncomfortable. After the interview, I will make available some useful contacts for counseling/services for Sexual Gender Based Violence (wait for mapping exercises by supervisors of available regional services). Information you provide will be confidential. (Enumerators should read this part before starting question 62)

- 60) Have you ever been a victim of rape?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - a1) If yes, how was your case dealt with?
 - I. Court
 - II. Traditional system (i.e. She is married to her rapist 2. Case is resolved through Xaal payment)
 - III. Not dealt with (due to lack of proximity to medical and security institutions, lack of awareness, lack of finance, other reasons)
- 61) Do victims of rape in the majority of cases receive therapy support?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Not sure
- 62) Are you aware of any relevant institutions who deal with rape cases?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 63) Most of rape victims know their perpetrator in person
- a) Strongly agree
 - b) Agree
 - c) Strongly disagree
 - d) Disagree
 - e) Not sure
- 64) Do most rape victims report their cases?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - a1) If yes, after how long?
 - I. Minutes after incident
 - II. Hours later
 - III. Days later



- IV. Weeks later
- V. More
- 65) With whom do rape victims first report/share their story with?
- Sibling
 - Mother
 - Father
 - Friends
 - Police
 - Other.....
- 66) How long does it usually take to catch the rape perpetrator?
- Same day as incident
 - Days later
 - Weeks later
 - Never
- e) Not sure
- 67) Do you think rape cases are best dealt with through customary law?
- Yes
 - Sometimes
 - Not at all
 - a1) If yes, when?.....
- 68) What is the nature of the role played by traditional elders in rape cases?
- Positive
 - Negative
 - a1) if positive, why?.....
 - b1) if negative, why?.....

Annex II - Guideline questions for key informant interviews

These questions will be addressed to academics, traditional leaders, government officials, religious leaders, NGO workers, Parent (active in community/members of committees etc.

Introduction

Welcome. The Youth Violence Baseline Survey is a comprehensive nation-wide study which gives baseline information on the trends, dynamics and actors of youth violence as well as the underlying causes. The study covers Somaliland's entire regions; Maroodijeex, Awdal, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool. You were selected because you represent a particular group in society which is in some way important to the baseline data the survey aims to unfold; therefore it is crucial we get your view on youth violence, including rape.

The results of the survey will be used to help create a clear picture of different types youth violence in order to plan and design comprehensive policy, legislative and programming agendas which promote youth participation in activities and processes which help prevent youth violence. The interview will be recorded.

Questions:

- What organizations (both International and Local) are engaged or have programme/projects that are focused on youth development?
- How successful are these projects in achieving their objectives? What challenges do they face?
- Is there any coordination system or common approach among organizations and government entities who are engaged in youth violence prevention?
- How effective are relevant authorities/ organizations that have the mandate to deal with Youth Violence?
- Why do you think many youth violence cases go unreported, especially rape cases?
- What role does religion play when addressing gender based violence?
- What are the youth capacity building needs when addressing gender based violence?

8. What do you think about the 3 parallel systems (secular, Shari'a and customary) which exist in the country?
9. Are there challenges within the judiciary system which hinders their role in tackling youth violence? What is the nature of these problems?
10. Who should lead the national effort for the prevention of Youth Violence?
11. What changes/improvements need to be implemented to help develop the situation of Somaliland youth?

Annex III- Guideline questions for focus group discussions

These groups will comprise of mixed and single sex discussion groups. There are cultural sensitivities about mixing females/males therefore this might inhibit their ability to speak freely. Also there will be particularly sensitive topics up for discussion. The questions/prompts will be inspired by the categories within the primary questions. The individuals will be selected randomly from their respective groups. The discussion should last approx 30-45mins.

Introduction

Welcome. Introduction of moderator and assistance.

The Youth Violence Baseline Survey is a comprehensive nation-wide study which gives baseline information on the trends, dynamics and actors of youth violence as well as the underlying causes. The study covers Somaliland's entire regions; Maroodijeex, Awdal, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool.

You were selected because you each represent a particular group in society which is in some way important to the baseline data the survey aims to unfold, therefore it is crucial we get your view on youth violence, including rape.

The results of the survey will be used to help create a clear picture of different types youth violence in order to plan and design comprehensive policy, legislative and programming agendas which promote youth participation in activities and processes which help prevent youth violence.

The discussion will be recorded so we would appreciate it if you could each speak one at a time. You do not have to agree with each other; however it is very important you respectfully listen to each other's views. Please turn off any devices which may interrupt our discussions. Thank you.

Questions:

If possible a focus group discussion consisting only of youth perpetrators of crime will be added to the sets to help gain a different and more balanced perspective on youth violence.

Set 1: Disabled, rural, minority, IDP, Youth in conflict with law, Khat-chewing, students (8 Male)

- 1) What is your definition of Youth Violence?

Causes and triggers of Youth Violence

- 2) What could be causes of Youth Violence?
- 3) What role does substance abuse such as Khat play in influencing Y.V? Why is this?



Actors: Perpetrators and Victims

- 4) Are vulnerable (disabled/IDP/rural/minorities) youth more in danger of becoming victims of youth violence? Why is this?
- 5) What do you think about youth violence perpetrators being put into prisons, often with older criminals?
- 6) How would you suggest youth offenders are dealt with by relevant authorities?

Gender Based Sexual Violence

- 7) What could be encouraging rape in general?
- 8) What is your opinion of customary law when it comes to dealing with rape cases?
- 9) In your opinion, why do some cases of rape go unreported?

Legal frameworks, existing institutions (informal), Remedies (interventions and opportunities)

- 10) Do you feel that there is an adequate national strategy to help youth prosper?
- 11) Suppose that you were in charge, what change would you make to improve the situation of the youth to discourage youth violence?

Youth as peace-builders and democratic participants

- 12) What role can youth play in democracy and peace-building?
- 13) What are the main challenges facing youth to play a major role in the decision making of the country?
- 14) Of all the things we discussed, what is the most important to you?
- 15) Have we missed anything?

Set 2: Students, IDPs, Disabled, Marginalized, Khat chewers, conflict with law (8 mixed)

- 1) What is your definition of youth violence?
- 2) What could be causes of youth violence?
- 3) What role does substance abuse such as Khat play in influencing Y.V? Why is this?
- 4) Are vulnerable (IDP, Rural, Disabled) youth more at risk of being victims of youth violence? Why is this?
- 5) What do you think about youth violence perpetrators being put into prisons, often with older criminals?
- 6) How would you suggest youth offenders are dealt with by relevant authorities?
- 7) What could be encouraging rape in general?
- 8) What is your opinion of customary law when it comes to dealing with rape cases?
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- 10) Do you feel that there is an adequate national strategy to help youth prosper?
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- 13) What are the main challenges facing youth to play a major role in the decision making of the country?
- 14) Of all the things we discussed, what is the most important to you?
- 15) Have we missed anything?

Set 3: Students, IDP, Marginalized, Disabled etc (8 females)

- 1) What is your definition of youth violence?

- 2) What could be causes of youth violence?
- 3) What role does substance abuse such as Khat play in influencing youth violence? Why is this?
- 4) Are vulnerable (IDP, Rural, Disabled) youth more at risk of being victims of gender based sexual violence? Why is this?
- 5) What do you think about youth violence perpetrators being put into prisons, often with older criminals?
- 6) How would you suggest youth offenders are dealt with by relevant authorities?
- 7) What could be encouraging rape in general?
- 8) What is your opinion of customary law when it comes to dealing with rape cases?
- 9) In your opinion, why do some cases of rape go unreported?
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- 15) Have we missed anything?



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SONYO YOUTH UMBRELLA

Somaliland National Youth Umbrella (SONYO)
T: +252-63-4427327/+252-63-4457703
E: sonyoed@gmail.com
W: http://www.sonyoumbrella.com/



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