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## 1.1. Recruitment and desertion/defection

Generally, men, women and children are frequently recruited by the local (not external) parties to the ongoing war in Somalia. Al-Shabaab and the Somali National Army (SNA) as main Somali opponents try to access, sometimes by force, recruits and those providing logistic support and other services (including sexual services).<sup>13</sup> Over the last years, thousands of children (basically between 11 and 17 years old) have been recruited by all sides, but the majority of them were recruited by Al-Shabaab.<sup>14</sup> For more details see the [EUAA COI report on Somalia: Defection, Desertion and Disengagement from Al-Shabaab](#) from February 2023.<sup>15</sup>

- [1.1.1. Recruitment of men, women, and children by Al-Shabaab](#)
  - (a) Repercussions for refusing to be recruited
  - (b) Repercussions for deserters and defectors from Al-Shabaab
- [1.1.2. Recruitment of men, women and children by other actors](#)
  - (a) Repercussions for refusing to be recruited
  - (b) Repercussions for desertion

- [13](#)

Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2024 Country Report — Somalia, 19 March 2024, [url](#) , p.19

- [14](#)

UNSC, Report of the Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2024/748, 28 October 2024, [url](#), p. 42

- [15](#)

EUAA, Country of Origin information Report on Somalia: Defection, desertion and disengagement from Al-Shabaab, February 2023, [url](#)