



# **Puntland Women; Trends and Statistics**

Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs



***BY:***

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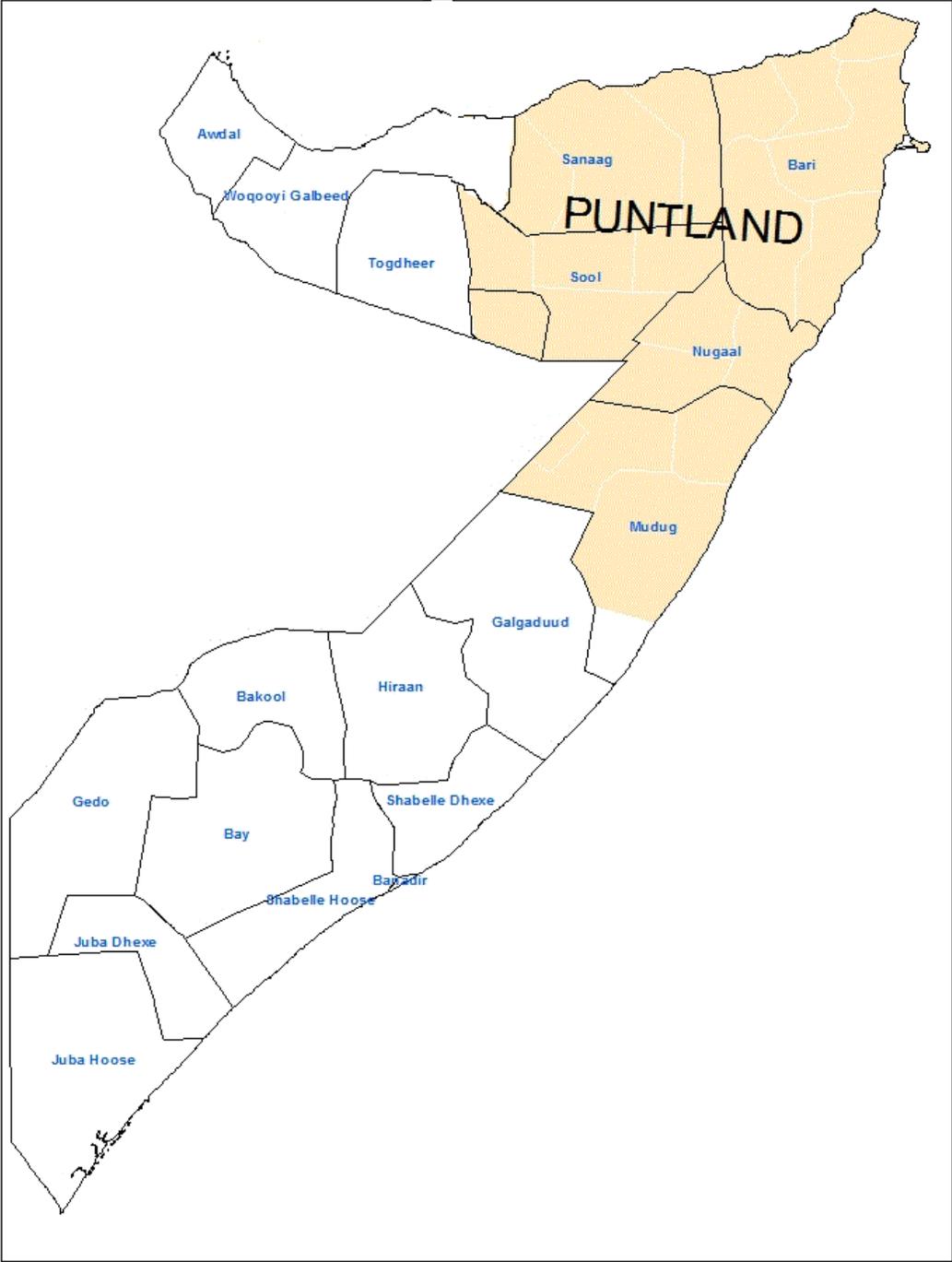
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## **ACRONYMS**

MOWDAFA	: Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs
MOF	: Ministry of Health
MOE	: Ministry of Education
MOPIC :	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
MOI	: Ministry of Interior
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
NFE	: Non Formal Education
NU	: United Nations
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
HIV	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection
AIDS	: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
GPI	: Gender Parity Index
GRT	: Gruppo per le Relazioni Transculturali
IDP	: Internally Displaced Persons
FGM	: Female Genital Mutilation
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product

MAP OF PUNTLAND



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MoWDAFA) is very pleased to produce and present the first (2016) edition of Puntland women statistics and trends. Since the formation of the ministry in 2005, assessing the role and the position of women in the society has been always a priority, which was never met before. It, however became possible for the ministry to produce information booklet this year. The booklet is the first of its kind in Puntland that shines a spotlight on women and their status in the region shedding light on various spheres of women's lives.

The book was arranged to help the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs, other government institutions, local and international aid partners, and stakeholders interested in women' empowerment and engaging them in to a meaningful social and political participation. This publication will be updated annually where more information will be encompassed as it becomes available. The ministry is delighted to welcoming comments and suggestions regarding this booklet from its readers and users.

I would like to acknowledge and extend my sincerest thanks to Omar Ahmed Fairdale, for his role as the survey consultant who worked magnanimously to make this important document prepared and readied for publishing. I thank Director of Gender and Human Rights Department and its staff for working tirelessly to make this initiative happen. In addition, I thank the rest of ministry's staff for their collaboration and commitment during the survey period and the support they have provided to the consultant and to the department.

I recognize officials, resource persons and entities whom participated and/or contributed to the completion of survey, without your help we would not have collected the necessary information to publish this booklet. Many thanks and gratitude go to UN Women Somalia for their generous sponsorship to this program which without it, this work wouldn't be successfully published. I owe special thanks to Pusparaj Mahanoy, head of UN Women Puntland Office, Abdikafi Yusuf, UNwomen field staff and the rest of it employees for their commitment and continuous assistance throughout the survey period.

Finally, while this is the beginning in exploring with women's status, the ministry hopes to achieve bigger and better data collection on women's conditions within urban and rural areas of Puntland. To design and carryout programs for women and children, it's important to study their needs first, hence, with such booklet, together we will be able to identify better services that deliver tangible services for the people's needs.

Thank you,

Hon. Anisa Hajimumin

Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This survey is intended to discuss the status of women in Puntland by focusing on five major areas: education, health, governance and leadership, GBV and lastly their role in the economy. This survey is based on secondary data and has the following five specific objectives:

- 1) To describe the current education and health conditions of women in Puntland
- 2) To assess the prevalence and understanding gender based violence and outlining the major GBV forms that exist
- 3) To describe roles of women in Puntland's governance structure and elaborate women in different branches in the government
- 4) To discover the economic status of women and impacts of poverty by examining their participation in the private sector and the levels of unemployment among female' population.
- 5) To suggest policy recommendations based on the survey findings and possible executing and/or supporting institutions and agencies.

## FINDINGS:

Puntland is primarily a male dominated society with limited women participation in all spheres of life. The first chapter of the study examines demographic profile of Puntland's population. The study discovered that if not more, women make nearly half of the population (49.3 percent). However, male outnumber women in rural areas, 51.3 percent against 48.7 percent respectively. More worryingly, women greatly outnumber men in IDPs where nearly 80 percent of households are women-led families. Furthermore, the chapter presents that children in the IDPs make 60 percent. Like the rest of the country, Islam is the sole religion practiced in Puntland while Somali is the only indigenous language in Puntland though Arabic, English and Italian are widely spoken in the area.

Chapter two presents finding on education and how women perform in this sector. Figures show that tremendous improvements took place in Puntland's educational domain and the access of girls to education have greatly expanded and enriched. However, women still lag far

behind in secondary and tertiary education. During 2013/2014 the number of female students who enrolled for primary school increased 22.17. During the same year the figures expanded by 18.3 percent for secondary school enrolment. For higher education, female student population is 31.1 percent while female employees in the higher education make only 6.3 percent. Figures show that women significantly underperform in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) sectors. On ICT usage only 10% has used internet during their last one year, while only 8% used internet during their last 30 days.

Chapter three displays female access to basic health. Findings show there is only one hospital for each of the nine regions while some districts have no functioning hospitals or clinics. More alarmingly, only 23% of Puntland's population have access to safe and clean drinking water. Infant mortality was estimated at 92 per 1,000 live births, and under-five, mortality was 150. Maternal mortality was 850 deaths per 100,000 live births. Women make 60% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Puntland. While findings show very few have basic knowledge on how AIDS spreads and how they can prevent it.

Chapter four summarizes the scale and the major GBV forms that exist in Puntland. The survey establishes that 68% were remarried before the age of 19. As a result over 40% drop out schools. On reporting GBV cases, findings show that 25.9% of communities believe it should be reported to the community elder, 24% said it should be reported to fathers, 22.3% said cases should be reported to both parents, 17.2% said religious leaders, 7.6% said they will report to their mothers while unfortunately only 3% said such cases should be reported to the law enforcement agencies.

Chapter five discusses women political participation, putting special emphasis on executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the government. Findings show that women in the parliament currently underperform more than any previous time as there are only two females out of 66 parliamentarians, making only three percent of the total seats. In the cabinet, there are four members (one full minister and three deputy ministers).

At district level women seem to be little bit improving, as there are currently 66 out of 487 councilors in 26 districts that have functioning local governments in all Puntland. Though no

statistics on women in police was found, officers discussed and revealed low participation of women in police and other police officers and estimated 200 women in Puntland police force. In the judiciary, there is only 1 female members of Puntland higher judiciary council which contain 7 members. There are currently 22 prosecutors across Puntland regions, and here women do better as they make 11 out of 22.

Chapter six presents women and their participation in economic, it gives particular insight to women and poverty, unemployment among women population, and lastly entrepreneurship. In Puntland women make up 60% of micro-businesses while unemployment is much higher than men by 75% and only 40% are engaged in wage employment. Findings reveal that agriculture is the leading sector for Puntland' economy, however, only 14% of women own farms and only 28% own livestock in their families. In the private sector, women continue to underperform as only 1% of women are meaningfully engaged in the private sector.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE SURVEY**

### **1.1 Survey Background**

Women, in many parts of the world, encounter numerous social, economic and political challenges that often limit their active engagements in communities. Women constitute half of the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work hours, receive one-tenths of the world's income and own less than one-hundredths of the world's property.

Though gender disparity is generally a social and economical phenomenon in many third world countries, the situation seems more miserable in Somalia, where there was no fully functioning central state for over two decades. Somalia, its male dominated society, women represent nearly half of the population and they continue living with desperate poverty, wide-spread ignorance, discrimination and segregation in the labor market, limited access to education and basic health services, economic dependence and denial of opportunities for growth and advancement.

Recent statistics show the number of persons below the poverty line in the country is on increasing trends, higher infant mortality rates and wide-spread illiteracy particularly among women population. These are often widely cited factors to contribute to the pitiable and puny status of woman in Puntland and Somalia in general.

UN figures further show that women population in Somalia who live in rural areas is the majority, yet circumstances pertaining are worse compared to urban cities. In addition to that, despite tremendous resource and commitments given to providing equal education opportunities to girls, in practice girls' enrolment is still an issue and those who enroll don't always complete their school studies.

The tendency of allotting the scarce resource of poor families to boy's education is a huge factor here, because male students are always viewed the future breadwinners of the families. While domestic and household work is largely considered to be the girl's job women are inactive in major socio-economic spheres of society's life. The total female workers are much less than their male counterparts. The over-two-decade civil unrest and the prevalent traditional and

cultural believes together often stop women from schooling, owning or running successful businesses and investments alongside their families.

Despite tremendous efforts by the government and its development partners, there are no accurate and reliable women and gender data readily available, including women and their socio-economic status in the society. This survey will provide a baseline data on women which will unveil gender disparities and the challenges they face. The study will be conducted by the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs of Puntland with financial support from UN Women of Puntland.

The study is primarily secondary-data based. The survey was basically desk survey, which critically reviewed and examined the existing figures and data concerning women. To elaborate status in all social, leadership and economic spheres, findings presented below are of a great significance to various government institutions, local and international development actors. These information findings will certainly enable different government agencies to properly design and make rational judgments in considering the larger women population to national and regional development priorities and strategies. It can be also used by local and international partners to effectively address the widening gender disproportion and the humanitarian and development assistance interventions in need of review and solutions through women lens, so that women in Puntland are empowered to choose their own course in life.

## **1.2 Puntland in Brief**

After the several peace and reconciliation attempts to bring Somalia together failed, the north-eastern autonomous region known as Puntland, was formed by politicians, businessmen, elders and army veterans. As a result, in 1998, three-month, locally sponsored-peace conference was held in Garowe. The outcome stipulated the envisioned state constitution and its principle that clearly articulated Puntland as part of united federal Somalia.

During Barre's Administration and its military rule, Puntland was characterized as inaccessible and far from all sorts of services with limited social and economic infrastructure. During the

early years of the administration, law and order was the sole focus due to limited financial and technical resources available. However, different government ministries and departments have gradually developed and are currently in a better position to provide basic and wider public services including but not limited to basic health, education, public safety, macro-economic guidance, business regulations and migration management.

Nevertheless the region extremely lacks revenue diversification in its budget frameworks and largely relies on duties on international trade, the government budget makes only 2.2 percent of the region's GDP<sup>1</sup>. Economic statistics has been encouraging in the regions and increasing. The economy largely depends on the productive sector, making up to 40 percent of the GDP<sup>2</sup>, but still continues to encounter tremendous challenges. Service and industrial sector on the other hand demonstrated substantial growth recently, with telecommunication and money handling presenting rapid growth and expansion.

Puntland, whose population is estimated to be close to four million (2009 census by WHO) inhabitants experience higher and rampant unemployment among youth population who make up about 70% of the population. 25.9% being nomadic while another 30% live in major towns<sup>3</sup>. The recent UNPF population estimation, though widely contested, reveals that women make nearly half of the population. However, male outnumber women in rural areas, 51.3% against 48.7% respectively<sup>4</sup>.

The religion for the whole of Somalia including Puntland is Islam; both federal and state constitutions categorically mark it as the only faith. Furthermore, the population is largely Shafei sect of the larger Sunni community. Somali being the national and the most commonly spoken language, as Arabic, Italian and English are among the widely spoken/used languages.

In Puntland, like other parts of the country, though tremendous efforts and resource were invested, little development has been made in eliminating poverty and delivery basic living

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<sup>1</sup> Puntland five year Plan 2014-2018

<sup>2</sup> Puntland five year Plan 2014-2018

<sup>3</sup> Puntland facts and figures 2013

<sup>4</sup> Somalia Population Survey 2015

conditions. People still experience one of the harshest social and economic conditions in the world.

The serious health-related hurdles, limited access to education and shortages of safe drinking water plus the ongoing security pitfalls, put Somalia including Puntland among the least developed countries across the globe. Currently, only 23% have access to safe water, infant mortality stands at 92 per 1,000 live births and 150 under five-year mortality. A significant increase has been made to increase girls' education, but the sector still remains largely male dominated<sup>5</sup>.

As a result of continuing conflicts, famine and growing insecurity particularly in the southern part of the country, the regions receives a large and growing number internally displaced persons. There are currently close to 130,000 IDPs in Puntland. Nearly 80% of IDP households in Puntland are headed by women and close to 60 percent of the total are children<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Beijing+20 Review, Somalia country report 2014

<sup>6</sup> Somalia Humanitarian needs, 2015

## **2.0 WOMEN AND EDUCATION**

### **2.1 Introduction**

In the past decade, girl's enrolments at all levels of education in Puntland and Somalia in general have witnessed tremendous improvements, but women participation in all levels of educations remains significantly lower compared to men. Nevertheless, the gap seems to be narrowing in the area of primary education. Today, 126,153 children go to school in Puntland, 43.7% of that number is girls.

According to Puntland's Ministry of Education, the last academic year of 2013/2014 was a year of expansion for the education sector, the total number of female students who enrolled for primary school increased from 43,000 to 55,250 students, which is 22.17% increase. While for secondary school enrolment, the figure increased from 4,862 in 2013 to 5,953 presenting 18.3 increases<sup>7</sup>. According to education statistics by the Ministry of Education, the enrolment has been an increasing trend over the past few years both in the formal and Integrated Quran schools (IQS).

It can be observed that that growth rate for girls is higher than boys in primary education and IQS while the change is true in secondary student enrollments. The ministry goes further and explains that access and coverage to education has substantially grown for last two years and especially for girls.

Progress in teacher training centers and colleges throughout Puntland has enabled significant increase of female in the education sector. However, though the number of teachers for primary and secondary schools has generally increased during recent years, number of female teachers demonstrates unfortunately reduction in the Alternative Basic Education (ABE) but grew particularly in the primary secondary levels.

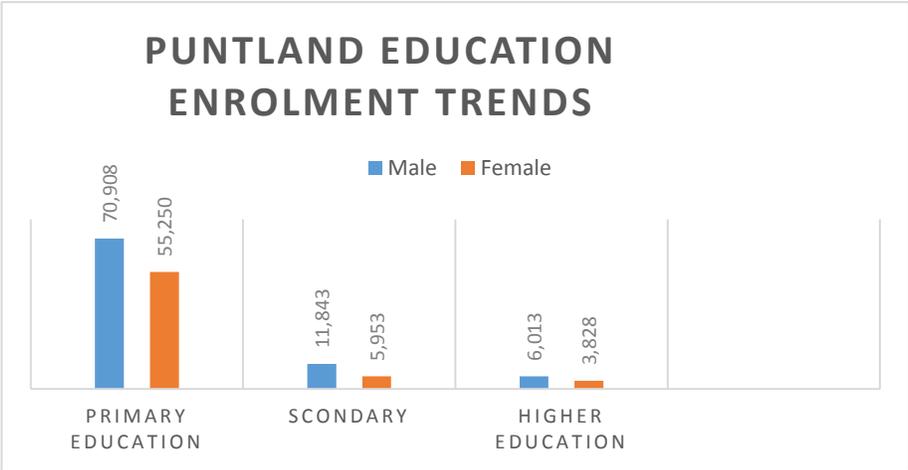
### **2.2 Girls School Enrolment**

Despite the fact that proportion of women population in rural areas is the majority, the gender disparity in school enrolment between boys and girls remains increasingly high. Recently, the

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<sup>7</sup> Puntland Education statistics, 2015

number of female students in public schools seems to be more (56.6%) compared to those who go to private schools (43.4%). To explain this trend, ministry of education suspects that still families and parents give their first priority to send boys to schools over girls, as government-owned or supported schools are quite cheaper and accessible compared to privately owned schools.



**2.3 Non-formal Education**

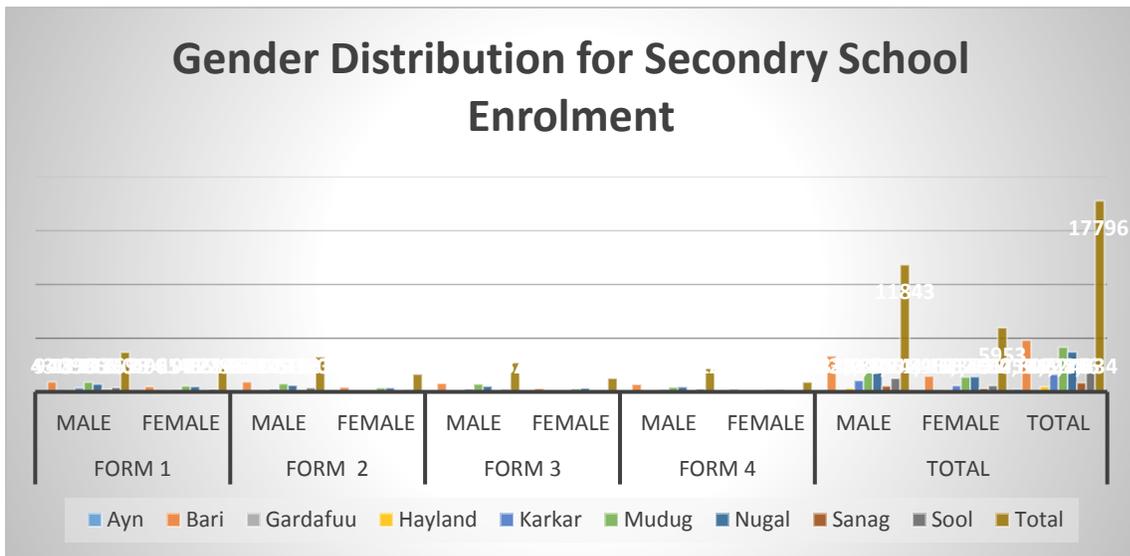
Due to tremendous efforts by the government and its development partners, non-formal education enrolment statistics for the year 2013/2014 hit its highest as the records reach 2,690 and 11,764 for men and female respectively. This shows substantial increase in female as the percentage reached 81.4% of the total enrolments. At least in part, this is due to the two-decades civil strife women had very limited access to education, so large number of girls passed their traditional schooling age, hence want catch-up and continue their education aspirations, but still find that NFE programs as the only option.

Introduction of women illiteracy program in Puntland has greatly helped reduce illiteracy among women population and yielded improvements in increasing girl’s educational access. However, the increase of women participation in NFE is as result of wide-ranging adult education programs provided by the ministry and local actors, mainly women organizations. However, there are significant variations among regions and gender regarding NFE enrolments,

as Nugaal having the uppermost rank followed by Sool, while Hayland rests the lowest in the list.

## 2.4 Gender and Secondary School Enrolment

Gender parity index for education (GPI) which is calculated as the ratio of gross enrolment ration of females to males indicates a general decrease of the ratio from 0.66 in 2012/2013 to 0.54 in 2013/2014. This demonstrates that the gender parity is significantly on decreasing trend.



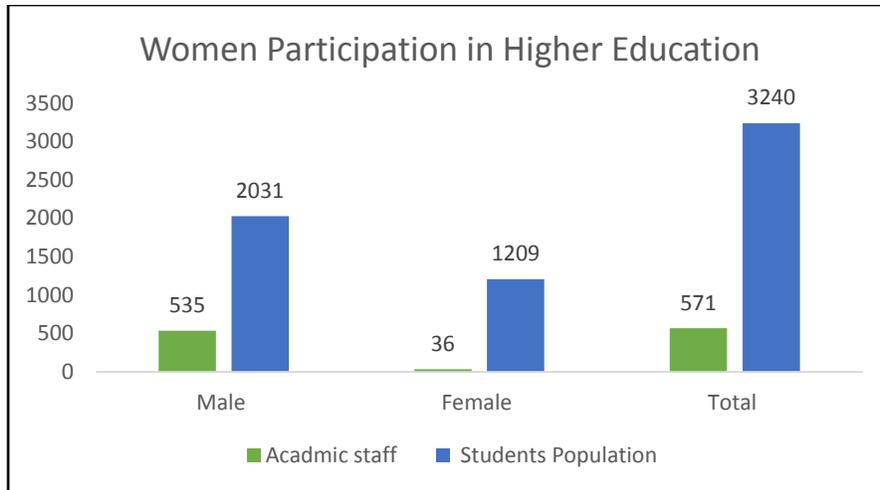
## 2.5 Women in Higher Education

As for higher education, women still remain far behind across Puntland regions. The proportion of female students stands 1,209 students making up to 31.3% out of student population in tertiary education which totals as 3,240<sup>8</sup>. While female employees in the sector make only 6.3%<sup>9</sup> Bosaso University being the highest female recruiter has 10 female employees out of the 65 of university's academic staff<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Puntland Education Statistics, 2015

<sup>9</sup> Puntland Education Statistics, 2015

<sup>10</sup> Puntland Education Statistics, 2015



## 2.6 Woman and ICT

According to multiple indicator cluster report 2011, 12 % of 15-20 year old women ever used a computer, 8 % used a computer during the last year and 6% used at least once a week during the last month. For the internet, again 12% of women aged 15-24 ever used the internet, while only 10% used the internet during the last year. The proportion of young women who used the internet more frequently at least once a week during the last month is much smaller, at 8 percent<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> Multiple indicator Cluster Survey, north eastern 2011

### **3.0 WOMEN'S ACCESS TO HEALTH**

Medical and technological improvements over several decades have extended the lives of both women and men globally, who are expected at present to live an average of 72 and 68 years, respectively<sup>12</sup>. For Puntland, statistics show live expectancy at birth at 49<sup>13</sup>. Only 1.7 of the female population reach 65 years of age, while for male, the figure stands at 2.3%. However, Puntland's health sector, which is mainly financed by private and aid organizations, showed remarkable improvements during the last decade. Yet, access to basic health service has little bit long way to go in order to offer accessible, quality and affordable health service to all. Malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, tetanus and tuberculosis as well as regular outbreaks of measles, cholera, dysentery and meningitis are the most common diseases that pose major threats to public health<sup>14</sup>.

Today, there is only one regional hospital for each of the nine regions, while district hospitals are few, Nugal having three; being the highest while Sanaag has no functioning district hospitals at all. Of these regional hospitals, there are 334 beds in total, though Sool, Sanaag and Cayn remain uncounted. More alarmingly, only 20 percent of Puntland populations have access to safe and clean drinking water<sup>15</sup>. High mortality rates are driven by high death rates in the early stages of life. Infant mortality was estimated at 181 per 1,000 live births, and under-five mortality was 225, far in excess of the Sub-Saharan average<sup>16</sup>. Maternal mortality was 1400 deaths per 100,000 live births<sup>17</sup>. These rates have changed only slightly since 1970, despite a functioning government until the early 1990s.

#### **3.1 HIV/Aids prevalence**

HIV/Aids is largely unreported, however, estimations made 2008 suggest number of people living with HIV are 0.5% quite higher compared to south-Central Somalia but significantly lower than Somaliland whose figure stand as 1.7%. 74% of women know that HIV can be transmitted,

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<sup>12</sup> World's women report, 2015

<sup>13</sup> Health Indicators 2009-2011, MOH

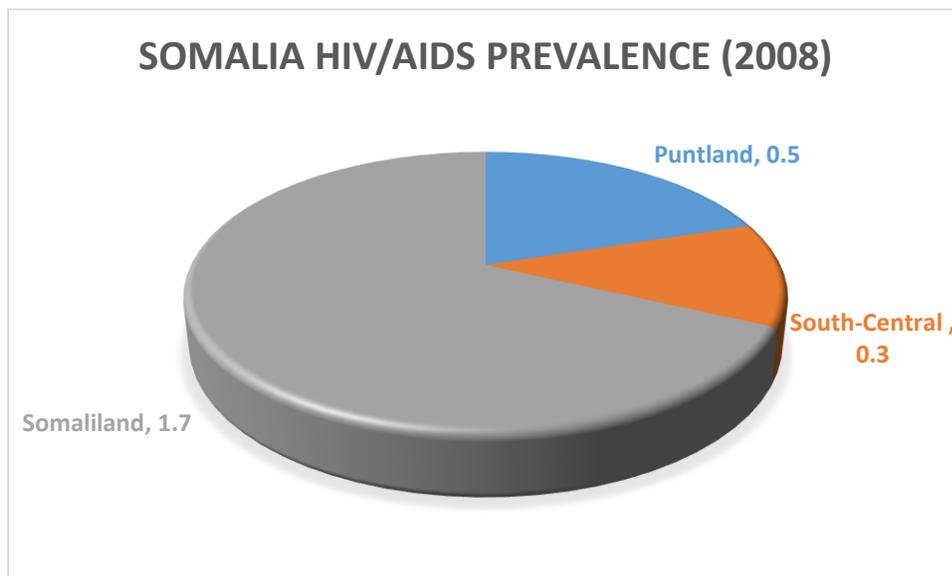
<sup>14</sup> Sectorial functional assessment conducted April 2012

<sup>15</sup> Health Indicators 2009-2011, MOH

<sup>16</sup> Health Indicators 2009-2011, MOH

<sup>17</sup> Health Indicators 2009-2011, MOH

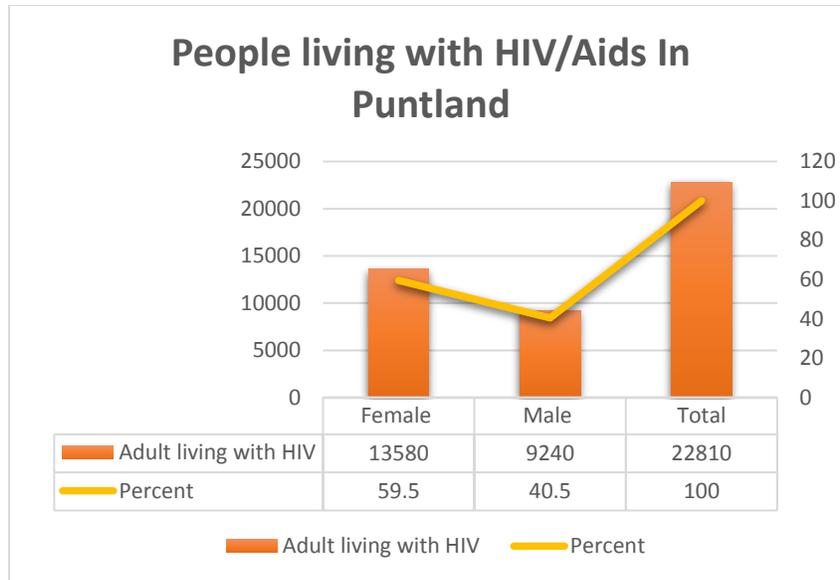
while only 9% don't know of any specific way of transmitting the disease. Women who make nearly half of the population seem to be the most affected, as only 21.1 percent of women age 15-49 give birth with the assistance of professional medical doctor, where 69 percent give birth with no antenatal care received<sup>18</sup>.



According to Somali steering committee for Aids, Somalia including Puntland, there 22,810 people living with HIV, of which majority about 60% are female. Women lead the new infections which account for 57%<sup>19</sup>. Figures further show that as little as less than one percent of those infected receive interventions of mother to child transmission of HIV. The committee continues suggesting that intensifying and advocating for human rights and gender equality could help scale up achieving the universal access target. Adding that reasons HIV is prevalent include social factors, poverty, gender inequality, human rights violations which all increase vulnerability to HIV infection.

<sup>18</sup> Multi indicator cluster survey, 2011

<sup>19</sup> Strategic framework for Somali Aids Response (2009-2013)



### 3.2 Women Reproductive Health

Another puzzling feature of Puntland’s health sector is that, 69% of pregnant women don’t make antenatal care visits during their pregnancy, only 4% do four or more antenatal visits; the minimum number of visit a pregnant have to make set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Generally speaking, increasing number of births in a structured health facility is an important indicator of improved access of health. However, this presents a huge challenge in Puntland as 76.8% of women age 15-49 deliver at homes with no professional care<sup>20</sup>.

Recent figures show that women are mainly responsible for water collecting for the households that have no drinkable water on premises. 57.3% of water collectors are adult females while men represent 25.4%, female child and male child account for 9.5 and 4.5 percent respectively<sup>21</sup>. This indicates that families greatly consider boys for schooling while domestic work including water collection is widely perceived to be girls’ job.

### 3.4 Women Rights and Gender Attitude

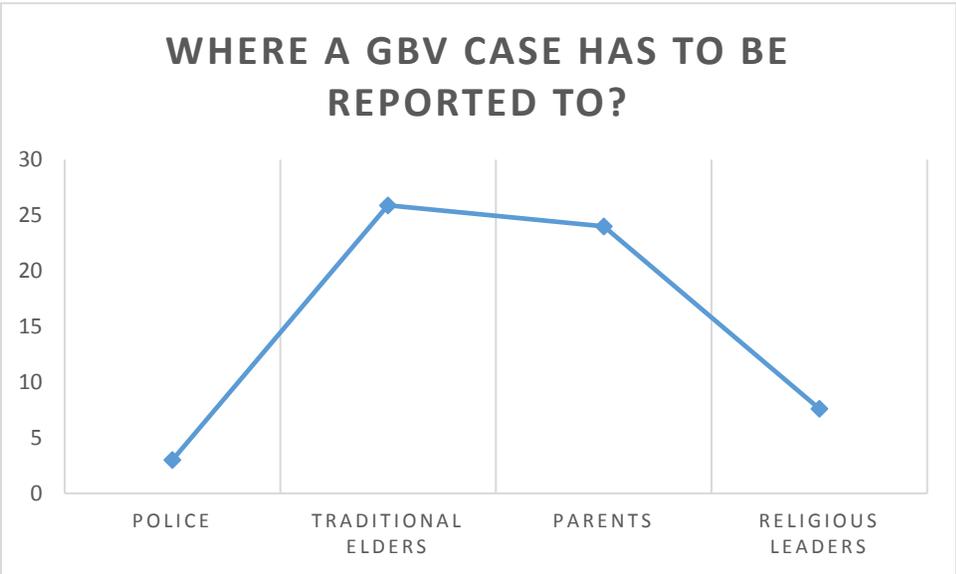
Recent studies show that due to lack of coordinated law enforcement and justice system in place, the GBV prevalence is an increasing trend that victims of heinous traditional believe and practice prefer not to report the incidence to the police and other security agencies. According

<sup>20</sup> Multi indicator cluster Survey, 2011

<sup>21</sup> Multi indicator cluster Survey, 2011

to Ahmed Hirsi (2010), out of the 450 respondents interviewed, 68% were remarried before age of 19, due to this fact he discovered that over 40% dropped out from their schools. Furthermore, 25.9% said that GBV should be reported to the community elder, 24% said it should be reported to father, 22.3% said cases should be reported to both parents, 17.2% said religious leaders, 7.6% said they will report to their mothers while insignificant 3% said such cases should be reported to the police<sup>22</sup>.

This is so because, at least in part, that the conservative nature of Somali culture, it's always unacceptable for women to openly expose sexual harassment to rape cases grievances and complaints. It's widely believed that lack of adequate and skilled female police has largely discouraged women to approach security agencies, as they don't feel comfortable sharing their experience and complaints with male police officers due to fear of stigmatization of the victim, which in the local context has emphasis and reflects much upon the girls' future marriage and career development. Thus, the scale of GBV is largely unreported and is a gender phenomenon that is much deeper than already-available estimation and figures published. A recent survey found out the below chart, showing percentage response to where is the best place that GBV case have to be reported. The findings are classified as below;



<sup>22</sup> Ahmed Hirsi, Baseline Survey report 2010

## **4.0 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Women across the world are subjected to physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence, regardless of their income, age or education. Such violence can lead to long-term physical, mental and emotional health problems<sup>23</sup>. Gender Based violence, known as GBV often take variety of forms such as rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, forced divorce, and socio-economic deprivation. It often triggered by the flared gender inequality of women and girls' roles and primitive and harmful cultural believes, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that has deep negative implications for women and girls' future health and wellbeing.

Somalia's gender inequality index is estimated to be 0.77, giving Somalia the world's fourth highest position. Most of GBV cases and incidences go largely unreported and due to the Somali conservative traditions they are not openly discussed, hence most perpetrators remain unpunished. In Puntland, According to a report released by the United Nations on August 16, 2013, gender-based violence continues to be widespread in Somalia and is perpetrated mostly by armed men. However, many incidences remain underreported. In 2012, 1,700 rapes were recorded in 500 camps in Mogadishu alone while additional 800 GBV cases were recorded<sup>24</sup>.

### **4.1 Major forms of GBV in Puntland**

Rape and sexual assault are identified to be among the most common and pervasive forms of violence that women and girls face<sup>25</sup>. Forced Marriage remains common among adolescent girls, who are used as currency in order to address conflict and problems within or between communities. Early Marriage was also seen as a common social phenomenon where 38% of women between the ages of 20 and 49 years married before the age of 18<sup>26</sup>; those from poorer households are more likely than those from wealthier households to be married at a very younger age<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> World Women report, 2015

<sup>24</sup> UNDP Somalia report 2014

<sup>25</sup> GBV working group, 2014

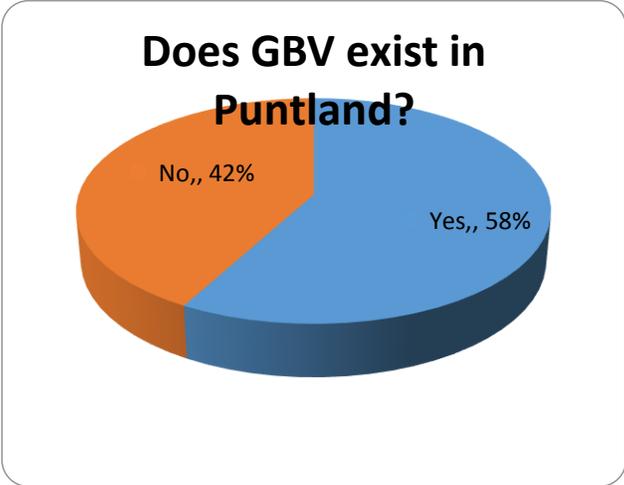
<sup>26</sup> Ahmed Hersi, Baseline Survey report 2010

<sup>27</sup> Ahmed Hersi, Baseline Survey report 2010

According to a report by GRT, GBV incidences seem to be high in IDPs; the study establishes that lack of schools within these areas and the limited knowledge to be the main contributors causing to increase GBV. The report further show that, among the nine IDP camps assessed in Gardo, only one has school within, three reported to have schools nearby while the rest have no schools at all. The study establishes that latrines, medical services and food remain inadequate, stating that no organization offering these basic services in Gardo during the time of the assessment.

**4.2 Public perception towards GBV**

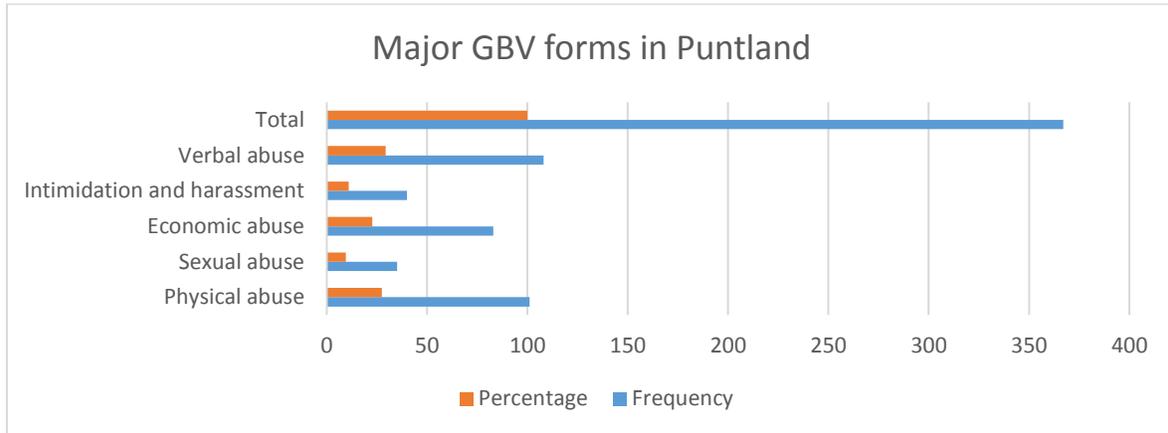
A. Isse in 2010, discovered that 58% of the population believe that there are one or more forms of GBV while 42% claim there are no cases of GBV. In reality, because of the clandestine nature of GBV and other similar human rights violations, such incidences go largely under cover and very few get reported and filed, plus that the general understanding of the public regarding this phenomenon often remain dubious. Isse, in his study, he further found that, only 3% of those experience gender based violence seek help and report to police<sup>28</sup>. Making religious and community leader the most appropriate to deal with such cases. His findings can be summarized as below;



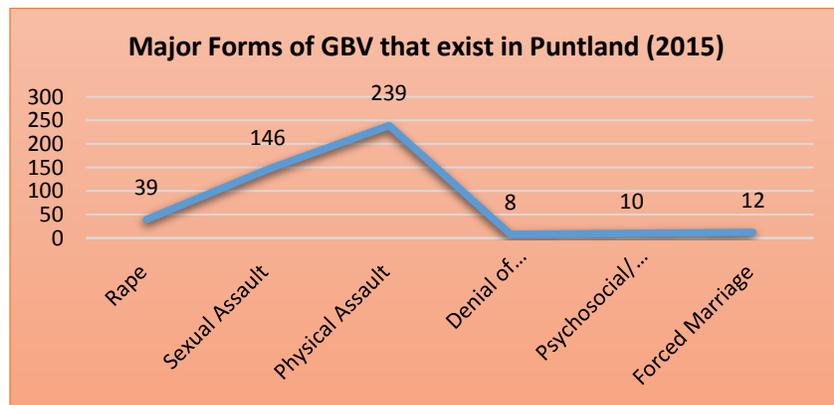
In the above pie chart, their answers as shown above, indicate verbal abuse to be the most commonly practiced 29.4%, wife battering 27.5%, economic abuse 22.6% in the form of refusal

<sup>28</sup> Ahmed Hersi, Baseline Survey report 2010

to engage in business activities and control by husband of income generated from any business his wife is engaged in, intimidation and harassment 10.9% and sexual abuse 9.5%. Women can easily be abused for any trivial misunderstanding with her husband and such cases rarely reach the authorities according to respondents.



In Puntland, Bari seems to have the highest GBV cases while Sanaag the least GBV experience. Among different forms of GBV, physical assault is the most common practice across region. Forced marriage which has been a wide practice shows a significant decline during last year, though it still exists in Bari and Mudug, but dramatically reduced in other regions. In the above graph, economic abuse is among top prevalent GBV forms; however, reports show that very few cases were reported during the year 2014<sup>29</sup>.



Source: GBVWG 2014

<sup>29</sup> GBV working Group 2014

## **5.0 LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

Gender equality and equitable participation in governance and development agendas globally, has been affirmed by numerous international instruments, including the conventions on: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) the Political Rights of Women (1952); Economic, Social and Cultural rights (1966); Civic and Political Rights (1966); CEDAW (1976); Beijing Platform of Action(1995); Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa(2005).

It’s widely believed that equal participation of women and men in national politics is a vital ingredient for inclusive and democratic governance. Yet, in many parts of the world, gender inequality is highly visible in the areas of power and decision-making which typically remain men dominated positions. In Puntland and Somalia in general, women remain to be severely underrepresented in national politics. Furthermore, they are also largely excluded from the executive, legislative and judiciary arms of the government. The very few who get cabinet appointments are not often given core ministerial position, such as interior, security, justice and other comparable designations within the state’s governance structure.

### **5.1 Gender Quota**

Women quotas aim at reversing discrimination in law and practice and to level the playing field for women in politics. In Puntland, a presidential decree ordered allocation of 30% representation of women in leadership and governance in the year 2008<sup>30</sup>. Despite numerous attempts to realize the allocation of women, it did not yield any substantial results.

During the same year, Puntland drafted a gender policy, the first of its kind in the whole of Somalia. However, the policy was developed based on sharia and Somalis cultural values and norms, but similar to women quota it has confronted continuous rejection from both parliament and cabinet. Something authorities claim to be due to use of the term “gender equity” in the policy. As result, the draft awaits to be passed and rectified in to the constitution, after almost over 7 years since it was first drafted. Such policy contention clearly indicates=that

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<sup>30</sup> UNDP Gender brief in Somalia

women in Puntland will not be able to fight for their own political course at any time soon-thus, necessitating finding new easier ways for adopting and mandating legislated quota and stipulating gender policy frameworks in to the state's laws and development practices.

Improved women political participation can be achieved by a strategic shake-up of these gender-related policies and perhaps reducing the current proposed thirty percent quota to twenty or even lower if the situation calls for. This is very true with limited resources available and significantlypermits women come on onboard, no matter how much, at least for now, rather than fighting for a futile battle that leads to no victory. The legislated quota has evidenced successful increased of women in higher political position and leadership in many countries and societies by helpingreserve a number of seats for female in the legislative assembly.

Reports indicate that globally women in parliament assembly raise gender and other gender-related affairs more than their male counterparts in the legislative houses. Rwanda is a classic example for this after the deadly genocide during nineties; women currently make up up to 64%of country's parliament making Rwanda a country with highest proportion of women in parliamentary chamber setting, a world-record of 64%=of the total seats.

## **5.2 Currently political status of women**

Women's representation in positions of power and decision-making in public office has been a challengeover decades. Thereis currently a full minister and three deputy ministers out of theforty seven cabinet members. The minister and onedeputy belong to the Women's Development Ministry and the other two deputies are for Ministries of Health and Agriculture. The underrepresentation doesn't stop at highest ranking positions; women in the civil service continue to be considerablyoutstripped by men, as there is only one female director general.

Body	Total Positions	Women	Percentage
Higher Judiciary Committee	7	1	14.2
Cabinet	46	4	8.5
Parliament	66	2	3
Districtcouncilor	478	66	13.8

### 5.3 Justice and Legislature

As other sectors, women severely underperform in the justice, legislature and law enforcement agencies. Though, there has been magnificent improvement for the past few years, currently there are one female in the 11-member justice council, after the office of attorney gender trained 10 female lawyers in Garowe and hired to work throughout Puntland. This made women about half of the total prosecutors.

For each of Puntland's nine regional courts there are two prosecutors, of these eighteen there are only two female prosecutors, making justice sector to be with the least number of female actors. In the parliament, women is again drastically underrepresented, there are only two female members in Puntland's sixty six seated house of parliament.

Prior to the 2014 selection of the house, women fought for reserved seats, an attempt that terribly failed to workout. Generally, the low proportion of seats held by women in both parliament and cabinet clearly reflect the limited number of women who have the time, resources and patience to develop their career in politics and politics. This may delay the impact of any push by other than women.

### 5.4 Women in Police Force

Puntland Police Forces is among government departments that employs very few female personnel. Among the whole police population, women remain sternly underrepresented. As of December 2015, there is only 200 female police staff in Puntland, most of them holding lower administrative positions rather than engaging them with real police work<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>31</sup> Meeting discussion with police personnel office, Dec 2015 Garowe

According to police personnel, the few members working got trained as investigators mainly for Bosaso and Qardho cities while there are 4 police female trainers in Armo police academy, Puntland's only police training academy which was first built for federal police, but currently used by Puntland forces.

Despite increasing GVB cases as indicated in the above sections, victims, who are mainly women and girls, seem to be quite unconfident that their case can be fairly handled or be helped by the male dominated police force. This arises from the fact that it's almost impossible for a female GBV victim meet with a same-sex police officer or case worker whom she can approach and can give her permitting environment for her to share her experience.

## **6.0 WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY**

The Somali constitution clearly states equal rights for all; women and men, yet, this need to be translated in to action particularly the economic sector. There are no reliable data on Puntland women in business sector. However, statistics on Somalising Puntland explain that women in business faces challenges like limited financial resources, poor access to credit and other banking services, existing imbalanced gender roles and norms, gender discrimination, lack of access to proper knowledge, education and skills amongst others to survive and sustain successful enterprises.

### **6.1 Women in Private Sector**

In the private sector, Somali women continue to occupy menial positions, often little but enough money to sustain themselves and their families. In addition, a large percentage of women (86.1%) are engaged in subsistence farming and around 80% are engaged in petty trade and 1% in private sector. Only 14% owned farmland and 28% owned some livestock. This means that women agriculture in Somalia is becoming a female dominant sector for subsistence with little technical and financial support, but the reverse is true for livestock ownership where male own the majority if not all<sup>32</sup>.

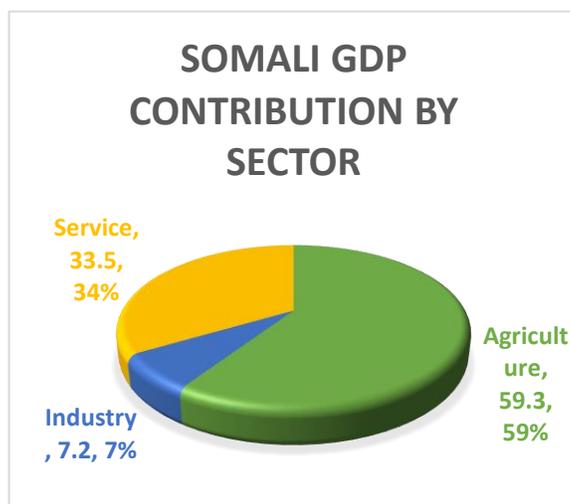
Women in Puntland are largely engaged in informal economic activities that are characterized as irregular with significantly lower investment values. Puntland's private sector is, however, made-up by small and medium enterprises, up to 99%. Of those, women own up 60% of small businesses but mainly for surviving purposes with less growth prospects. Evidence shows that women are still considered somewhat distrustful regarding meeting credit other grant conditions to obtain funds, as only 10.2% of women have access to credit or grants for business and investment purposes in Puntland.

Moreover, a focus group discussion facilitated by UNDP in Garowe, revealed that selling meat and khat have the largest profits margins. Women in produce sale businesses are in more

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<sup>32</sup> The role of Somali women in the Private sector, UNDP Somalia

favorable position than those in clothing business. Importation of clothes, cosmetics and furniture remain major areas women trade in Puntland. Somali economy in general is agricultural-based one, which recently showed tremendous investment opportunities and literally remains the biggest employer. Yet, women in this sector tend to concentrate the less lucrative section which is slaughtering and sometimes supplying meats with local markets.



### 6.3 Poverty and Women

In Somalia, it's estimated that 82% of Somalis are considered to be poor<sup>33</sup>. However, a severe poverty conditions are reported to exist in rural area where the poverty rate stands as high as 94%. In Puntland the rate is slightly lower than that one in South-Central but it still remains alarmingly high and exceeds the 75% threshold<sup>34</sup>. With the fact that women outnumber men in rural areas, women remain greatly disadvantaged and make the bigger percentage of the poor. In rural areas, where women represent 61%, they continue to live with one of the harshest living conditions, as basic living are extremely scarce. There are no currently concrete statistics on economic status of women in Puntland and Somalia in general; however observations reveal that women in Puntland continue to experience one of the harshest conditions of life.

<sup>33</sup> Human Development Report, 2012

<sup>34</sup> Human Development Report, 2012

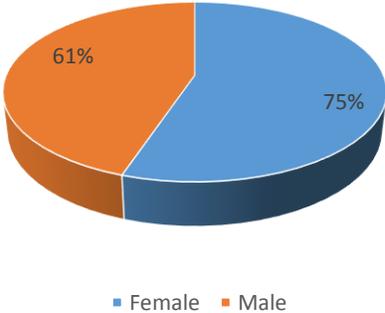
During the civil strife, women showed resilience and forbearance to struggling for family livelihood even when men are present with limited or no technical and financial support of any kind for most the time. Women in urban areas, on the other hand, continue to largely depend on the income of their spouses and/or other relative members. In part, this is due to their limited ownership and control over family resources, especially the land and other valuable assets. Nation-wide statistics show that 11 percent of men headed families own private land for cultivation compared to 8.7% women headed families<sup>35</sup>.

Remittances significantly contribute to local economy more than the foreign aid, both in terms of figures and impacts. Making this horn of African nation one of world’s largest recipients of remittances. Yet, women continue to be the least beneficiaries compared their male counterparts. The report continues to estimate that 12% of women-led households receive remittance to supplement family incomes, while man-led families are 17%<sup>36</sup>. This also depicts that, women make significantly less Diaspora-owned investments.

**6.4 Unemployment among Women Population**

In Puntland, only 40%of the women are in wage employment. Women often experience higher unemployment rates than men, currently the unemployment rate stands at 74%among women population compared 61% of men. The thirteen-digit difference is statistically significant considered that women make up half of the Somali population.

Unemployment Rates by Gender



<sup>35</sup>FSNAU Gender facts and figures 2011

<sup>36</sup> UNDP Somalia report 2011

It's much harder for a woman to get employed than a man. There are a number of complex reasons to explain this, among them; a systematic wage discrimination and occupational segregation that women continue to experience in the labor market. Gender-based skills and educational gaps explained in the above sections also significantly contribute to the severity of redundancy among women population.

## **7.0 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS OF FURTHER STUDY**

### **7.1 Education**

Increasing women participation in the education could be little bit challenging for state like Puntland, however, ministry and its partners may opt to ponder transformative education approach, by creating conducive learning environment for all. Due to the existing resource gaps, it may sound challenging, but this can be done by providing free or at least affordable education services to enable majority poor families send their girls to school.

Increasing female teachers and raising public awareness campaigns on girls' education by conducting open forums and dialogues showed huge impacts and could further help reduce the gender gap in the sector. Widening the availability of schools and other education facilities is a paramount factor for improved girls' education. This can be done by introducing mobile learning facilities particularly rural areas villages, which could be an alternative education option for the larger population in rural areas particularly women. Upgraded and increased NFE is an important strategy for those who passed their school-age and to enable them to read and write.

For years, Puntland's Ministry of Education focused primary and secondary education levels, however, especial focus has to be given higher education, by reaching most disadvantaged girls who finish but tend to fail attend a higher education, by strategizing female collages and when possible offering financial help and scholarships opportunities.

## **7.2 Health**

Improving access to basic health services could technically mean increasing both the availability and the affordability of health care for all. Areas need immediate action include building the capacity of health workers, improving the conditions of current health facilities and equipping health managers with essential health management skills. Establishing village-level health posts and simple mobile clinics are the easiest and perhaps a very efficient way of reaching rural mobile communities that need such services most. Increasing number female health workers both at regional district level is paramount particularly improving antenatal care attendance and reducing infant as well as maternal mortality.

Increasing coordination and regulatory roles of local authorities to have effective oversight is a key tool for improved health services that ensures quality and inclusiveness. These among other policies are the necessary components for a well-functioning health system that is capable efficiently responding to societal health needs.

## **7.3 Gender Based Violence**

For fair, gender responsive, caring and committed society, Puntland will have to strategically prioritize curbing violence against women. the fight against gender based violence needs to entail all the 4ps; Preventing of the crime to happen, Protection for survivors of the victims, Prosecution of perpetrators and Partnership among different players in the efforts to end such vicious act of violating basic human rights. Conducting periodic Puntland-wide public awareness campaigns on GBV, and engaging religious and traditional institutions in to the process is an important approach. Also integrating the fight against GBV in schools and school-going teenagers as part of national curriculum will in fact help shift the paradigm to a more holistic approach.

There should also be reviewing and enhancing existing laws, policies and procedures to make them up-to-date that reflect day-to-day efforts aimed at eradicating this menace. Introduction and adoption of national action plan against GBV is an important missing tool. With ant-GBV action plan, strategically all project can be harmonized and substantially can be a guide to unite

all different actors both government and its NGO counterparts to eliminate crimes against women.

#### **7.4 Governance and leadership**

Women in leadership and governance often encourage public trust in government institutions, promote reduced corruption and office misuse, and facilitate social and economic development. Women can be empowered by encouraging them enter politics and advance their political careers by conducting nation-wide forums dialogues and debates, shaping positive public attitudes towards women in leadership by engaging media in to the process and coordinating traditional authorities to allow women participate in higher and decision making process.

Partnering with academia and other learning centers to promote gender-equality offering educational programs and researches can help institutions adopt women quota and other government gender-related policies and practices.

#### **7.5 Economy**

Increasing women in economic activities doesn't only mean achieving economic justice, but has a significant impact on poverty reduction and bettering livelihoods for families and the society at large. This can be done by; supporting conducive business atmosphere which recognizes women specific challenges that limits their full participation. Increasing women access to banking and financial services is vital factors enabling them further finance their business which is also important forinspiring young entrepreneurs. Adequately investing women human capital by providing a market-oriented learning courses and skills to enable them actively work on their own economic course. Prioritizing market research and risk assessments to helps women better manage their investments with minimum possible business mortality. Promoting wage employment opportunities and working conditions for women to advance their participation in the labor market by introducing laws and policy frameworks regarding women and their participation in the job market.

## **ANNEXURES**

### **Annex 1: Bibliography**

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