



## **Somalia Civil Society Organizations**

**Submission for the 3rd Cycle of Universal Periodic Review of Somalia  
To  
Human Rights Council**

**38th Session of the Working Group on the UPR  
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**RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**Joint Submission  
Somalia Civil Society organization's**

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The report is a joint submission of 13 Somalia Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing South Central, Banadir regions and Puntland State of Somalia including (Baidoa, Kismayo, Mogadishu, Garowe, Hobyo, Badhan, Banadir, Gardo, Galkio North).

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This stakeholders' report, prepared by 13 Civil Society organizations, includes analyses and recommendations on five issues identified as the most pressing for the realization of the rights of children in Somalia: the Legislative Framework and Domestication of Human Rights Instruments; the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Children and Women – Equality and Non-Discrimination; the Right to Education; the Rights of Children with Disabilities; Children Associated with Armed Groups – 6 Grave Violations.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

2. The report contains findings CSOs alternative report on the situation of children's rights as defined under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as findings from studies and analyses on the child rights situation in Somalia.
3. Two meetings were held with CSO Coalitions in Mogadishu and Garowe and Comprehensive consultation with children: CSO data collectors organized fifty focus group discussions and interviewed more than ten government officials (mostly Director General level). The focus group discussions included representatives from the following groups of children. Although this data was primarily collected for the UNCRC reporting the same primary data has been used in this report.
4. The CSOs drafted and inputted virtually due to COVID-19 restriction and agreed to work virtually in 12 clusters based on the following themes: Right of the Child; Rights of persons with disabilities; Children, Women – Equality and non-discrimination; Right to Health; Right to Education; Promotion of Protection & Human Rights; Freedom of expression and opinion; Freedom of association and of peaceful assembly; Special protection measures; Children associated with armed groups-Six Grave Violations; Civil rights and freedoms.
5. A thorough analysis of secondary sources: Part of this report is informed by secondary sources. The main secondary sources thoroughly reviewed during the preparation of the Alternative Report were:
  - The Federal and State Constitutions
  - Government policy and strategy documents on education, health, alternative care, and other areas
  - Government overarching documents such as development strategies, plans of action and program documents

- UNOCHA Somalia situation reports
- Thematic studies carried out by various organizations
- Child rights situation analyses produced by Save the Children International Somalia/Somaliland Program and UNICEF Somalia Program
- Sectoral statistical abstracts and the UNFPA Population Projection of the 2014
- Government budget books
- African Child Policy Forum publications

### III. • **LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND DOMESTICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS**

**6. Accepted recommendations and implementation status:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR, the government accepted to implement the following four recommendations concerning the domestication of human rights instruments:

*135.1 - Sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Austria) (Italy) (Slovakia) (Spain) (Turkey)<sup>1</sup>*

*135.8 - Consider ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Namibia)<sup>2</sup>*

*135.9 - Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and enact and enforce laws and regulations that prohibit all forms of*

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135.

Additional recommendations urging the state to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women include the following:

135.2 Accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Costa Rica)/Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Guatemala) (Malaysia) (Montenegro) (Portugal) (Sierra Leone) (Sweden); A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

135.3 Consider acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Egypt)/Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Indonesia); A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

135.4 Step up its efforts towards ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Philippines); A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

135.6 Fast-track the process to sign and ratify international treaties related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uganda); A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

135.8 Consider ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Namibia); A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

135.5 Accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and actively fight against violence against women (France); A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

*violence against women (Sweden)*<sup>3</sup>  
136.14 - Consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Egypt)<sup>4</sup>

7. Although the above recommendations were supported by Somalia, only the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been ratified. The remaining human rights instruments have not been ratified nor domesticated. In addition, Somalia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child but has not yet agreed to the three optional protocols. Somalia's Penal Code, which is still being extensively used throughout Somalia goes against international criminal and human rights standards and needs to be amended, particularly areas regarding rape as well as provisions preventing abuse and exploitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), minorities, and persons with disabilities. Somalia has ratified the Kampala Convention on the Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Somalia. Somalia has also committed to work on enacting important and relevant human rights laws, particularly the Disability Act, the National Commission for Human Rights Act and the Sexual Offences Act and strengthen its legislative framework to promote and protect human rights and incorporate the Conventions in their domestic legal systems. Yet, little progress is registered in the implementation of these acts.

#### **Concerns and issues:**

8. **Lack of Comprehensive Legal System.** The Federal Republic of Somalia does not have a comprehensive legal framework that addresses the rights of women and children. The National Development Plan (2017-2019) proposes the development of a National Children's Policy and Act drawing on Somalia's obligations under the UNCRC, CRPD as well as the African Charter and other relevant instruments. In accordance with this plan, in 2017-2019, the government launched a number of policies such as the ratification of the African Charter, the FGM Bill, the Disability Act, the Somali Sexual Offences Bill, the Child Rights Bill and the Juvenile Justice Bill. However, to date many of these policies are drafts and not enacted or implemented by the State due to a lack of prioritization and commitment from the State. This gap puts children into jeopardy and increase the risks of violence against women, children and vulnerable groups.

#### **9. Recommendations:**

**Recommendation (1):** Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

**Recommendation (2):** Approve and implement pending national draft bills and policies for the advancement of the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups, including the Child Act, Sexual Offences Bill, and the Juvenile Justice Bill

**Recommendation (3):** Ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and enact and enforce laws and regulations to protect and promote the rights of the child.

#### **IV. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN – EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/32/12/Add.1

**10. Status of previous recommendations:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR, the government accepted to implement the following five recommendations concerning the promotion and protection of human rights for women and children:

*136.49 - Intensify efforts in enacting and strengthening appropriate legal framework, which will address gender inequalities, sexual violence and protection of women's rights (Nigeria)<sup>5</sup>*

*135.58 - Continue to take actions to improve the capacity of the judiciary, including by sensitizing*

*officials working in the judicial branch on issues concerning vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities (Malaysia)<sup>6</sup>*

*135.73 - Strengthen its efforts to increase women's participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of government (Norway)<sup>7</sup>*

*XXXX - Consider enacting important and relevant human rights laws, particularly, Disability Act,*

*National Commission for Human Rights Act, and Sexual Offences Act (Iraq)<sup>8</sup>*

*136.60 - Investigate thoroughly and prosecute all reported cases of sexual violence, and ensure that support and compensation is provided to the victims (Sierra Leone)<sup>9</sup>*

11. Some of the recommendations have been partially implemented. Although strides have been made in reaching 24% representation by women in the 10th Federal Parliament following deliberate efforts by the State, there is a notable absence of women in the higher levels of government such as director general and head of department levels. Of the remaining supported recommendations, little traction has been observed in enacting systems, policies and capacities to provide a protective environment for women and children.

12. According to US State Department 2019 Human Rights Report, a draft law that criminalizes rape, providing penalties of five to 15 years in prison for violations, has been at the parliament since 2018 without being approved. The Military Court operates with the death penalty as a maximum sentence for rape. The government did not effectively enforce the law. There are no federal laws against spousal violence, including rape, although in 2016 the Council of Ministers approved a national gender policy that gives the government the right to prosecute anyone convicted of committing GBV, such as the murder or rape of a woman. Puntland enacted a state law against sexual offenses in 2016 that provides for life imprisonment or the death penalty for rape. Moreover, the Federal Penal Code in Somalia defines rape as a moral crime rather than a crime against the person, so that survivors' risk being stigmatized if they disclose rape or other forms of sexual violence. The draft sexual offences bill that has been approved by the federal cabinet. This major legislative setback has demonstrated huge disappointment for the civil Society Organizations and Somali women and children who desperately need strong protection legal mechanism.

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<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/32/12/Add.1

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>9</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

## Concerns and Issues:

- 13. Systematic Discrimination Against Women and Girls.** Somalia is rated fourth in the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) global Gender Inequality Index<sup>10</sup>. Women and girls are subjected to systematic discrimination and exclusion in all spheres of social, economic and political life, and deeply entrenched traditional views assign women secondary status in Somali society.
- 14. Limited Access to Justice for Women and Girls.** Women's access to justice is restricted both within the formal, clan-based and sharia-based judicial system which operate parallel to each other. In clan-based and sharia-based law, women and girls continue to be considered as legal minors. In addition, women face limited access to economic resources and assets.
- 15. High rates of Gender-Based Violence.** Gender-based violence remains widespread in Somalia. The UN documented over 100 incidents of sexual violence against girls, but the vast majority of cases remain unreported. Somali Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have documented patterns of rape perpetrated with impunity, particularly of female Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and members of minority clans. IDPs and members of minority clans and marginalized groups suffer disproportionately from GBV. Gender-based violence, including rape, continues to affect women and girls when on the move to collect water, go to market, and cultivate fields. Dominant patterns included the abduction of women and girls for forced marriage and rape, perpetrated primarily by non-state armed groups, and incidents of rape and gang rape committed by state agents, militias associated with clans and unidentified armed men.
- 16. Lack of Legal Redress for Victims of Gender-Based Violence.** There is no comprehensive legal system that addresses gender-based violence (GBV) in Somalia and this constitutes a particular challenge. Although the Constitution of Somalia prohibits all forms of violence against women, none of the legal systems that operate alongside each other in Somalia provides sufficient legal redress for GBV survivors.
- 17. Prevalence of Harmful Traditional Practices.** Harmful traditional practices remain persistent in Somalia. Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is widely practiced and strongly rooted in the culture with over 98% of all the girls in Somalia having gone through FGM/C. Most girls undergo FGM/C between the ages of 5 and 10. FGM/C is considered to be important in the "marriageability" of the girl as there is a general belief that girls who have not undergone FGM are not suitable for marriage.
- 18. Gaps in Child Protection Systems.** Significant gaps remain in ensuring the protection of children from violence and neglect. Part of the reason is the persistence of harmful traditions and attitudes and low levels of understanding about the rights of children in many segments of society. Another reason is the lack of a comprehensive legal system for child protection. As noted in a previous section, several of the legislations meant to protect children are still at their draft stage. The departments that are responsible for

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<sup>10</sup> UNDP 2012, Gender Equality Brief

[http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/Women's%20Empowerment/Gender\\_Somalia.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/Women's%20Empowerment/Gender_Somalia.pdf)

protecting children are poorly resourced and highly dependent on external assistance. Child protection referral systems are still very weak and remote areas are left out of any referral programs, as resources are not allocated to them. Where legislation exists, their enforcement remains very low. As there are insufficient legal resources to support affected children many prefer to solve cases of violence against children through customary mediation rather than in the court of law. This contributes to low reporting of incidents to law enforcement agencies.

**19. Cultural and Religious Resistance against the Rights of Women and Girls.** Religious and traditional leaders have shown strong opposition over the issues of women's and children's rights, publicly advocating against the international/regional standards. This resistance has limited the space for civil society to conduct advocacy for these rights, as the influence of religious and traditional leaders is strong in Somalia. In 2016, five months after the Council of Ministers approved a national gender policy to increase women's political participation, economic empowerment, and the education of girls, the Somali Religious Council publicly warned the government against advocating for women in politics. The council called the 30 percent quota for women's seats in parliament "dangerous" and against Islamic religious tenets and predicted the policy would lead to disintegration of the family. When the Minister for Human Rights and Women tabled the sexual offenses bill, religious clerics called for her to be criminally charged.

#### **20. Recommendations:**

**Recommendation (4):** Strengthen the legislative framework to promote and protect the rights of women and girls, implement the specific legal reforms which have been pending since the last review.

**Recommendation (5):** Amend the Penal code to reflect international standards regarding rape and other forms of sexual violence.

**Recommendation (6):** Take concrete measures to end violence against women by implementing the National Action Plan to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and by investigating and prosecuting alleged violations, including when perpetrated by military and security personnel, in accordance with international law

#### **V. RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

**21. Status of previous recommendations:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR, the government accepted to implement the following four recommendations concerning the right to education:

135.87 - *Continue to prioritize the realization of right to education as a key national policy to increase child enrolment rate and improve the quality of education (China)*<sup>11</sup>

135.88 - *Make the education of children a State priority and provide all children with the educational opportunities to rebuild schools and protect them (Lithuania)*<sup>12</sup>

135.86 - *Continue to strengthen educational policies in order to ensure the necessary conditions for full access to education (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)*<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>12</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

<sup>13</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

135.89 - *Continue enhancing the right to education and provide training services and professional development to the teachers (South Sudan)*<sup>14</sup>

22. These recommendations have been partially implemented, in large part by the development of the Education Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and the increase in enrollment rates of girls and boys. The Federal Education Sector Strategic sets out priority areas of ensuring education contributes to peacebuilding and state building; strengthening societal resilience among communities affected by natural disasters and conflict; expanding access to education for children, adolescents and youth, especially those from marginalized communities such as pastoralists, IDPs and the urban poor; improving the quality of learning outcomes; strengthening the market relevance of learning opportunities; and increasing budget allocations to the education sector. The Ministries of Education at the Federal and State levels have also introduced strategies aimed at addressing the educational gender gap in Somalia. These and other measures have contributed to increased enrolment of girls, especially in rural areas.
23. In addition, Puntland developed a new strategic plan for education (2017-2021) based on a comprehensive review of its first program. The plan addresses four priorities; increasing access and equity to education opportunities; improving the quality of education and learning outcomes; enhancing efficiency of the education system; and strengthening systems and administration. Furthermore, the Interim Education Sector Strategic Plan (2013/2014 – 2015/2016) for South Central Zone aimed to develop a vibrant, efficient, effective and accountable education system aimed at improving access, equality, and gender equity in early childhood, primary, secondary, and tertiary education. However, there are still challenges in the access of education especially in hard to reach areas.

#### **Concerns & Issues:**

24. **Low Rates of Literacy.** Somalia is amongst the countries with lowest Literacy rates in the world. According to UNICEF, 37.8% of Somalia's population is literate. 49.7% of the adult male population is literate but only 25.8% of adult females is literate.
25. **Low Rates of Primary School Enrolment.** Somalia has one of the lowest primary school enrolment rates in the world. Just 30% of all school-age children have access to learning opportunities, with over 3 million children remaining out of school (HRP, 2019). Regardless of noticeable achievements in education, many children do not have access to education. It is estimated that 60% of school aged children are not in school. There are wide disparities across states, regions, urban/rural residence and gender. Children among pastoralist communities, children with disabilities, those from child-headed families, street children, internally displaced children and girls are more likely to be out of school.
26. **Inadequate Investment in Education.** Even though the Ministry of Education (MoE) receives relatively substantial foreign aid in addition to government allocations, its budget is dismally inadequate to expand education to all children. Public spending on

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<sup>14</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135



education is low, averaging only 5-8% annually from the budget analysis. The number of public schools is limited, most of the schools are poorly equipped and there is an insufficient number of teachers. In addition, many teachers lack sufficient training: About 40% of schoolteachers lack formal qualifications. There are no government supported teacher training institutes in Central South Somalia and only a very limited government supported teaching force. These factors, aggravated by the security risks in many parts of the country, contribute to the poor quality of education that many children receive, and to the poor learning environment that many find themselves in.

**27. Prohibiting Costs of School Fees.** The Somalia Civil Society Coalition, in our consultative meetings noted that children whose parents are unable to pay school fees find it difficult to go to public school. The number of public schools is still limited, which puts many children in a disadvantaged position because their parents cannot afford to pay private school tuition fees. Physical and emotional abuse at school is common and this, in addition to the cost of school fees, is a primary reason why many children do not attend school.

**28. Lack of Educational Opportunities for Children with Disabilities.** Children with disabilities in Somalia have very limited access to education. Those able to attend school face myriad of challenges in the sector, including discrimination and stigma from both teachers and fellow students. The MoE lacks an adequate plan to address the right to education of children with disabilities. The Federal Special Educational Needs Disability and Inclusive Education (SEND and IE) policy outlines 13 areas to ensure children with disabilities have equal access to education. However, this plan is not operationalized or resourced. Special education development is also hampered by limited/lack of skilled teachers, a lack of adequate teaching facilities and funding for special needs education. There is no support provided for people with disabilities to attend schools and universities.

**29. Recommendations:**

**Recommendation (7):** Strengthen educational policies in order to ensure the necessary conditions for full access to education, especially for marginalized groups including girls, children with disabilities, children in pastoral communities and children who are IDP.

**Recommendation (8):** Prioritize the realization of the right to education as a key national policy to increase child enrolment rates and improve the quality of education

**Recommendation (9):** Provide sufficient training and professional development opportunities to teachers

**VI. RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**30. Status of previous recommendations:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR, the government accepted to implement the following two recommendations concerning the rights of children with disabilities:

136.14 - *Consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Egypt)*<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> A/HRC/32/12/Add.1

135.12 - Enact legislation on human rights, including Citizenship Act, Persons with Disabilities Act, and the National Human Rights Commission Act (Egypt)<sup>16</sup>

31. The recommendations have been partially implemented. While the CRPD has been ratified it has yet to be domesticated into national law, and little investment has gone into ensuring that people with disabilities are integrated into decision making.

#### **Concerns & Issues:**

32. **Lack of Comprehensive Legal Framework for Children with Disabilities.** Persons and children with disabilities continue to be largely absent from the political and development agenda in Somalia, and their rights and needs are not properly addressed by the State. There is no specific national legal or policy framework regarding persons with disabilities. Although the provisional federal constitution provides equal rights and for and prohibits discrimination of persons with disabilities, the State has not enforced these provisions. As reported by Institute for Development in their Desk Report 2018, a lack of data on disability in Somalia has contributed to limited awareness of the rights and needs of people with disabilities among policy makers, planners, community leaders, service providers and the general public.
33. **Widespread Violence, Neglect and Discrimination of Children with Disabilities.** According to a study by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) in Puntland, children with disabilities are subject to neglect, abuse, stigma and discrimination, negative attitudes and exclusion at all levels. Families of persons with disability are also often faced with similar barriers as a result of stigma and the lack of services and opportunities available to their family members with disabilities. Many children with disabilities do not attend school, and are kept at home, out of sight. Both children and adults with disabilities are stigmatized and segregated and referred to with collective and derogatory names. The barriers faced by children with disabilities are compounded by the conflict, and girls and IDPs with disabilities are disproportionately impacted.
34. **Lacking Support to Disabled Persons' Organisations.** Some efforts to conduct advocacy for the rights and needs of people with disabilities are carried out by local Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) and networks. However, most of these efforts are impeded by the low capacities of the DPOs, and remain isolated from major initiatives by national and international organizations that promote and defend human rights.

#### **35. Recommendations:**

**Recommendation (10):** Raise the capacity of government actors to adopt and implement laws, policies and plans for persons with disabilities, including children.

**Recommendation (11):** Ensure that Disabled People's Organisations participate in decision-making processes on all issues of relevance to them, including in health, education, and social protection.

**Recommendation (12):** Develop and implement National Disability Strategies and action plans to coordinate and guide the implementation of the Convention on the Right of Persons with

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<sup>16</sup> A/HRC/32/12 - Para. 135

disabilities (CRPD).

## VII. CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED GROUPS – 6 GRAVE VIOLATIONS

**36. Status of previous recommendations:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of the UPR, the government accepted to implement the following recommendation concerning children associated with armed groups:

*136.26 - Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, signed in 2005, without reservation, and incorporate it into domestic law (Luxembourg)<sup>17</sup>*

37. This recommendation is yet to be implemented and there is no legislative framework to address the persistent recruitment of children into armed forces.

### Concerns & Issues:

**38. Recruitment of Children into Armed Forces Remains Prevalent.** All Somali parties to the conflict continue to commit serious abuses against children, including killings, maiming, recruitment and use in military operations. The recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups is a grave violation of child rights and international humanitarian law. Yet in Somalia, children as young as 9 are recruited or used by armed groups and clan militias. Children in IDP camps, children out of school and youth who are not engaged in income generating activities are particularly vulnerable to recruitment into armed groups. Mobile phones and social media are being used more frequently to target children.<sup>44</sup> The root causes for joining armed groups include radicalization, seeking economic opportunities, forceful recruitment, rebellion by teenagers against harsh punishment by parents, recruitment facilitated by parents, admiration of the uniform and abduction by armed groups. Children's entry into government forces is mainly motivated by economic gain to support their families and themselves. Children have also been recruited by clan elders to join clan militia groups to earn income for their families and themselves and as a form of clan patriotism.<sup>45</sup> There is an emerging trend of girls being abducted and forcefully recruited by armed groups to do household chores, washing and cooking. Girls are also reportedly being used as spies. The Secretary General report on children and armed conflict issued 09 June 2020 reported that in that year 1,495 children were recruited and used by armed forces, 703 children (222 killed, 481 maimed),<sup>ii</sup> 227 girls had been subjected to sexual violence, 64 schools and 12 hospitals had been attacked, 1,158 children had abducted and 50 incidents of the denial of humanitarian aid for children were registered. In 2018, 1,179 children formally associated with armed forces and groups received reintegration support from UNICEF and other partners.<sup>49</sup>

**39. Lacking Implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration.** Somalia signed the Safe Schools Declaration and Guidelines in 2015. A training on operationalizing the Guidelines was held by development partners in 2018 with members of the Somali armed forces, police, and relevant Ministries. Although policies to protect education and children exist, they are not being implemented and are not applicable to private schools.<sup>48</sup> Psychosocial support, vocational training or formal education, as well as

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<sup>17</sup> A/HRC/32/12/Add.1

family reunification are provided to children affected by armed conflict, but very few prevention mechanisms currently exist.

#### 40. Recommendations:

**Recommendation (13):** Adopt clear measures to protect children from being victims of recruitment into armed forces.

**Recommendation (14):** Establish effective vetting procedures to ensure that the Somali national armed forces and the police force recruit or accept persons under the age of 18;

**Recommendation (15):** Implement fully the 2012 Action Plans to eradicate the recruitment and use of child soldiers and achieve the goal of “Children Not Soldiers”.

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<sup>i</sup> List of participating organisations:

1. Women in Global Health-Somalia Chamber
2. SOS Children’s Village -Somalia
3. Save the Children International – Somalia
4. Plan international, Somalia
5. World Vision, Somalia
6. Save Somali Women & Children, Mogadishu, Somalia
7. Somali Peace Line, Southwest State, Somalia
8. Somali Women's Studies Centre, Kismayo in Jubbaland state
9. INTERSOS, Somalia
10. New Ways Organizations,
11. SOVA
12. WOCSO
13. Isha Human Rights Organization-Baidoa, South-west State of Somalia
14. Mudug Peace and Human Development Organization (MPHDO)Hoby, Somalia
15. Tadamun Social Society (TASS), Badhan, Puntland state of Somalia
16. The Asha Geel Foundation (TAGF), Galkayo North in Puntland State of Somalia.
17. Somali Gender Justice, Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia
18. Somalia National Deaf, Mogadishu, Somalia
19. National disability Council, Banadir, Somalia
20. Somali Disability Empowerment Network (SODEN), Mogadishu, Somalia
21. Somali Disability Cluster, Mogadishu, Somalia
22. Somali Body Disable Org (SBDO), Gardo, Puntland state of Somalia
23. Somali journalist’s association in Mogadishu, Somalia
24. Media Association of Puntland state of Somalia

<sup>ii</sup> Children and Armed conflict, Report of the Secretary general,2019