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1.2. Women and girls

Gender equality[112] and women's empowerment were described as some of the most significant challenges Somalia faces.[113] The country ranked third last in 2024 on the UNDP Gender Inequality Index,[114] with women and IDPs being among the most vulnerable categories in Somalia.[115] Somalia is one of the few countries that has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as of March 2025,[116] or the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. [117] Women and girls in Somalia experience humanitarian 'crises' in different ways due to existing gender inequalities and norms, systemic disparities and power dynamics.[118]

As of 2023, Somalia's population was 18 358 615, out of which 9 160 786 were women.[119] According to the 2020 Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS), 46.5 % of women had no education, 4.7 % completed primary school, 6.1 % secondary and 5 % had higher education. [120] Between 2021 and 2023, the gross enrolment rate of girls at primary education was 83 %, 29 % at secondary level and 2.3 % at the tertiary level.[121] As of February 2024, 19.6 % of seats in the parliament were held by women in Somalia.[122]

- 1.2.1. Gender based violence (GBV), types, prevalence and situation of women in the Somali society, including forced and child marriage
  - (a) The legal framework
  - (b) Gender based violence (GBV)
  - (c) Early and forced marriage
  - (d) GBV and situation of women under Al-Shabaab, including forced and child marriage
  - (e) Situation of women who left Al-Shabaab and repercussions for leaving Al-Shabaab
- 1.2.2. FGM/C and repeated FGM/C
  - (a) FGM, forms, practices, performers and (extended) family's role
  - Prevalence
  - Forms
  - Societal attitudes and practices
  - Performers and family's role
  - (b) Repeated FGM, forms and practices
  - (c) Repercussions for refusing to undergo the practice
- 1.2.3. The situation of single and minority women, notably in IDP camps, or women and girls with lack of network support

- 112

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