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Somali Youth and Migration on the Security of Somalia: Broader Implications and Sustainable Solutions

Ahmed Mohamed Jama

ahmedjamaa2030@gmail.com

Short Report

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BY:

Ahmed Jama

Ahmedjamaa2030@gmail.com

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List of Acronyms

ALGAPL	Association of Local Government Authorities of Puntland
APC	Annual Peace Conference
AU	African Union
CDF	Chief of Defence Forces
CRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child protection
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FMs	Federal Member states
GBV	Gender Based on Violences
GTEC	Garowe Teachers Education College
HIPS	Heritage Institute for Policy Studies
HoA	Horn of Africa
ICA	Immigration and Citizenship Agency
ICA	Immigration and Citizenship Agency
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MU	Mogadishu University
NISA	National Intelligence and Security Agency
NTP	National Transformation Plan
PDRC	Puntland Development and Research Centre
PSU	Puntland State University
SDRC	Somalia Disaster Resilience Conference
SIDRA	Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis

SNBS	Somali National Bureau of Statistics
SoDMA	Somalia Disaster Management Agency
SONNA	Somali National News Agency
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNTMIS	United Nations Transitional Mission in Somalia.
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Force
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
VOA	Voice of America

About the Author

Ahmed Jama is an independent renowned Somali researcher who displays groundbreaking reports through evidence-based research and analysis. Jama is the author of this study titled: “Somali Youth and Migration on the security of Somalia: broader implications and sustainable solutions”.

Previously, he wrote more concrete research and policy papers about climate change hazards, peacebuilding and state building initiatives in Somalia, geopolitical conflicts in the Horn of Africa, education for social development, Puntland democratization process, social media platforms, etc

Notably, Ahmed Jama attended and presented his research papers at the first three consecutive Annual Peace Conferences (APC 2023, 2024 and 2025) hosted by the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) in Garowe, Puntland state of Somalia. While the PDRC published it. The PDRC brought together Somali peacebuilding practitioners, researchers, government officials, civil society leaders, international partners, academicians, media practitioners, and experts of the themes.

Furthermore, Ahmed Jama also presented through Zoom my research paper at the 3rd Somalia Disaster Resilience Conference (SDRC) co-hosted by Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) and the Mogadishu University (MU) held in Mogadishu on 13 – 14 October 2026. SoDMA will publish it.

Also, Ahmed Jama was among the authors of the *DEGMO Magazine* Volume I published by the Association of Local Government Authorities of Puntland State Somalia (ALGAPL).

Ahmed Jama holds master’s in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid from Kalu Institute, Bachelor of Economics (BSc) from Puntland State University (PSU) and Diploma of Education in Secondary teacher education – major mathematics and physics from Garowe Teachers Education College (GTEC) as well as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Career Empowerment Certificate from University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Abstract

This study investigated the significant role of Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia. Its specific focus on addressing the root causes of Somali youth and migration, and its broader implications in Somalia, as well as key sustainable solutions for it.

The objectives of this study are among; to assess and evaluate the significant factors causing Somali youth and migration. Those factors are: social and communal conflicts based on clan clashes, socio-economic dynamics; unemployment rate and poverty rate, domestic violences, corruption in social services, and forced early marriage. Political instability based on constitutional crisis over the disputed elections and inequalities of shared resources. environmental changes induced climate change and wider security challenges in the region.

The study identified and analyzed the broader implications of Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia. For example, massive migration – particularly Somali youth, human rights violations and discriminations, causing the biggest humanitarian crisis, increased transnational organized crimes including piracy.

The methodology used in this study involves a comprehensive review and analysis of secondary documents which are published by research institutions, government entities, international media outlets and international organizations.

This study explored key solutions, recommendations and highlighting vital points for the Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia such as; for it such; good governance, economic empowerment, building effective institutions, social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives as well as mediation efforts, political stability and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) etc.

Keywords: climate change, migration, political instability, Somali youth, unemployment.

Introduction

Somali youth face significant challenges from various angles including high unemployment rate, lack of enough opportunity in the decent work spaces and political participation in the country's system, missing of good governance pillars, absent of economic empowerment initiatives development, which contributes to move in illegal migration which hit the country into insecurity space and Somali youth face to brain drain situations. These developments led to global outcry.

Social conflicts, socio-economic dynamics including unemployment rate, poverty rate, domestic violences, corruption in social services, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as well as the political instability of the country based political stakeholders' disputes over different issues about Somali politics, security challenges posed by the transnational extremists' groups in the country, and environment challenges induced to climate change – all those compounding developments are the major factors contributing to Somali youth and migration impact on security of Somalia.

"More than 1,300 migrants died trying to reach the Spanish coast on the route in the first five months of 2026, according to the Spanish NGO Caminando Fronteras. The data includes 142 women and 129 children."[1] Previously, the Washington Post published on October 11, 2026, "At least 139 people, including children, have died after a boat carrying more than 300 migrants capsized off the coast of Djibouti in east Africa, the International Organization for Migration said Sunday,"[2] Notably, the most common nationalities of sea arrivals to Canary Islands (2026) in Spain among Somalis 369.

Other significant challenges of Somali youth in the market economy, particularly in private sectors including in terms of recruitment process, investment procedures, business opportunity, labor rights, constitutional rights, and free participation in the market economy.

Now, some private businesses sectors in Somalia layoff a few Somali youth generations due to the economic recession across the globe. The most international humanitarian organization has already laid off and closed its offices in Somalia.

Despite this, Somalia President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud told Sky News in an exclusive interview on October 29, 2026 that a lot of challenges are in Somalia among security and poverty issues. But the President told one that he is mainly focused, worried and thinks when he gets time is the younger generation. The president also stated that "70% of the population are less than 30

years old. So, either they are going to be an asset for the future or they can be a timing bomb which can create another half of maybe another decade or two down the road."[3]

More than six million people are facing acute food and water insecurity and almost two million children under five years require treatment for a dire malnourishment. After years of the compounding of prolonged climate shocks – droughts, intercommunal conflicts and the massive displacement of Somali youth.

The main significant challenges of humanitarian assistance are; reduction of funding of aid from international donors, series political stakeholder's disagreements, the security threats from Al – Shabaab remains and escalation of the Middle East conflicts particularly including Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab Strait crisis.

When Somalia government and Federal Members States (FMs) do not prepare good and suitable environment of human capital development initiatives for Somali youth, they will seek another illegal opportunity including joining into Somali piracy activities, smuggling weapons, illicit trades and increased human traffic issues which led to biggest humanitarian crisis in Somalia, increasing the Country's insecurity approach and the wider regional issues.

Therefore, the broader implication of Somali youth and migration on the security of the country including; massive displacement of Somali youth, increasing transnational organized crimes, human rights violations and discriminations led to the increasing the Country's insecurity and biggest humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

Notably, recently Somali pirates' activities have escalated in the region, for instance, the New York Times reported in August 2026, that the two hijackings in four days in the international waterways[4]. The Somali pirates' escalation over the Middle East conflicts and Somali youth also face high unemployment rate and critical conditions under the poverty line are contributing factors to those illegal activities.

In addition to that, Somalia currently face to political disagreements over the national elections among political stakeholders based on the unilateral constitution amendments and disputed national elections' modules. Furthermore, political differences and disputes, as well as inequality of shared resources in the country. Somali young people are essential to the peacebuilding initiatives in the country.

Therefore, to avoid these significant consequences and securing sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia. So, this study conducted and displayed extensive solutions for the broader implication of Somali youth and migration – mainly securing political stability in the country based on political agreements among political stakeholders. The public awareness raising in sessions, regularly updating and reviewing all policies and procedures relating to the migration issues based on inclusive consultations are important.

Notably, the private Business entities have to increase the rate of hiring Somali youth educated, and the Somali government Banks offer to the youth under investment of projects including agricultural and fishing industries in the country.

This study also explored key sustainable solutions such as; strengthening good governance pillars, promoting education for sustainable development, enhancing economic empowerment initiatives, developing peacebuilding and state building initiatives, creating platforms and opportunities for the Somali youth development to engage Somali politics space. Additionally, encouraging Somali citizens voluntarily return to home to secure sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia.

Literature Review

The Factors Causing Somali Youth and Migration

The center of mass migration is the youth population, therefore, the significant factors which promote the youth and migration in Somalia are social conflicts, socio – economics dynamics, political instability, and environmental changes. Additionally, the security challenges in the region, particularly in violent transnational extremists' groups which significantly contribute to Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia which poses broader implications.

Social Conflicts

The prolonged conflicts and political instability of Somalia have largely destroyed the country's public institutions and infrastructure.[5]

In the absence of a functioning government created for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). For instance, more people including youth, women and children fled from the country to the neighboring countries such Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia. While others were displaced within the country.

Lack of functioning rules and regulations as well as scarcity of resources also formed communal conflict based on clan clashes, land disputes, water issues. It caused youth and migration in Somalia. Moreover, past killings, land use conflicts (urbanization, grass roots) also contribute to Somali youth and migration due to that the youth are seeking survival, while others joined armed groups.

Current incidences of conflict are political and based on various forms/aspects of constitutional/political crisis. The local factors of political conflicts include (i) internal factors - social, economic (scarce resources), political (constitutional amendments, electoral processes); (ii) external factors; geo-political and strategic international interests, e.g., war on terror, international maritime interests, etc.[6] The social conflicts among the communities contribute to Somali youth and migration.

Socio – Economic Dynamics

The second significant factor promoting the youth and migration are socio – economic dynamics such as the unemployment rate of the country is so high, rapidly increasing population pressure, least political participation of youth, and domestic violences. In addition, FGM and forced early marriage are specifically on the women and children respectively. Moreover, big economic challenges including poverty, low income, lack of enough jobs also drive the youth migration. Additionally, low quality of education (most theories, least at all skills), absence of public awareness, the main public services are concentrated in the major cities rather than small ones are among the factors that contribute to the socio – economic dynamics.

By all accounts, the social and political stakeholder's mindsets only focus on the political spectrums of Somalia, therefore, they don't further interest in Somali youth development initiatives.

Political Instability

Somalia has experienced political instability based on constitutional crises in the terms of delay of elections or postpone elections, and constitutional amendments which causes political chaos and differences among the political stakeholders. That political instability led to the Somali youth to migrate from Somalia to the abroad to get and secure more surviving and peaceful places as well as possible opportunities to develop their livelihoods.

The historical clan dominance in Somalia's political and social sectors and the complete collapse of the central government encouraged the reliance on clan and family connections[7]

On Friday, October 30, 2026, the Daily Monitor from Uganda published report that UPDF starts Somalia exit as financial pressures, diplomatic shifts reshape peace mission by citing the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba issued a statement on his X account, "As we promised, we have started withdrawing UPDF from Somalia. After 20 years of a lot of blood and sacrifice we are handing over security to our Somali brothers."[8]

Somalia remains a prolonged humanitarian catastrophe and the current dire humanitarian situation on the ground will be worsening, political crisis based on constitutional chaos which posed deepening political fragmentations, and an existential threat by terrorists affiliated to Al-Qaeda, as well as the presence of transnational extremists' groups in the country. Additionally, the country faces risk in an uncertainty manner.

The political instability led to lack of transparency and accountability, weak implementation of regulations and policies, and lack of collaboration of public institutions in the terms of service delivery mechanism as well as matters of quality services.

Notably, “On 31 October 2026, the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) completed its two-year transition and ceased operations, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2753 (2024) and 2809 (2025) and in line with the request of the Federal Government of Somalia.”[9]

Environmental Changes Induced to Climate Change

The Horn of Africa (HoA) region is so prolonged that climate change induced a humanitarian crisis across the region and increased migration crisis, particularly in youth, women and children. The climate change caused periodic flash floods including torrential rains, cyclones, tropical cyclones and severe droughts. Those sensitive factors led to youth migration due to the seeking of survival. Therefore, the effect of climate change on the dominant pastoral systems of Somalia. Moreover, the strong smuggling networks are involved in the illegal migration process. The building of stronger capacity of the institutional climate change center is so vital to the climate change impacts.

Security Challenges in the Region

“There is still a serious problem with violent extremists in the Horn of Africa, which is a significant contributor to the instability that is occurring in the region. According to the conflict analysis that has been released by major donor states to the Horn of Africa and the African Union; terrorism and violent extremism are considered to be a significant danger to the stability of the region.”[10]

This factor led to the Somali youth to migrate from their homeland, and become refugees, and become refugee asylum seekers to get and secure further survival of basic needs.

Very interestingly and appreciatively, the Puntland state of Somalia’s security forces conducted an offensive war against the transnational extremist’s groups – Islamic State fighters[11] in the stronghold mountains at the northeastern Somalia, in Bari region, through operations of air and ground forces against them. The Puntland security forces and its government allies persistently carry out airstrikes in the hideouts. The Puntland counter-terrorism forces and unweaving support of local and international communities including the United States of America (USA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as the Diaspore people have significantly scored and achieved great and historic milestones over the history of World, particularly in the region of Horn of Africa.

The Broader Implications of Somali Youth and Migration on the Security of Somalia

In recent years, Somalia has had critical social issues, political and economic challenges which significantly promote Somali youth and migration, as well as lack access to social services in the terms of mainly health and education. The broader implication from those challenges is among massive displacement, increasing the country's insecurity, human rights violations and discriminations, increase of transnational organized crimes, and humanitarian crisis.

The Brain Drain Clipping Somalia's future amid worsening social conflicts, socio – economic dynamics, political instability, and environmental changes induced to climate change.

Somali pirates[12] have accelerated over the Middle East conflicts. Additionally, the two hijackings[13] in four days in the international waterways. The other main factors are Somalis face high unemployment rates and critical conditions under the poverty line.

In addition to it, the world superpowers are keeping an eye on the Ukraine – Russia war, and the escalations of the Middle East tensions have significant impact on the humanitarian assistance funding is currently low across the world, particularly in the fragile contexts, like Somalia.

The recent news is being released by the international media outlets, and citizen media (social media outlets) regarding the large-scale migration of recent graduates from high schools, and Universities in Somalia.

Massive Displacement

The massive displacement is caused by horrific humanitarian situations which effected the communities. They fled from their homes. In Somalia, the prolonged conflicts, humanitarian crisis, unemployment and poverty have increased the situation of massive displacement. For instance, the heavy rains and cyclones destroyed the infrastructures and lost livestock. Therefore, more people become poor, and they become IDPs, while others go across the borders, they become refugees. Floods and droughts as well as the poverty status are the three main factors that led to massive displacement.

"IOM Somalia Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) aims to collect, analyze and disseminate information on displacement. DTM is IOM's information management system to track and monitor numbers, locations, movements, needs and vulnerabilities of displaced people"[14]

In April 2025, at least 20 Somali migrants, most of them young adults tragically died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea toward the Spanish island of Palma, local media and survivors confirmed on Wednesday[15].

"The UN migration agency has reported that at least 139 people were killed and 84 remain missing after a migrant boat sank overnight on its way to Yemen. At least 80 Ethiopians survived the incident but 15 children died." [16]

"Poverty, insecurity and the growing impacts of climate change drive many to undertake this journey, despite mounting instability across the Middle East," according to the IOM."[17]

Increasing the Country's Insecurity

The two main driving factors of increasing the country's insecurity are; political dynamics and power shifts which are directly affecting the national security of the country.

The consequences of the political chaos led to the Somali youth to migrate from the conflict zones in order to get peaceful places, while Somali youths may be involved in the process of conflicts. Firstly, on Mar. 30, 2024, the Somalia government, unilaterally amended[18] the first four chapters of the Somalia Provisional Constitution[19] and claimed[20] to complete it. The Somalia government is currently conducting the disputed universal suffrage process and the Constitution by coercion – based on an additional one year of the Constitutional mandates of the government institutions.

Those chapters were basically about the system of Somalia's upcoming federal elections –followed by the government unilaterally prepared and passed – legislations about the electoral law; the political party's law; and the electoral and boundaries commission laws. The Somalia government hosted local council elections[21] in Mogadishu over five decades.

These recent developments of the Constitutional amendment led to more political instability in the country, particularly in Mogadishu, Southwest's interim capital, Baidoa, and in Beledweyne Hiran over the Constitutional amendment based on state dispute elections.

For instance, the clash erupted in Mogadishu in June 2026, "Fierce clashes have taken place between government troops and militias allied with the opposition in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, damaging property and forcing some civilians to flee. The president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, plunged Somalia into a fresh political crisis in mid-May after announcing a one-year extension of his term, which had been due to expire on 15 May. The opposition and regional leaders have rejected this and demonstrations against it are due to take place on Thursday."[22]

In the last Somalia's national election disputes in 2021, Somali protesters faced clashes in Mogadishu on February 19, 2021 over delayed election process. Additionally, the former president Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo also signed the law extending his mandate on April 14, 2021.[23]

While the Puntland state of Somalia announced that it would no longer recognize the Federal institution. "The Puntland administration revoked its recognition and confidence in the Federal

government institutions until an outright constitutional process that is mutually accepted is obtained."[24] Furthermore, The Jubbaland state of Somalia completely suspended[25] the ties with the federal government. Prior to it, the Jubbaland state withdrew[26] the federal system.

"Somalia has been embroiled in a political crisis since May 2026, when the term of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was originally due to expire. Parliament passed constitutional amendments in March that extended presidential terms to five years, keeping President Hassan Sheikh in office until May 2027."[27]

Human Rights Violations and Discriminations

In general, the conflicted areas have the most negative impact on the women, children and youth. The armed conflicts violate human rights and discrimination. IDPs constantly face forced evictions, discriminations and gender – based violences, and human rights abuses. The most consequences are directly targeting civilians and child soldiers. It led to mental health problems. Furthermore, the migrants face physical and mental disorders such as death, detention, and physical abuse.

According to the IOM UN Migration report, "The cumulative new arrivals since June 2026 was 104,102 and the new arrivals for weak 18 (24 – 28 October 2026) became: 11,937. The DTM teams recorded 11,937 new arrivals across 844 settlements (85% urban and 15% rural settlements, among which 642 are IDP sites) in 16 districts DTM ETT is operating in. Most new displacements were caused by conflict (47%), followed by floods (30%), drought (17%), evictions (6%) and other hazards (<1%)."[28]

Increasing of Transnational Organized Crimes

The Horn of Africa (HoA) is the most volatile and fragile state around the World. It's a strategic security for global maritime trade. The most population of the region is the youth population, and the unemployment rate of the region is high. Therefore, it may promote the increase of transnational organized crimes. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) joined the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime on November 23, 2024.

"Foreign Minister Ambassador Ahmed Moallim Fiqi officially signed Somalia's accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocol.

This historic move reinforces Somalia's commitment to combating transnational organized crime and enhancing international collaboration to strengthen global security."[29]

Gender Based on Violences (GBV)

The conflicts and displacements promote all the actions against GBV. It happens in political instable vicinity areas and in refugee camps in the form of rape and early marriage.

In September 2025, Save the Children surveyed 1,812 people (1,106 adults; 706 adolescents aged 14–17) across four states in Somalia. When asked which forms of GBV are most common in their community or camp, 76% of adults and 67% of children identified rape. Respondents said women aged 18–55, girls over 10, displaced women and girls, and girls with disabilities were among those at highest risk.[30]

"Early marriage is relatively common in Somalia, and in refugee camps poor families have been reported to marry their daughters to wealthy and older men in order to escape their impoverished economic situation."[31]

According to the most recent UN report on Children and Armed Conflict, sexual violence against children in Somalia rose from 197 cases in 2024 to 267 cases in 2025, reversing previous downward trends.[32]

The Biggest Humanitarian Crisis

The biggest humanitarian crisis will emerge over the region, for instance, looming famine, medical crisis, crime against humanity, massive displaced people, and refugees fled from the horrific actions, it led to increases to Somali youth and migration. Somalia is currently facing a critical humanitarian crisis, with nearly six million Somalis in need of support. It posed broader consequences to the vulnerable societies.

"Six million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity between April and June, including 1.9 million in emergency. Nearly 1.88 million children are expected to need treatment for acute malnutrition; 42,000 more than previously projected."[33]

Moreover, The Food and Agriculture Organization, F.A.O in Somalia has already warned of the predicted potential floods due to the El Niño events. It automatically complicated the situation.

Somalia's humanitarian crisis is among the world's most complex, driven by cycles of internal conflict and climate shocks that drive displacement and undermine development efforts. The cumulative effect of both violence and climate shocks continues to drive displacement, destroy livelihoods, leaving millions of people in urgent need of assistance[34]. The displacement leads to insecurity and conflict by joining the Somali youth with the armed groups in Somalia.

But confrontation, the main significant challenges of humanitarian assistance are; reduction of funding of aid from international donors, series political stakeholder's disagreements, the security threats from Al – Shabaab remains and escalation of the Middle East conflicts.

On Jan. 20, 2025 U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order freezing foreign aid[35]. Britain and Germany have also pulled back[36] under pressure from Washington. The reduced funding for international partners and donors has created a humanitarian chaos. Mainly, dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development U.S.A.I.D was Somalia's primary source of humanitarian assistance.

The Solutions for the Broader Implication of Somali Youth and Migration on the Security of Somalia

To eliminate or reduce the broader implications, the countries should promote good governance, education for sustainable development, economic empowerment initiatives, intensified public awareness campaigns against youth and migration, and identifying all the consequences of the Somali youth and migration. Additionally, social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives are encouraged to secure sustainable key solutions for the broader implications.

Good Governance

The government has to improve mainly political stability of the country and border governance, and to perform all rules and regulations based on the constitutional issues (adhering to Constitutions) and political stability as well as stability of policies and institutions.

"Border Governance refers to a system of norms, institutions and the collaboration of states, society and non-state actors around border management. Further, it goes beyond the mere management of borders, which relates to the implementation of parts of this system, and comprises the rules, techniques and procedures for regulating the movement of people and goods across borders."[37]

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

It's important to focus on ESD to eradicate youths' skill challenges. The TVET Programs have to also improve as well as enhancing youth skills and knowledge. "UNESCO's ESD for 2030 programme, goal 4 states: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.[38]

Notably, the challenges to our education system in Somalia include; the access to the education, quality of education, investment of education, and less TVET programs. To overcome those challenges against the development of education, administrative actions by the government. "Education is a basic right for all Somali citizens, and every Somali citizen has the right to get education.[39]

Economic Empowerment Initiatives

The improvement of job creations, investment of small business and poverty eradication to the youth may effectively promote the economic empowerment of the youth. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) of Somalia, and the Federal Member States' ministries of corporations and planning have to jointly take apart development projects for youth economics. In addition to it, social education development is a vital factor in the economic empowerment initiatives, and it also promotes Somali citizens voluntarily returning to home.

Refugee Returnees

"Refugee returnees are individuals who have previously fled their home countries as refugees due to conflict, persecution, or other crises, and have subsequently returned to their countries of origin."[40]

According to SNBS's migration report 2024, it indicated the refugee returnees were 351, 145, 795 and 1225 in referring to the years of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. Therefore, FGS has given more commitment efforts to the refugees' returnees by collaboration with the international patterns.

Empowering Somali Youth Generation

On October 29, 2026, the Somalia President, Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud told Sky News in an exclusive interview he mainly focused on the Somali young generation in the country. The president explained that 70% of the population are less than 30 years old. The president said that he also opened public schools and universities where poor families' kids go to the education centers without paying a fee. The president also mentioned that Somali youth have previously achieved a great milestone of development in the ICT and logistic services and Somali youth provide to some governmental organizations. The president also mentioned that Banks operated in the country may give some microcredits to the Somali youth, although it's not enough but it's a good start point.[41]

Methodology

To achieve the main objectives of this study, it is used for a comprehensive method of frameworks. The researcher extensively conducted and evaluated secondary publications about the theme, in order to further understanding the broader implications and exploring new key insights and substantive issues about Somali youth and migration.

The researcher assessed the publications by research institutions, government entities and Somalia's key international partners. Those includes, the Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC), the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS), Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis (SIDRA), the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS)'s migration statistics report – it's first edition of migration, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Organization for Migration (IOM) UN Migration's reports, Save the Children, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s research report as well as the international wire media outlets. Additionally, the researcher also evaluated Chatham House, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime rules and regulations.

Furthermore, the researcher analyzed the media coverage including international and national media outlets' reports and news about the theme from the Relief web, Amnesty international, Reuters, New York Times, Sky News, the Guardian, Voice of America (VOA), Washington Post, Telegraph, Aljazeera English, DW and SONNA.

Finally, the researcher also extensively analyzed the documents about the migration policy framework for Africa and Plan Actions (2018 – 2030) and the policies and the regulations of the theme including Somalia's National Transitional Plan (NTP).

Moreover, the policies and regulations of Immigration and Citizenship Agency (ICA) Somalia, and United Nations Conventions for Refugee 1951, as well as UN Convention on the Rights of the Child protection (CRC) 1989.

Objectives of the Study

The crucial objectives of this study are to explore broader implications and sustainable solutions regarding Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia. The research highlights the following research objectives to securing sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia:

1) Assessing the significant factors which are causing and contributing to Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia including high unemployment rate, lack of enough opportunity, domestic violences, corruption in social services and political instability of the country based on political stakeholders' disputes regarding the Constitutional amendments.
2) In depth – analyzing and addressing the broader implications of Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia, particularly in massive migration – particularly Somali youth, human rights violations and discriminations, which are causing the biggest humanitarian crisis and increased transnational organized crimes including Somali piracy.
3) Exploring more new insights of key solutions for Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia; to the social and political stakeholders in order to avoid the further broader consequences such as securing political stability in the country and also empowering Somali youth generations, as well as investment of projects including agricultural and fishing industries in the country.
4) Conducting an extensive reviewing of the governmental policies and regulations about the migration, and to further intensify developing; strengthening good governance pillars, promoting education for sustainable development, developing peacebuilding and state building initiatives, and creating platforms as well as opportunities for Somali youth development to avoid the broader implications.
5) Evaluating the crucial positive role of various factors such as the CSO, media outlets involvement including women inclusion, universities and research institutions on the theme.
6) Displaying important key policy recommendations from the research, as well as pivotal conclusions to the stakeholders, to ease or minimize all the broader implications of Somali youth and migration to securing sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia.

Findings

This study in depth – analyzed the extensive theme about Somali youth and migration on the security of the country; in order to address the broader implications and exploring key sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia. In regarding to the study, it has deeply found the following crucial highlighted points:

1) **Somalia faces risk at uncertainty manner**: Somalia remains a prolonged humanitarian catastrophe and the current dire humanitarian situation on the ground will be worsening, political crisis based on constitutional chaos which posed deepening political fragmentations, and an existential threat by transnational extremists' groups in the country. Additionally, the country faces risk in an uncertain manner. Therefore, Somali politicians have to urgently reach a political agreement alongside the social stakeholders and CSOs.
2) **The brain drains of Somali youngsters**: There are many crucial fundamental drivers of exodus including unemployment, political instability, revenge killings, and climate change induced to be repeated climate shocks. But Somali youth exodus not only drove prolonged political instability, and high unemployment rates in the country.
3) **The private sectors are the biggest employers and investors in Somalia**: They claim that they changed the life standard of more Somali people, played a crucial role in contributions to the helping to the victims of the climate change induced humanitarian crisis, and engaged in the country's developing infrastructure and technological progress. But confrontations, they invested mostly in any lucrative business sectors in the country. Somali youth face recruitment challenges, although the businesses also hire youth.
4) **Some private sectors layoff Somali youth labor**: Some owned private sectors in the country have been recently laying off a little Somali youth labor from the business entities due to the economic recession and crisis across the globe.
5) **The water insecurity in the region increases**: the most population in Somalia is Somali youth, if they become unemployed, that critical situation may lead to escalating tensions, such as piracy actions against commercial ships in both the Red Sea and the Indian ocean due to the poverty issues and the lack of strong states functionally to secure water security. This will cause increased cost of trade goods and insurance of ships and boats.
6) **Increased smuggling weapons, illicit trade and human traffics in the region**: due to the absence of legitimate states in the region, and additionally to the Somali youth

unemployment and lack of business opportunities, it will increase smuggling weapons, illicit trade and human traffics across the region. This will destabilize the regional stability in the region. Therefore, political stakeholders have to immediately reach a political agreement over the political crisis in the country and offer opportunities to Somali youth.

7) **Socio-economic dynamics**: the unemployment rates, poverty and all other economic challenges will increase in the region. The scarcity of the economic factors will lead social conflicts among societies and it also intensifies massive population movement across the region. The Middle East crisis will contribute to these critical issues.
8) **Wider regional conflict**: if the Somali youngest youth have no further business opportunities, it may be possible to join armed forces groups and officially split over the Horn of Africa amid tensions in the region. This led to devastated fragile states in the region under unprecedented matters of conflict.
9) **The biggest humanitarian crisis will emerge over the region**: for instance, looming famine, medical crisis, crimes against humanity, massive displaced people, and refugees fled from the wars and increasing migration crisis as well. In addition, the rest of Somali youngsters may join the armed conflict. It may lead to an increase in the number of armed groups and civilian casualties across the region due to the political instability and expected potential El Niño event across the region.
10) **The United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission (UNTMIS) ceased operations**: On Saturday, October 31, 2026, the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) declared that it ceased all operations after a two years transition in the country.
11) **Somali political elite are deepening fragmentation**: all the Somali politicians are further fragmented over the constitutional amendment based on the national elections. This political fragmentation directly hit Somali youth development initiatives and also it promotes Somali youth exodus over the future.
12) **Mostly the international humanitarian organization is being closed**: cutting humanitarian fundings from Somalia's key international partners and donors led to more Somali youth humanitarian organization workers laid off, more schools and health centers being closed due to the budget constraints. Reduction funding is among the main challenges faced to Somali youth in the working places. It was caused by the Middle East conflicts and Russia – Ukraine war.

Discussion

The Identifying Consequences of Somali Youth and Migration

The government agencies relate to the Somali youth and migration entities, and the media outlet organizations as well as the Civil society organizations (CSO) have to enhance the public awareness raising about the consequences of the Somali youth and migration including; human traffics, lack of opportunity and future, discriminations. While the women, children and vulnerable societies face to health problems and lack of education. In addition, rape and forced labor. The increased smuggling weapons, illicit trade and human traffic in the region is so threatened to the peace and security of the region, particularly in Somalia which is still fragile state.

For instance, "On 16 July 2024, members of the Marehan clan residing in and around the city of Abudwak in the Galgaduud region of Galmudug state ambushed two trucks transporting weapons and ammunition. The trucks had entered the country from the Ethiopian border, a primary corridor used by smugglers for decades to bring illicit items, including weapons and drugs, into Somalia.1 The FGS, alongside Galmudug, condemned the looting and stated that the weapons had been purchased by businesspeople and intercepted by the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) at the border."[42]

Moreover, when the Somalia government and FMs don't focus on the Somali youth and migration issues in the country, The states will face critical situations. Somali youth are highly potential and human capital; therefore, they are involved and part of the insecurity of the country due to the lack of enough opportunity chances and enough economic development. All these developments will lead Somali youth to join water insecurity in the region, increased smuggling weapons, illicit trade and human traffics in the Horn of Africa region (HoA) not only in Somalia. All those consequences led to the wider regional conflict across HoA.

The Identifying Solutions for the Broader Consequences of Somali Youth and Migration

To avoid Somali youth and migration issues, the Somali government and FMs have to further focus on the developments of various aspects including; good governance for the all the functional systems of the government including institutional bodies of migration issues, education for sustainable development for the Somali youngsters, and economic empowerment initiatives plans toward the Somali youth.

Furthermore, the private business entities have to increase the rate of hiring youth education, and the huge investment to Somali youth, to avoid the broader consequences from the Somali youth and illegal migration on the security of the Country.

All the political stakeholders and social stakeholders in the country also in advance to the peacebuilding and state building initiatives focused on the Somali youth through participating in Somali politics, particularly Somali youth, specifically women. Moreover, the Government has also to offer to Somali youth skills in strengthening the capacity of TVET programs, rather than theoretical education.

Somalia's Private Sectors

Some Somali Businesspersons extensively monopolized the market and they invested mostly in any lucrative business sectors in the country. Some private sectors launched charity organizations to help the vulnerable societies. Notably, they made huge investment in infrastructure development and they are also the biggest employees across the country, as well as they are good tax payers. For their arguments are strong, positive and partially true.

Meanwhile Somalis are incredibly talented people, and good at business everywhere they are. Unfortunately, Somali youth face recruitment challenges from the private sectors. Therefore, Somali private sectors have to hire more educated Somali youth particularly women and youngsters' generation.

Despite this, some private sectors in Somalia have been recently laying off a few Somali youth laborers from the business entities in Somalia. The owners' claim economic recession across the globe. It's also an existential threat in the market economy and it accelerates Somali youth unemployment. Furthermore, Somalia's international partners support the private sector initiatives, to strengthen sustainable jobs, foster economic resilience, and enhance socioeconomic

development projects. Meanwhile, all Somalia's international partners faced diminishing international fundings.

Refugee Returnees

Article 1 of the 1951 Convention defines a refugee as someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themself] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."[43]

This point is significant to the illegal migration from their homeland security to the abroad, the refugee returning particularly in volunteering is including the main key solutions to avoid these reckless and illegal migration. Total refugee returnees were 1,147 persons in Somalia in 2025. 970 Assisted Returnees, and 177 are Spontaneous Returnees in according to the UNHCR report[44] of Somalia issued on December 31, 2025.

Policy Recommendations

According to the study on Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia, the researcher recommended to implement the following highlighted points to secure sustainable key solutions:

A. To the Government Sector

- ✓ **The collaboration of all government institutions*:*** both the Federal Government of Somalia's institutions of migration entities and Federal Member States (FMs) have to jointly collaborate by sharing and for exchange in information about migration news and activities as well as its' updates over the border issues to prevent illegal human traffic actions which has recently rapid increased. The Federal level and state level have to focus on fostering human capital development projects including education and skills to strengthen the youth capacity buildings in order to get further developed skills.
- ✓ **Improving socio economic development programs*:*** the initiation of projects related to the poverty reduction strategies are important, increasing capacity building of youth programs, promoting community resilience, and sustainable development programs. Additionally, updating the regulations and policies of the institutions; particularly focus on Immigration and Citizenship's policies and regulations based on inclusive consultations, constantly reforming the structure of the institutions in accordance to the social workers are to be well qualified and eligible to the positions in the terms of education and experienced; and enhancing E- government programs in order to get easily public service delivery systems. Additionally, the NTP for the period 2025 – 2029 particularly on youth development programs and job creations are so crucial to this matter.
- ✓ **Improving regional governance and security**: the regional countries have to collectively wage war against transnational extremists' groups in the region, in order to eliminate them. The increasing counter terrorism activities, anti -piracy actions are significantly enhancing and contributing to the regional peace and security of the region. The regional states and international partners have to collaborate with it, as well as respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of the regional countries. The regional connections based on rule among international organizations for youth and migration bodies of Somalia, as well as preventing organized crimes and migration smuggling is so vital to the security and peace of the region.

- ✓ **Enhancing regional and global cooperation*:*** "Regional cooperation and harmonization of labor migration policies can foster regular labor migration to meet the supply and demand of domestic and foreign labor markets, promote the enforcement of labor standards, and reduce recourse to irregular migration.".Moreover, respecting all principles and rules of international humanitarian laws and UN conventions: for instance, UN CRC 1989, Women's and Children's rights, vulnerable group rights, and principles of international displacements.
- ✓ **Regional integration for cooperation*:*** It's an essential factor to bring together regional countries in order to further promote economic situations in the regions including travel issues. It's important to create economic cooperation initiatives to hire more citizens. The integration for cooperation is influential on regional peace and it also effectively contributes to Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia. Furthermore, the regional blocs such African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have to fully effectively and any involvement of additional matters which is a threat to the region to avoid destabilization issues to the wider of the region.

B. To the Universities and Research Institutions

Both universities and research centers have to collectively promote the research papers regarding the themes in order to better understand the broader consequences of the youth and migration on the security of Somalia scientifically. They have to co-launches different platforms and roundtable discussions about the theme to produce policy brief papers and substantive research papers to avoid the negative consequences from the youth and illegal migrations. The universities have to further focus on the improving of the national curriculum framework and quality assurances of the various faculties, particularly on the TVET programs. The research institutions of Somalia need further financial and technical support to produce useful reports regarding the matter.

C. To the Media outlets and Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs)

The various platforms of the media outlets (including TVs, citizen media, and newspapers), and the leaders of the civil societies have to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives, fostering public raising awareness about the horrific consequences from the illegal migration, and hosting community engagement platforms to further discuss and displays more insights regarding to the theme. The media outlets have to persistently fostering; the capacity of the youth skills,

improving civic engagement, and women and media inclusion to avoid the negative broader implications of the youth and migration on the security of Somalia. The CSO have to immediately organize mediation efforts of youth inclusion about the social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives and as well as the state-building efforts to minimize the social conflicts. The CSO also has to become an effective accountability to the FGS and FMs through the provisional constitution of Somalia. In conclusion, they have to organize the youth development programs and public awareness raising as well as engaging youth participation in the political spectrum and social activities in the communities. Moreover, they also have to connect with the youth and the elite business leaders who administrate the different business entities in the country have to offer huge investment programs to the youth, and hire more youth employment numbers in order to increase the employment job creation rates for the youth rather than hiring of foreign laborers.

D. To the Somali Private Business Entities

The private Business entities have to increase the rate of hiring Somali youth educated. The educated Somali youth need assistance from their senior government representatives, or prominent traditional elder, or public figure person, or other businesspersons to offer recommendations to the private business sectors rather than meritocracy.

Therefore, the educated Somali youth need decent job-based meritocracy, investment approaches, and inclusive participation in the private sectors. The Somali Private Business Entities and government institutions have to implement the huge investment projects of agricultural and fishing industries in the country. Very interestingly, Somalia's international partners support the private sector initiatives to strengthen sustainable.

Conclusion

This study in depth – explored and analyzed an extensive coverage of the pivotal role of Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia in terms of grassroots causes, the broader implications, and eventually, it displayed concrete policy recommendations to secure sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia.

Also, the study covered in depth all other significant challenges from various aspects contributing to Somali youth and migration, and its suitable key solutions for Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia. It further revealed and highlighted solid findings from the study.

Regarding to the study, the main objectives were among; to address and assess all the significant factors; to evaluate and analyze the broader implications of Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia; to reviewing the policies and regulation of migration entities; evaluating the crucial roles of the civil societies in the key solutions for the migration issues, and displaying new insights of sustainable solutions of the migration in Somalia.

The significant factors that led to Somali youth and migration are among; social conflicts, socio – economics dynamics, political instability, and environmental changes. The security challenges such as the violence of transnational extremists' groups, and climate change hazards are contributing factors to Somali youth and migration.

These significant developments would lead to global outcry. It threatens regional peace, and security in the Horn of Africa. It would have consequences in the neighboring countries in terms of refugees fleeing from climate hazards and unemployment issues as well as political instability in the country.

Broader implications are among; economic challenges including poverty issues and unemployment, massive displacement, human right violations, increased of transnational organized crime, all those factors led to the country's insecurity and the biggest humanitarian crisis on the ground such as; looming famine, medical crisis, crimes against humanity such rape, GBV, and early forced marriage.

Somalia is facing a critical political crisis among the political stakeholders in the country over both national and state elections, which are based on the amendment of the provisional constitution and

the government still conducting the disputed universal suffrage process in some states, and it also planned disputed national elections in the country.

These political disagreements promote the country's instability which led to the biggest humanitarian crisis including huge massive displacement, death toll increases, and destruction of physical properties as well as offering an external actor in the home. Furthermore, the United Nations Transitional Mission in Somalia (UNMIS) ceased all operations at the end of the last month, alongside the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) commenced withdrawing from Somalia.

Recent Political violences and clashes of armed forces erupted in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu and Southwest's interim capital Baidoa. Therefore, Somali youths may be involved in the process of conflicts due to the lack of opportunities and seeking to survive and feed themselves and their families. Therefore, it may be possible to create a vacuum space for illicit goods and smuggling weapons. Such developments led to Somali women and youth exodus over security challenges.

Additionally, Somalia currently faces a severe humanitarian crisis, Middle East tensions including Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab Strait crisis, Horn of Africa geopolitical crisis, and predicted potential floods of El Niño events. All those compounding issues complicated the humanitarian situation on the ground to deliver humanitarian assistance.

More than six million people are facing acute food and water insecurity and almost two million children under five years require treatment for a dire malnourishment.

Notably, Somalia's key international humanitarian partners and international donors face budget constraints due to the diminishing international humanitarian fundings. So, international humanitarian organizations in Somalia mostly laid off more educated Somali youth labor. While some private businesses sectors follow suit due to the economic recession across the globe.

The researchers' methodology was conducted, analyzed, and reviewed various secondary documents from prominent research institutions such as Chatham House, PDRC and Heritage Institute, governmental institutions, international humanitarian organizations, United Nations bodies, international and local media outlets such as Reuters, New York Times, Sky News, the Guardian, VOA English, Washington Post, Telegraph, Aljazeera English, DW and SONNA.

Also, the researcher extensively reviewed published documents about the migration policies and regulations of migration entities in Somalia, Africa and World, such as migration policy framework for Africa and Plan Actions (2018 – 2030), Somalia's National Transitional Plan, the policies and regulations of Immigration and Citizenship Agency of Somalia, and United Nations Conventions for Refugee 1951, as well as United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child protection (CRC) 1989 in order to further understanding the concept of the theme.

Very interestingly, the study explored substantive key solutions for the broader implication of Somali youth and migration; securing political stability based on political agreements, Somali youth actively participate into the political space, creating platforms and empowering Somali youth initiatives programs. Additionally, civil society organizations engage in public awareness raising in sessions and the private sectors hire educated Somali youth to avoid further implications.

Eventually, the study issued concrete and sustainable policy recommendations to: the government sector, universities and research institutions, media outlets and civil societies organizations, and Somali private business sectors to explore commitment and strong efforts to recommendations to secure sustainable solutions for Somali youth and migration on the security of the country.

Declarations

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The author did not receive any external funding to this research paper to produce this study about Somali youth and migration on the security of Somalia. The researcher totally operated it under a volunteering mechanism in order to explore in depth analyzes to the entire World. Because this theme has already created global outcry.

Competing Interest

The author declares that has no competing interest or conflict of interest for this research paper. It has only intended to perform extensive research about Somali Youth and Migration on the security of Somalia, in order to secure sustainable solutions for migration in Somalia.

Data Availability Statement

The data supporting this research is obtained from various publicly available online sources. It includes publications of prominent research institutions, like Chatham House, international organizations, United Nations entities, international media and local media in Somalia, such as Reuters, New York Times, Sky News, VOA English, the Guardian, Washington Post, Telegraph, Aljazeera English, DW and SONNA, and governmental institutions in Somalia and beyond the region previously published regulations and rules of the migration issues.

Consent to Publish

Ahmed Jama, the sole author, gave my full consent and authorization for the publication of this manuscript in Discover Sustainability Journal.

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