



Center for Democracy & Governance

*"Holding Power Accountable"*

# Organized Crime in Somaliland

## Assessment Report

### Abstract

Despite Somaliland demonstrating relatively better peace and security stability compared to the neighboring countries, there was still ongoing organized crime and activities within the country.

**Center for Democracy and Governance**

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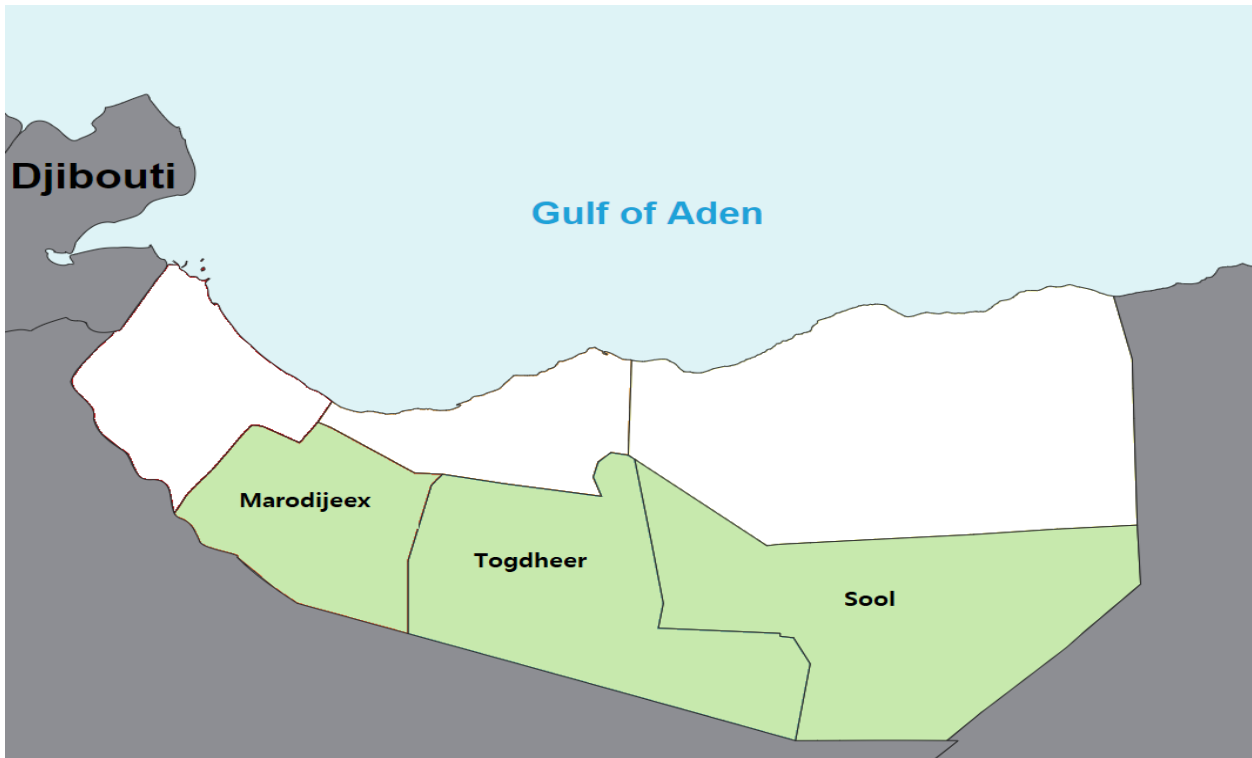
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## Acronyms

<b>CDG</b>	Centre for Democracy and Governance
<b>CID</b>	Criminal Investigations Division
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HoR</b>	House of Representatives
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>SNM</b>	Somali National Movement
<b>SPF</b>	Somaliland Police Force
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollars



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The CDG Senior Management Team wishes to express gratitude to the respondents of Hargeisa community, Burao community, Lasanod community, the Somaliland Police Force and all the respondents who gave consent to participate in the assessment or study.

On behalf of the CDG Senior Management Team,

Abdirahman Warsame.

## Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings and discussions of the recently conducted assessment for “Organized Crimes in Somaliland.” The assessment was conducted during the month of September 2021. The assessment was conducted by CDG and was a self-funding assessment. The objective of the study or assessment is to get information of the Organized Crimes in Somaliland, who are the actors, what are their motivations and benefits and then we draw recommendations from the findings.

Somaliland has tried to maintain peace and stability in the country since 1991. But slowly by slowly there has been increased cases and news of Organized Crime and emerging trends over the last 10 years. The main organized crime activities range from human trafficking, illegal migration, militia fighters and drug smuggling. The main groups involved are the local youth of Somaliland, other clan members, foreigners and some of the Somaliland diaspora. Attacks, fights, murders, robbery, theft and GBV has been seen frequently in social media and news channels.

Somaliland systems and structures are generally still weak let alone to combat organized crime in the country. This includes guideline and frameworks as well as physical infrastructures and resources. There is also lack of databases of the trends of the organized crime in Somaliland. The Somaliland Police Force also needs a lot of support because they are the key players in maintaining peace and order in Somaliland. The traditional leaders, including the young Suldan Daud Suldan Mohamed, need a lot of support and capacity building because they are also key players in maintaining peace in the clan-based communities of Somaliland.

Despite Somaliland demonstrating relatively better peace and security stability compared to the neighboring countries, there was still ongoing organized crime and activities within the country. The organized crime activities especially Murder was because of issues to do with clan conflicts, revenge, robbery gone wrong, rape and uncontrolled arms in Somaliland, Armed robbery, Drug trafficking and Auto theft. The trends since 2017 to 2020 showed there is no improvement but there was still prevalence of the organized crimes in Somaliland. The people or culprits were usually youth between 17 – 38, especially male and mostly local community members. The main causes were lack of employment and for others, it was a way of looking for means of livelihood or idleness. The security forces especially are doing their best to tackle the activities but lack enough man power and capacity. Weak government systems play an indirect role in the organized crime.

The findings suggest that despite Somaliland demonstrating relatively better peace and security stability compared to the neighboring countries, there was still ongoing organized crime and activities within the country. The organized crime activities especially Murder was because of issues to do with clan conflicts, revenge, robbery gone wrong, rape and uncontrolled arms in Somaliland, Armed robbery, Drug trafficking and Auto theft. The trends since 2017 to 2020 showed there is no improvement but there was still prevalence of the organized crimes in Somaliland. The people or culprits were usually youth between 17 – 38, especially male and mostly local community members. The main causes were lack

of employment and for others, it was a way of looking for means of livelihood or idleness. The security forces especially are doing their best to tackle the activities but lack enough man power and capacity. Weak government systems play an indirect role in the organized crime.

## **Recommendations**

**Youth Employment** - The government and other stakeholders should work together to increase employability and get jobs for the youth. Lack of jobs and employment are a major cause of joining organized crime gangs or being part of the organized crime systems. The youth look for jobs and don't get or are paid very low wages because of lack of skills. But a needs assessment can be conducted and then prioritize the youth who should be considered for a support program. Likewise, the government can consider placements and internship programs for the youth so that they gain experience. So, when the youth are busy and in the system of the employment system, they will not have time or reason to engage in criminal activities.

**ID Registrations** - The government and local authority should work together to register all the citizens of Somaliland and issue National Identification Cards. The refugees should also be given ID cards to identify them like the Syrians, Yemenis and Ethiopians. This way, the local authority can easily identify who is who. The crime rate will lower and the communities will enjoy better peace and coexistence.

**Regular Security Checks and Patrols** - The Somaliland government and local authority to conduct regular security checks and patrols within the Somaliland communities. This way the communities will feel safer and the organized crimes will reduce. The security checks to be also conducted on highways by highway patrols. This is currently done, but the police lack enough resources. Support to the patrol units will be another strategy to combat insecurity and organized criminal activities.

**Community Awareness and Strengthening the Structures** - The government and other stakeholders could conduct community awareness sessions in terms of security and peace building. Also, a community facilitator and volunteers could be assigned different days to keep patrol and watch the community. The relevant stakeholders can assess to see if there is a guideline or policy related to the governance of community structures and leadership. Then the next step will be to either review the existing guidelines or develop a new guideline all together. The community leadership and structures also to be given refresher trainings to make them familiar with the guideline and governance policies. Good leadership means good prosperity and development of the communities.

**Advocate for the Support of the Local Communities** - The stakeholders like CDG could advocate and raise funds to support the local communities prioritizing with the neediest. The CDG could support the communities in resource mobilization, capacity building and strengthening the community leadership, management and planning systems. The funds can also be sought through issuing the matter the members of parliament and the HoR can identify where the budget can be got through maybe reviewing taxation or increasing

taxes for certain imports like qat so that the funds can be used to support communities, support youth and combat criminal activities.

**Sponsors for Foreigners** - In the recent months, some foreigners were got trying to forge the US dollars and streaming it into the Somaliland markets through laundering. They criminal gang was arrested immediately by the Police and taken to the CID headquarters. It the foreigners who usually come with new ideas into the community using high-tech systems and methods. So, all the foreigners, especially the unemployed from the developing countries, who come into Somaliland should have a sponsor and the sponsor should be responsible for the actions of the person on the subject matter. This does not affect the International Foreigners especially the NGO workers, diplomats, businessmen who are in Somaliland for work- and business-related matters because there has been no case from that class of persons.

**Border Control** - Somaliland to increase border control and thorough checking of vehicles that enter into the country especially through the airport (Berbera and Hargeisa), Ethiopia-Somaliland border areas and Puntland-Somaliland border areas. Here are the main points where a lot in Organized Crime is done. This includes human trafficking, illegal migration and importing of illegal narcotics and drugs into Somaliland. Thorough border and ports control will immensely lead to the reduction of organized crimes in Somaliland.

**Fines and Penalty** - Increasing the penalty for the criminals who are caught conducting organized criminal activities could lead to the reduction of these crimes. Some are fined lightly like those who are got smoking marijuana and so they still continue indulging in such activities. It was found out that some marijuana smokers were sentenced to 3 months in prison which is very small penalty. So, the relevant stakeholders could assess what actions are taken for which crimes and how can the penalty be increased and made severe so that the culprits do not indulge in such.

**TTC and TVET** - The Somaliland government and the relevant stakeholders to mainstream and improve the Teachers Training Centers and TVET centers. The admissions to also be made affordable and fair so that the local communities can enroll more. This way the youth of Somaliland will get better opportunities and chances of getting employed locally. This will reduce the rates of Organized Crimes in Somaliland.

**Traditional Leaders** - The traditional leaders play a great role in maintaining peace within the different clans and communities. Therefore, the Somaliland government and the relevant stakeholders should consider the capacity building of the traditional leaders. The capacity building could be in terms of trainings, reviewing or developing guidelines for them, involving them in meetings and talks, supporting them in their respective administrative structures, supporting them in resource mobilization or sustainable projects like a building a community hospital which will fund the traditional leaders' administration and peace keeping activities.

**Street Lights** - The Somaliland government, local governments and relevant stakeholders to consider having street lights especially in the most sensitive and fragile communities and later to the rest of the communities across Somaliland. The street lights could be solar



powered so that it is sustainable and can be used for several years without worrying about paying the maintenance costs. The street lights will scare away the criminal gangs and the communities will feel much safer and peaceful during night movements.

**Somaliland-Puntland Dialogues** - Somaliland government and Puntland government to hold peace talks. The peace talks will reduce tensions and fights especially in the Somaliland-Puntland border areas. A lot of tensions are sparked off when Hargeisa or Garowe comment on the other government leading to fights and wars in the border areas. The 2 should sit together and hold sustainable peace talks and negotiations.

**Arms Control** - There is a lot of unregistered and uncontrolled arms trade in the black market of Somaliland. The Somaliland government should work with the relevant stakeholders and combat arms dealings. And for all who deserve to have the guns, should have it registered. This means there should also be a database and online system with all the registered firearms. The rest which is not registered to be confiscated by the government or disposed of.

**Somaliland Independence** - The peace and prosperity largely lie on the recognition of Somaliland as an independent state. This will play a role in combating organized crime through very many ways. Examples are; It will allow youth to be issued passports and can travel easily and not do illegal migration. So, the middlemen or transporters or human traffickers will lose market. Another example how the recognition of Somaliland will combat organized crime is that it will attract diplomats from other countries hence increasing the foreign income into Somaliland leading to better economy and more jobs.

**Police Capacity Building** - As per the findings, we identified the Somaliland Police Force to play a role in improving the securities of the communities. Therefore, the Police Force need to be better capacitated to deal with the organized crimes like the high-tech criminal activities. So, the Somaliland government and the relevant stakeholders should take this action and support the police force because they are the main players for maintaining peace and order in the local communities of Somaliland. The capacity building can be in form of training, supporting with resources to get more manpower, to support them with resources like stations and patrol vehicles etc.

**Mobile and Vehicle tracking** - The communications service providers to support the government in issuing mobile and vehicle tracking services for the communities at an affordable price. This is important so that when a vehicle or mobile is stolen, it can be tracked and the culprits brought to justice.

**Taxation for Foreigners** - Some local youth complained of not getting employment because foreigners are taking up all the jobs in the work force. We have foreigners like from Arab countries, from African countries and other countries like Asia etc. The foreigners are then given jobs or take jobs that the Somaliland youth could do. The foreigners are undoubtedly much skilled and experienced than the local Somaliland youth so they are more preferred. Example is that of teaching position for Primary, Secondary and University Schools. Most of the senior teachers and lecturers are Kenyans, Ugandans, Ethiopians, Asian and among others. The teachers also do not pay taxes except the entry

visa. So, if there was a way the government or the relevant stakeholders could intervene and tax even if it is a small amount, then the income could be used to support the local communities in very many endeavors.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. About CDG

The Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) is an independent, Somaliland based nonprofit center of excellence that promotes the advancement of democracy and good governance. The CDG works to deep democracy and contributes peace and security in Horn of Africa, the African continent and beyond through dialogue, the pursuit of knowledge and rigorous analysis of critical issues and developments. In exercising this responsibility, CDG focuses on the challenges of institution building, democratic governance and the rule of law, as well as opportunities for peace, security, cooperation and integration.

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CDG promotes sustainable democratic development through the provision of advisory services and operational support in favor of electoral management bodies and national, regional and international organizations dealing with the implementation of the different steps of an electoral process. We promote inclusive elections, democratic constitutions and accountability in public institutions. We provide analysis and support to those engaged in building democracy around the world.

CDG has area expertise of conflict analysis and conflict resolution and this action is for women and young people are more involved and play an increased and constructive role in local conflict management and decision-making processes in Eastern regions of Somaliland specially Sool and Sanaag regions. Additionally, we aim for women, girls and youth can participate in local policy-making and conflict resolution processes; as well as to empower young people, women and girls and their perspectives through leadership training, conflict mediation training and socio-cultural activities.

CDG's aims to address these issues in a number of ways. Through the Institute's legislative, executive office, and local government strengthening programs, the center will assist government institutions in listening to citizens (through public hearings, for example), and responding to their concerns. CDG will also began to help legislatures build capacity to address specific policy issues, focusing on legislative engagement on poverty reduction initiatives, CSOs policies, and management of oil, gas and mining industries.

### 1.2. Somaliland Background

In contrast to south and central Somalia, the self-declared Republic of Somaliland in the northwest has enjoyed relative stability. Somaliland declared independence in May 1991, with a rebuilt Hargeisa as its capital. Although its sovereignty remains unrecognized by the international community, the people of Somaliland have undertaken to build a functioning parliamentary democracy.

In 1991, Barre was driven out of the southern capital of Mogadishu, effectively marking the end of military rule. That same year, the Isaaq-majority Somali National Movement (SNM) called a

conference of clan elders in Burao, ending hostilities in the northwest, establishing a framework for peaceful coexistence between the Isaaq, Dir, and Darod clans in the region, and declaring independence from the south.

This initial peace was shattered by fighting between rival SNM factions in the towns of Burao and Berbera in 1992. Hundreds of women demonstrated for peace, at times putting themselves between the fighters, donning white mourning scarves, marching, and singing. By 1993, elders from the major clans and subclans met at Borama for the historic Grand Conference of National Reconciliation, and, after four months of negotiations, adopted a transitional national charter which served as a temporary constitution. Among the achievements of the conference at Borama was the creation of a blueprint for a parliament comprising two houses: a non-elected house of clan elders and an elected house of representatives. The Republic was thus established on the relatively strong local community structures that had been a continuous presence in the region since the days of British rule. Despite the existing government structure, there is still ongoing organized crimes and criminal gangs in Somaliland. The current study discusses the existing organized crimes, trends, impacts and recommendations.

## 2. Approach

### 2.1. Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to assess the existing organized crimes in Somaliland, the trends of the organized crimes, the impact, the stakeholders and recommend the way forward.

#### 2.1.1. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are to answer the following: -

- *What are the forms of organized crimes in Somaliland?*
- *Who are the criminal actors in Somaliland? What are their actions and how they operate?*
- *Who is most affected by these crimes?*
- *What are the prevailing crimes?*
- *What is the government and peace stakeholders doing about it?*
- *What is the impact of these crimes?*

### 2.2. Methodology

The method used in collecting the data was a mixed method approach using both the qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

#### 2.2.1. Qualitative Data

The tools used in this method were as follows.

**FGD** – Here the CDG team conducted FGDs with the local communities. The FGDs involved at least 7 participants from the respective communities. The discussion was conducted by CDG Focal Team Leader and a note taker. In the wake of Covid19, the data collection teams abided and respected the WHO's directives and well as the directives from the Ministry of Health Development of Somaliland.

**KII** – Here the CDG team conducted the KII through the targeted groups which were the police, Ministry of Interior, Traditional leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, community authorities and members of village committees. The KII involved a facilitator and a notetaker.

### 2.3. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study was Marodijeex, Togdheer and Sool. And as per the findings, 42% was data collected from Sool, 34% form Marodijeex and 24% from Togdheer respectively.

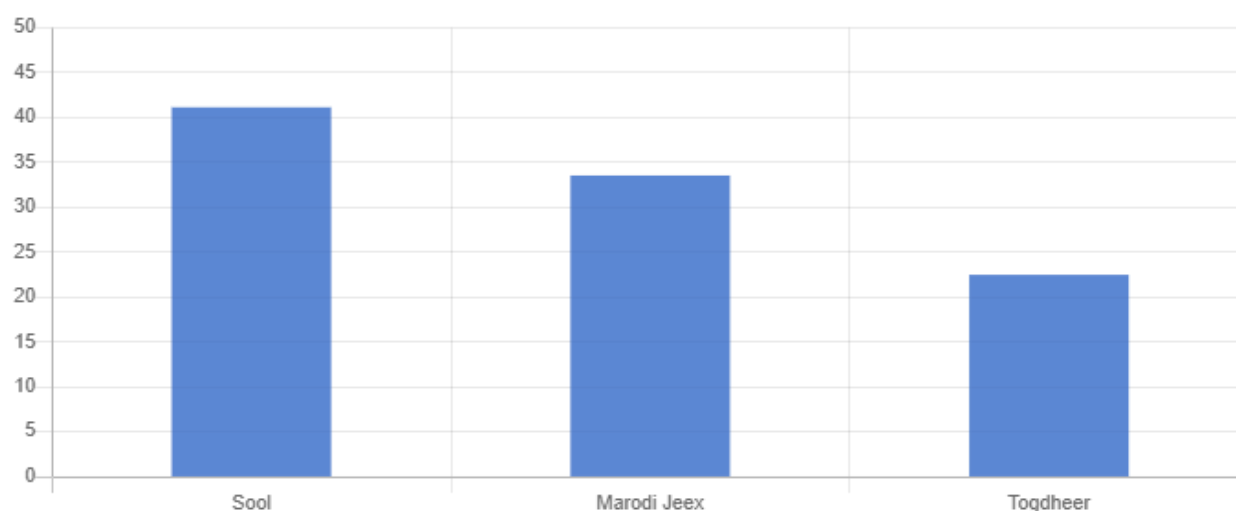


Figure 1 – Region of Study

**Marodijeex** – Marodijeex is in the central of Somaliland. This is the most populated region of Somaliland. Marodijeex is also where the Capital City of Somaliland, Hargeisa is located. Marodijeex also has the largest number of IDPs than in other location of Somaliland. Marodijeex is also host to many refugee centers. Marodijeex consists of a mix of all clans of Somaliland as well as Oromo from the Ethiopian regions.

**Togdheer** – Togdheer is the largest region in Somaliland in terms of size. Todgheer is famous for being the largest producer of livestock in Somaliland which is usually exported to the Arab countries especially the Middle-East. Togdheer is also popular with clan conflicts for the many years.

**Sool** – Sool is located in the Somaliland-Puntland border area. This region has government administrations from both Somaliland and Puntland. The area is popular with political conflicts.

### 2.4. Sampling

S/N	Region	Target Locations	HH Survey	FGDs	KII	Achieved
1.	Marodijeex	IDPs	120	1 male FGD (7 respondents from the committee) and 1 female FGD (7 respondents from the committee) each target location	1 Ministry of Interior 2 Police posts 2 Local Authorities (In Hargeisa town)	100% - All targeted responses were achieved accordingly

2.	Togdheer	IDPs	90	1 male FGD (7 respondents from the committee) and 1 female FGD (7 respondents from the committee) each target location	1 Ministry of Interior 2 Police posts 2 Local Authorities (In Burco town)	98%
3.	Sool	IDPs	110	1 male FGD (7 respondents from the committee) and 1 female FGD (7 respondents from the committee) each target location	1 Ministry of Interior 2 Police posts 2 Local Authorities (In Lasanod town)	91% - In Lasanod, there were some challenges in accessing certain offices and location due to the sensitivity of the security and subject matter
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Figure 2 – Sampling of the Study

## 2.5. Limitations of the Study

### Security Challenges in Lasanod

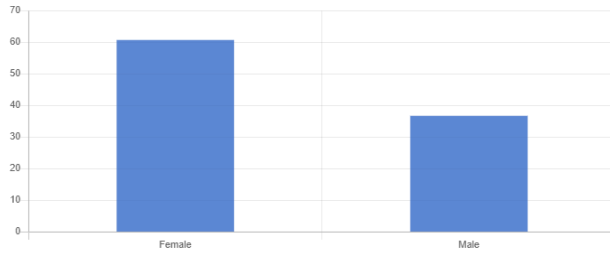
During the assessment or the study, there were fears from the study team and local administration that accessing the local administration was not possible. The local administrations were not willing to share any information to the study team.

### Sensitivity of the Study

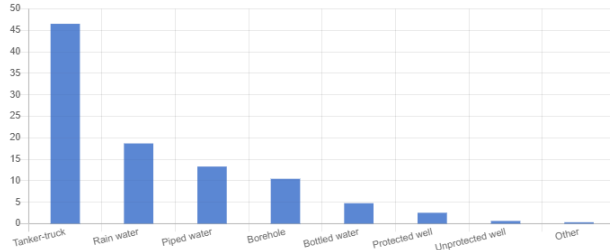
Due to the subject of the study, many community members were shy or had fear to share any information with the study team. Some politely said they do not know anything and cannot answer any question the study team had to ask. This was a challenge in a way that the study team did not exhaustively get the information from the communities but had to move more and look for respondents who were ready to answer questions directed to them.

### 3. Key Findings

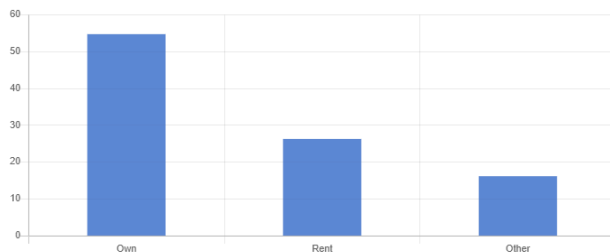
#### Gender



#### Source of Water



#### Own Houses



#### Livelihood Means

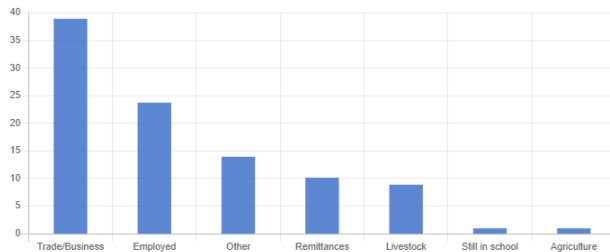


Figure 3 - Demographics

In order to understand the report and responses, it is important to know the demographics of the respondents. Over 61% were female respondents while the male was 39%. The source of water was majorly water trucking as confirmed by 46% of the respondents. 18% said they depend on rainwater, 12% on piped water, 10% on borehole and the rest on wells. The majority of the respondents stayed in their own houses which was represented by 53% of the respondents while 25% rented a house. The rest were passersby. The majority which was represented by 39% said they are mainly traders. The trading ranged from medium enterprises to petty trade like teashops and shoe shinning. Only 22% were employed, 9% depended on remittances, 8% reared animals, 2% still in school and the other 2% depended on agriculture. The demographics clearly demonstrates clear and fair representation of the communities in Somaliland. From this we are able to get a clear and fair finding from the common citizens of Somaliland.

### 3.1. Lasanod

**Geography** - Geographically, Las Anod has mostly calcareous soil and deep red soil, especially in the southern part. The climate is semi-arid, usually hot during the day and cold at night. The region has poor infrastructure and bad roads, except for the main tarmac road that traverses the town to connect Las Anod to Garowe and Burao. The air and sea Infrastructure has collapsed after the war. Las Anod had an airstrip to the east but it is not functional. It is only an open field with no fence; planes that transported Khat used the airstrip during 2012-2014. There is no seaboard, so people rely on Bosaso and Berbera ports for commercial supplies.

Government and presence of government agencies - According to general views and perceptions of the participants in the FGD, the border of Somaliland is limited to Ainabo Town while the border of Puntland is close to Garowe at the northern check point in an area called Yoocada. Somaliland believes that its legitimate border lies north of Garowe. The security forces of both sides occupy the area between Tukaraq and Godqaboobe villages (Militarized Zone). Communities under these villages are scorched by years of endless conflicts and confrontations between Somaliland and Puntland; participants' views and our own observations of the community indicate that new conflicts can take place any moment due to suspicious deployments by forces of both administrations. Sometimes accessibility of these areas is limited when there are tensions or when officials from Somaliland and Puntland are or visiting the area.

In general, there is no government system operating on both sides of the border and government services are not delivered. The border communities depend on services of only forces occupying the area. The Somalia Federal Government has no active role in the conflict in the region as revealed by participants of the FGDs. But there are neighboring countries helping communities to overcome the conflict. The Ethiopian government has a visible, active role in the conflict of the region and they ensure conflicts are resolved. Somaliland and Puntland have strong relationships and regional cooperation with the past and current Government of Ethiopia as they share borderlines and have security cooperation.

#### **Causes of organized crime**

- Land disputes are the major sources for most conflicts occurring in the area.
- The border confrontation between the two administrations is the dynamic conflict driver.
- Lack of government and rule of law is also a conflict driver. In addition, natural resources such as land, water, and grazing land areas are other sources of community conflicts.
- Community conflict triggers are mainly lack of community awareness, lack of knowledge of conflict handling, and opposite political views coupled with long-standing stand-offs between Somaliland and Puntland.

The exploitation of mineral resources in Las Anod is an important trigger of conflicts in the region. For example, mineral Block SL 18 became controversial. Puntland and Somaliland both have contracted companies to drill and extract minerals. This confrontation on economic resources has spurred the conflict. On 8 September 2014, DNO ASA, the Norwegian oil and gas operator, announced that it had been granted a two-year extension of the term on its production-sharing agreement for Block SL18 in Somaliland. The first exploration period was to end on 8 November 2017. The Government of Somaliland, after conducting Block SL18 field survey and environmental assessment studies over the block, had put in place a planned Oil Protection Unit (OPU) to support the international oil companies operating in Somaliland. The OPU was expected to be operational in 2015. In the midst of these developments, the Puntland Government also contracted Horn Petroleum on its side of Block 18.



### 3.2. Burao

**Weather** – Weather in Burao, much like other inland towns in Somaliland, is warm and dry year-round. The average daytime temperatures during the summer months of June and August can rise to 31 °C (95 °F), with a low of 20 °C (77 °F) at night. The weather is cooler the rest of the year, averaging 27 °C (80 °F) during the day and 13 °C (57 °F) at nighttime. The city's limited rainfall of 222 mm usually comes with two peaks during April–May and October–November. The Togdheer River runs through the town. It is often dry but subject to flooding. The river divides the city in half, and can be crossed via a newly built bridge in the city center. Burao's landscape is semi-desert and fairly flat.

**Economy** – The city's economy is primarily based on the export of livestock, with Burao and the nearby town of Yiroowe being home to two of the largest livestock markets, known in Somali as *seylado* in the Horn of Africa, with as many as 10,000 heads of sheep and goats sold daily in the city. The city's central location serves as a hub that connects the nomadic interior of Somaliland and major cities like Erigavo, Aynaba and Las Anod to Somaliland's capital Hargeisa and its main port in Berbera. The central location of Burao has contributed to its economic revival. Goods travelling to the south, central and eastern parts of Somaliland all depart from the city's outskirts. Rural merchants also sell their produce on a daily basis, which attracts business. This along with the main livestock market of the city fuels Burao's economy. In 2007, Burao's city authority (in conjunction with development organizations and local traders) opened the Burco Meat and Produce complex. One year in the making, the market has two main halls and can accommodate more than 2000 merchants. And upto date, Burao is the largest livestock exporter in Somaliland.

#### Causes of organized crime

- Land disputes especially between the 2 main clans Habar Jeclo clan and Habar Yusin clan. In the South-western part is also land disputed between Habar Jeclo clan and Dulbahante clan.
- Poverty and large number of IDP settlements
- It is major illegal migration route
- Small arms trade
- Poor government systems and capacity

### 3.3. Hargeisa

**Geography** – Hargeisa is located in a mountainous area, in an enclosed valley of the northwestern Galgodon (Ogo) highlands. It sits at an elevation of 1,334 meters (4,377 feet) above sea level. The city used to be surrounded by forest when it was smaller in size, but the countryside around it still has small junipers. Near Hargeisa are the fertile Sheikh and Daallo mountains, which receive large amounts of rain. South of the city is the Haud savannah (Baligubadle), which attracts many different species of wildlife to graze in the area. Hargeisa is situated near the town of Gabiley, which serves as an agricultural centre in Somaliland. That town's Allay-Baday area produces tons of tomatoes and onions each month during the rainy season. The town of Arabsiyo is also located nearby, and is noted for its lemon production. Due to its relative fertility and greenery, wild animals come to the Hargeisa area to either breed or graze on the grassland savannah. Fauna that can be found in rural sections of the city include the kudu, wildboars, Somali wild ass, warthogs, antelopes, Somali sheep, goats, camels, and many different types of birds. There are also a number of both public and private menageries. South of

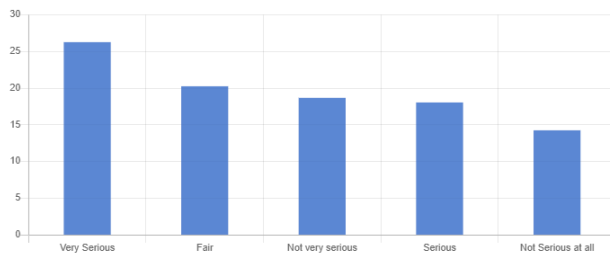
Hargeisa is a grassland savannah, which attracts many types of wildlife to the area, including lions and leopards.

### Causes of organized crime

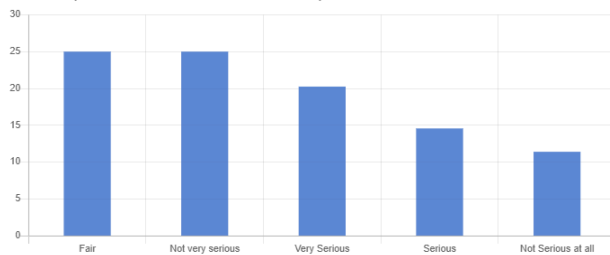
- Land disputes
- It is the capital city with booming trade and economy
- Poverty and large number of IDP settlements
- It is major illegal migration route
- Small arms trade
- Poor government systems and capacity

### 3.4. Organized Crime Trends

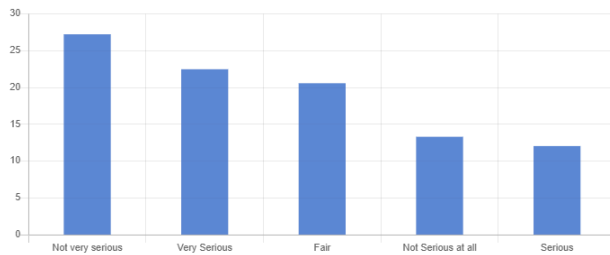
2017



2018



2019



2020

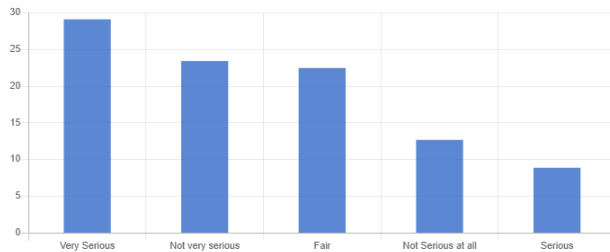


Figure 4 – Organized Crime Trends

As highlighted from the 4 graphs above, the trends vary from year to year. In 2017, the crimes were said to be very serious as well as 2020. In 2018, the crimes were said to be fair and not serious at all. In 2019, was the year considered to be not serious at all as per the findings but around 20% said the organized crime was serious. This was the finding as per the 48% who said they are aware of the Organized Crime in Somaliland. The rest which was 52% of all the respondents, said they are

not aware of any criminal organizations or activities in Somaliland or at least their respective communities.

### 3.5. Prevailing Criminal Activities

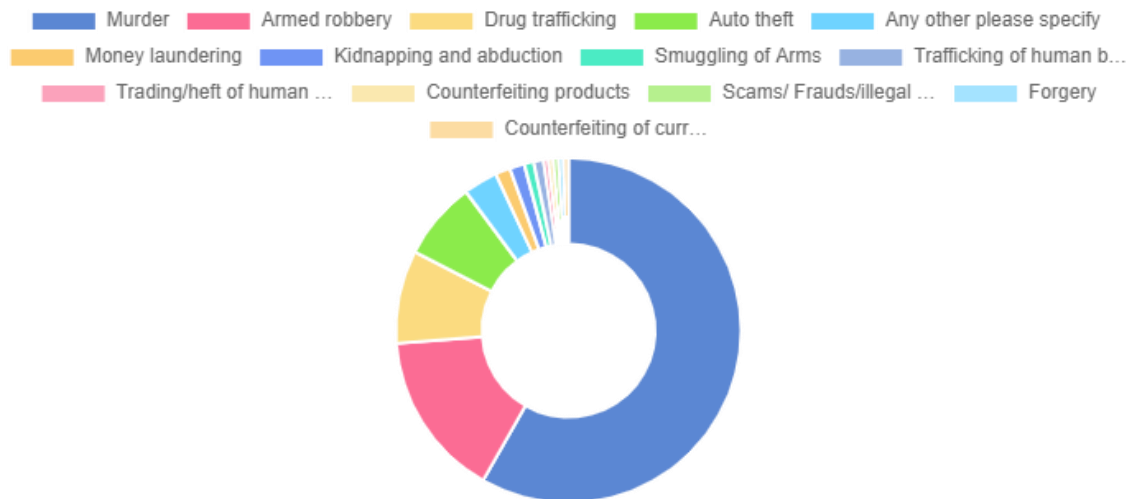


Figure 5 – Prevailing Criminal Activities

The most prevailing criminal activities were, in order of frequency as follows. 58% said murder was the most common form of the criminal activities. Murder was because of issues to do with clan conflicts, revenge, robbery gone wrong, rape and uncontrolled arms in Somaliland. Armed robbery took the second place with 18% of the respondents saying armed robbery was very common. The armed robbery was because of uncontrolled arms, poverty, poor security system in place, dark communities at night and poor security. In the third place was said to be drug trafficking. Drug trafficking was mainly dealing in alcohol, marijuana (hashish) and the common one, khat (qat). Several cases the Somaliland Police Force got over 200 liters of alcohol hidden in vehicles transporting khat. The police force conducted a press release and warned of the alcohol being hidden in khat vehicles saying it will lead to prosecution, confiscation, arrest and the alcohol burnt and destroyed in public. Auto theft has around 10% representation. It has become a common activity in the recent years especially in the urban centers and towns in Somaliland.

#### 3.5.1. Clan Conflicts

Clan conflicts is a major criminal activity in Somaliland. Clan conflicts are recurring in many parts of Somaliland. It usually happens in all the regions of Somaliland. Sometimes it happens amongst the Isak sub-clans. On other occasions it happens between the Isak clan and the other neighboring clans like Dulbahante or Warsengeli. The clan conflicts have no specific trend but happens all of a sudden usually leading to fights and many times even death. The immediate causes of the clan conflicts are to do with revenge or land disputes. Elafweyn is a major spot known to have major clan conflicts for many years although of recent, the conflicts have reduced because of the strategies put in place like increasing security personnel in the area.

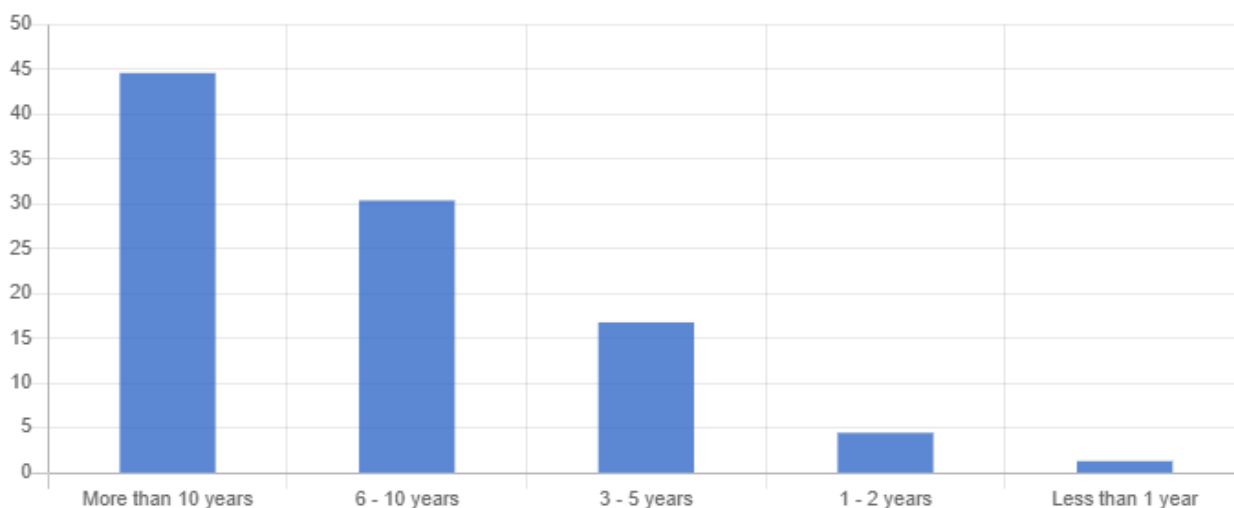


Figure 6 – Years of stay in the community

The table above shows the findings from the respondents. When asked how long have you lived in your neighborhood, the majority which was 44% said more than 10 years, 31% said between 6 to 10 years, 16% said between 3 to 5 years and the rest was less than 2 years.

### 3.5.2. Human Trafficking

Human trafficking was not mentioned much through the HH survey but was said to be very common and prevailing during the FGDs and KIIs. Human trafficking is modern kind of slavery. Somaliland is also a major route for human trafficking. The original place of origin is Ethiopia, Somalia and Somaliland. Unlike illegal migration, human trafficking is a trade with profits and where the handlers immensely benefit from the trade. The people being trafficked are considered victims. Illegal migration on the other side is voluntary were the youth look for better opportunities outside Somaliland. The final destination is similar to that of the human trafficking. The victims of human trafficking, are given false promises or benefits of jobs and employment. The final destination is in Europe and Middle-East depending on the people and route taken. The several routes are as highlighted in the table.

S/N	Victims	Profile	Traffickers or Handlers	Route	Final Destination
1.	Somaliland Citizens	Male and Female 16 – 42 years	Businessmen, Transporters, Middlemen,	Somaliland Ethiopia Sudan Libya or Egypt	Europe
2.	Somaliland Citizens	Male and Female 16 – 42 years	Businessmen, Transporters, Middlemen,	Somaliland Bosaso or Berbera	Middle East
3.	Ethiopian citizens especially Oromo	Male and Female 16 – 42 years	Businessmen, Transporters, Middlemen, Oromo agents	Somaliland Bosaso or Berbera	Middle East

Figure 7 – Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration Routes

### 3.5.3. *Illegal Migration*

Illegal migration is also a form of organized crime. This is mostly affected by the youth especially the poor and jobless. The youth especially the Oromo community are involved in the illegal migration. This involves the youth travelling with illegal documents across the border to look for opportunities. The Ethiopian youth, both male and female, cross the border from Ethiopia into Somaliland. They then travel through Somaliland through transportation vehicles which do not use the main roads but rough roads to avoid being caught. Some just walk by foot all the way to Berbera or Bosaso. When they reach the coastal areas like Berbera or Bosaso, they will board a ship to Middle-East. The vehicle which transports the youth usually charge the migrants heavily and promise them that they will not get caught. On the other hand, Somaliland citizens especially the youth, mostly will travel from Somaliland to Ethiopia, then Sudan, then Libya or sometimes Egypt while aiming to reach Europe. Likewise, the youth are promised by middlemen to be given safe travel to Libya and so the youth have pay heavily. There are very few cases of Somaliland citizens who travel to the coastal areas like Berbera and Bosaso with the aim of reaching the Middle-east.

### 3.5.4. *GBV and Rape*

Gender based violence and rape was another form of recurring crime that existed in Somaliland. In Somaliland women and girls experience poor security, with high rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and significant barriers to gender equality in the pluralistic legal system. The predominant clan-based customary justice system, along with conservative social norms and religious beliefs, discriminates against women and girls, while weak formal state institutions are not able to deliver accessible and effective justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Social stigma silences SGBV survivors and their families, with many rape crimes resolved through customary compensation or marriage. National and international organizations have undertaken various activities to promote gender equality in security and justice, with support provided to formal and informal security and justice institutions and actors at national and local levels, as well as initiatives to empower women and girls.<sup>1</sup>

Rape and GBV is one of the most recurring form of violence in Somaliland society. The traditional leaders and elders try as much as possible to solve these issues internally without involving the court or police or the government. The preparator's clan is asked to either marry the girl or pay the fine as will be agreed between the 2 clans. Violence against women and girls become a global issue with significant social, economic, and personal consequences, the incident rate of Rape cases in Somaliland has increased for the last few years. Coalition members who are the biggest stakeholder's advocate's related gender-based violence against women and girls in Somaliland, the Coalition advocating the approval of the Sexual Offensive Bill, Anti-FGM law/policy, and implementation of Gender Policy of Somaliland; they have a series of meeting sessions and produced the press release, publication articles in newspapers, TV and radio debates demanding the approval Sexual Offences Law (Law No. 78/2018). Somaliland GBV Coalition has a meeting in December 2020 to discuss the issue related to the increasing Rape cases in Somaliland.<sup>2</sup>

For quick Solution, and mediation of the victims' families and perpetrators clans, customary law was used during the rape cases, CSOs and other human rights defenders have seen this law has escalated widespread of the rape case in Somaliland which provided the space for the perpetrators, the law has not held the individual accountable for his actions, and there is no at all

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<sup>1</sup> K4D research helpdesk – Women and Girls in Somaliland Report

<sup>2</sup> <https://radiorisaala.com/gabar-kufsi-dil-loogu-geystay-burco-banaanbax-ka-dhashay/>

any punishment for the perpetrators only putting sharing compensation among his relatives, and enforcing the victims to marry the perpetrator, and this denies the justice of victims and rights of women and girls in Somali Society to have formal legal and justice. Somaliland GBV Coalition highlighted recently rape cases occurs in Somaliland, and acknowledged the community reflection and response from the women and girls Buroa demonstrated on 23 November demanding justice for Hodan Saciid, The 18-year-old girl was raped and killed in the Gumburaha area on the outskirts of Buroa, and her relatives reportedly refused to bury the girl until the perpetrators were found.<sup>3</sup>

11 October the Zakaria accused raped and murders a mother of three children. With the growing effort of the government to respond to the rape case in Somaliland, the regional court in Togdheer has sentenced the death of a man called Zakaria Ahmed, who is said to be convicted of both rape and murder<sup>[2]</sup>. At the same time, the regional Court of Sarar sentenced a man accused of raping and killing Hodan Said. Hodan was 18 years old nomadic girls in the Sarar region of Somaliland. The GBV incident in Somaliland are increasing during the COVID-19 period, and more women and girls were raped, and a high number of girls were reported during 2020 and it became extremely during pandemic diseases of COVID-19. Women and girls getting raped, youth gangs have also increased at sometimes, the gender-based violence at family are resulted in changing the gender roles, the weakness of the Newly approved Sexual Offensive Bill was highlighted specifically the areas in which the lower parliament has added and changed the previous Approved Sexual Offences Law (Law No. 78/2018).<sup>4</sup>

The newly approved Law will not provide adequate protection for vulnerable groups, but allowing the government to track and properly handle perpetrators of sexual offenses. The article demonstrated that the justice mechanisms of Somaliland are intersecting and this become one of the most challenging aspects of addressing GBV in Somaliland, and creates confusion and an overlapping system. The importance of the modification of the Rape, Fornication and Other Related Offences Bill (Law No. 78/2020) was also highlighted. The article shows recommendation of the Somaliland GBV Coalition which stated the newly approved Bill should meet the requirement below; the law should not violate the Islamic sharia law and should conform to the constitution of Somaliland, the legal should clear and easily understandable, and the legal term must be clear also; The law doesn't meet all requirements by the law, it was not written in understandable legal language. The Coalition is calling the President of Somaliland Hon. Muse Bihi and Upper Parliament to provide consideration on Sexual Offences Law (Law No. 78/2018) importance's, and to approve it to tack the increasing rape case in Somaliland to have safe environment where women and girls to live in peace.

### **3.5.5. Firearms Trade and Ownership**

Firearms trade is still common within the Somaliland communities. This is also evident in Burao where there is a market for small arms trade. Many people also confirm owning guns. In a recent report by MAG (June, 2021), the findings showed that at least 40% of the rural communities owned guns and 27% of the urban communities confirmed owning guns. In the same report, 27% said they had heard of gun related violence, 13% were not sure while the majority 66% said they did not hear of any gun related violence. Since the outbreak of the war in Yemen in 2015, the state has seen a growing influx in the supply of weapons. These weapons are both legally and illegally provided by regional and international powers to all major factions of the conflict. While arms transfers and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://heemaalnews.com/somaliland-oo-xukun-adag-ku-riday-nin-kufsi-iyo-dil-ka-gaystay-burco/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://nafisnetwork.net/intensifying-rape-case-in-somaliland-needs-the-approval-of-sexual-offensive-bill/>

their effects on the conflict in Yemen have received considerable attention, a lesser-known fact is that weapons are increasingly circulating between Yemen, Somaliland and Djibouti – the three states adjoining the Gulf of Aden. Against this background, this text shines the spotlight on weapons flows dynamics in a highly militarized region.

The Gulf of Aden is one of the world's most frequented shipping lanes: [33,000 ships and seven percent of the global oil supply](#) pass through its waters each year. Not least because of its trade-crucial location, the Gulf has seen growing militarization. A regional and international scramble for influence contributes to this trend, resulting in the increasing construction of military facilities and accordingly to the deployment of naval forces. While the international military presence has nearly halted the looting of ships by the infamous Somali pirates, this has had no pacifying effect on the dire and intricate conflicts within Somalia and Yemen. The international military presence serves as an expression of tensions, rather than a basis for equitable regional peace. This is also apparent if one looks at arms transfers between the three states surrounding the Gulf: Djibouti, Somaliland and Yemen. As will be analyzed below and provided they are willing, these transfers show the challenges to regional and international actors in curbing international weapons flows – be they licit, semi-legal or illicit.<sup>5</sup>

### 3.5.6. Other forms of Crime

As per the finding, there were other forms of organized crimes.

**Money Laundering and Forgery** – This is new form organized crime that has emerged of recent years. The culprits are usually foreigners or the diaspora (Somalilanders returning from abroad). They come with new high-tech skills and try to forge US Dollars and try to drive the money into the market. Ali Jama Baqdadi, governor of Somaliland's central bank, announced last week that an influx of counterfeit dollars had entered Somaliland first from Mogadishu and then via Ethiopia. In a public statement, he assured Somalilanders and those invested in the economy that his top priority would be to intercept the counterfeit notes in order to defend its economy. His public announcement coupled with efforts to block and confiscate the fake notes shows the seriousness of intent. The flood of counterfeit U.S. dollars into Somaliland is likely not simply a get-rich-quick scheme; rather it appears to be 'grey zone' warfare, that is, aggression launched by one state against another meant to derive advantage without crossing the threshold into war. This is consistent with former Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo's general strategy: As Farmaajo's political and economic stewardship failed and Somalia's security situation worsened, he sought to distract his constituents with appeals to nationalism. Instead of seeking to lift Somalia up to Somaliland's level of peace, security, and democracy, however, Farmaajo worked to undermine Somaliland's success. After the international community returned control over Somali air space—including that of Somaliland—to Mogadishu, for example, Farmaajo weaponized it in order to increase Somaliland's isolation. Farmaajo and Fahad Yasin, his intelligence chief and bankroller, encouraged Abdiweli Gaas, already Puntland's most anti- Somaliland president, to provoke border conflict with Somaliland in order to rally Somalis around the flag. Farmaajo diverted millions of dollars in aid and development money to fund a troll army to whip up anti-Somaliland sentiment online and in the Somali press. Somaliland may not be wealthy, but both its management of scarce resources and fiscal conservatism enables business to thrive relative to its neighbors. Its fiscal success also has national security implications: Local support for Puntland's

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<sup>5</sup> <https://blog.prif.org/2021/03/24/arms-transfers-in-the-gulf-of-aden-shining-the-spotlight-on-regional-dynamics/>

claims to Sool and Sanaag hemorrhaged, after unrestrained printing of the Somali shilling caused Somalia's currency to depreciate while the Somaliland's remained stable. Somaliland's success is shaky, however. Lack of international recognition hobbles international finance and investment. Somaliland's small budget and lack of foreign reserves restricts its maneuverability to shore up its currency when it is under attack. Somalilanders should applaud Ali Jama Baqdaadi for his fast response to counter the influx of counterfeit notes. He may have protected the integrity of Somaliland's economy, but for Treasury officials in Washington and intelligence officials worldwide, the investigation is only just beginning. If Farmaajo is in anyway involved, he may find his recent political troubles only the tip of the iceberg.<sup>6</sup>



**Drug Trafficking** – Drug trafficking was mainly dealing in alcohol, marijuana (hashish) and the common one, khat (qat). Several cases the Somaliland Police Force got over 200 liters of alcohol hidden in vehicles transporting khat. The police force conducted a press release and warned of the alcohol being hidden in khat vehicles saying it will lead to prosecution, confiscation, arrest and the alcohol burnt and destroyed in public. The consumers are mainly the youth and the diaspora who are addicted to alcohol and marijuana. The traffickers and traders are the local citizens of Somaliland. The cost of marijuana is around US\$3 to US\$7 per cigarette while alcohol which is usually vodka from Ethiopia goes for around US\$10 to US\$15 per liter.

**Auto-Theft and Mobile Theft** – Some trends have emerged of people stealing cars and changing the number plates or selling in parts. Likewise, mobile theft has become common especially in the

<sup>6</sup> <https://menafn.com/1101636748/Somalia-Floods-Somaliland-Markets-with-US50-Counterfeit-Banknotes>



urban centers during the early hours of the night. The culprits are usually the youth who move in groups of 4 to 10 and steal mobile phones and laptops from the local communities.

**Animal Poaching in Somaliland** – Lately in Somaliland there has been many cases of animal poaching. Some of the animals being poached are tortoise, lizards, birds etc. The Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Rural Development in coordination with the Cheetah Conservation Fund has succeeded in curbing the poaching of cheetahs in the country over the last year. A joint report by the Environment and Rural Development ministry and the CCF indicates that over the last ten months, there have been no reported cases of poaching of cheetah cubs that had been rampant in the past. The report states that this notable downturn in activity follows the wave of rescue missions that have been sustained from October last year by the two agencies. Earlier between July and October last year, authorities intercepted eight notorious traffickers with 13 cubs leading to increased surveillance. Those arrested have since been charged and convicted in Hargeisa. Cabdiraxmaan Yusuf Mahdi was arrested on October 17, 2020, in possession of 10 cheetah cubs while six others had earlier been arrested trying to sell three cubs to a local Hargeisa resident. Cabdiraxmaan Yusuf Mahdi received a four-year term and a fine of three million Somaliland shillings. His sentence is the most serious sentence handed down by any African court in a wildlife trafficking case involving cheetahs, according to Somaliland Environment Minister Shukri H. Ismail. The minister said the arrests and concerted fight have led to the success in curbing the menace. The Ministry believes there are several reasons for the ten-month quiet period. First, a CCF-MoERD joint media campaign documenting the 2020 confiscations and arrests generated awareness in the local communities about the illegal cheetah trade.<sup>7</sup>

### 3.6. Criminal Actors

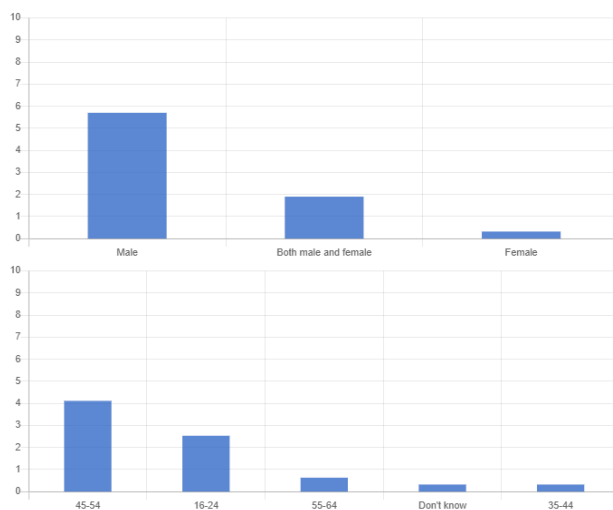


Figure 8 – Profile of the criminal actors

When the respondents were asked the gender of the criminal actors, the majority said it was mainly the male while the others said both male and female. Very few confirmed it was the female. The age of the criminals was said to be mainly between 45-54 while others said they were youth

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.busiweek.com/somaliland-succeeds-in-curbing-cheetah-cubs-poaching/>

between the ages of 16-24. Some respondents especially in Lasanod confirmed the criminal were Alshabab as mentioned by 3 respondents, 8 respondents said it was Daish and 19 respondents said it was “Madax-dub” which means those who cover the heads and faces. Mostly it was mentioned that the criminal actors were the Somaliland citizens and local communities. Other persons mentioned to be involved in the organized crime activities were IDPs, Foreigners and the Somali Diaspora.

### 3.7. Motives of Crime

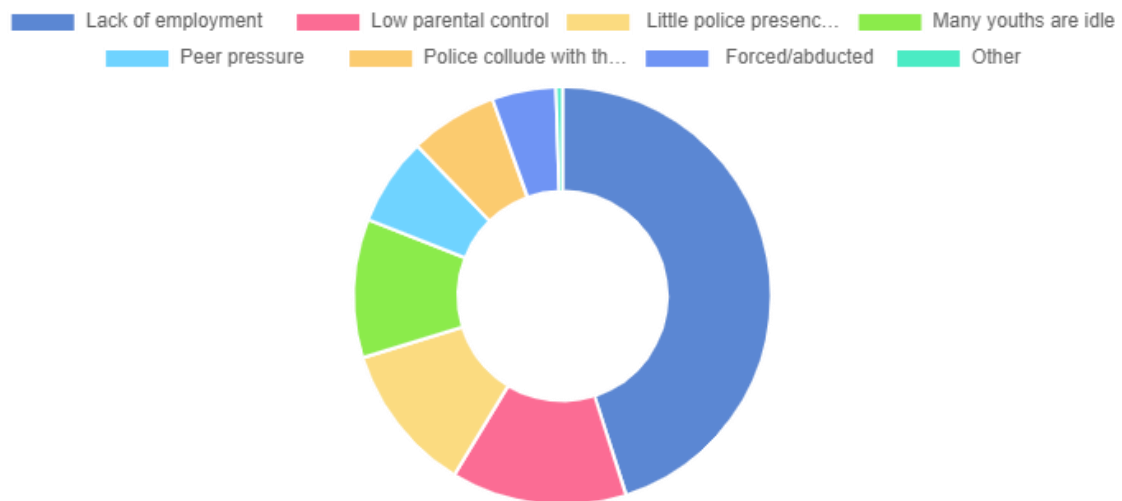


Figure 9 – Motivation of crime

The motives of the involvement in the organized crime and criminal activities were lack of employment as mentioned by 26% of the respondents, 8% said it was because of low parental control, 7% said little police presence in the communities, 7% said it was because the youth are idle, 6% said it was because the police collude with them and 4% said they are forced to do criminal activities. The top 5 causes of organized crime are as illustrated in the table below. Other motivation of the crimes especially the clan related conflicts was that the clans members were confident in case of death, the fellow clansmen will contribute and pay the penalty which is traditionally 100 heads of camel or his clansmen will negotiate for terms of settlement.

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	266	84.18
Poverty	250	79.11
Weak family structures	177	56.01
Political incitements	117	37.03
Peer groups influence	102	32.28

Figure 10 – Causes of Crime

### 3.8. Impact of Organized Crime

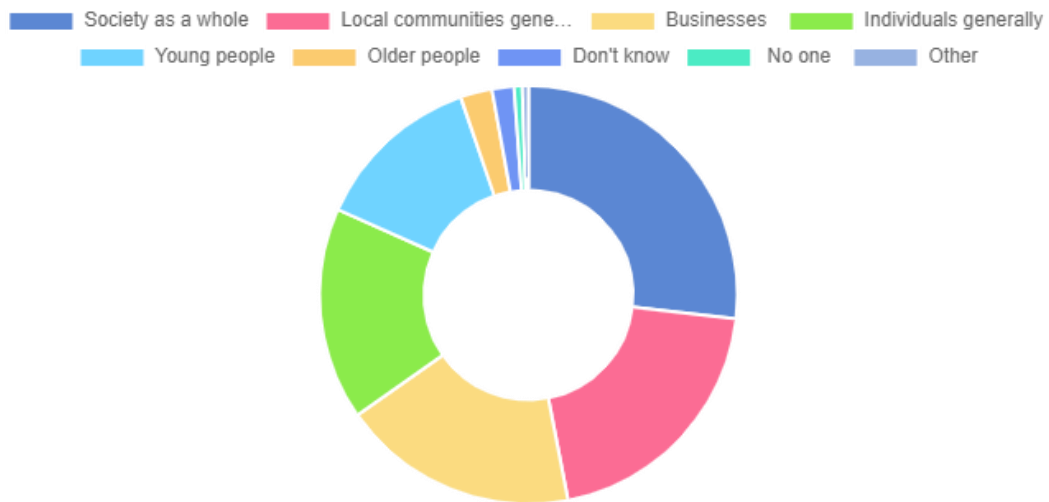


Figure 11 – Most affected by organized crime

When asked who is the most affected by these organized crimes and criminal activities, the majority said it was the whole community which was represented by 26%. 18% said it affected the local community, 13% said it affected individuals and 11% said it affected the youth.

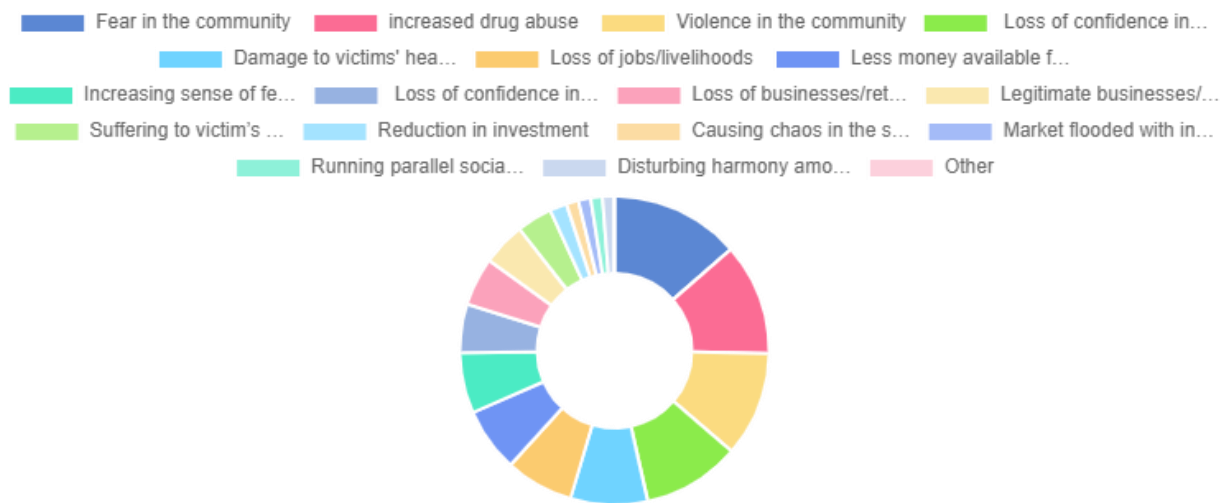


Figure 12 – Impacts of Organized Crime

The top 5 impacts of organized crime were said to be fear in the community, increased drug abuse, violence in the community, loss of confidence in the law enforcements and damage to victims' health.

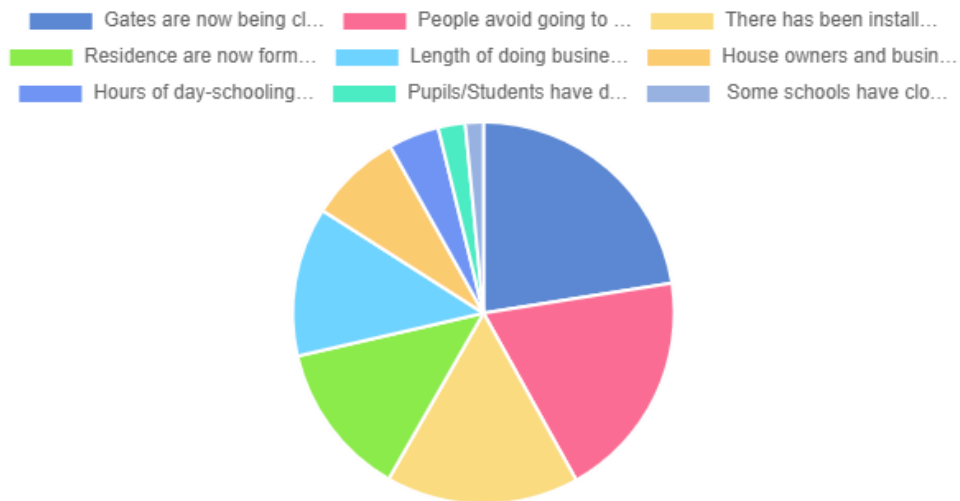


Figure 13 – Results of Organized Crime

When the respondents were asked the top 3 results of organized crime, the responses were mainly gates are being closed earlier than usual because of fear of being attacked, robbed or raped. People avoid going to some areas and there has been installation of security lights.

### 3.9. Police



Figure 14 – Efficiency of the Somaliland Police Force

The majority of the respondents represented by 22% said the police was not effective in tackling the organized crime, 20% said the police were fairly effective, 12% said the police were very effective. The police respondents who took part in the survey, said they did all their best to tackle the issues at hand. They also confirmed to be shorthanded and could not work double shifts all the time (meaning day and night).

### 3.10. Government's Involvement

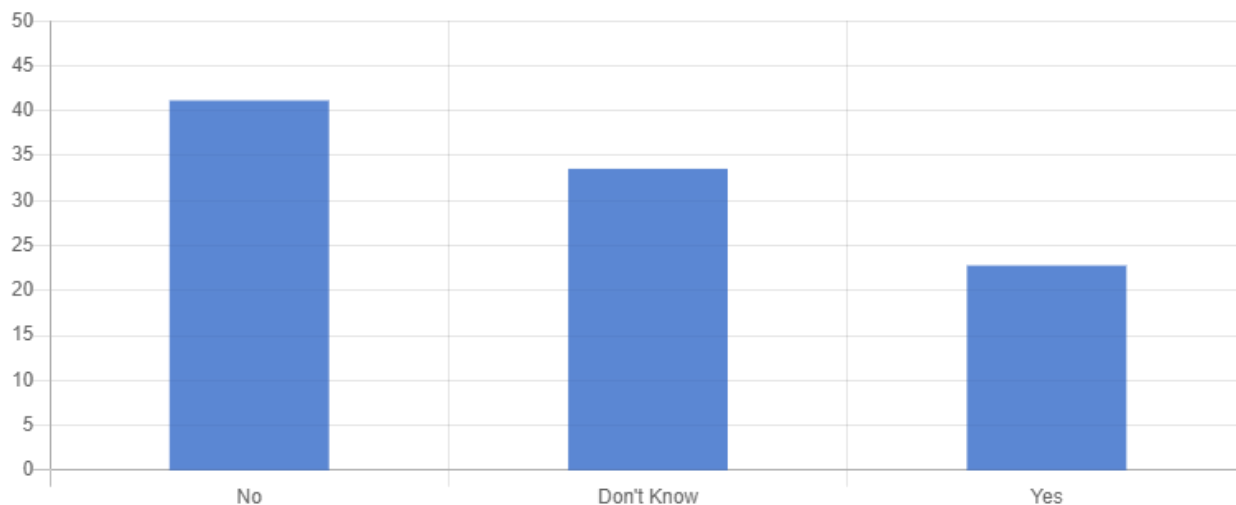


Figure 15 – Government's Involvement

The communities were not convinced that the government was doing enough to fight the organized crime groups. This was mentioned by at least 41% of the respondents. 33% said they do not know what the government is doing about it while 27% said that the government is doing enough about the organized crimes in Somaliland. Somaliland government is trying its best to tackle the organized crime gangs and groups but there is also lack of man power and lack of resources. Occasionally, the government of Somaliland deploys military force in the Somaliland-Puntland border areas to maintain peace and protect its territories.

## 4. Synthesis of Findings

The synthesis of the findings is that despite Somaliland demonstrating relatively better peace and security stability compared to the neighboring countries, there was still ongoing organized crime and activities within the country. The organized crime activities especially Murder was because of issues to do with clan conflicts, revenge, robbery gone wrong, rape and uncontrolled arms in Somaliland, Armed robbery, Drug trafficking and Auto theft. The trends since 2017 to 2020 showed there is no improvement but there was still prevalence of the organized crimes in Somaliland. The people or culprits were usually youth between 17 – 38, especially male and mostly local community members. The main causes were lack of employment and for others, it was a way of looking for means of livelihood or idleness. The security forces especially are doing their best to tackle the activities but lack enough man power and capacity. Weak government systems play an indirect role in the organized crime.

## 5. Recommendations

From the findings of the study, several recommendations have been drawn as listed below. The recommendations have been grouped by need and urgency of intervening or taking action.

### 5.1. Short-term Recommendations

#### Youth Employment

The government and other stakeholders should work together to increase employability and get jobs for the youth. Lack of jobs and employment are a major cause of joining organized crime gangs

or being part of the organized crime systems. The youth look for jobs and don't get or are paid very low wages because of lack of skills. But a needs assessment can be conducted and then prioritize the youth who should be considered for a support program. Likewise, the government can consider placements and internship programs for the youth so that they gain experience. So, when the youth are busy and in the system of the employment system, they will not have time or reason to engage in criminal activities.

### **ID Registrations**

The government and local authority should work together to register all the citizens of Somaliland and issue National Identification Cards. The refugees should also be given ID cards to identify them like the Syrians, Yemenis and Ethiopians. This way, the local authority can easily identify who is who. The crime rate will lower and the communities will enjoy better peace and coexistence.

### **Regular Security Checks and Patrols**

The Somaliland government and local authority to conduct regular security checks and patrols within the Somaliland communities. This way the communities will feel safer and the organized crimes will reduce. The security checks to be also conducted on highways by highway patrols. This is currently done, but the police lack enough resources. Support to the patrol units will be another strategy to combat insecurity and organized criminal activities.

### **Community Awareness and Strengthening the Structures**

The government and other stakeholders could conduct community awareness sessions in terms of security and peace building. Also, a community facilitator and volunteers could be assigned different days to keep patrol and watch the community. The relevant stakeholders can assess to see if there is a guideline or policy related to the governance of community structures and leadership. Then the next step will be to either review the existing guidelines or develop a new guideline all together. The community leadership and structures also to be given refresher trainings to make them familiar with the guideline and governance policies. Good leadership means good prosperity and development of the communities.

### **Advocate for the Support of the Local Communities**

The stakeholders like CDG could advocate and raise funds to support the local communities prioritizing with the neediest. The CDG could support the communities in resource mobilization, capacity building and strengthening the community leadership, management and planning systems. The funds can also be sought through issuing the matter the members of parliament and the HoR can identify where the budget can be got through maybe reviewing taxation or increasing taxes for certain imports like qat so that the funds can be used to support communities, support youth and combat criminal activities.

### **Sponsors for Foreigners**

In the recent months, some foreigners were got trying to forge the US dollars and streaming it into the Somaliland markets through laundering. They criminal gang was arrested immediately by the Police and taken to the CID headquarters. It the foreigners who usually come with new ideas into the community using high-tech systems and methods. So, all the foreigners, especially the unemployed from the developing countries, who come into Somaliland should have a sponsor and the sponsor should be responsible for the actions of the person on the subject matter. This does not affect the International Foreigners especially the NGO workers, diplomats, businessmen who

are in Somaliland for work- and business-related matters because there has been no case from that class of persons.

### **Border Control**

Somaliland to increase border control and thorough checking of vehicles that enter into the country especially through the airport (Berbera and Hargeisa), Ethiopia-Somaliland border areas and Puntland-Somaliland border areas. Here are the main points where a lot in Organized Crime is done. This includes human trafficking, illegal migration and importing of illegal narcotics and drugs into Somaliland. Thorough border and ports control will immensely lead to the reduction of organized crimes in Somaliland.

### **Fines and Penalty**

Increasing the penalty for the criminals who are caught conducting organized criminal activities could lead to the reduction of these crimes. Some are fined lightly like those who are got smoking marijuana and so they still continue indulging in such activities. It was found out that some marijuana smokers were sentenced to 3 months in prison which is very small penalty. So, the relevant stakeholders could assess what actions are taken for which crimes and how can the penalty be increased and made severe so that the culprits do not indulge in such.

### **TTC and TVET**

The Somaliland government and the relevant stakeholders to mainstream and improve the Teachers Training Centers and TVET centers. The admissions to also be made affordable and fair so that the local communities can enroll more. This way the youth of Somaliland will get better opportunities and chances of getting employed locally. This will reduce the rates of Organized Crimes in Somaliland.

### **Traditional Leaders**

The traditional leaders play a great role in maintaining peace within the different clans and communities. Therefore, the Somaliland government and the relevant stakeholders should consider the capacity building of the traditional leaders. The capacity building could be in terms of trainings, reviewing or developing guidelines for them, involving them in meetings and talks, supporting them in their respective administrative structures, supporting them in resource mobilization or sustainable projects like a building a community hospital which will fund the traditional leaders' administration and peace keeping activities.

### **Street Lights**

The Somaliland government, local governments and relevant stakeholders to consider having street lights especially in the most sensitive and fragile communities and later to the rest of the communities across Somaliland. The street lights could be solar powered so that it is sustainable and can be used for several years without worrying about paying the maintenance costs. The street lights will scare away the criminal gangs and the communities will feel much safer and peaceful during night movements.

### **Somaliland-Puntland Dialogues**

Somaliland government and Puntland government to hold peace talks. The peace talks will reduce tensions and fights especially in the Somaliland-Puntland border areas. A lot of tensions are sparked off when Hargeisa or Garowe comment on the other government leading to fights and

wars in the border areas. The 2 should sit together and hold sustainable peace talks and negotiations.

### **Arms Control**

There is a lot of unregistered and uncontrolled arms trade in the black market of Somaliland. The Somaliland government should work with the relevant stakeholders and combat arms dealings. And for all who deserve to have the guns, should have it registered. This means there should also be a database and online system with all the registered firearms. The rest which is not registered to be confiscated by the government or disposed of.

### **Somaliland Independence**

The peace and prosperity largely lie on the recognition of Somaliland as an independent state. This will play a role in combating organized crime through very many ways. Examples are; It will allow youth to be issued passports and can travel easily and not do illegal migration. So, the middlemen or transporters or human traffickers will lose market. Another example how the recognition of Somaliland will combat organized crime is that it will attract diplomats from other countries hence increasing the foreign income into Somaliland leading to better economy and more jobs.

## **5.2. Long-term Recommendations**

### **Police Capacity Building**

As per the findings, we identified the Somaliland Police Force to play a role in improving the securities of the communities. Therefore, the Police Force need to be better capacitated to deal with the organized crimes like the high-tech criminal activities. So, the Somaliland government and the relevant stakeholders should take this action and support the police force because they are the main players for maintaining peace and order in the local communities of Somaliland. The capacity building can be in form of training, supporting with resources to get more manpower, to support them with resources like stations and patrol vehicles etc.

### **Mobile and Vehicle tracking**

The communications service providers to support the government in issuing mobile and vehicle tracking services for the communities at an affordable price. This is important so that when a vehicle or mobile is stolen, it can be tracked and the culprits brought to justice.

### **Taxation for Foreigners**

Some local youth complained of not getting employment because foreigners are taking up all the jobs in the work force. We have foreigners like from Arab countries, from African countries and other countries like Asia etc. The foreigners are then given jobs or take jobs that the Somaliland youth could do. The foreigners are undoubtedly much skilled and experienced than the local Somaliland youth so they are more preferred. Example is that of teaching position for Primary, Secondary and University Schools. Most of the senior teachers and lecturers are Kenyans, Ugandans, Ethiopians, Asian and among others. The teachers also do not pay taxes except the entry visa. So, if there was a way the government or the relevant stakeholders could intervene and tax even if it is a small amount, then the income could be used to support the local communities in very many endeavors.



## 6. Annexes

### 6.1. FGD

<b>ORGANIZED CRIME IN SOMALILAND: THE IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING</b>	
<b>FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	
<p>Thank you so much for sparing time to talk to me. We are conducting study on organized crime and its impact on the lives in Somaliland. Your cooperation and participation are highly appreciated. The outcome of the study will inform stakeholders; Government, Religious Leaders, Clan Leaders, etc on effective ways of fighting organized crime in Somaliland. Your participation is voluntary and the information you will provide to this study will not be directly attributed to you.</p>	
<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Guiding Questions</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Women Groups</b></li> <li>2. <b>Youth Groups</b></li> <li>3. <b>Community Members</b></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your understanding of the concept 'organized crime'?</li>   <li>• How frequent is organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>probe for trends, has it increased or decreased and why - estimated incidences of organized crime 2017 – 2020.</i></li> </ul> </li>   <li>• What are the main forms of organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?</li>   <li>• What are the main causes of organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>probe for economic, political, cultural and social factors – why criminal gangs emerge.</i></li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Are you aware of any organized criminal group(s) in this area or neighbourhood? If yes, what is/are the name(s) of the group(s)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>probe for nature, structure, networks, composition sex and age (men, women and youths), source of funding and trends 2017-2020).</i></li>   <li>○ <i>probe for linkages with police/law enforcement, politicians, government officials, business community religious and cultural leaders)</i></li>   <li>○ <i>what are the roles of women, youth, children, elderly in organized criminal groups?</i></li> </ul> </li>   <li>• What ways do you think organized criminal gangs use to recruit members?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>probe for how the youth is recruited?</i></li>   <li>○ <i>what are the reasons for youth joining organized criminal gangs?</i></li> </ul> </li>   <li>• What is the impact of organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>probe for impact on youth development (boys and girls), community well-being (men, women, children, elderly), and state/local governance</i></li>   <li>○ <i>what is the lineage between organized crime and state effectiveness? Are weak institutions creating space for organized criminal groups to prosper?</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are current efforts to eliminate organized crime in this area or neighbourhood? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ probe for the gaps/challenges in these efforts</li> </ul> </li>   <li>○ recommendations to effectively eliminate organized crime?</li> </ul>
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Figure 16 – FGD Tool

## 6.2. KII

<b>ORGANIZED CRIME IN SOMALILAND: THE IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING</b>	
<b>KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE</b>	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Thank you so much for sparing time to talk to me. We are conducting study on organized crime and its impact on the lives in Somaliland. Your cooperation and participation are highly appreciated. The outcome of the study will inform stakeholders; Government, Religious Leaders, Clan Leaders, etc. on effective ways of fighting organized crime in Somaliland. Your participation is voluntary and the information you will provide to this study will not be directly attributed to you.</p>	
<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Guiding Questions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Police</li> <li>5. Ministry of Interior</li> <li>6. Local Authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How frequent is organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?</li>   <li>• What are the main forms of organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?</li>   <li>• What are the main causes of organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?</li>   <li>• Are you aware of any organized criminal group(s) in this area or neighbourhood? If yes, what is/are the name(s) of the group(s)</li>   <li>• What is the impact of organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?</li>   <li>• What are current efforts to eliminate organized crime in this area or neighbourhood?</li> </ul>

Figure 17 – KII Tool