NATIONAL STUDY ON STREET CHILDREN IN SOMALILAND

SAVE THE CHILDREN – SOMALILAND

March 2013
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful completion of the National Study on Street Children in Somaliland would not have been possible without the street children’s testimonies on their experiences of working and living on the streets. The children voices in this report are true evidence that this study will greatly contribute to the development of a long term national strategy for promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of street children in Somaliland.

Special appreciation goes to the Child Right Community Committees (CRCCs) of Daami (A+B), State House IDP Camp, religious leaders, traditional leaders, Local and International NGOs, and Unicef staff who voluntary shared with us their knowledge on the subject matter. Their comments were highly valued.

We acknowledge the support and information received from the Government officials and in particular the MOLSA, MOJ, MRRR, MOE, AG, Police and all other stakeholders. This study benefited enormously from discussions with these officers and from a variety of literature material made available to us.

We also wish to thanks local partner organizations to SCISom, namely SOYDA, YOVENCO, HAVOYOCO and AYODA who worked tirelessly, mobilizing the respondents and organizing discussion meetings in the field.

We thank the logistics staff and the Child Protection Staff in Nairobi and Hargeisa who worked tirelessly to ensure excellent transport logistics, coordination of the data collection including selection of data collectors, translations of the children report from English to Somali language, and for their technical and knowledge base inputs at all stages of the data collection and compilation of this report. We specifically, acknowledge the support provided the project team led by Aqli Mohamoud, the Child Protection Project Manager, Ismail, the Protection Coordinator and Hibo Adbillahi the Protection Officer.

In addition we thank the donor partners to SCISom and particular Ministry of Foreign Affair Denmark and SCI Denmark who supported this study, and to whom the children of Somaliland will always feel indebted too.

Special appreciation goes to the lead consultant Joyce Umbima of MKAY Consultants, Nairobi, the field data collectors and their supervisors from all the project locations for tirelessly working around the clock to ensure that the consultant got enough information to compile this report. Their contributions have been a key pillar to the success of this study.

Lastly, our gratitude goes to all those who may have supported the process and have not been mention here.

Thank you.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ........................................................................................................... ii  
LIST OF TABLES, MAPS AND GRAPHS .................................................................................. vii  
ABBREVIATIONS ....................................................................................................................... viii  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ........................................................................................................... 2  
CHAPTER ONE: ......................................................................................................................... 5  
1.0 COUNTRY CONTEXT ........................................................................................................... 5  
1.1 Geographical location ......................................................................................................... 5  
1.2 Population ......................................................................................................................... 6  
1.3 Economy ............................................................................................................................ 6  
1.4 Government Structure ....................................................................................................... 6  
1.5 Somaliland Vision 2030 .................................................................................................... 6  
1.6 National Development Plan .............................................................................................. 7  
1.7 Education ........................................................................................................................... 7  
1.7.1 Education and Human Resource Development .............................................................. 8  
1.8 Children at risk of becoming street children ..................................................................... 8  
1.9 Youth Employment .......................................................................................................... 8  
1.10 Rural-Urban Migration ..................................................................................................... 8  
1.11 Health ............................................................................................................................... 9  
1.12 Protection for Vulnerable Groups .................................................................................... 9  
1.14 Unicef partnership with the Government ........................................................................ 10  
CHAPTER TWO ........................................................................................................................ 12  
2.0 INTRODUCTION .............................................................................................................. 12  
2.1 Definition of the term Street child/children ..................................................................... 12  
CHAPTER THREE .................................................................................................................... 13  
3.0 RESEARCH PROCESS ...................................................................................................... 13  
3.1 Study locations .................................................................................................................. 13  
3.2 Sampling framework and population size ........................................................................ 13  
3.3 Research Methodologies ................................................................................................. 14  
3.3.1 Literature review ......................................................................................................... 14  
3.3.2 Field Data collection methods ....................................................................................... 14  
a) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) ..................................................................................... 14  
b) Key Informant Interviews ................................................................................................. 14
c) Questionnaires............................................................................................................................................. 14
3.4 Training of Field Data Collectors............................................................................................................. 14
3.5 Quality assurance and monitoring............................................................................................................ 14
3.6 Data cleaning ............................................................................................................................................. 15
3.7 Field team leader roles and the Consultant............................................................................................. 15
3.8 Limitations ................................................................................................................................................ 15

KEY FINDINGS .................................................................................................................................................. 16

CHAPTER FOUR .............................................................................................................................................. 16

4.0 THE SITUATION OF STREET CHILDREN IN SOMALILAND ................................................................. 16
4.1 The Number of Street Children................................................................................................................ 16
4.2 Category of children in the streets and their movements ....................................................................... 16
a) Children working on the streets but with Family Connection ................................................................. 17
b) Children Working and Living on the Streets without Family Connection ............................................. 17
c) Children not working and without Family Connection ........................................................................... 18
d) Invisible child workers on the streets ....................................................................................................... 18
4.3 Sites Commonly Frequented by Street Children ...................................................................................... 18
4.4 The Country of Birth of Street Children .................................................................................................. 19
4.8 Single need not found on the street .......................................................................................................... 22

CHAPTER FIVE: .............................................................................................................................................. 25

5.0 WHAT RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED IN THE CASE OF STREET CHILDREN ...................................... 25
5.1 The Right to be Protected ......................................................................................................................... 25
5.2 The Right to Education ............................................................................................................................. 25
5.3 The Right to Survival (Food) .................................................................................................................... 25
5.4 The Right to Parental Care ....................................................................................................................... 26
5.5 Right to be Protected from Physical Abuse, and Neglect ................................................................. 26
5.7 The Right to Health ................................................................................................................................. 26
5.8 Right to shelter ......................................................................................................................................... 27
5.9 Right to be Protected from Sexual Abuse ............................................................................................... 28
5.10 Right to be Protected from Drug Abuse ................................................................................................. 28

CHAPTER SIX ................................................................................................................................................ 29

6.0 ROOT CAUSES OF CHILDREN LIVING/WORKING ON THE STREETS ............................................... 29
6.1 Poverty ...................................................................................................................................................... 29
CHAPTER SEVEN: ........................................................... 32
7.0 THE CAPACITY OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS TO FULFILL THE RIGHTS OF STREET CHILDREN ........................................................... 32
    7.1 The Government ............................................................... 32
    7.2 Local Government Authority ........................................... 33
    7.3 International/ Local NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations ........................................... 33
    7.4 UN and partners ............................................................... 35
    7.8 Children as right holders .................................................. 36
CHAPTER EIGHT ............................................................ 37
8.0 BARRIERS IN PROMOTING, PROTECTING AND FULFILLING THE RIGHTS OF STREET CHILDREN ............................................................. 37
    8.1 Legal and Policy framework .............................................. 37
    8.2 Low Government investment in children ........................... 38
    8.3 Negative Public attitudes towards street children ............... 39
    8.4 Stereotypes connected to street lifestyle ............................ 39
    8.5 Stereotypes based on the age of a street child .................... 40
CHAPTER NINE ............................................................. 41
9.0 WHAT STREET CHILDREN SEE AS SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PLIGHT ............................................................. 41
    9.1 Shelter ........................................................................ 41
    9.2 Vocational training .......................................................... 41
    9.3 Health care ................................................................ 42
    9.4 Education .................................................................... 42
    9.5 Income Generating Projects ............................................. 42
CHAPTER TEN ................................................................. 44
10.0 STRATEGIES TO RESPOND TO THE PLIGHT OF STREET CHILDREN ........................................................... 44
    10.2 Community outreach services .......................................... 45
    ii. Vocational Training ......................................................... 46
        e) Peace Building through Children clubs and CSOs Initiatives ........................................ 47
        f) Livelihoods programmes for most vulnerable parents of street children ................. 48
CHAPTER ELEVEN: .................................................................................................................. 50

11.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.................................................................. 50

11.1 CONCLUSION .................................................................................................................... 50

REFERENCES .......................................................................................................................... 54

APPENDICES .......................................................................................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Appendix 1: FGDs Analysis ...................................................................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Appendix 2: Data Collection Tools.......................................................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.
LIST OF TABLES, MAPS AND GRAPHS

Tables
Table 1  The Selected Towns and Areas
Table 2  Prevalence of children on the streets
Table 3  Children preferred living situation
Table 4  Save the Children activities in Somaliland

Map 1  Map of Somaliland

Graphs
Graph 1  Children responses on whether they had a mother or a father
Graph 2  Country of birth of street children
Graph 3  Fears and threats of children working and living on the streets
Graph 4  Preference for reporting on crime or abuse committed on the streets
Graph 5  Single need not found on the streets
Graph 6  Kind of assistance parents need to remove their children from the streets
ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS  Acquired Immune-deficiency Syndrome  
ANPPCAN African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse And Neglect  
AU African Union  
AYODA African Youth Development Association  
CCBRS Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland  
CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child  
CRSA Child Right Situational Analysis  
CSO Civil Society Organizations  
DRC Danish Refugee Council  
EFA Education for All  
FBO Faith Based Organizations  
FGD Focus Group Discussions  
GAVO General Voluntary Organization  
FGM Female Genital Mutilation  
HAVOYOCO Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee  
HIV Human Immune-deficiency Virus  
ICT Information Communication Technology  
IDC Internally Displaced Children  
IDP Internally Displaced Persons  
IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development  
INGOs International Non-Governmental Organizations  
ILO-IPEC International Labour Organization –International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour  
KII Key Informant Interview  
KM Kilometer  
LNGOs Local Non-Governmental Organizations  
MCH Maternal Child Health  
MDG Millennium Development Goals  
MOI Ministry of Interior  
MOJ Ministry of Justice  
MOLSA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs  
MRR&R Ministry of Rehabilitation Reconstruction and Resettlement  
NER Net Enrollment Rate  
NERAD National Environment Research and Disaster Preparedness and Management Authority  
NRC Norwegian Refugee Council  
NGO Non-Governmental Organizations  
OVCI Orphans and Vulnerable Children  
RDP Reconstruction and Development Programme  
SAY Somaliland Association and Youth Salvation  
SCI Save the Children International
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCISOM</td>
<td>Save the Children International Somalia/Somaliland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE</td>
<td>Strengthening Community Based Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SONYO</td>
<td>Somaliland National Youth Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSCREC</td>
<td>Somaliland Street Children Rehabilitation Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOYDA</td>
<td>Somaliland Youth Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOYDAVO</td>
<td>Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nation Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nation High Commission for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USWO</td>
<td>Ubah Social Welfare Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEP</td>
<td>Youth Education Pack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Study on Street Children in Somaliland was carried out in Hargeisa, Burao, Borama and Berbera in December 2012. The purpose for this study was to assess the situation of children living and working on the streets in Somaliland and make recommendations on possible strategies that could be employed to address their plight.

Four research methods used to collect data included Literature review, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Questionnaires. A total of 803 respondents were interviewed. This included 279 street children, 151 community members, 70 IDP camp leaders, 59 parents of street children, 50 opinion leaders, 49 teachers, 49 Youth leaders, 40 rehabilitated street children, 14 partner organizations to SCISom, 10 government officers, 8 religious leaders, 8 CSO members, 6 SCI staff, 5 police officers, 3 traditional leaders, and 2 magistrates.

Key findings from this study indicate that, the number of street children in the four study towns is not known. However, there are indications that, there has been a steady increase of street children in the last decade as result of extreme poverty amplified by continuous natural disasters such as drought, HIV and Aids when a member of the family is affected, poor economic returns from livestock farming, and high unemployment rate among youth both in the urban and rural areas, including over two decade of civil unrest in Southern Somalia. These factors have also contributed to massive displacement and immigration of men, women, children from the rural homes to urban centres and settle in internally displaced peoples camps. Most of the street children hail from such camps.

Secondly gender, based discrimination embedded in cultural practices such as female genital cuts and forced early marriages contributed to the numbers of girls dropping out of school at an early age.

Thirdly domestic violence contributed to the increasing cases of divorce leaving children in the care of one parent or step parents. Children claimed that they were mistreated by step mothers or step fathers. This made children run away from their homes to the streets to fend for themselves.

Pull factors of children from their families whether in the IDP camps or from their rural homes to the streets were identified as peer pressure to break from the nomadic lifestyle to urban lifestyle, availability of working or begging opportunities from business community and other well-wishers, availability of glue or Khat and other intoxicating drugs which are sold to street children to use and or for them to peddle.

Poverty, drugs, poor working and living conditions, including lack of parental guidance, contributes to the plight of street children. Their rights to quality life, education, shelter, food,
health care, and protection from physical, sexual, emotional, drug abuse including harmful work are violated.

This study further observed that, some of the barriers affecting the full realization of children rights were embedded in weak legal and policy instruments for protection of children, poor resource base by the government to invest in social services, negative public attitudes towards street children, and negative cultural practices including clan and gender based discrimination.

Children working/living on the street need interventions that respond to their denied rights to shelter, food, access to health care, education, protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect. Interventions suggested by stakeholders to meet these needs fall under three categories as follow:

i. Providing residential institutional services for street children,
ii. Establishing community outreach services for street children
iii. Raising awareness through print and electronic media

There were many organizations ranging from Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGOs) to International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and United Nations agencies providing services for vulnerable children. These organizations however worked in isolation and their services are not well coordinated leading to duplication and wasting of resources. This has contributed to low impact results of the services offered to children.

Based on the above analysis, the following summary of recommendations is made;

1. Support establishment and or strengthening of the National Child Protection Systems and linking this strongly with the Community Based Child Protection structures
2. Support setting up or strengthen data collection, monitoring and reporting systems on child protection. This would facilitate a mechanism for Coordination and Communication among stakeholders working with street children.
3. Strengthen capacity of people and agencies working with children equipping them with skills, tools and knowledge in programming with the street children. Capacity of the street children in life skills should be enhanced to increase their self-protection assets.
4. Advocacy for increased budgetary allocations for children programmes in general should be stepped up informed budget analysis and reviews. SC should mobilise other child rights actors and build coalitions of support to increase voice around this agenda.
5. Mount education campaigns against corporal punishment to children at home, school, or in their place of work, coupled with targeted trainings on alternatives to corporal punishment.
6. Strengthen legal and policy environment to protect children generally and street children specifically. The Children’s Act should make it illegal to sell to children
or use children to traffic illicit drugs, alcohol, Khat and any other intoxicating substances.

7. Expand Child Protection Units at police stations beyond those found in Hargeisa to Burao, Borama, Berbara and other towns where children can report any abuse or crime against them.

8. With the coming into effect of the Juvenile Justice Law there is need to establish children courts separated from adult courts and managed by qualified court officers trained on working with children with multiple psychosocial problems such as street children. Programmes that rehabilitate children in conflict with the law and equips them with life skills should also be established and strengthened.

9. Strengthen conflict resolution and peace building initiatives at family and community level led by religious leaders, clan elders, women, youth and children to facilitate cohesion and better protection of children living in Internally Displaced Persons Camps or working on the streets.

10. Step up advocacy initiatives against discrimination of children based on social-economic status, gender, clan, religion or nationality.

11. Scales up its Strengthening Community Based Rehabilitation (SCORE) project in Hargeisa and replicate it in Burao, Borama and Berbara. The replication of this project should take into account the lesson learnt from SCORE project in Hargeisa as well as considered investing into multi-sectoral programmes which address varying needs of street children.
1.0 COUNTRY CONTEXT

1.1 Geographical location
The Republic of Somaliland is situated between latitudes of 8’ North and 11’ 27” North; and longitudes 42 35’ and 49 East; Somaliland lies eastern Horn of Africa bordering Somalia in the East, Ethiopia in the South, Djibouti in the West; and Red Sea in the North. It has 850 KM of the Red Sea coast line1.

Map 1: Map of Somaliland

Adopted from 2000 Somaliland Mission

Somaliland was a former British colony, which united with the Italian colony of Somalia to form the independent Republic of Somalia in 1960. When the Republic of Somalia disintegrated into fluid dome in 1991, Somaliland set up its own government. Unlike, Southern Somalia, Somaliland is relatively peaceful, and has a stable democratically elected government2.

The country is divided into thirteen regions, namely, Awdal, Maroodi-jeeh, Saahil, Togdheer, Sanaag, Sool, Gubiilay, Salal, Oodweine, Saraar, Buhoodle, Hawd, and Badhan. These are subdivided into 81 districts.

---

1Somaliland MDG Report, 2010
2Somaliland MDG Report, 2010
Hargeisa is the capital of Somaliland and the other principle towns include Borama, Berbera, Burao, Erigavo and Las-Anod while the principle port is Berbera Port.3

1.2 Population
Somaliland has a population of about 3.5 million persons of whom 65%-70% are young people under the age of 30 years. Population density is estimated at approximately 25 persons per sq. kilometre. Fifty-five percent of the population is either nomadic or semi-nomadic, while 45% live in urban centres or rural market towns. The average life expectancy for the male is 50 and for females it is 55.4

The official languages for Somaliland are Somali, Arabic and English. Most Somalis belong to a group of Sunni Muslims.

1.3 Economy
The backbone and the source of wealth of Somaliland’s economy is livestock and to a small extend crop husbandry. About 65% of the population depends either directly or indirectly on livestock and its products for their livelihood while 20% depend on crop husbandry for their subsistence. Foreign aid and remittances from the Somaliland citizen in Diaspora also contributes to the country’s economy.5

1.4 Government Structure
The Somaliland government has three branches of governance consisting of the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary.6

a) The Executive branch works independently from the Legislature. It is headed by an elected President and consisting of the President, Vice-President, and the Council of Ministers appointed by the President.

b) Somaliland has a bicameral parliament which forms the legislative branch. The House of Representatives consists of members who represent the public, and forms the first part of the country’s legislature- passing laws, and overseeing the political situation in the country.

c) The Judicial Branch adjudicates over disputes. The branch performs its duties in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the land. It is independent of the other branches of the state.

1.5 Somaliland Vision 2030
Somaliland Vision 2030 is a blue print aimed at formulating a road map for long term development goals. Through this vision, Somaliland aims at achieving economic prosperity and social wellbeing for her people, building on the country’s success in establishing peace, stability, and democratic institutions. The vision is anchored in five pillars which include; Economic

3 Ministry of National Planning and Coordination; Somaliland in Figures 2010 Edition 7
4 Somaliland mission (http://somaliland.us/)
5 Ministry of National Planning and Coordination; Somaliland in Figures 2010 Edition 7
6 http://somalilandgov.com/
Development, Infra-Structure Development, Good governance, Social Development and Environmental Protection.

Somaliland Vision 2030, economic pillar aims at a nation whose citizens enjoy sustained economic growth and reduced poverty levels through an efficient, advanced agricultural sector (including livestock and fisheries) that ensures food security.

1.6 National Development Plan
In 2011, Somaliland adopted its National Development Plan for 2012-2016, with several important components which placed children at the centre of development priorities. More central to children rights is education. The government abolished school fees as part of its effort to implement Education for All (EFA) goals and move towards universal free education.

1.7 Education
Education in Somaliland is recognized as a fundamental human right of every citizen. This is enshrined in its Constitution Article 15 that states;

1. The state shall pay particular attention to the advancement, extension and dissemination of knowledge and education as it recognizes that education is the most appropriate investment that can play a major role in political, economic and social development.
2. Education is in the public interest, and is rooted in the experience and the special environment of the Somaliland society.
3. The learning of and training in the Islamic religion is a fundamental path and shall be compulsory at all levels of education. At the same time, the promotion of Quranic schools is the responsibility of the state.
4. Citizens and resident foreigners may open schools and educational or training projects of all levels in accordance with the Education Law.
5. The state shall accord a first priority to primary education, and shall endeavor to spread primary education to the regions and the districts.
6. The eradication of illiteracy and the (provision) of adult education is a national obligation, and the efforts of the public and the state shall be combined to fulfill this obligation.
7. The national policy is that primary education shall be free.
8. In order to ensure a healthy physical and mental growth of the young, and to improve their well being and maturity, the state shall give special attention to the promotion and encouragement of physical education and sports which will be recognized as one of the basic subjects in the educational curriculum of both state and other schools.

Education is indeed a tool that will not only facilitate long term economic gains, but also build the necessary human resource to achieve its goals. Through the National Development Plan 2012-2016 Somaliland aims at expanding and raising the quality of education by:

i) Building the institutional capacity of the Ministry,
ii) Developing appropriate education policies,
iii) Initiating teacher training programs,
iv) Expanding capacity by building more classrooms and schools,
v)  Building boarding schools in rural areas,
vi)  Increasing primary and secondary school enrolment rates,
vii)  Revising and upgrading school curriculum,
viii)  Establishing commission for higher education,
ix)  Introducing accreditation and quality control systems for higher education,
x)  Expanding women’s education,
xi)  Increasing the number of Technical Vocational Training institutions (TVET),
xii)  Providing policy guidelines for privately-run TVET centers.

1.7.1  Education and Human Resource Development
The Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme acknowledge that majority of an entire generation in the last three decades has not received basic education and a large number of qualified Somalis have left and joined the Diaspora. This has robbed Somaliland of the most qualified human resources it needs for its development.

1.8  Children at risk of becoming street children
Some of the children at risk of becoming street children are children with disability, orphans, Internally Displaced Children (IDC), refugee children, and children from child headed households including the girl child. Most of these children come from poor families, Internally Displace Person (IDP) Camps, and war affected areas of Southern Somalia. Others are unaccompanied minors seeking asylum as refugee from neighboring countries of Ethiopia and Djibouti and children affected by natural disasters such as drought. Children affected by and HIV and Aids are also at risk of becoming street children.

1.9  Youth Employment
According to Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO), unemployment among people aged between 15 and 30 years accounts for 75%. This high rate of unemployment is a reflection on the ineffectiveness of the education system, skills trainings and employment opportunities available.

The National Development Plan 2012-2016 aims at addressing the challenges faced by youth and creates opportunities for them. It will foster to strengthen their participation in the social, cultural, economic and civic development of Somaliland hence the government intends to put emphasis on:
   i)  Providing youth relevant training for job market opportunities in the country,
   ii)  Supporting youth business startups,
   iii)  Developing youth volunteering programs.

1.10  Rural-Urban Migration
Internal immigration of large numbers of people from the rural areas to urban areas and from urban to urban areas including cross border is common. Three driving forces for migration include;
   a)  Fleeing from conflict,
b) Fleeing from natural disasters such as drought, and flooding.
c) Search of better employment opportunities
d) Escape from a nomadic lifestyle.

1.11 Health
Somaliland as a country recognizes that health is a major concern hence the desire to promote health is captured in its five year development plan that aims at;
   a) Building the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health,
   b) Introducing District Health Care Management Systems in six selected Districts,
   c) Establishing basic health-care facilities in rural areas,
   d) Rehabilitating and upgrading existing referral hospitals,
   e) Extending Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services,
   f) Expanding and improving access to nutrition counseling for pregnant and lactating women through community based health service structures,
   g) Undertaking a systematic training and human resource needs assessment of the health sector for the next 10 to 15 years,
   h) Introducing a drug quality control system,
   i) Establishing a health information database,
   j) Carrying out health promotion and awareness campaigns.

1.12 Protection for Vulnerable Groups
According to the Somaliland Constitution Article 19, “The state shall be responsible for providing health care, development and education of the mother, the child, and the disabled who have no one to care for them, including the mentally handicapped persons who are not able and have no one to care for them.” Street children fall within this category of the vulnerable groups hence the Constitution protects them.

Further to this provision in the Constitution, the National Development Plan recognizes the need to;
   i) Strengthen existing institutions such as orphanages, and community based support services,
   ii) Institutionalize child protection services,
   iii) Establish family centers,

1.13 Community based protection systems
The constitution recognizes the power of the traditional social protection systems through the clan elders and the religious institutions as enshrined in part two of the constitution.

As part of the government efforts to identify exiting child protection structure in the community a survey of child protection was undertaken in 2011 with the support of UNICEF in the six regions of Somaliland to assess;
   a) Community, regional and national structures for protection of children.
   b) Develop links to build the capacity of duty bearers at all levels
1.14 Unicef partnership with the Government

UNICEF in partnership with the government facilitated the adoption of the Somaliland National Youth Policy and supported a network of youth centers across Somaliland’s six regions; it has worked with UNDP and ILO to support 350 youth at risk in Burao Togdheer region.

UNICEF has placed a strong focus on equity driven approaches to programming with the aim of bringing services closer home for women and children in isolated and remote areas. Efforts in 2011 included a scale-up of nutrition and health activities, with the admission of more than 13,000 severely malnourished children into therapeutic feeding programmes over the year, combined with emergency water, sanitation and hygiene efforts reaching over 130,000 vulnerable and displaced people. High impact large scale programmes including Child Health Days (CHDs) an initiative which began in 2008 under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and in partnership with WHO continued with a new round conducted in July 2011, reaching and protecting more than 300,000 children and 250,000 women from vaccine-preventable diseases.

UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR and the Ministries of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement (MRR$R) and Labour and Social Affairs has set up satellite desks at points of entry into Somaliland to register and identify unaccompanied minors entering the country.

1.15 International Treaties and Instruments

Somaliland is in a very unusual, probably unique position with regard to its sovereignty under the International law. It is not recognized as sovereign state and it is assumed to be a part of Somalia which has not signed the UNCRC. Somaliland nevertheless has expressed its willingness to ratify the UNCRC as back as November 2001. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reiterated its unreserved intention to formally ratify the UNCRC as soon as Somaliland is accepted by the UN as sovereign State in its own right. This notwithstanding, the Somaliland Constitution in article 21, paragraph 2 upholds International Human Right Treaties as part of its binding principles. Article 21.2 states that “fundamental rights and freedoms shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the International Conventions on Human Rights and also with the international laws referred to in this Constitution”

Just like the UNCRC Somaliland has been locked out its desire to ratified the ILO Convention 138 on Minimum age of admission to employment and Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour which provide practical action to be taken towards the elimination of child labour and can guide national legislation and future policy on child labour.

---

8 Children in Somaliland 2011
9 Children in Somaliland 2011
10 Children in Somaliland 2011
11Child labour in Somaliland: A rapid assessment in Hargeisa, Burao and Borama.
1.16 Non-Governmental Organizations Sector

The government of Somaliland acknowledges that Civil Society Organizations play an active role in the provision of social services, contributing to peace, reconciliation, development and have taken on the traditional functions of the state including dispute resolution and security. The government has developed a national strategy to facilitate;

i) Better coordination among NGOs and the government to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources;

ii) Alignment between the priorities of the National Development Plan and international recovery and development programs;

iii) Implementation of the NGO Act;

iv) Undertaking the necessary reforms to enhance transparency and accountability in the use of donor resources;

v) Carrying out regular program monitoring and evaluation to establish performance;

vi) Building the capacity of local NGOs;

vii) Improving coordination among International NGOs, UN Agencies, local NGOs and government institutions.
2.0 INTRODUCTION
The National Study on Street Children was undertaken in December 2012. The purpose of this study was to assess the situation of children living and working on the streets in Somaliland and make recommendations to facilitate the development of a long term national strategy for promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of street children in Somaliland.

The study sites for this study were Hargeisa, Burao, Borama and Berbera. These towns were selected based on preliminary information derived from SCISom Child Right Situational Analysis (CRSA) in 2010, which identified gaps in data collected on street children in Somaliland and yet these were some of the most vulnerable children. In addition, the four selected towns represented 70% of the major towns which previous studies by UNICEF 2003, Save the Children Finland and ANPPCAN 2008, and ILO-IPEC (2011), hinted to a growing population of children working and living on the streets.

The Terms of Reference outlined seven key study questions to facilitate the collection of primary and secondary data as follows:

1. What is the situation of street children in Somaliland?
2. What children’s rights are being violated in the case of street children in Somaliland and why (immediate, and root causes)?
3. What is the capacity of different stakeholders to fulfill the rights of street children?
4. What barriers are there in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children living and working on the streets in Somaliland?
5. What do the key stakeholders think should be done to address the plight of the street children?
6. What are the street children saying about their plight and how would they like it to be addressed?
7. What kind of approaches and or strategies would be most effective to respond to the plight of street children?

2.1 Definition of the term Street child/children
For the purpose of this study a “Street Child” was defined as any child who live or roam the streets begging for food or money, looking for casual work such as washing cars, shoes shining, sweeping food kiosks for pay in cash or kind, or stay on the street to fend for him/herself using all methods including selling of drugs and/or stealing from the public. It also refers to child vendors who sell sweets, waste plastic papers, vegetables, fruits, Khat, water and other small goods.

This study therefore looked at children who in one way or another spend time on the streets looking for means of survival whether through work or begging or trading.
CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH PROCESS
This section covers the research methods, study locations, sample size, training of field data collectors and the limitations encountered during the study.

3.1 Study locations
Specific areas selected in the four towns of this study were mapped out with the help of the SCISom and partners as highlighted in table 1 below:

Table 1: The Selected Towns and Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hargeisa</td>
<td>State House, Dami A and B, Sh-nuur, Mohamed Moge, Aw Dam, Qoobka IDP camps and town centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borama</td>
<td>The City Centre near Harawa and Honaninnta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burao</td>
<td>Koosar and Qandahar IDP camps, Central market and near Sheik Bashir Tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berbara</td>
<td>(Habenkaamategin), Seaside or Badacagahageli, Near Ubah restaurant, Garanwaaga, and Saylada (livestock Market), check points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Sampling framework and population size
The street children and their parents who participated in this study were randomly selected, assembled at safe area where they could respond to the questionnaire while others were assembled with the assistance of community leaders and Child Right Community Committees members for focus group discussions. In addition, purposive sampling was used for selection of rehabilitated street children and Key Informants representing community members, opinion religious, youth and Internally Displaced Camp (IDP) Camp leaders, Civil Society Organization (CSO) members, teachers, police officers, magistrates, partners of SCISom, government officers, Unicef Child protection officers, and staff of SCISom to learn from them the kinds of policies, interventions or programmes that have worked in the country, their views on the plight of street children and vision for protection of all children Somaliland

A total of 803 respondents were interviewed during this study. The respondents included

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Category of respondent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>279</td>
<td>Street Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>Community Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp Leaders,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Parents Of Street Children,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Opinion Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Youth Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Rehabilitated street children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Partner organizations to SCISom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Government officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Religious leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CSO members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SCISom staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Police Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Traditional leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Magistrates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3 Research Methodologies

3.3.1 Literature review
In a bid to understand the complex situation of street children in Somaliland, several documents were reviewed ranging from published materials on the status of street children, UN publications, government reports, Development Plans, the Constitution of Somaliland, policies and documented reports from SCISom and partners working in Somaliland and particularly in the study areas.

3.3.2 Field Data collection methods
Three methods for field primary data collection used were: focus group discussions, key informant interviews and questionnaires.

a) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)
This method was intertwined with role play, drawings, and ice breakers; check list, and guiding questions for the field data collectors. The participants included street boys and girls divided into two age cohort of 8 -13 and 14 -18 years, former street children who had gone through some form of rehabilitation, and community members (men and women) in separate groups. Each FGD had not more than ten participants to allow for fruitful and meaningful discussions.

b) Key Informant Interviews
A tool for collection of information from key informants was designed. The tool was used to collect information on policies and programme interventions from government officers, partner organizations to SCISom, UNICEF officers in the child protection sector, SCISom staff and Civil Society Organizations members including National Non-Governmental Organizations.

c) Questionnaires
Three sets of questionnaires were developed targeting parents of street children, and street boys and girls and a range of stakeholders working with children or connected to work with children. These tools enabled us to cross tabulate opinions on the status of street children as right holders, teachers, police officers, magistrates, youth leaders, opinion /traditional and camp leaders in IDP camps and community members as key primary stakeholders as well as duty bearers in general.

3.4 Training of Field Data Collectors
In order to ensure that the research team understood the study tools a two day training workshop was held for nineteen (19) field data collectors in Hargeisa. This session aimed at ensuring that all field data collectors understood the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this study, methodologies to be used, field test the tools, divide duties and select team leaders for each town where this study was undertaken.

3.5 Quality assurance and monitoring
In order to ensure quality in the output of the study, a check list was developed and given to the field team leaders to assist them check whether the field data collectors asked the right questions in Somali language and got the right answers. At the end of each field day, a
debriefing exercise was held with the team leaders to collect the completed tools and check for accuracy in filling.

**3.6 Data cleaning**
At the end of field data collection, two days were set aside to clean the qualitative data gathered. A guide tool was developed by the consultant to help the team leaders ensure there was a constant focus on the key questions that the study intended to answer. These two days of data cleaning helped the consultant to develop a summary of the key findings from the qualitative data collected.

**3.7 Field team leader roles and the Consultant**
Team leaders’ key responsibilities were to coordinate and manage the process at the field level, while the consultant supervised the team leaders in each town. The consultant further ensured the quality of the quantitative and qualitative data gathered and finally was responsible for writing this report.

**3.8 Limitations**
The study was faced with a number of challenges and limitations as follows:

a) Finding girls in the streets was difficult and hence there were fewer FGDs for girls aged 14-18 in Borama, Burao, and Berbara. This was because most of the girls worked in households and restaurants where their visibility was less on the streets. The assignment was also being undertaken during working hours when most of the girls were on duty at their place of work.

b) Team leaders also served as data collectors thereby prolonging the time spend in each area as there was need to meet with data collectors while still in the field to clean up the data collected at the end of each day.

c) Most of the field data collectors gathered the information in Somali language and often the translation to English was not clear when we began to do the quantitative data analysis. To overcome this challenge, two days were set aside for data cleaning in Hargeisa, but never the less it’s a limitation that needs noting for future selection of data collectors.

d) Some of the street children and parents were unwilling to talk to the team because they were skeptical about tangible benefits of such study. They demanded feedback on the outcome of the study.

e) Street children are constantly on the move and it was challenging to sit them down in a FGD and data collectors had to adopt a let go approach for children who felt restless.

f) This study took place immediately after the local council election whose outcome results were not accepted by all the parties. This resulted in some public demonstrations, posing some concern on security of the teams collecting data.
KEY FINDINGS

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 THE SITUATION OF STREET CHILDREN IN SOMALILAND

4.1 The Number of Street Children

The respondents interviewed in this study acknowledged that, the number of children drifting to the street was increasing with each passing day. However, it is right to state that nobody seemed to know the actual number of street children in Somaliland, nor the actual population of children and youth. The figures tabulated in the table 2 below are based on a research conducted by SCI-Finland and ANPPCAN\textsuperscript{12} in 2008. This same data was found in UNICEF study on Child Protection in Somalia Chapter IV: Children on the Street, 2003. No new data is therefore available.

**Table 2: Prevalence of children on the streets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence of children on the streets</th>
<th>Frequency Higher figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hargeisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time street children</td>
<td>55-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working street children</td>
<td>50-2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children living and/or working on the streets with families</td>
<td>10-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children living in the work place</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Violence Against Children in Somaliland Situational Analysis Report 2008

4.2 Category of children in the streets and their movements

According to data collected in Hargeisa, Burao, Borama and Berbera, there are 5 categories of Street children. These are:

1. Children working on the streets but maintain contact with family members.
2. Children working and living on their own on the streets
3. Children not working but living on the street in groups and use some form of violence to fend for themselves.
4. Children being used to beg or begging on the streets and maintain family connection.
5. Invisible child workers on the streets. These are children who work behind the scene and sometimes sleep in their place of work.

Majority of the children interviewed had stayed on the street for a minimum of one year and a maximum of nine years. Street children start appearing on the street from age of five years and some grow up to adulthood. The study further found out that street children and especially those living on their own were constantly moving from one town to another in order to escape from the arms of the law, or look for more lucrative job opportunities. Most of the children for example, found in Berbera were immigrants from other towns in Somaliland such as Hargeisa, Burao, and Erigavo.

\textsuperscript{12} Violence Against Children in Somaliland Situational Analysis Report
a) Children working on the streets but with Family Connection
Two categories of children who maintain family connection were identified as;
1. Children working on the streets
2. Children being used to beg or begging

These categories of children were mostly girls, younger boys and children with disabilities regardless of their age. Street girls during their FGD said they often went back home to sleep.

Children in this category had at least one parent with 70% saying they had a father and 87.50% had a mother. All the children interviewed could name their brothers and sisters and knew their occupation. In terms of their family member’s place of residence, majority of the children were aware where their relatives lived with 36.25% indicating they knew where the father lived and 53.75% where the mother lived, 25% said that their fathers had died and 7.5% asserted that their mother had died. The remaining 5% did not respond to the question as indicated in graph 1 below.

Graph 1: Children responses on whether they had a mother or a father

b) Children Working and Living on the Streets without Family Connection
Based on the KII from the four study towns, children in this category tended to recreate a family unit and live in groups with bigger boys providing security for the younger ones. This group meets at an identified area where they feel that they have some level of security to sleep after a long day’s work. Members support each other socially, financially and even share food when one of them is unlucky to secure any earnings during the day.

Some of the areas where this group colonized for sleeping were next to a police station, a street corner far from the public eyes or under the bridge where they felt safe.
c) Children not working and without Family Connection

In the eyes of the public, according to FGDs conducted with the community members this group was the most feared and considered a security risk by the general public. This group was identified as dirty, poorly dressed, highly intoxicated on glue and other drugs, and were available for hire to commit a crime or steal for a living.

This group of children appeared to have been on the street for a long time and was maturing to adolescent and young adults while on the streets. The children began as shoe shine workers, begging for money/food, washing cars and later graduate to hardened violent street youth.

In regard to their preferred living situation, 11.3% of those who participated in this study wanted to remain on the streets where they were free from parents and adult sanction. The other 73.6% of children interviewed preferred to live at home with family, 2.5% in a children’s home, while 11.3% were not sure as highlighted in Table 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred living situation</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live at home with family</td>
<td>76.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in a children home</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Children preferred living situation

d) Invisible child workers on the streets

These are children who work behind the scene in food kiosks, hotels, and restaurants, garages, vegetables and fruit vendors Kiosks. This group represent the most hard to reach children, as they work under the strict eyes of the employer who does not allow them to have time off. Many of them eat and sleep in a corner given by the employer. Girls are the majority under this group as they mostly work as domestic help, sweeping, washing dishes and clothes, cooking or taking care of children.

4.3 Sites Commonly Frequent by Street Children

Hargeisa

The study found out that most of the children working and living on the street were commonly found near Jamee’o Wain Street, the main bridge, center of the town, Sheikh Bashir Primary School, ex Ga’anLibah Secondary school, Jajabka, the Valley, around Farah Joome, Hero Qad and bus Station. However during the night they moved near the central police station for their own safety and security. This was on the assumption that the police would look after them in the event of any insecure situation.

Berbera,

The children congregate near the port at a place called Habenkaamategin, Seaside or Badacagahageli, Near Ubah restaurant, FAO area, Fartano area, Qabyada (near Marine University), Garanwaaga area, Saylada and Xudhunka (livestock Market). Younger children commonly walked around Ubah restaurant begging for food and soliciting for work such as shoe shining while the older boys engaged in fishing.
Jamalaye, Sabawanag and Finland IDP camps were recognized as the first entry point for unaccompanied children and street children before moving to other towns within Somaliland. In most cases during the night the children congregated in various corners within the town that they knew very few people could have access to them.

**Burao**
Street children tended to congregate near the central market and Sheikh Bashir Tower. Koosar and Qandahar IDP camps were cited as the entry points of children before moving to the streets.

**Borama**
Street children were found within the city centre in Harawa, Hanuuninta and basketball playground areas, where opportunities for begging for food/money or access to work were plentiful.

**4.4 The Country of Birth of Street Children**
Most of the street children and their parents were found to be Somalilanders. However over time, they had moved from one town to another in search of better economic opportunities. Based on the interviews with parents and children 76.25% of children, and 95% of parents said they were Somalilanders\(^\text{13}\). A small fraction representing 23.75% children and 5% parents said they came from Ethiopia, Djibouti, Central and South Somalia. Migration pattern were connected to natural disaster such as drought and famine, civil unrest in Southern Somalia, attraction to the town/city lifestyle and perceived better economic opportunities including job opportunities.

According to the key informant’s interviews in Hargeisa, drought in Ethiopia encouraged the Oromo community members to move into Somaliland and eventually seek asylum as refugees. This study was not able to verify this allegation and there is need for further investigation.

\(^{13}\) Graph 2: Somaliland as Home of Origin
4.5 Fears and threats of children working/living on the streets

Children expressed many concerns and fears about their lives on the streets. The greatest fears were about getting ill, arrested, sent to prison, involved in an accident. The graph below shows the common fears in percentages.

Graph 3: Fears and threats of children working and living on the streets
Out of all the fears 22.58% of the children interviewed felt that getting ill scared them most while this was seconded by 20% of the parents and 44% of the opinion leaders.

From the FGDs with children, it was evident that children living and working on the streets were afraid of getting ill because they had no or limited access to medical treatment in clinics or hospitals.

4.6 Protection of children on the streets
Safety and security is essential for growth and development of individuals despite of the age. Children recognized their vulnerability of working and living on the streets, and at best they felt that their protection came from Allah (41.18%) and from their own ability to protect themselves (17.65%). This was also echoed by 50% of parents who felt that their children lived on the streets at the mercy of Allah and while 21.43% felt they depended on their own ability to defend themselves. The rest parents admitted that they had no idea of how children protected themselves. The parents during the FGD alluded to the fact that they had no controls of what happens to their children while on the streets but hoped that Allah would take care of them. Opinion leaders also shared the same sentiment.

4.7 Preference for reporting on crime committed on the street
Several questions were posed to the children to find out if they were people or institutions in the community which they trusted and could report to any incidence of crime or abuse in places where they lived or worked. Among the choices given to children to choose from as persons or institutions most trusted were; camp leaders, fellow children, clan leaders, health workers, police, and religious and women leaders. Children also were also asked whether they preferred not to report to anybody. The same questions were also presented to parents and opinion leaders. The responses from these three groups varied, giving us mixed indicators on the type of persons/institutions children trusted most and felt comfortable to share information with on matter of crime or abuse.

In the event of a crime happening on the streets, the children asserted that, they preferred to report to the police (28.57%) while 19.05% preferred to tell their fellow children on the streets. A total of 14.29% of the children interviewed asserted that they preferred not to report while the rest reported to health centres, and leaders in the communities that included camp, women, clan, and religious leaders. It is interesting to note that children did not report cases of crime to the men leaders in the camps.

Contrary to the street children preference on who they report to in the event of crime, majority, (75.2%) of the parents and (75.55%) of the opinion leaders, said that children living and working on the street preferred to report incidences of crime or abuse to women leaders in the community or clan leaders. The opinion leaders felt that children did not report to religious leaders in the community.
The parents on the other hand had mixed reaction on where their children reported to in case of crime on the streets. A small fraction of (17.65%) the parents asserted that their children preferred to report to the police. This is supported by information accrued from the FGDs with parents who said that they had no control over their children’s protection on the streets and hoped that Allah was looking after them.

Comparative analysis on where the children prefer to report matters of crime or abuse is illustrated in graph 4 below.

**Graph 4: Preference for reporting on crime or abuse committed on the street**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Leaders(%)</th>
<th>Children(%)</th>
<th>Parents(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report to Police</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report to camp leaders</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report to clan leaders</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer not to report</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report at the health center</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell other Children</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell men leaders in the...</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report to the religious leaders</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.8 Single need not found on the street

Several suggestions were listed on possible needs children could be missing on the streets. The Children were requested to select a single need they did not get while working or living on the streets. Some of the needs listed for the children to select from were beddings, care, cloth, employment, education, health care, love, shelter, food and security.

It was difficult for the children to choose a single need they felt could not be found on the streets. Many choose more than one. An analysis of all the suggestions made indicated that health care, education, security, and shelter were the common needs which were not easily available on the streets. These needs were collaborated with their fears and threats of working and living on the streets when ranked in percentages.

During the validation workshop, children requested that “respect” be added on the needs not found on the streets. The general public despised them because of the way they dress and scavenge food from dustbins.
The graph 5 below illustrates children rating of needs not found on the streets.

**Graph 5: Single Need not found on the streets**

4.9 Frequency of children on the streets
Children living and working on the streets had diverse patterns of appearance on the streets. They were those who were on the streets seven days a week and whole day. The other category was those who were on the streets half a day for seven days of the week, and the last category was of children who appeared on the street for a few days of the week. From the responses of the children, 30% asserted spending the whole day on the streets, 46.3% half a day and while 23.8% did not give any indication on how much time they spend on the streets.

Friday seem to have been one special day when children were found on the streets and especially around mosques. This could be that, Friday was not a school day; hence most children had time to work or search for food including begging from people leaving the mosques after Friday prayers. This observation was supported by 24% of the parents who confirmed that, indeed their children were mostly found on the streets on Friday.

The reason for half day appearance on the street or why other days were less attractive to children was an indication that, some children could be attending school or worked elsewhere and only went to the streets on part time basis.

4.10 Kind of assistance parent need to remove their children from streets
Parents were asked to name the kind of assistance they would like to get to remove their children from the streets.

From the questionnaire 23.3% of the parents requested for assistance for their children to go back to school, 6.7% for employment opportunities for their children and themselves while
30.2% requested for basic needs (shelter, food, health care) from INGOs and LNGOs as illustrated in graph 6 below. It is however noted that 39.8% did not offer any suggestions raising some concerns on whether they would be willing to have their children back home.

**Graph 6: Kind of assistance parents need to remove their children from the streets**

![Graph 6: Kind of assistance parents need to remove their children from the streets](image-url)
CHAPTER FIVE:

5.0 WHAT RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED IN THE CASE OF STREET CHILDREN

Street children by the nature of their lifestyle including their living and working conditions fall within the category of the most vulnerable children. Their rights to quality life, education, shelter, food, health care, parental care, protection from physical and emotional abuse, harmful child labour and use of harmful drugs are violated or denied. As Rashid puts it “Our needs as street children are like emergency. We need food, shelter and education so that we can be like other children.”

5.1 The Right to be Protected

The study found out that there was minimal protection of children living and working on the streets. This was supported by stories from children who narrated how they were wrongly accused of theft, beaten by members of the public, arrested on false accusation, and detained in prison with adults. In Berbera one boy Abid Kharim narrated his story on how he was arrested on false accusation by his employer for stealing. “I was cleaning dishes in the evening after the restaurant had closed. My employer forgot where he had kept his money. He beat me and said I stole the money.”

Another boy told the study team that he was beaten for breaking a dish while washing. Younger children in particular complained of their hard earned money being taken by force by older boys and members of the public on their way home.

5.2 The Right to Education

The right to education is denied due to many hidden costs relating to education even when it is subsidized by the Government. From the FGDs conducted in Hargeisa with girls aged 8-13 years and boys 14-18 years in Borama, they pointed out that they drop out of school because their parents could not afford to buy uniform and writing materials.

Yasmin Siyad Adam, “I was born at Hargeisa, Daami B IDP camp and live there with my parents. My parents are very poor that’s why I don’t go to school. I have to look after my brothers and young sisters at home while my mother goes to work on street.”

Children also dropped out of school due to corporal punishment within the school system. A boy from Berbera told the study team that he ran away from school because he was beaten by a teacher.

5.3 The Right to Survival (Food)

Access to food was identified as the most frequently denied right. Children asserted that the death of a father (31.3%), mother (38.7%) and guardian (6.3%) robbed them of a primary bread
winner. The remaining 23.7% were on the street because of extreme poverty either due to drought which over years has depleted their food supplies or continuous conflict in Southern region of Somalia which has affected their source of livelihood.

The children hence, at their tender age are forced to go out and look for food despite the fact that under Article 19 of the Constitution of Somaliland, the state has responsibility of providing the health care services, development and education of the mother, the child, the disabled person who has no one to care for them, and for the mentally handicapped persons who have no one to care for them.

5.4 The Right to Parental Care
Domestic violence including separation of parents through death or divorce or desertion denied children their right to parental care. Some of the reasons given for denial of this right were cruel treatment by step parents after a marriage broke, abandonment by one parent or both after separation, divorce or death of one parent and especially a mother.

Polygamy although allowed under the Sheria law denied children their right to a father to be home at all times. This compounded by excessive use of Khat, abuse of alcohol and other drugs by parents and specifically the fathers made them neglect their responsibility.

5.5 Right to be Protected from Physical Abuse, and Neglect
Children asserted that, there were several cases where physical abuse and neglect took centre stage within the families.

Cawo Cabdi Nataan17, from Burao told the research team “I escaped from my family then I went to the street because my mother was beating me always. On the streets I had a lot of friends. I found them using glue, buying some of the remaining tomatoes sometimes washing dishes in the restaurant.”

5.6 Protection from Hazardous Child Labour
Protection from dangerous work which is injurious to the children health is least understood and denied.

Farhia Aden Dirir, summarized it all when he said “I was so young when I started living on the street because I have no mother. Dad passed away when I was a child. I started using drugs and became addicted. I found a job of washing plastic bags for packaging meat at butchery. One day, one of the men buying meat cut me with a knife. My health became “serious” without health care.”

5.7 The Right to Health
Street children right to health is denied through the harsh condition they live and work on the streets. Access to clean water, sanitation, and health care are limited at best or just not available, although under Article 17 of the Constitution of Somaliland the State has “the duty to meet the country’s needs for equipment to combat communicable diseases, the provision of free medicine, and the

17Some of the stories from Burao included
Street children are among the most vulnerable children yet they are resented by the public on grounds of how they look, dress, addiction to glue and other drugs; hence suffer from restrained access to health clinics or hospitals.

Ahmed Fairfax Jamal (13) 18 told the study team “I used very bad glue. One day I became sick and nearly died. The doctor refused to give me medicine because I was a street child.”

In addition, children complained that some of the work they did was dangerous and sometimes when accidents happened, they could not access medical services in public clinics/hospitals or private clinics. In deed getting ill while on the street was ranked as the most scaring thing by all respondents in this study. One can only imagine that, some children might have died while on the street and this could be a reason for fear.

5.8 Right to shelter
Children identified shelter as one of the basic right compromised by living and working on the streets. This feeling was supported by leaders and parents as a right denied. During cold seasons and especially those from Berbera suffered from chest infections including tuberculosis (TB).

Children working and returning home in the evening said, they lived in makeshift huts made of twigs and covered by plastics with very little ventilation for fresh air. The houses were generally overcrowded and occupied by more than one family.

Some of the houses that children returning home live

---

18Boys aged 8-13 years in Burao
5.9 Right to be Protected from Sexual Abuse
Children have a right to be protected from sexual abuse or exploitation. Children living or working on the street, however, talked about rampant sexual abuse among boys and girls alike. The SCORE project baseline survey further affirmed that younger street boys were sexually abused by older street boys. This was further collaborated by opinion leaders and government officers who said that, protection of children from sexual abuse was wanting, and there were real fears of many of them getting HIV.

During the FGDs with girls in Hargeisa and Berbera they talked about rape, unwanted pregnancies and stigma associated with pregnancy of girls outside wedlock. Rape, according to women community members, was committed not only by street boys but also by men in their communities.

Abdikarir Mohamed Bille19, told the study team “One day a street girl was raped by four men. After the rape ordeal she was seriously injured. We send her to the members of the women group in our village. They took her, cleaned and cared for her. We then reported to the police and narrated what had happened to the girl. The police told us she was a street girl so we needed to take her to our home and care for her. They could do nothing for her.”

5.10 Right to be Protected from Drug Abuse
Working on the street was said to be hard and sometimes dangerous. Children were exposed to selling and using of illicit drugs, glue, Khat and alcohol. They were also used by peddlers to carry illicit alcohol to underground venues where it was sold and consumed by members of the public. Barber shops were mentioned as common place where alcohol was sold.

Accordingly, a small fraction (7.14%) of children interviewed asserted that, they sold either Khat or glue on the streets in order to survive. Their continued exposure to such drugs was a violation of their right to be protected from harmful drugs.

5.11 Right to be protected from environmental hazards
Environmental hazards were not mentioned during this study; however the SCORE baseline study identified hazards relating to unprotected electric wires, as one of the cause of death among the street children and especially during the wet season, and among those living near open dams20.

---

19 Story by men in Burao FGD
20 SCORE Baseline Study Report
CHAPTER SIX

6.0 ROOT CAUSES OF CHILDREN LIVING/WORKING ON THE STREETS

Ali Ismail Nur\textsuperscript{21}, “The number of street children is increasing because the number of families living in poverty was increasing. These results in many of the children coming on the streets after their families are unable to send them to schools.”

Structural causes

6.1 Poverty

Children living in poverty experience lack of material, spiritual, and emotional resources they need to survive, develop and thrive. In the four study towns, all the categories of respondents strongly felt that poverty within the households was a major contributor to the increasing numbers of street children. This was echoed by children (56.7%), parents (31.7%) and leaders (57.7%).

Poverty according to the respondent was amplified by continuous natural disasters such as drought which has affected most parts of Somaliland; loss of family incomes as result of HIV and Aids, poor economic returns from livestock farming, and high unemployment among youth both in the urban and rural areas, including over two decade of civil unrest in Southern Somalia.

Equally parents of street children, who are now thirty years or older, are product of poverty based on observations made by the field data collectors. They noted that, some of the parents were extremely poor and suffered from drugs addiction. Of the parents interviewed 3.3% seemed to be on drugs, 6.7% had fresh wounds on their bodies, 13.4% looked malnourished, 20% looked emotional disturbed and 23.3% looked confused. Poverty as such was a root cause for deprivations to a range of basic rights.

According to Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO), unemployment among people aged between 15 and 30 years accounts for 75\%\textsuperscript{22}. This high rate of unemployment is a reflection on the ineffectiveness of the education system, skills trainings and limited employment opportunities. As a result, many young people who fail to get formal employment become part young people working or begging on the streets.

Continuous civil unrest in Southern Somalia has led to displacement of millions of people now living in IDP camps. They form part of the poor and excluded people in Somaliland. Unfortunately most of the street children come from these camps. In deed civil unrest in Somalia will continue to push children to the streets.

\textsuperscript{21}Men FGD in Burao
\textsuperscript{22}Somaliland Youth Status Survey Report
Social cultural causes

6.2 Gender Based Discrimination
According to one key informant from the Ministry of Education, gender based discrimination embedded in cultural practices such as female genital cuts and forced early marriages contributed to girls dropping out of school.

Early marriages made them miss a golden opportunity to learn and develop skills which they could use to get better paying jobs.

Similarly girls who were forced into marriage, found themselves trapped in marital relationships which had little or no meaning to them, contributing to the increasing cases of divorce or separation.

6.3 Clan Based Discrimination
In Hargeisa during focus group discussions and key informant interviews with opinion leaders including members of the CSOs they alluded that most of the street children were from the minority clans of Gabooye and Tumaal. Children and their parents suffered from discrimination imposed by majority clans in Somaliland. They are denied

- Employment in the public sectors,
- Admission of their children in public schools,
- Medical treatment in public health facilities.

This discrimination was silent and often not easy for an outsider to detect. This study was not able to dig deeper into this allegation and hence recommends future investigation into this matter.

6.4 Weakening family institution
Broken marriages through divorce or separation or desertion leave the responsibility of nurturing the children in the hands of one parent. Older children are the first casualty to drop out of school to work on the streets to support the family. The second casualties are girls who are send to work in order to support the family. These children become part of the population of the working girls and boys on the streets who are unlikely to break from the vicious circle of poverty.

6.5 Polygamous marriages
Cultural and Islamic religious practice of marrying more than one wife (Polygamy) is common in Somaliland. Under normal circumstances, a man is allowed to marry a second wife or as many as the Sheria law allows, as long as he has the means to look after all his children and wives. Unfortunately, the unwritten norms of proven “social and economic maturity” and “fairness” which go hand in hand with a polygamous marriage are not considered when decisions are made to marry additional wives.
Polygamous marriages where there are no sufficient resources to support all family members leaves the burden of caring for children to a mother who may not be in a position to shoulder such responsibility. In such cases, children are either send out to work to supplement the mother’s income or beg for food when there is no other option.

6.6 Domestic Violence
Violence within the family was alluded to as one of the causal factor for children running away from the home to live on their own. This is well summarised by, Ashed Ahmed Hariir23 who told the study team in Berbara, “My step father beat me then I ran away from home. I am from Wajale and I live with my friend. I escaped from my parents. They are now looking for me. I want to be free.”

6.7 The pull factors of children to the streets
Some of the pull factors of children to the street were identified as;

- Peer influence by those who have been on the street for a duration
- Attraction to the use of intoxicating drugs, Khat, glue which are readily available on the street,
- Availability of leftover food from restaurants and food kiosks which children can buy/work for/or is donated to them especially during the month of Ramadhan.
- Begging opportunity for money from Friday worshipers coming from mosques attract children to the streets.
- Children who hailed from abusive homes wanted to escape from sanctions of parents.
- Availability of working opportunities in the urban areas compared to the rural areas attracts a large immigration of children from rural areas to urban centres.
- Perceived “good” city and town lifestyle compared to rural nomadic lifestyle attracted children to immigrate to town and ended up working and living on the streets.

23Girls aged 14-18 years FGD in Berbera
CHAPTER SEVEN:  

7.0 THE CAPACITY OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS TO FULFILL THE RIGHTS OF STREET CHILDREN

The government is the primary duty bearer as far as the rights of children are concerned. The government efforts are supplemented by local and international organizations, private sector and business community including United Nation Agencies working in Somaliland. In this regard, this study identified a number of stakeholders who have the potential to work with street children or currently work with children in one way or another as follow:

7.1 The Government

The government as a duty bearer of the rights of the children executes its mandate through several ministries. The ones that have direct responsibilities of providing, protecting as well as creating an enabling environment for street children to grow up like all other children are:

1. Ministry of Health,
2. Ministry of Education and Higher Studies,
3. Ministry of Energy and Water Resources,
4. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,
5. Ministry of Justice,
6. Ministry of National Planning and Development,
7. Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture,
8. Ministry of Interior
9. Ministry of National Environment Research and Disaster Preparedness and Management Authority (NERAD),
10. Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction,

Some of the services provided by the government to vulnerable children who may include street children are medical care, psychosocial support, maternal and child health care services, nutritional support for malnourished children, and rehabilitation of street children.

Street children like other children from IDP camps are allowed to access medical treatment from Hargeisa, Burao, and Borama hospitals and clinics which are established in IDP camps.

The government has also raised extra funds through partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and International NGOs such as Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and Save the Children International to enhance services for vulnerable children and women in Somaliland.

The government is building more primary schools in the rural area to make education accessible to as many children as possible. Special emphasis has been put on improving the quality of primary education.
The government has also established a few Child Protection Units in a few police stations, has a functioning court system, has enacted the Juvenile Justice Law, developed Youth Policy and is working on a Child Labour Policy, the National Child Protection Policy and discussing the development of the Children Act including codifying its Family and Personal laws to facilitate the development of its family protection policy.

This notwithstanding the government has had some challenges such as:

- Lack of sufficient funds to implement its own national development plans.
- Most of the Ministries are poorly staffed and sometime lack resources to pay attractive salaries to attract and retain qualified staff.
- There is a shortage of trained men and women power,
- There government is continuously suffering from the exodus of qualified staff to work outside the country.
- Somaliland is not recognized as a sovereign state and this hampers its ability to access development loans from partners like the World Bank.

7.2 Local Government Authority
All the towns covered by this study have functioning town councils which are responsible for planning and providing basic services in their municipalities. Some of the services provided by the municipal councils in the study areas were education, water and sanitation, and medical services.

The study observed unplanned settlements, makeshift houses, low coverage of piped water and sanitation and few schools for the growing number of children. The capacity of towns and municipalities was hence questionable, and this will require further research before any conclusions are made.

7.3 International/ Local NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations
Somaliland has a wealth of International and Local NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations working for or with children and youth. These stakeholders provide healthcare services; street children outreach services through project like SCORE, and care and support to orphans and vulnerable children. Other NGOs are involved in advocacy and awareness rising on Children Rights. In this regard the following NGOs were mentioned by the respondents;

1. ANPPCAN- African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect
2. AYODA-African Youth Development Association
3. Candlelight,
4. CCBRS-Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland
5. HAVOYOCO -Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee
6. MIDARE
7. NRC- Norwegian Refugee Council
8. SAYS-Somaliland Association for Youth and Salvation
9. SCISom - Save the Children International Somalia/Somaliland
10. SYF -Somaliland Youth Forum,
11. SONYO – Somaliland Youth Organization  
12. SOYDAVO - Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization  
13. SOSCREC –Somaliland Street Children Rehabilitation Centre  
14. SOYDA - Somaliland Youth Development Association  
15. USWO – Ubah Social Welfare Organization  

Some of these organizations which have ongoing programmes for street and vulnerable children are as follows:  

- ANPPCAN- has a programme on eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Somaliland, and is embarking on a project which will support Orphans and Venerable Children (OVCs).  
  AYODA- works in collaboration with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to provide education to youths who have not attended school. The education program, called Youth Education Pack (YEP), consists of three parts; reading and writing, vocational training and life skills.  
- HAVOYOCO provides skill training to children from poor families in Burao. Some of the graduates have been able to start their own business as carpenters, plumbers and electricians.  
- SOYVO- provides rehabilitation services for street children in Burao by supporting their education, including feeding them at the centre. The centre has 7 class rooms for formal learning and staff with experience of working with street children. This organization also has awareness programmes for on rights of children  
- GAVO in Berbara, used to have a street children feeding program, although at the time of this study it had stopped. This study was not able to find out, why the programme stopped.  
- SOYDA, Ubah Social Welfaire Organization (USWO ) and the Ministry of Justice works in partnership with SCISom is implementing the SOCORE project in Marodijeh region (specifically Statehouse and Daami A and B in the capital city of Hargeisa)  
- CCBRS provides rehabilitation and medical services, psychosocial support, policy intervention and advocacy programmes in Hargeisa, Toogdheer and Awdal regions

The above organizations are only a few that were mentioned, however it is believed that there could be more NGOs whom the respondents were not able to name.

On the internal capacity of all the organizations mentioned, most of the respondents said that Local NGOs:  

- Were highly dependent on donor funding to provide services to children.  
- Had no long term programmes and often closed down when the funding come to an end.  
- Often suffered from delayed release of funds or shifted goals when the funding dried up.  

Given the above observations, this study recommends a further analysis to determine the capacity of Local NGOs to provide long term services to street children.
7.4 UN and partners

The UN agencies that have programme in Somaliland and work in partnership with the government and NGOs on matters that are related to development in general and to children in particular were:

- Unicef
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee
- Office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
- World Food Programme,
- International Labour Organization,
- International Organization for Migration.

Of all the above agencies, World Food Programme, UNICEF and UNHCR were known to many people. The other UN agencies were mostly known by NGOs and the government departments working directly with them.

UNICEF in particular housed a committee on Child Protection, and had launched a programme to support unaccompanied minors entering Somaliland.

This study was not able to assess the internal capacity of all the UN bodies working in Somaliland. However, it recognized that they play an important role in supporting national organizations and the government to provide direct or indirect services to children.

7.5 Save the Children International Somalia/Somaliland

SCISom as a stakeholder works in partnership with several Local NGOs and the Government in four thematic areas namely Health Food security, Education and Protection as indicated in table 4:

Table 4: Save the Children activities in Somaliland

| Health                     | - Building and renovating health clinics  |
|                           | - Training community health workers and staff  |
|                           | - Developing and implementing a more effective system for managing health records  |
|                           | - Providing medical supplies to health facilities  |
|                           | - Promoting public health messages  |
|                           | - Providing treatment (including immunization) and preventive measures such as bed nets to protect against malaria to venerable households  |
| Food Security             | - Helping vulnerable families with malnourished children to access food supplements for under five year old children.  |
|                           | - Supporting cash-for-work schemes as a way of enabling poor families to earn an income to meet their basic needs  |
| Education                 | - Renovating schools facilities including providing separate toilets for girls  |
|                           | - Distributing materials on child centered learning and curricula for teachers  |
|                           | - Improving the quality of teaching by training teachers  |
|                           | - Initiating the Alternative Approaches to Basic Education (AABE) programme to deliver better education for pastoral communities and out-of school children  |
|                           | - Piloting mobile schools together with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Pastoral Development  |
| Protection | - Supporting protection work in all areas of operation by actively seeking funds to support government and non-government child protection systems.  
- Creating fora and mechanisms by which children can come together, organize and express themselves  
- Promoting realization of Children’s right to be heard in decision making processes and to influence policies and practices that affect their lives and their protection.  
- Supporting community based child protection systems and networks that support and promote child rights and child protection |

In addition SCISom works with other INGOs, UN and LNOGs to promote advocacy programmes on rights of children.

### 7.6 Religious and Clan leaders

Religious and clan leaders are stakeholders in the wellbeing of all children in Somaliland.

- They are found in every village or urban settlement and are some of the most powerful members of the Somaliland society who derive their authority from the Constitution, Customary (Xeer Soomaal) and Islamic Sheria Law.
- They hence hold strategic position in the society with the capacity to mobilize the entire nation to rally behind children rights in general and in particular street children.
- They have the capacity to advocate for good and responsible parenting, against the use of Khat, early marriage, and FGM.

This group of stakeholders might however need capacity building on Children right framework to be able to carry out awareness and advocacy programmes on the rights of children.

### 7.7 Parents of street children

Children named their parents as primary duty bearers who should look after them, however due to several short comings mentioned in this report, such as poverty, displacement, domestic violence, etc their capacity to look after their own children is weakened. As one child Fatuma appealed to SCISom “help my mother to have money to buy food for us.”

### 7.8 Children as right holders

Several studies have shown that children as right holders are stakeholders in matters which affect them. This study consulted with children to get their views on solutions to their plight. Indeed in chapter nine they showed us that they know what would work best for them, however due to various factors such as access to information, awareness of their rights and the state of vulnerability they live in, they do not have the capacity to demand for them.
8.0 BARRIERS IN PROMOTING, PROTECTING AND FULFILLING THE RIGHTS OF STREET CHILDREN

Barriers to promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of street children are embedded in the,

a. Weak legal and policy framework
b. Poor resource base of the government to invest in social services,
c. Negative public attitudes towards street children
d. Stereotype based on the age of the street child
e. Stereotypes connected to street lifestyle
f. Negative cultural practices

A detailed analysis of the above barriers are as follow:

8.1 Legal and Policy framework

Somaliland Constitution has no specific mention of Children. This is a major barrier to systematic protection of all children in the country as follow:

8.1.1 Definition of Articles

The constitution does not define who is a child and it does not contain specific clauses on the concept of the best interest of the child. In fact, apart from the mention of “youths” (Article 15), “the young” (Article 15.8 and 20) and “the welfare of the family” (Article 36.4) – children are not specifically named in the constitution.

8.1.2 Production and consumption of alcohol

Article 16 sections 4 in part prohibit “the production of alcohol and the cultivation or the sale or use of intoxicants (drugs) in the territory of Somaliland.” This intention is not supported by policy or human power to enforce the ban on the sale or use of alcohol in the country, neither is there a mechanism that protects children from being used as peddlers or from consumption of alcohol.

8.1.3 Production and consumption of Khat

Other equally intoxicating substances such as Khat are not classified as dangerous drugs to the health of people, yet it is well known that, the continuous use of it result into insomnia. The State however does not have a policy to regulate its use or trade in khat. It sold openly sold to children and used by them.

8.1.4 Use of Glue

Glue which is a substance used by street children as a drug, is not classified as such. Hence it is openly sold to them. This acceptance of open peddling of glue is a pull factor of children to the street.

8.1.5 Children’s Act

Although the Country now has a Juvenile Justice Law, it still lacks a comprehensive child law which is in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC). The absence of this important law makes it had to draw specific policy on the
implementation of the United Nation Convention on the Right of the Child. This is further weakened by lack of a National Plan of Action for children making it harder to assess the government’s commitment to all children and in particular the street children. The Plan of Action would make it easier to assess the budgetary commitment to children right in all the sectors.

8.1.6 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) /Internally Displaced Children (IDC) Policy
Somaliland is home of 379,818 IDPs who are displaced as result of natural disasters such as drought or civil unrest. Some of the IDPs hail from South Somalia, Central Somalia, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. Some of the children who are a part of the population of people living in the IDP camps are un-accompanied minors who found their way into the camps on their own. Others had guardians or parents; however, they died or deserted them. Such children form part of the child headed households who work on the street to support themselves and other members of the family. Despite of this large population of IDPs in the country, there is no specific policy on IDPs, and in particular a policy on Internally Displaced Children (IDC)/ or Child Headed Household where children must work to survive. Lack of this key policy is a major barrier affecting interventions for street children including IDC.

8.1.7 Right to education VS cost sharing policy
Somaliland in its Constitution makes education a right for every child and in spirit of ensuring that every child acquires education, the government waived school fee but at the same time introduced a cost sharing policy which requires parents to buy school materials including uniform.

One key informant from the SCORE Project, told the study team that, it costs about thirty United States dollars ($30) to send one child to primary school, even after the waiver of school fee. The thirty dollars covers the cost of uniform, text books, and writing materials. This requirement is barriers for children’s access to education.

8.1.8 Education of parents
Education of parents and especially the mother determine the future investment in the total well being their children. It has been argued that women who have completed primary education are more likely to delay marriage, ensure their children are immunized, are more informed about nutrition, and are likely to support their daughters to go school. Secondly parents with less or no education have limited chances of getting a decent well paying job that will guarantee their ability to provide basic needs for their children such as shelter, food, health care or education. Street children parents fall within the category of less educated people in Somaliland and who are unlikely to get decent and well paying jobs to provide for basic needs of their children. The low literacy level of parents contributes to the number of children who are sent to the streets to work and subsidize the family income, and low value attached to education of children and especially the girls.

---

24 National Development Plan 2012-2016
8.2 Low Government investment in children
We acknowledge that the government of Somaliland recognizes its duty to ensure all children have rights and they enjoy them like all other human beings. This is stated in some of its key documents here alluded to:

ii. Child Protection Systems mapping (2011) across the six regions
iii. Juvenile Justice Law and development of a National Plan of Action to facilitate its implementation.
iv. National Youth Policy

These efforts are however not matched by resources budgeted for their implementation. Secondly, most of the plans are donor driven and often they are not fully incorporated in national budgets. Any delay of donor funds affects their implementation.

8.3 Negative Public attitudes towards street children
Street children are often viewed as dirty, dangerous, drug addicts and a social menace by the public. The stereotype image of street children is a major barrier to reaching out to them. As Ali Muhamud said “Living in the streets is very hard life. I have no shoes and wear old dirty clothes. When people see me they think I am a bad boy.”

8.4 Stereotypes connected to street lifestyle
Street children who have gone through rehabilitation programmes and are ready for re-entry into the public school system are rejected on the basis that, they were former street children. The school community believes that, they are likely to influence “good children” with “bad behavior” learnt on the streets. These children are considered social misfits, delinquent and are frequently accused for any wrong happening in the school.
This negative attitude as asserted by a former street child pushed him once again to the street.

8.5 Stereotype based on the age of a street child
Younger children get more sympathy begging for food or money on the streets. However, as they grow older, sympathy fades as the general public believe youth are old enough to look after themselves and stop begging. Rejection based on age is a barrier to reaching out to older children and youth on the streets. This rejection pushes them to the underground world where they are sometime forced to engage in criminal like related activities.

8.6 Negative cultural practice
Negative cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Early Marriages are barriers to promoting the rights of girls to education, health, and participation in matters which affect their well being including when to get married. Girls at the tender age of 12-15 years are forced go through FGM in preparation for marriage and sometime withdrawn from school and married off at this tender age. This practice not only contributes to fragile family institution, but also to the number of women and girls with minimum education who are unable to compete for well paying jobs in the market. The girls become part of the children working behind the scenes, cleaning, sweeping market stalls, washing cloth and dishes in the restaurants.
Children’s Group Discussion

From the qualitative and quantitative data collected, children came up with several suggestions on what they think could be solutions to their plight as street children. These were as follow:

9.1 Shelter
Shelter is a basic right of all people regardless of their age and social status. In this regard 8.33% of the children interviewed said that one thing that would make them happy was the provision of shelter while 76.3% asserted that it was the most urgent and important need. Mohamed Oiner Farah summarized it all when he said, “Build regional rehabilitation centers like the one in Hargeisa in Berbera, Borama and Burao because street children always come from other regions.”

Children (9.09%) who responded to the questionnaire said they had benefited from a rehabilitation centre as it had given them a place to call home. Nasra Ahmed Omer\textsuperscript{25}, in his testimony said “I don’t know where I was born. I had no home, no family, no brother or sister, the rehabilitation centre took me. It is my home.”

9.2 Vocational training
The need for vocational training to enable street children to get better paying jobs was echoed by older boys and girls between the ages of 14-18 years. 15% of this children felt that providing them with vocational training would help them to get better jobs to improve their daily earning

\textsuperscript{25} FGD with rehabilitated street girls in Hargeisa
capacity to look after themselves and family members. They suggested training in tailoring, carpentry and vehicle mechanics as some of the skills that could help them acquire good jobs or start their own business.

As Fatma Mohamed26 said “I was born at Burao and grew up here. My family is very poor. They don’t have anything. So my mother sends me to look for work. My father passed away in 2005. I want you to help me get skills to earn more money”

9.3 Health care
From the subsequent chapters, children echoed to the fact that getting ill while living or working on the streets scared them most. Solution according to them evolved around the State providing them with medical care. This was alluded to by 27.78% of children who participated in this study. Yasmin Warda27, summed it all when he said “Give medicine to street children and they will be happy.”

9.4 Education
From the case studies highlighted in the previous chapter28 children said they dropped out of school as a result of poverty. Following this, 61.3% of the children asserted that education, was a road map out of poverty to better jobs and other economic opportunities.

Children requested for financial assistance to pay for “school fees”, buy writing and reading materials including school uniforms. A testimony from Jamal Mohamed29, exemplifies the children ideas and what would work for them when he said “I was born in Bosaso, Puntland and now live in Burao with my grandmother. We are very poor at home and I could not afford to go to school like other children. So I decided to start doing some small work on the street like Shoe shining to get our daily food until I got help from SOYVO. They took me back to school and now I am through with my primary school.”

Mubarik Nur acknowledges that, “Before I started my education I used to work on the street at a small restaurant. Now SOYVO is helping me. I am going to school”

9.5 Income Generating Projects
During the FGDs30 with older children they suggested that, if they were trained in small scale business and had capital to start their own business, they would be in a better position to look after themselves and other family members.

26 FGD in Burao with girl aged 14-18 years
27 FGD in Borama with girls aged 8-13 years
28 Barriers in Promoting, Protecting and Fulfilling the Rights of Street Children
29 FGD with boys aged 14-18 years in Burao
30 Like FGD with Boys aged 14-18 years in Burao
9.6 “Better jobs” for Parents and particularly Mothers
Children during the FGD requested SCISom to help their mothers get better jobs to earn “good money” to look after all their children. This, according to them, would discourage parents sending their children to the streets to work or beg.

9.7 Peace
This study did not pose any question on peace and security, however children who had moved from Southern Somalia and were living in IDP camps, during the FGDs31 brought up unsolicited concerns on the need for peace so that all children could go back to their homes as summarized by Ubah Omar, who said “I was born in Mogadishu and my parents immigrated to Hargeisa where now they live at Daami B IDP camp. I long to go back home when the war stops”

31 FGD with girls aged 14-18 years in Hargeisa Daami B
10.0 STRATEGIES TO RESPOND TO THE PLIGHT OF STREET CHILDREN

Children working/living on the street need interventions that respond to their denied rights to shelter, food, access to health care, education and protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect. Interventions suggested by stakeholders to meet these needs fall under three categories as follow:

i. Providing residential institutional services for street children,

ii. Establishing community outreach services for street children,

iii. Raising awareness through print and electronic media

10.1 Residential institutional services for street children

The concept of residential institutions was alluded to by the Director of Children Services and supported by opinion leaders, community members and children who participated in this study. Residential rescue and rehabilitation institutions were proposed as a stop gap measures while other longer term measures are sought. This suggestion was based on the assumption that street children need shelter, food, medical care and protective eyes of adults charged with the responsibility of changing/or rehabilitating them from delinquent behaviors learnt on the street before being integrated into the family.

Somaliland Street Children Rehabilitation Centre built on the outskirts of Hargeisa, was one such institution which many respondents mentioned as a working example of Residential Rescue and Rehabilitation Institution. The Centre provides street children with shelter, food while at the same time tracing their family or guardian for reconciliation and reunification. Through this initiative at least 26 girls and 107 boys had been reunited with their families. The success of this strategy was based on a well established registration, tracing/tracking systems, interim care and quick reunion with immediate family members.

The Centre also provides psychosocial support for children who are suffering from withdraw symptoms related to glue or drugs abused while on the streets.

The respondents suggested that such centers be established in all the four towns where this study was undertaken.

This notwithstanding, all the respondents acknowledged that:

- The government may not be in a position to build enough centers within a short period.
- It is expensive to run residential care for street children unless there is a concerted effort by the government to allocate specific fund for the upkeep of children in such centers.
- Residential care facilities should be adequately staffed with professional care givers and supported by resilient supervision from the government officers to void them from becoming institutions where children are abused, neglected or subjected to clan/

---

32 According to the director Somaliland Street Children Rehabilitation Centre
political/ religious fundamentalism which are detrimental to their total wellbeing and that of the State.

- Children residential institutions should work closely with community schools to ensure children are not isolated and stigmatized as street children.
- Where possible younger children should be enrolled in public schools to learn with other children in the community.
- The street children rehabilitation centre’s should be equipped with necessary facilities such as desks for children to sit and do their school home work, dining facilities and properly furnished sleeping facilities.
- The residential institutions should be a last resort in care and protection of street children without any family connection.

10.2 Community outreach services

The informants acknowledged that there were ongoing community outreach services in IDP camps. Some of such services were; child protection initiatives through the Community Child Right Committees, Maternal Child Health (MCH) services, and building of public toilets in IDP camps supported by organizations such as Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), community awareness on environmental hygiene, however these services did not adequately serve children who were most of the time living or working on the streets. To this regard, the following suggestions were made:

a) Establish Street Children Drop in Centres
b) Strengthen Non Formal education including Vocational training for street children
c) Expand the role of community Quran Schools to offer early childhood and lower primary education.
d) Organize money and in kind donations from the business community and Somali in diaspora to support programmes for street children
e) Support Peace Building initiatives through Children clubs in schools and civil society members in the community.
f) Support economic livelihoods programmes for the most vulnerable parents of street children.
g) Advocate for the rights of street children through the religious led initiatives
h) Establish mobile health services for street children

A detailed analysis of the above suggestions are as follows;

a) Street Children Drop in Centres

Street Children drop in centers were proposed as an alternative module to residential institutional module. The drops in centres were described as open space where street children could come and go as they wish. The drop in centres module was based on the assumption that they were:

- Cheap and cost effective to run,
- Flexible to the street children lifestyle including working time,
- Could be used to screen children who should benefit from services offered in the residential care facilities, counseling or psychosocial support, tracing and connecting the child to the family.
Could be used for screening parents who could benefit from livelihood supported initiatives.

It was emphasized that for every child who stopped by the drop in centre, the first priority should be, to help the child go home where he/she could be helped in a home environment and not on the street.

b) Non Formal Education and Vocational training for street children

i. Non formal education

Older street children who have never been in school or who dropped out of school at a very early age may not feel free to go back to a formal school. One way of dealing with this challenge was to offer flexible non formal literacy classes where street children learn the skill they need for working, reading and writing.

Alternatively, such schools could also offer bridging classes for children who dropped out of school and need remedial classes to enable them join the formal education system.

ii. Vocational Training

Borrowing a leaf from the Undugu Society in Kenya, one of the oldest organizations working with street children, literature review found out that children on the street have different talents and potential which when natured can translate into big business or careers. Undugu Society of Kenya established vocational training centers in carpentry, motor mechanic, beauty/hair salons, and tailoring. Children who showed an interest in music were helped to form bands of their own for entertainment at various functions of the government and other missions at a fee. This can be replicated in Somaliland depending on the needs of the street children.

In Somaliland, another good example could be borrowed from Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) which works in cooperation with the local organization known as AYODA to provide education to youths who have not attended school. The educational program, called Youth Education Pack (YEP), consists of three parts; reading and writing, vocational training and life skills. Special efforts are be made to recruit and train girls, recruit female teachers who also serve as role models for girls. YEP program focus on creating educational opportunities that are relevant to job markets for boys and girls. The YEP centre in Borama opened in 2007 is one of NRC project which, has been praised for its focus on girls. It can be used as one of the modules targeting street girls in the four study towns.

The YEP module also offer literacy programs for adults which has an added advantage for using it with parents of street children and street children who have never been to school. The training is flexible and respects community calendar, the multiple gender roles of women, culture and religion of Somali people

A third example of Vocational training is that offered by HAVOYOCO, for children and youth from poor families in Somaliland. This is a residential facility with a combination of non formal and formal education facilities for poor children who include street children.
Based on these three modules, this study recommends that a further investigation be undertaken to ascertain in details, the needs of street girls and boys, their level of literacy, marketable skills for job placement of graduates, gender responsibility of women and girls before embarking on the training.

c) **Expanded role of community Quran schools.**
This study found out that children began appearing and working on the streets from a tender age of five years. These children are too young to be on the streets and can be assisted to enroll in community based Quran schools which have an expanded mandate to offer Early Childhood Education including lower primary school classes for pupils aged 6-12 years. Such schools could reduce the distances younger children walk to reach a nearest primary school, and at the same time, assure parents that children can walk on their own to school and back home in a fairly safe environment.

d) **Organized money and in kind donation from the business community and Somali’s in Diaspora**
Although food was identified as an immediate need for children begging or working on the streets, there were fears, that feeding children on the streets or donating food and money could become an incentive for children to be on the street. It against these fears that the respondents suggested that, as part of a community outreach community service, there be a coordinated approach for collecting donations of money or food from the business community including Somalilanders in diaspora. Money or food collected at a central place could be donated to deserving poor families to feed their children at home as the first priority, and secondly such donations could be given to Children Residential Institutions.

e) **Peace Building through Children clubs and CSOs Initiatives**
As part of the long term measure of addressing civil unrest in Somalia, it was suggested that interventions relating peace building, reconciliation and cohesion among communities in Southern Somalia including IDP camps in Somaliland be initiated. The respondents suggested that children be taught conflict resolution and peace building through activities held in clubs such as Child Right Clubs, Children Peace Clubs, Music clubs, and Sporting Clubs in schools or IDP camps. The clubs could be used to raise awareness on the plight of street children, as well as provide an opportunity for children to interact with children from different clans and nationalities. Some of the activities these clubs could do are as follow:

- Hold debates on related subjects of peace, coexistence among people of different ethnic groups, good governance and human rights of everybody in the community
- Write poems and messages of peace to leaders such as members of parliament, religious leaders, including heads of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) Missions in Somaliland
- With the support of teachers, organize exchange visit among Children Peace clubs in Somaliland, Central and South Somalia
- Organize camps for children from minority clans with those from majority clans in Somaliland to share experiences and dispense prejudices passed to them by their parents.
- Hold sport, drama, music competition in the camps and schools.

In addition to these initiatives, the respondents further suggested that there be a conflict and peace building programmes at the community level led by civil society organizations, religious leaders, clan elders, women, and youth to facilitate reconciliation and peace which has not been witnessed for many years. The peace programme could further facilitate resettlement and reintegration of IDPs in their home community.

Indeed peace in Southern Somalia will significantly contribute to decongesting of IDP camps in Somaliland and hence reducing the number of children drifting to the streets.

f) Livelihoods programmes for most vulnerable parents of street children.

Strengthening of economic livelihood for most vulnerable parents of street children was alluded to as part of the solutions for empowering parents to look after their own children. Income generating programmes for both parents and in particular mothers of street children was seen as one of the community outreach interventions for increasing parent’s financial capacity to pay for the families basic needs including supporting education for their own children. This suggestion was based on the fact that most of the street children’s mothers are small scale traders who do not have the capital to expand their business nor the skills to do profitable business.

g) Advocating for the rights of street children through the religious led initiatives

The study notes that religious structures are well grounded within Somaliland communities. They can be used to raise awareness on responsible parenting, negative effects of early marriages, FGM on girls’ empowerment, effects of Khat and other intoxicating drugs on the health of street children as part of the community outreach services.

h) Mobile Health Clinics

An idea of establishing mobile health clinics was muted in meetings held with key informants from SCORE, SOYADA, UNHCR, MOLSA, and SOLSA in Hargeisa as a short term interventions for providing children with medical care in all the four towns. These mobile health clinics were proposed as a supplementary outreach service to the existing government run health institutions such as those found in IDP camps such as Daami B for minority groups, Ahmed Dhagah and Darasalaam districts. Meanwhile the government was argued to pursue its long term objective of expanding health facilities in every community and providing free medicine to all its citizen who include street children.

10.3 Raising awareness through print and electronic Media

Both print and electronic media were mentioned as the most powerful communication tools on diverse issue affecting street children. Some of the approaches suggested included printing of
poster, books, and flyers on critical issues concerning street children, including negative effect of early marriages and FGM on girls.

Radio and television were suggested as possible channels for reaching many people with information on the plight of street children, influencing the government policy to invest more resources in preventive programmes for children’s at risk of becoming street children.
CHAPTER ELEVEN:

11.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study ascertained that the number of street children in the four study towns is not known, however, there were indications that, there has been a steady increase of children working or living on street in the last decade. This has been due to increasing levels of poverty at the household level, burdens relating to cost sharing policy in the Ministry of Education, continuous civil unrest in Southern Somalia and natural disasters such as drought. These conditions have led to massive displacement of many people, now living as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps in Hargeisa, Borao, Borama and Berbera. The massive immigration of people has substantially contributed to the increasing number of children working, begging or living on the street.

Secondary pull factors of children from their families whether they are in the IDP camps or from their rural homes to the street were identified as peer pressure to break from the nomadic lifestyle to urban lifestyle, availability of working or begging opportunities from the business community and other well wishers, availability of glue, Khat and other intoxicating drugs which are sold to children to use or traffic.

Poverty, drugs, poor working and living conditions, including lack of parental guidance, contributes to the plight of street children. Their rights to quality life, education, shelter, food, health care, protection from physical, sexual, emotional, and drug abuse including harmful work are violated or denied by the primary and secondary duty bearers.

This study further observed that, some of the barriers affecting the full realization of children rights are embedded in weak legal and policy instruments for protection of children, poor resource base by the government to invest in social services, negative public attitudes towards street children, and negative cultural practices including clan and gender based discrimination.

Children working/living on the street need interventions that respond to their denied rights to shelter, food, access to health care, education, protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect. Interventions suggested by stakeholders to meet these needs fall under three categories as follow:

i. Providing residential institutional services for street children,
ii. Establishing community outreach services for street children
iii. Raising awareness through print and electronic media

This notwithstanding, Somaliland has a wealth of Local Non Governmental Organizations (LNGOs), International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and United Nation agencies providing services for vulnerable children. These organizations however work in isolation and their services are not well coordinated leading to duplication and wasting of resources. This has contributed to low impact results of services provided to children.
11.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Child Protection is about protecting children from any perceived danger/risk to their life. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm; be it social, psychological or emotional. Based on the above analysis, the following recommendations are made;

12. Support establishment and or strengthening of the National Child Protection Systems and linking this strongly with the Community Based Child Protection structures

13. Support setting up or strengthen data collection, monitoring and reporting systems on child protection. This would facilitate a mechanism for Coordination and Communication among stakeholders working with street children. In addition, Somaliland does not currently have data on the numbers of street children to inform programme planning for all actors in the sector. This study recommends a census of all street children in Somaliland. In addition ways and means of including children in the insecure regions of Sool and Sanaag should be explored to ensure that they are not excluded.

14. Strengthen capacity of people and agencies working with children equipping them with skills, tools and knowledge in programming with the street children. Key areas of focus should include gender, psychosocial counseling, family conflict reconciliation, rights of children and appropriate services for street children and street families; in addition case documentation, referrals and follow ups. Capacity of the street children in life skills should be enhanced to increase their self-protection assets.

15. Programming for children including street children is a primary duty of the government. Other actors supplement the work of the government. Advocacy for increased budgetary allocations for children programmes in general should be stepped up informed budget analysis and reviews. SC should mobilise other child rights actors and build coalitions of support to increase voice around this agenda.

16. Mount education campaigns against corporal punishment to children at home, school, or in their place of work, coupled with targeted trainings on alternatives to corporal punishment.

17. Strengthen legal and policy environment to protect children generally and street children specifically. The Children’s Act should make it illegal to sell to children or use children to traffic illicit drugs, alcohol, Khat and any other intoxicating substances.

18. Expand Child Protection Units at police stations beyond those found in Hargeisa to Burao, Borama, Berbara and other towns where children can report any abuse or crime against them. This expansion should go hand in hand with training of police officers to manage and work in the child protection units.

19. With the coming into effect of the Juvenile Justice Law there is need to establish children courts separated from adult courts and managed by qualified court
officers trained on working with children with multiple psychosocial problems such as street children. Programmes that rehabilitate children in conflict with the law and equips them with life skills should also be established and strengthened.

20. Strengthen conflict resolution and peace building initiatives at family and community level led by religious leaders, clan elders, women, youth and children to facilitate cohesion and better protection of children living in Internally Displaced Persons Camps or working on the streets.

Moving forward for Save the Children
This study ascertained that the number of street children in Hargeisa, Burao, Borama and Berbera has increased in the last decade and that their rights to quality life, education, shelter, food, health care, protection from physical, sexual, emotional, and drug abuse including harmful work have been denied or violated. This study hence recommends that Save the Children International scales up its Strengthening Community Based Rehabilitation (SCORE) project in Hargeisa and replicate it in Burao, Borama and Berbera. The replication of this project should take into account the lessons learnt from SCORE project in Hargeisa as well as considered investing into multi-sectoral programmes which address varying needs of street children as expounded to in this report. Such a programme should include:

a) Capacity strengthening of the SCORE partners to increase their ability and effectiveness in implementation of the project with an aim to increase their support and capacity for the service providers in service delivery to children including the street children and their care givers.

b) Strengthening the outreach services for street children to include mobile health services, education and vocational training programmes for street children and those at risk of becoming street children.

c) Providing targeted economic livelihoods strengthening to extremely vulnerable families to increase their ability to provide basic needs and protect their children from going to the streets.

d) Advocating for improved legal protection for street children, including policy intervention for actualizing protection programmes for street children. This should include fast-tracking the support needed for development of the Children Act for Somaliland and the Child Protection Policy that is currently in draft

e) Supporting strengthening of community based child protection systems, and specifically in IDP camps in Hargeisa, Burao, Borama and Berbera.

f) Supporting child led initiative such as Child Right Clubs, Child Peace Clubs, Music clubs, and Sporting Clubs in schools, IDP camps and Street Children Rehabilitation Centers. These clubs should eventually become avenues for conflict resolutions and peace building at home, school and in the community.

Save the Children should also as a matter of priority fast track development of the Children Act for Somaliland as a key legal instrument to protect all children including the street children in Somaliland. Other legal and policy frameworks relevant to children should also be considered
including finalization of the National Child Protection Policy, support to implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law and a policy to ban use of corporal punishment at all levels.

The validation workshop
REFERENCES

African Development Trust, (February 2011), Somaliland Drought Situation Report


African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (SOM Chapter) Situational Analysis on Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Somaliland; funded by Unicef-GF HIV/AIDS ROUND 8 Grant

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and Norwegian Refugee Council (2010), Somalia: Displacement and worsening humanitarian situation as a result of ongoing violence and conflict: A profile of the internal displacement situation July, 2010

International Labour Organization (December 2011) International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC); Child Labour in Somaliland: A Rapid Assessment in Hargeisa, Burao and Borama

Ministry of National Planning and Development (MNP& D), (2010), Somaliland In-Figures, Edition 7

Ministry of National Planning and Development (MNP& D), (2010), Somaliland MDG Report, 2010


Ministry of National Planning & Development, (December 2011), Somaliland National Vision 2030


Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme: Deepening Peace and Reducing Poverty Volume I January 2008

Save the Children – Denmark, (2008), Juvenile Justice Project: Assessment Survey of the Legal and Psychosocial Needs of Children in Conflict with the Law, or at the Risk of Getting in Conflict with the Law

Save the Children – Denmark, (2009), Baseline Survey Report on Violence against Children in Detention Centers in Somaliland

Save the Children, (2010), Somaliland Child Rights Situation Analysis2010


Somaliland Youth Status Survey Report

UNDP (Report 2012), Somalia Human Development: Empowering Youth for Peace and Development

UNICEF (2011), Children in Somaliland2011

Somaliland Mission (http://somaliland.us/)

http://www.unicef.org/somalia/education-1457.html