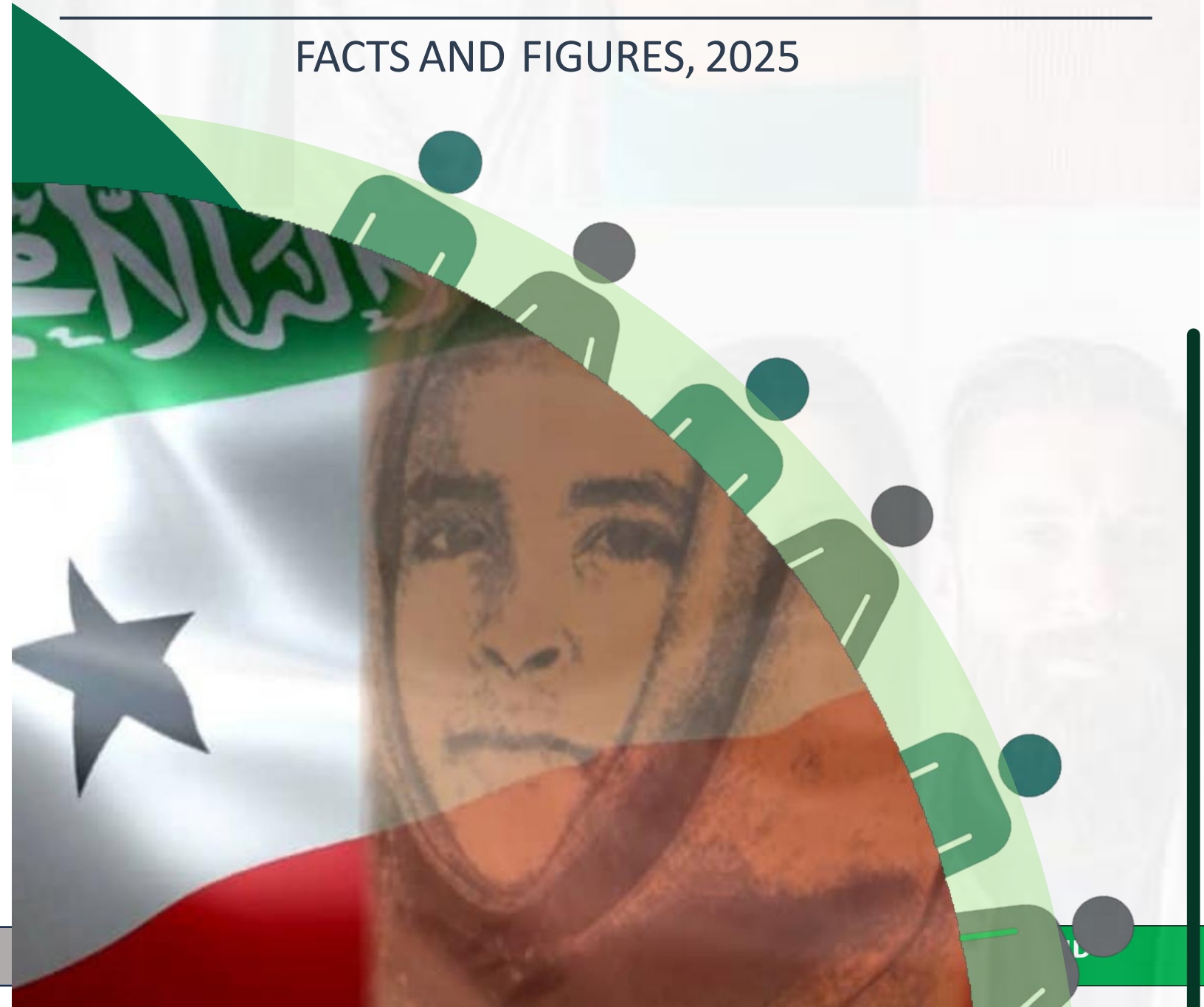




MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CENTRAL STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

MEN AND WOMEN IN SOMALILAND

FACTS AND FIGURES, 2025





Republic of Somaliland

**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

CENTRAL STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (CSD)

MEN AND WOMEN IN SOMALILAND

Facts and Figures

2025


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FOREWORD

The Ministry of Planning and National Development is pleased to present the Men and Women in Somaliland Statistical Report 2025, produced by the Central Statistics Department (CSD). This is the third edition of the series, following earlier publications in 2018 and 2022, and reaffirms our commitment to providing accurate and timely gender-disaggregated statistics for evidence-based decision-making.

This report draws on data from recent national surveys and administrative records provided by national institutions. The information is presented separately for males and females and, where possible, further disaggregated by age and region. Covering key areas including demography, education, health, employment, economic participation, political participation, Gender Based Violences (GBVs), access to resources and other factors that shape the lives of men and women in our society, the report highlights both achievements and continuing gender disparities.

The findings reveal important patterns, including higher male employment rates and earnings, underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, and persistent inequalities in access to resources and services. This information is intended to support policymakers, development partners, and civil society in advancing gender equality and fostering inclusive development.

I extend my gratitude to all institutions that contributed data to this report, and to the CSD staff for their dedication in compiling, analyzing, validating and producing this valuable statistics report.

Mr. Khadar Mohamed Gahayr
Director of Central Statistics Department
Ministry of Planning and National Development

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANC	Antenatal Care
CSD	Central Statistics Department
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBVs	Gender Based Violences
GER	Gross Enrollment Rate
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MoPND	Ministry of Planning and National Development
NER	Net Enrollment Rate
SLHDS	Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey
SOLNAC	Somaliland National AIDS Commission
SONSAF	Somaliland Non-State Actors forum
WHO	World Health Organization

GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality refers to a situation where women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and potential such that they are able to contribute equally to national political, economic, social and cultural development and benefit equally from the results. It pertains to equal distribution of resources and benefits and participation of women and men in all areas of society and also to the need to give equal weight to the knowledge, experience and values of both women and men in society. Gender Equality entails that the underlying causes of discrimination are systematically identified and removed in order to give women and men equal opportunities. The absence of discrimination on the basis of one's sex in the allocation of resources or benefits or in access to services is the hallmark of any society which practices gender equality.

GENDER EQUALITY IN SOMALILAND

Since the reassertion of its sovereignty in 1991, the Republic of Somaliland has focused on peace-building and the reconstruction of its nation, which was adversely affected by the war. The process of peace-building and socio-economic reconstruction towards national development required a concerted effort of both men and women to ensure growth and good governance in all sectors. Women played an active role in this process but were soon affected by some negative traditions and customs that perceived national development as a male domain. This perception stemmed from the patriarchal lineage of the clan-based system, which recognizes male dominance and perpetrated gender inequality through customary laws. The norm of gender inequality, which was once a feature of nomadic society, is gradually getting better to meet with the national development plan.

Politically, public attitude has been tending to favour male dominance over women, although the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland does not condone any form of discrimination. By virtue of Article 8 of the Constitution

of the Republic of Somaliland: 'All citizens of Somaliland shall enjoy equal rights and obligations in the practice of the law, and shall not be accorded precedence on grounds of color, clan, birth, language, gender, property, status, opinion etc.'. It is further provided that: 'Precedence and discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, clan affiliation, birth and residence is prohibited; and at the same time programmes aimed at eradicating long-lasting bad practices shall be a national obligation'.

Respect to women and their rights was one of the main aspects of religious and cultural characteristics of people of Somaliland. In recent years, both the public and private sectors are encouraging the participation women in development actions in Somaliland. Indications are that disparities exist between men and women in actual power sharing, participation and control over decision-making processes and resources are still major problem.

GUIDE FOR READERS

The information in this report has been primarily extracted from recent national surveys and administrative records from the publications of Ministry of Planning and National Development and other government ministries and agencies. The sources are acknowledged beside each table or graph. In most places, the tables and graphs provide absolute numbers and/or proportions (%) for certain attributes for both women and men. Proportions (%) are used in two ways:

- Proportion (%) of all women and proportion (%) of all men with certain characteristics, such as literacy rate.
- Distribution of sex within a group, such as head of household.

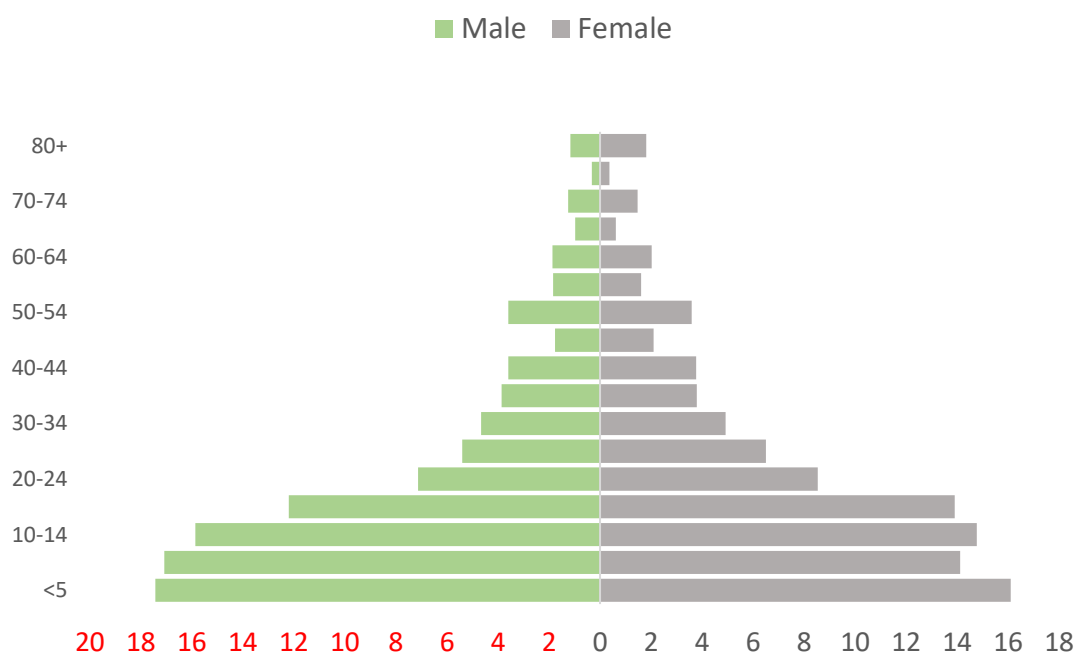
Minor discrepancies may appear between totals and partial figures due to rounding off.

Chapter 1: Demography

Age and sex are fundamental demographic variables that form the primary basis for classifying populations. They are essential for analyzing patterns of fertility, mortality, fertility preferences, age at first marriage, and other key demographic indicators. This chapter presents background information on the population distribution by age and sex, sex ratio, household headship, dependency ratios, and marital status, with comparisons between males and females.

Figure 1: Population by sex and age group (Population Pyramid), 2020

Percentage



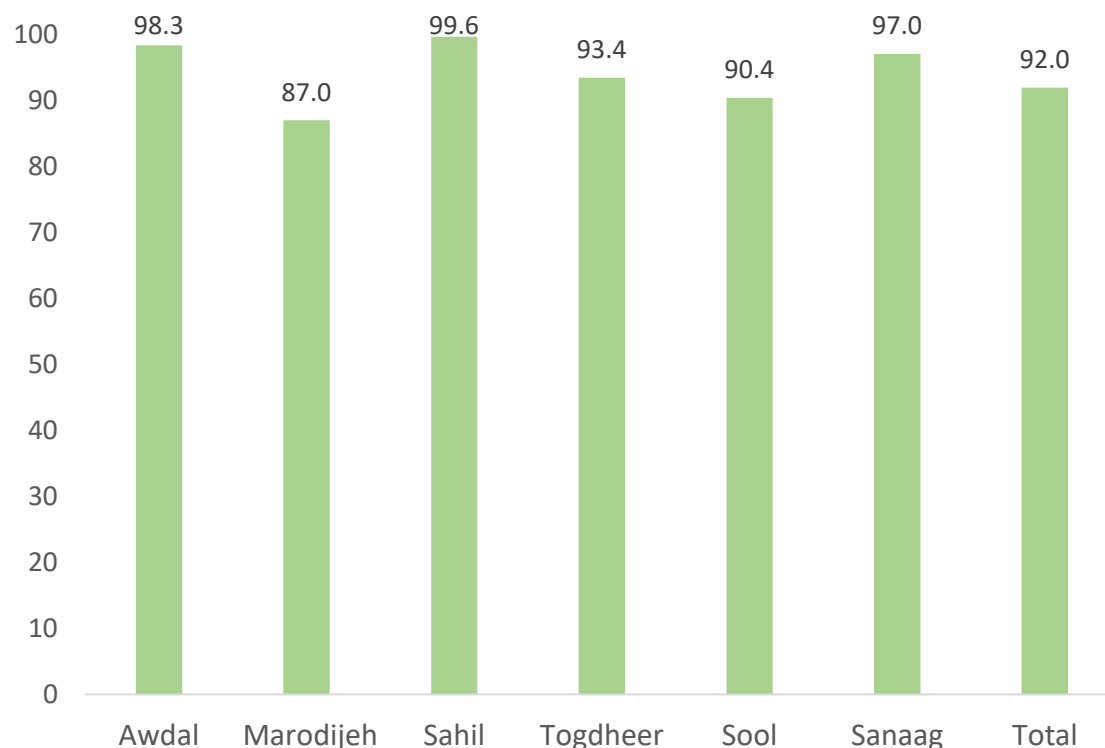
Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 1 presents the population pyramid of Somaliland. The shape of the pyramid reflects the typical characteristics of a developing country with broad base and narrow at the top, marked by high fertility and mortality rates, resulting in a predominantly young population. The figure also reveals a

gender pattern: there are more boys than girls in the younger age groups, while women outnumber men in the older age groups.

Figure 2: Sex Ratio by region, 2020

Number of males per 100 females



Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 2 displays the sex ratio by region in Somaliland. The overall sex ratio is 92 percent, indicating that there are fewer males than females in the population. In all regions, the sex ratio is below 100 percent, meaning females outnumber males across the country. The region with the lowest sex ratio is Marodijeh at 87 percent, while Sahil has the highest sex ratio at 99.6 percent

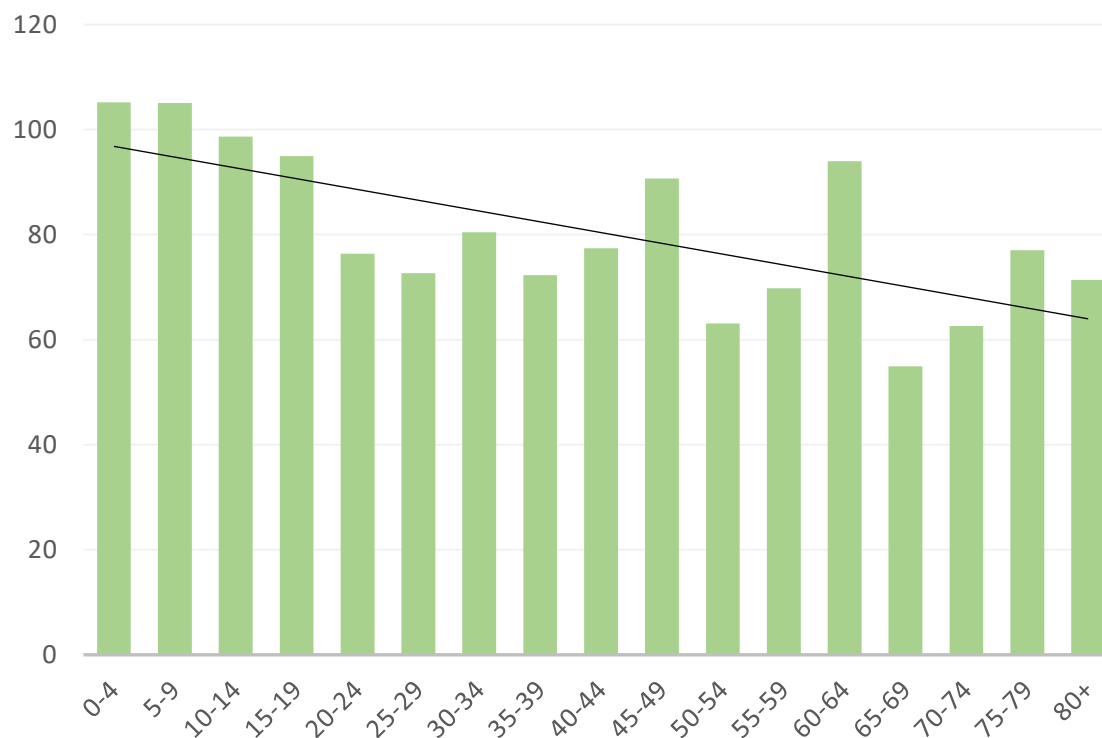
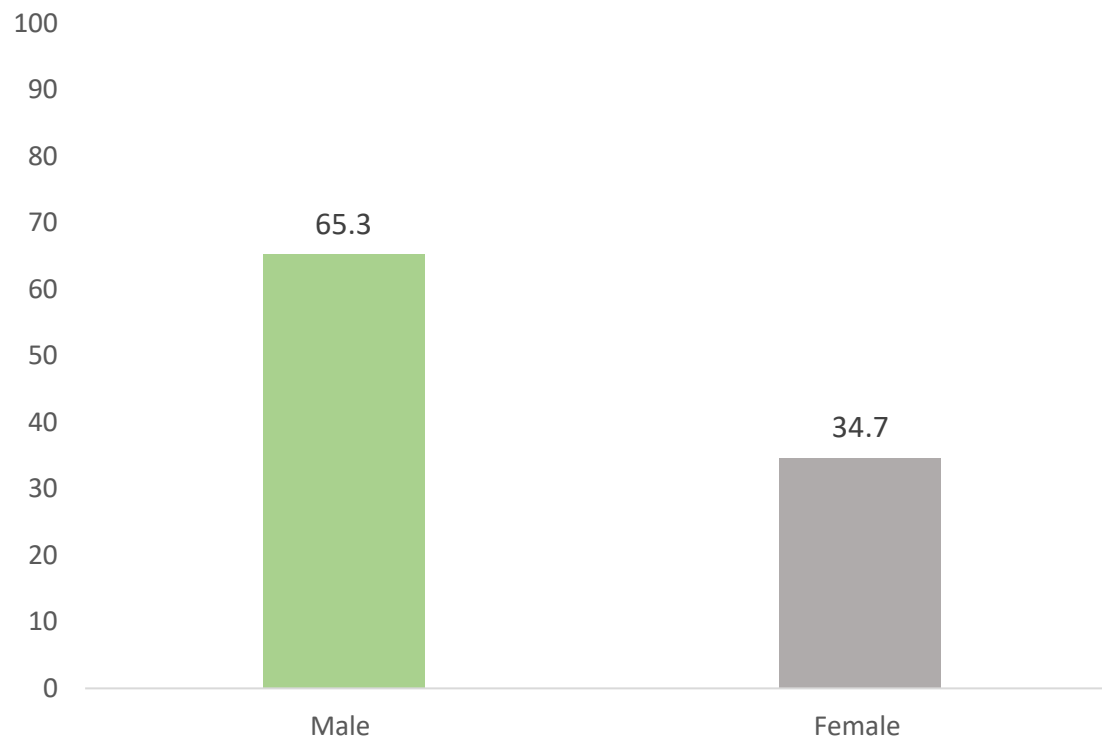
Figure 3: Sex Ratio by Age, 2020*Number of males per 100 females**Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020*

Figure 3 illustrates the sex ratio by age group in Somaliland. The sex ratio is above 100 in the younger age groups (10 years and below), indicating more males than females in early childhood. However, the ratio steadily declines with increasing age, except for slight fluctuations in the 45–49 and 60–64 age groups, which deviate from the overall pattern. This trend suggests that while males outnumber females at younger ages, females outnumber males at older ages in Somaliland.

Figure 4: Household headship by sex, 2020*Percentage distribution*

Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 4 shows the distribution of household headship by sex in Somaliland. The majority of households are headed by males at 63.5 percent, while a significant proportion at 34.7 percent are headed by females. This reflects the traditionally dominant role of men as heads of households, although female-headed households also make up a substantial share.

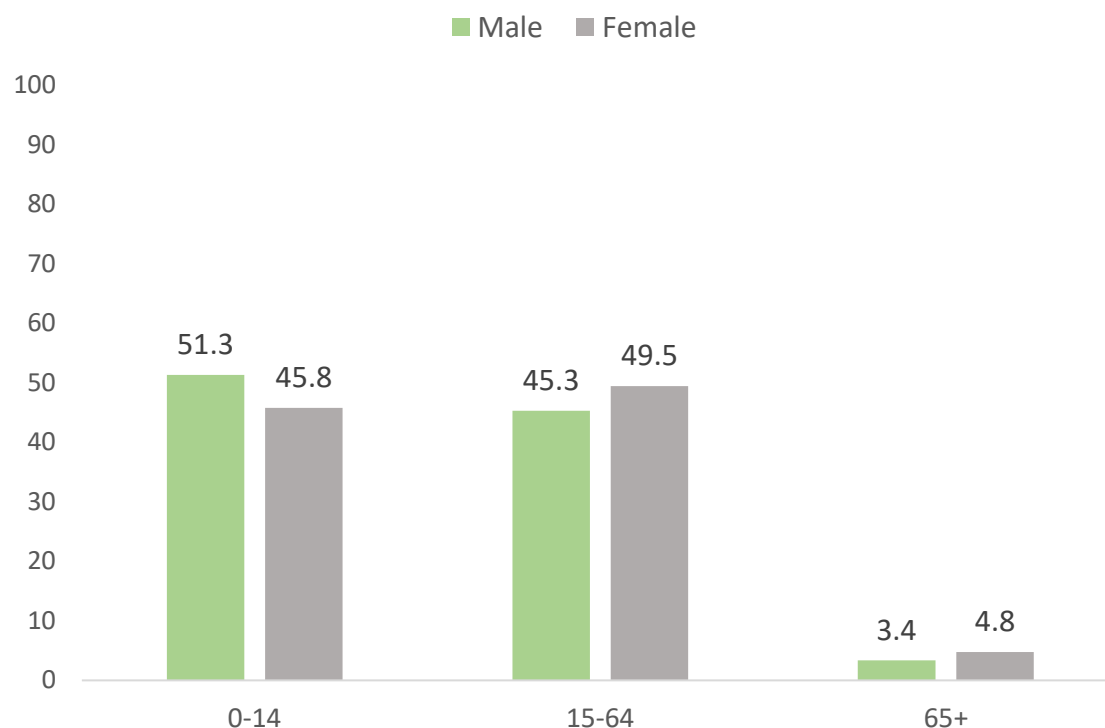
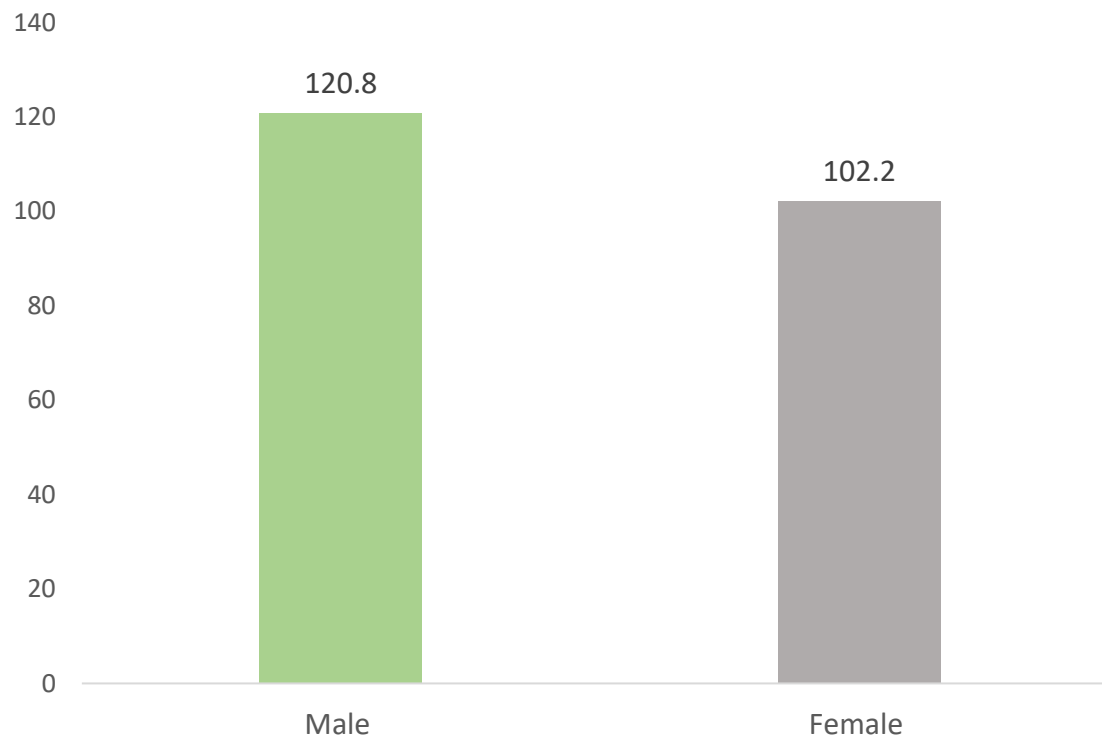
Figure 5: Dependents and working age population, 2020*Percentage sex distribution**Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020*

Figure 5 presents the population distribution by dependency status and working-age groups. Among children aged 0 -14, males account for a higher proportion with 51.3 percent compared to females at 45.8 percent. However, this trend reverses in the working-age group (15 - 64), where females make up a slightly larger share with 49.5 percent than males at 45.3 Percent. In the elderly population (65 years and above), females also outnumber males, comprising 4.8 percent compared to 3.4 Percent for males. This pattern suggests a higher female presence in the older age groups, potentially reflecting greater female life expectancy.

Figure 6: Dependence Ratio, 2020

Number of dependents per 100 working age population



Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 6 presents the dependency ratio by sex in Somaliland. The dependency ratio is higher among males (120.8) compared to females (102.2), indicating that there are more dependents (children and elderly) per 100 working-age males than per 100 working-age females. This suggests a heavier economic burden on the male working-age population.

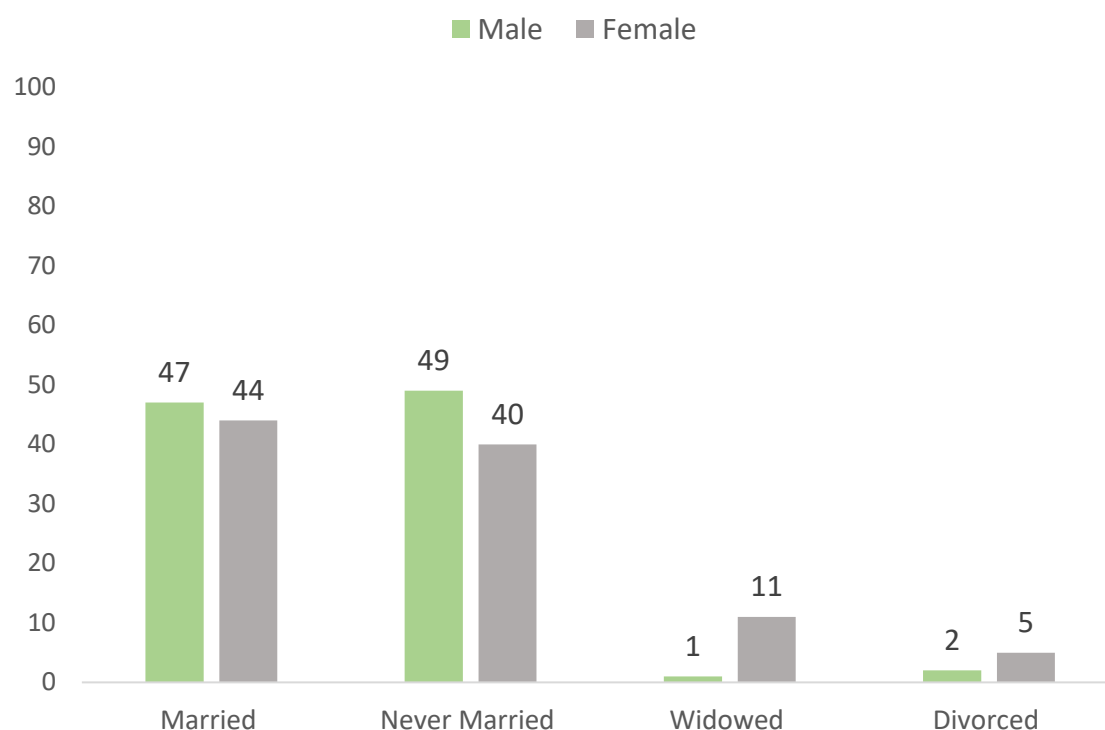
Figure 7: Marital status by sex, 2022*Percentage sex distribution**Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Surveys, 2022*

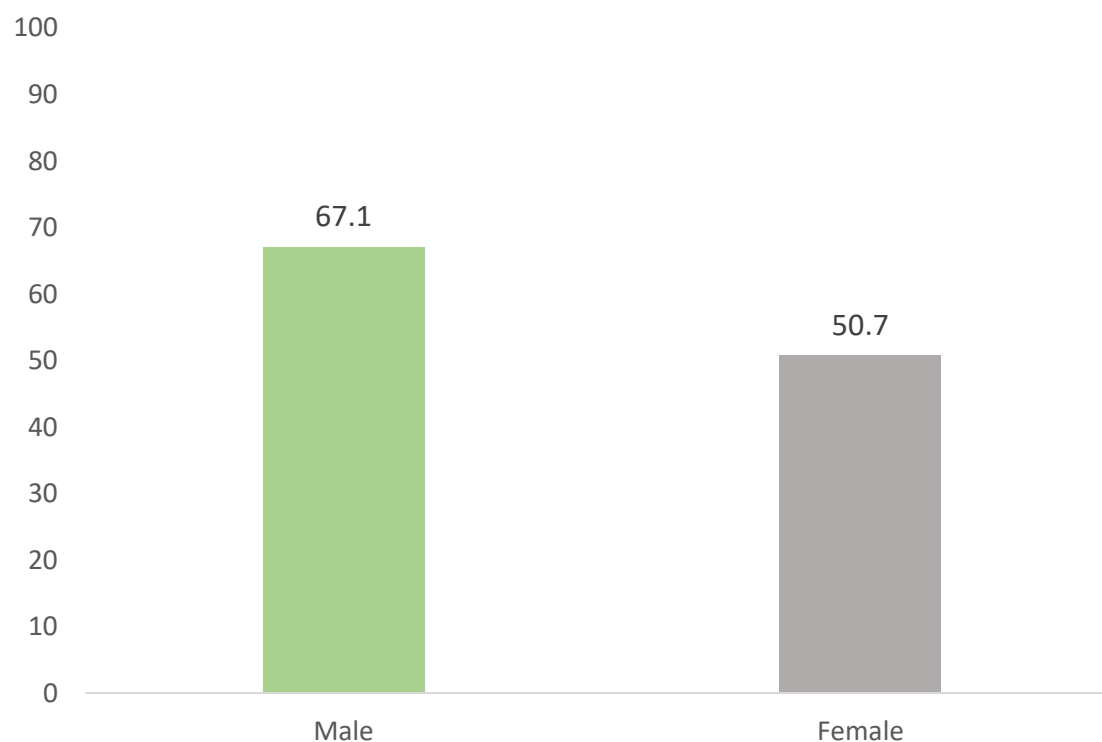
Figure 7 presents marital status by sex in Somaliland. A higher proportion of males at 49 Percent have never married compared to females at 40 Percent. The percentage of married individuals is slightly higher among males at 47 Percent than females at 44 Percent. Notably, widowed status is significantly more common among females at 11 Percent than males at 1 Percent, likely due to differences in life expectancy. Similarly, the proportion of divorced women 5 Percent is more than double that of men at 2 Percent.

Chapter 2: Education

Education is a fundamental human right and a vital cornerstone for a nation's sustainable social and economic progress. It empowers individuals with knowledge, skills, and values that contribute not only to personal development but also to the overall advancement of society. This chapter explores the state of formal education in Somaliland, focusing on key indicators such as literacy rates, enrollment levels, highest educational attainment, and means of accessing educational institutions.

Figure 8: Literacy Rate by sex, 2024

Percentage



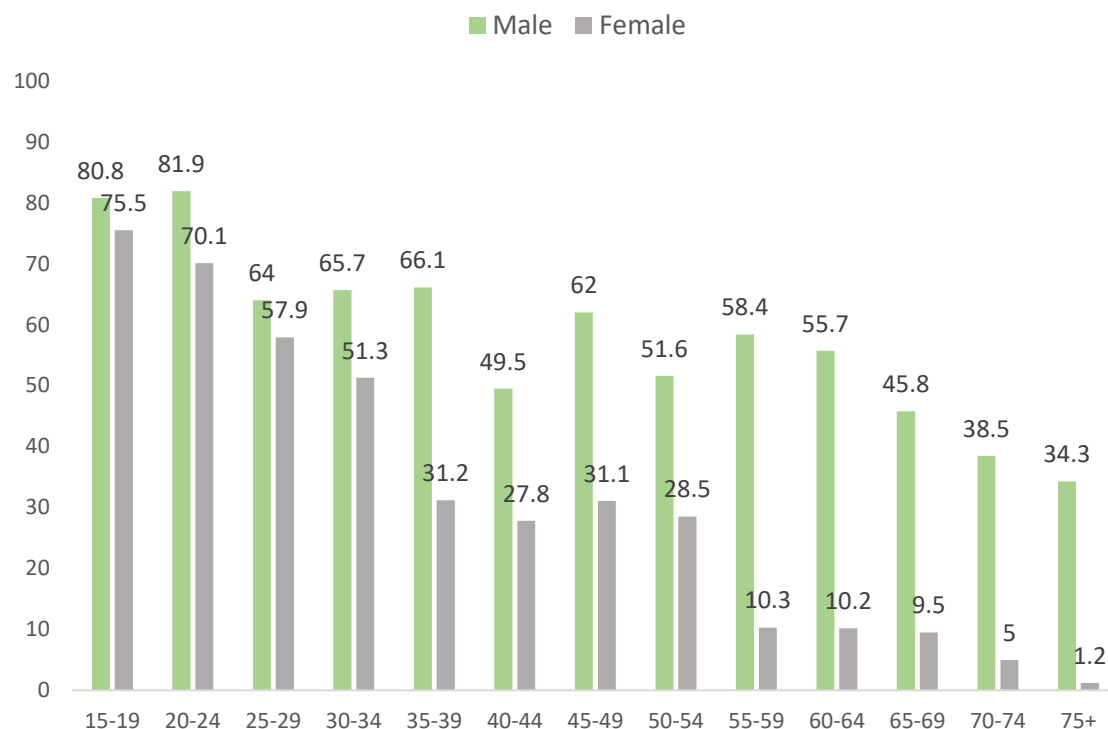
Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

The literacy rate refers to the percentage of the population aged 15 years and above who can read and write. Figure 8 compares literacy levels between males and females, showing that approximately 67 Percent of males are literate compared to about 51 Percent of females. This indicates a notable

gender gap in literacy, with males having a clear advantage over females in educational attainment.

Figure 9: Literacy rate by Age and Sex, 2020

Percentage

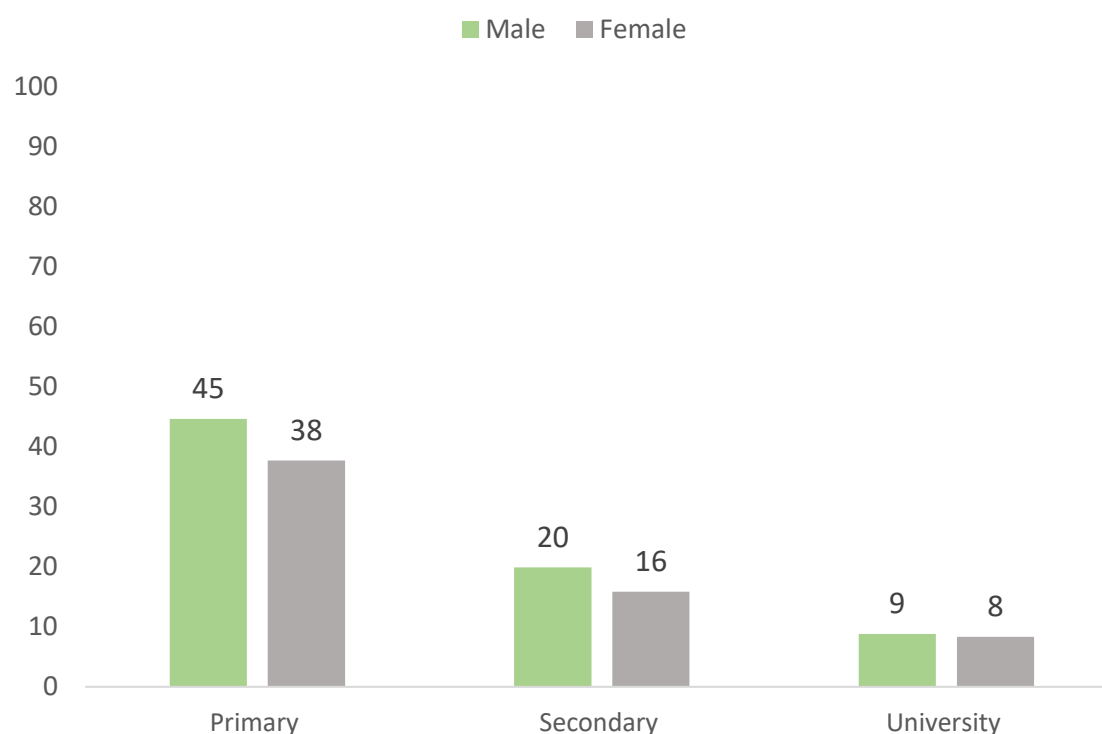


Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 9 compares literacy rate by age and sex. younger cohorts are significantly more literate than older ones, likely reflecting increased access to education in recent decades. Males consistently have higher literacy rates than females across all age groups, with the gap widening considerably in older age groups.

Figure 10: Gross Enrollment Rate by sex, 2024

Percentage



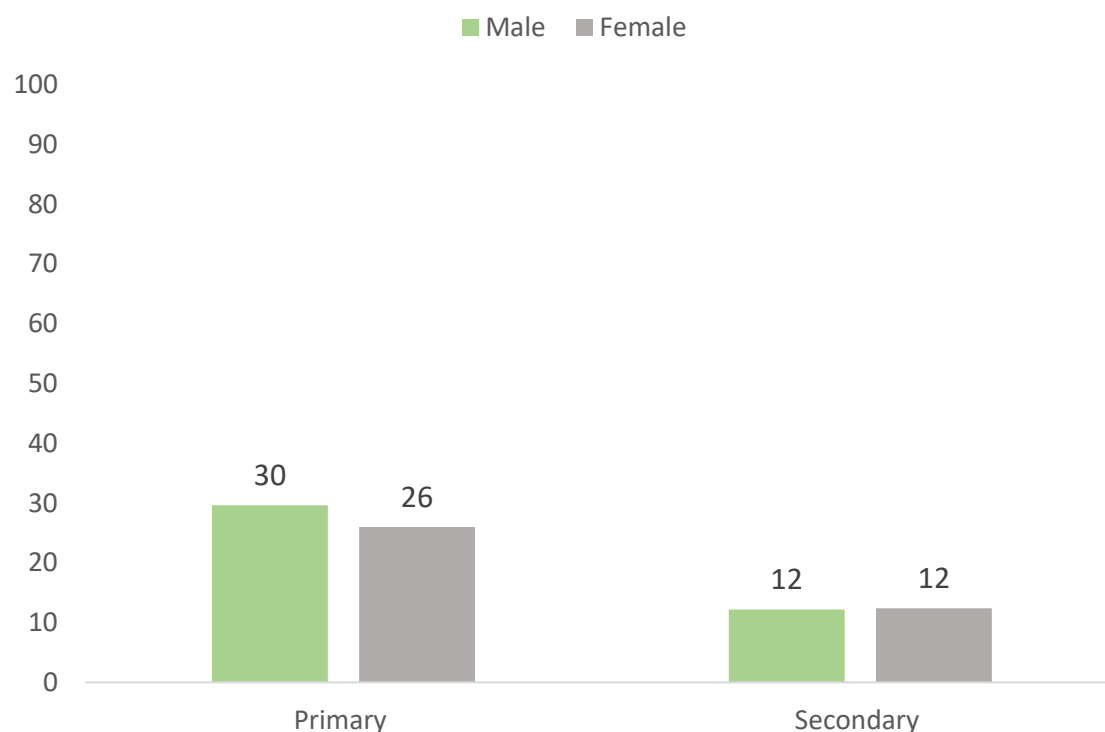
Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) is defined as a statistical indicator that measures the total number of students enrolled in a specific level of education, regardless of their age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level.

The gross enrollment rate (GER) data show clear differences in participation across education levels and between sexes and decreases substantially from primary to secondary, and further to university, suggesting high dropout rates or limited progression opportunities as shown in figure 10. While males have higher enrollment at each stage, the gap is smaller at university level, possibly due to equal attrition from both sexes or selective access factors.

Figure 11: Net Enrollment Rate by sex, 2024

Percentage

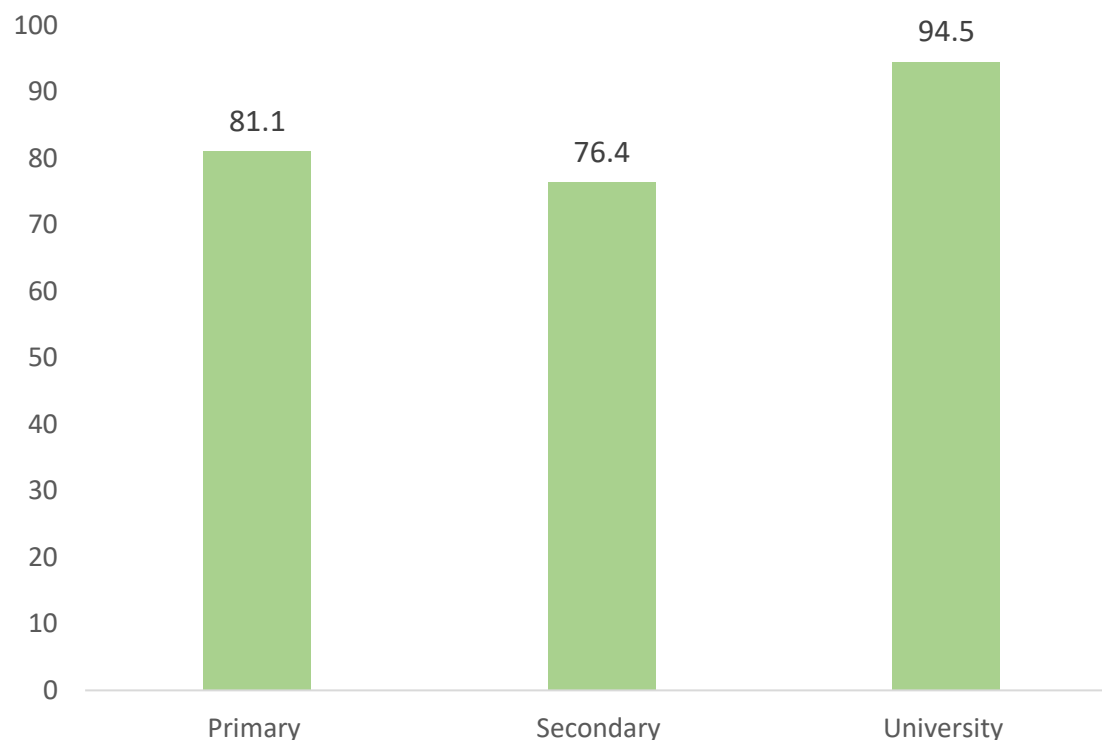


Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

Net enrollment rate (NER) is the percentage of children of the official age group for a specific level of education who are enrolled in that level. As shown by figure 11 the net enrollment rate is 30 Percent for males and 26 Percent for females at the primary level, showing a slight male advantage. At the secondary level, enrollment drops to just 12 Percent for both sexes, indicating low transition rates from primary school. While the gender gap disappears at the secondary stage, this is due to a decline in male participation rather than an improvement for females. The results point to serious challenges in educational retention and progression.

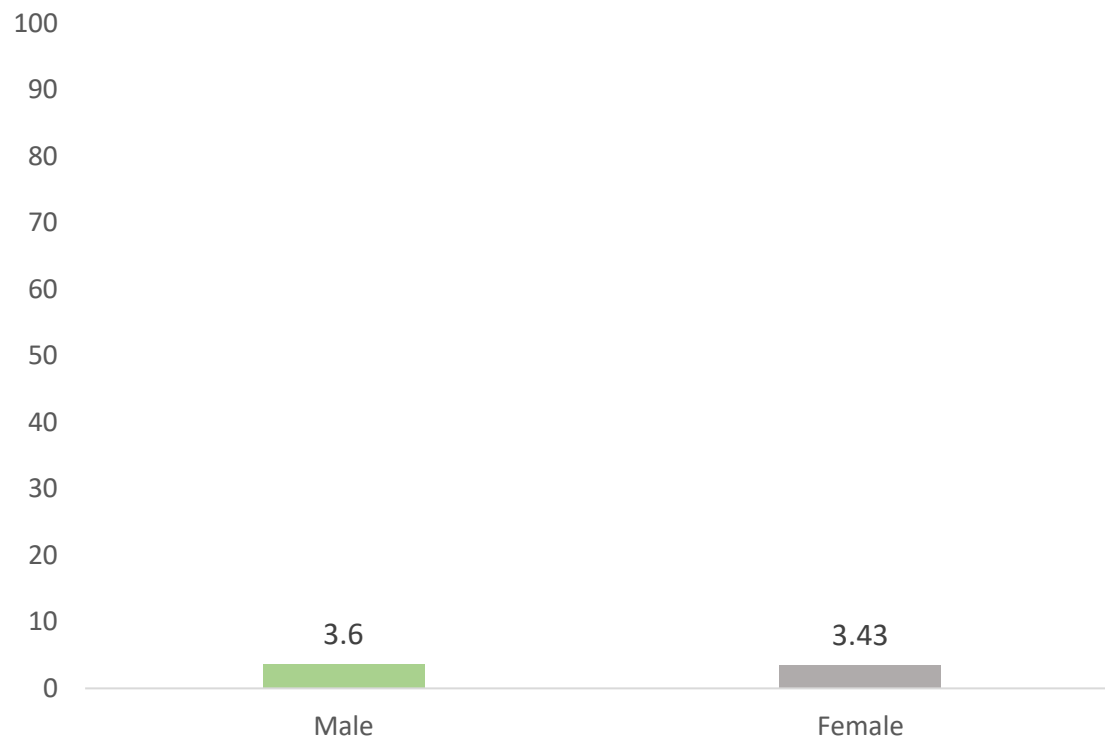
Figure 12: Gender Parity Index (GPI), 2024

Number of females per 100 males



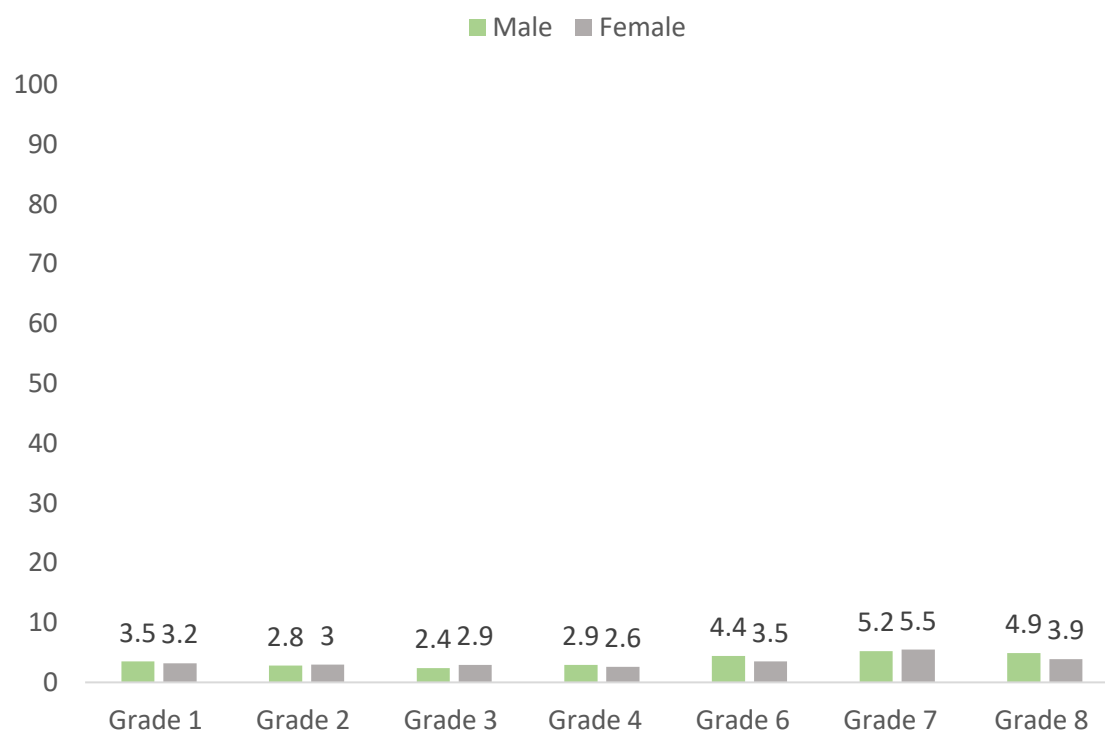
Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) measures the ratio of female-to-male enrollment at each education level. As shown in figure 12, at the primary level, the GPI is 81.1 percent, indicating that female enrollment is about 19 Percent lower than male enrollment. The gap widens slightly at the secondary level at 76.4 percent, showing greater gender inequality in progression. At the university level, the GPI rises to 94.5 percent, suggesting near parity between male and female enrollment, although overall participation remains low for both sexes.

Figure 13: Primary dropout by sex, 2024*Percentage*

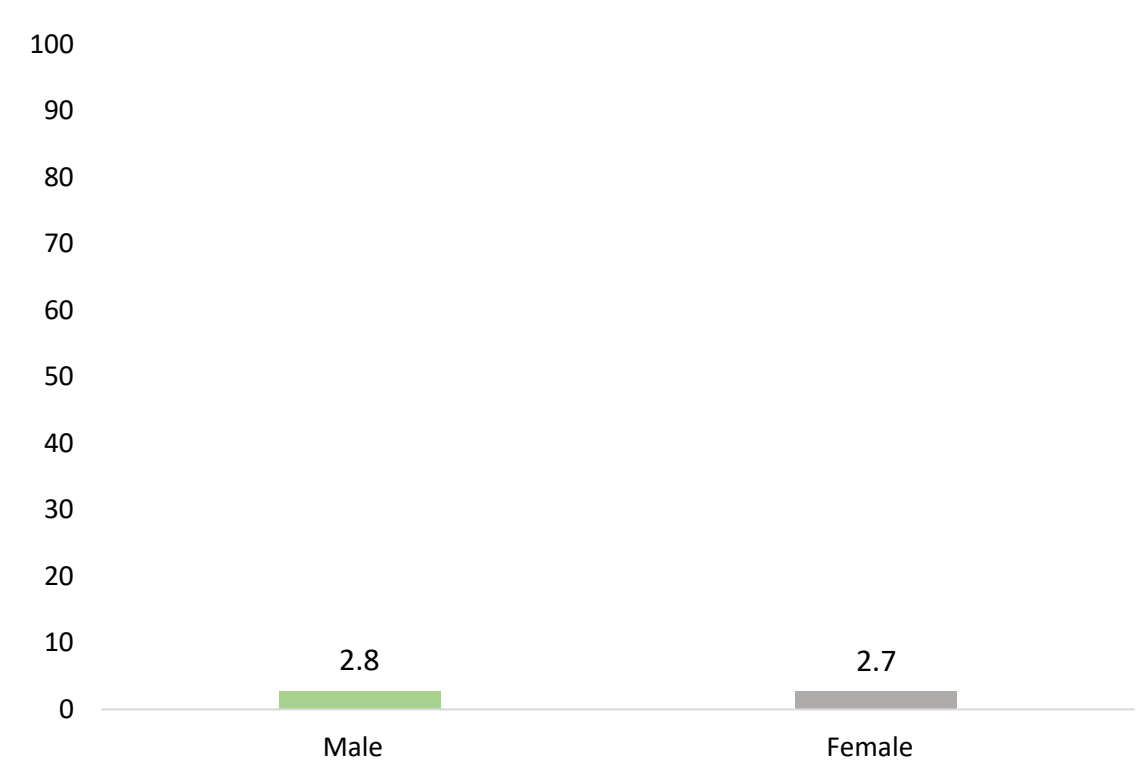
Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

Figure 13 presents primary school dropout rates compared into males and females. Dropout rates are relatively similar for males at 3.6 percent and females at 3.4 percent.

Figure 14: Primary dropout by sex and grade,2024*Percentage*

Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

As shown in figure 14, primary school dropout rates are relatively similar for males and females in different grades. However, dropout rates increase in the higher grades, particularly from Grade 6 to Grade 8, with Grade 7 recording the highest dropout rate for both sexes. Males have higher dropout rates in Grades 6 and 8, whereas in Grade 7, females slightly surpass males in leaving school.

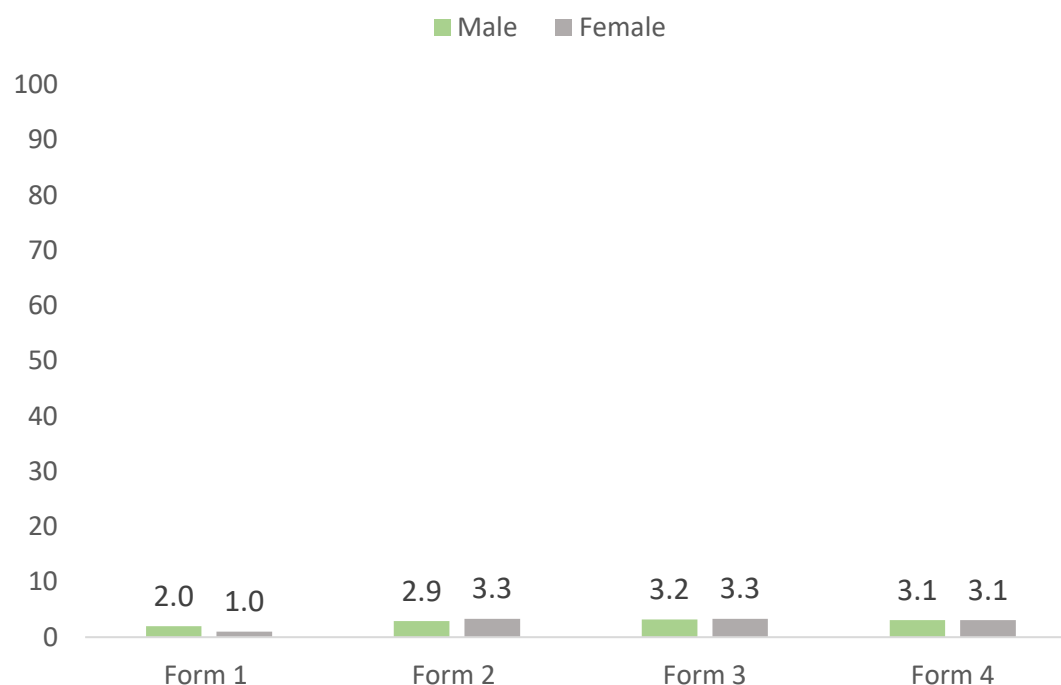
Figure 15: Secondary dropout by sex, 2024*Percentage*

Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

Figure 15 displays secondary school dropout rates by sex. As for primary schools, dropout rates in secondary schools are fairly similar for males at 2.8 percent and females at 2.7 percent.

Figure 16: Secondary dropout by sex and form(level), 2024

Percentage



Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

As shown in figure 16, Secondary school dropout rates are relatively similar for males and females across different levels (forms).

Table 1: Primary teachers by sex and region, 2024

Numbers and Percentage distribution

Region	Numbers		Percentage distribution	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Awdal	1,271	296	81.1	18.9
Marodijeh	3554	1025	77.6	22.4
Sahil	432	110	79.7	20.3
Sanaag	1,170	219	84.2	15.8
Sool	920	145	86.4	13.6
Togdheer	1,627	386	80.8	19.2
Total	8,974	2181	80.4	19.6

Source: Ministry of Education 2024

Table 1 shows that, out of a total of 11,155 teachers across all regions, only 2,181 are female, representing just 20 percent of the teaching workforce. Marodijeh records both the highest number (1,025) and the highest proportion (22 percent) of female teachers. In contrast, Sool has the lowest share at 13 percent, highlighting a notable gender gap in the teaching profession. These figures point to persistent gender imbalances, particularly in certain regions, which may affect the representation of female role models in schools.

Table 2: Secondary teachers by region, 2024

Numbers and percentage Distribution

Regions	Numbers		Percentage distribution	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Awdal	394	15	96.3	3.7
Marodijeh	1,200	62	95.1	4.9
Sahil	125	8	94.0	6.0
Sanaag	302	7	97.7	2.3
Sool	181	7	96.3	3.7
Togdheer	445	11	97.6	2.4
Total	2,647	110	96.0	4.0

Source: Ministry of Education and Science, 2024

Table 2 shows secondary school teachers by sex. There is a significant gender imbalance in the secondary workforce across regions, with only 4 Percent of positions held by females out of a total of 2,757 individuals.

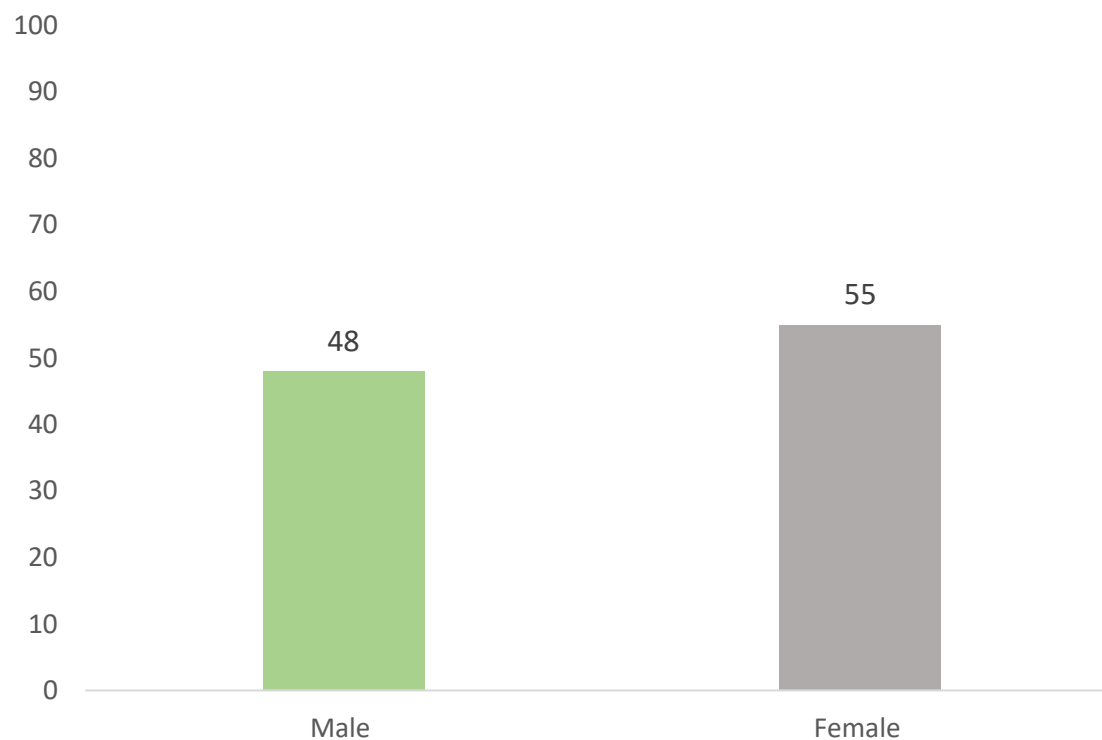
Chapter 3: Health

Health is defined by WHO (1948) as complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not just the absence of illness. In Somaliland, the health system is improving but faces challenges such as limited access to care and high rates of preventable diseases. Reproductive health especially important for women and youth means having a safe, satisfying sex life, the ability to reproduce, and make informed choices. In Somaliland, services like antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, family planning are limited, particularly in rural areas, with cultural barriers and stigma reducing access.

This chapter examines key health indicators, focusing on gender disparities in health status, access, and outcomes in Somaliland.

Figure 17: Life expectancy at birth in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by sex ,2023

Average Number of years a newborn is expected live

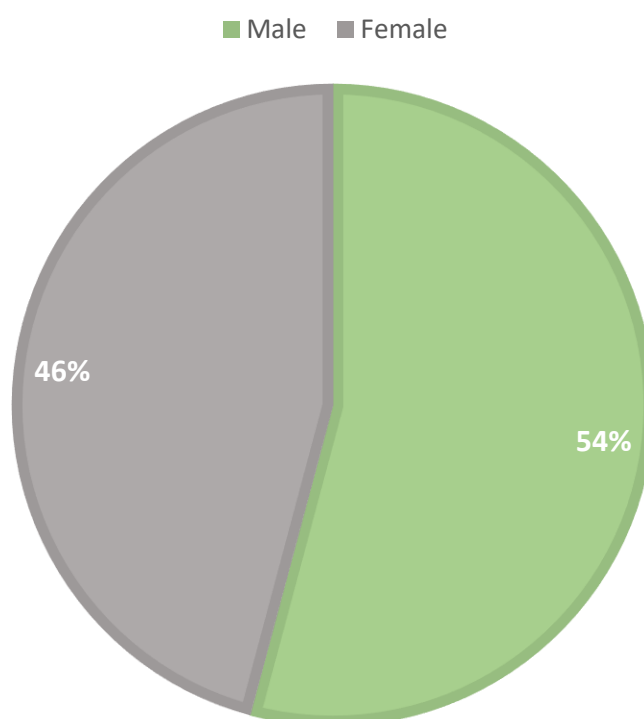


Sources: Somaliland Mortality Survey in IDP Report, 2023

Figure 17 shows a clear difference in life expectancy at birth between male and female. The life expectancy at birth is 48 years for males and 55 years for females, revealing a gender gap of 7 years in favor of females. This disparity suggests that females are expected to live significantly longer than their male counterparts, likely due to a combination of biological advantages and social or behavioral factors.

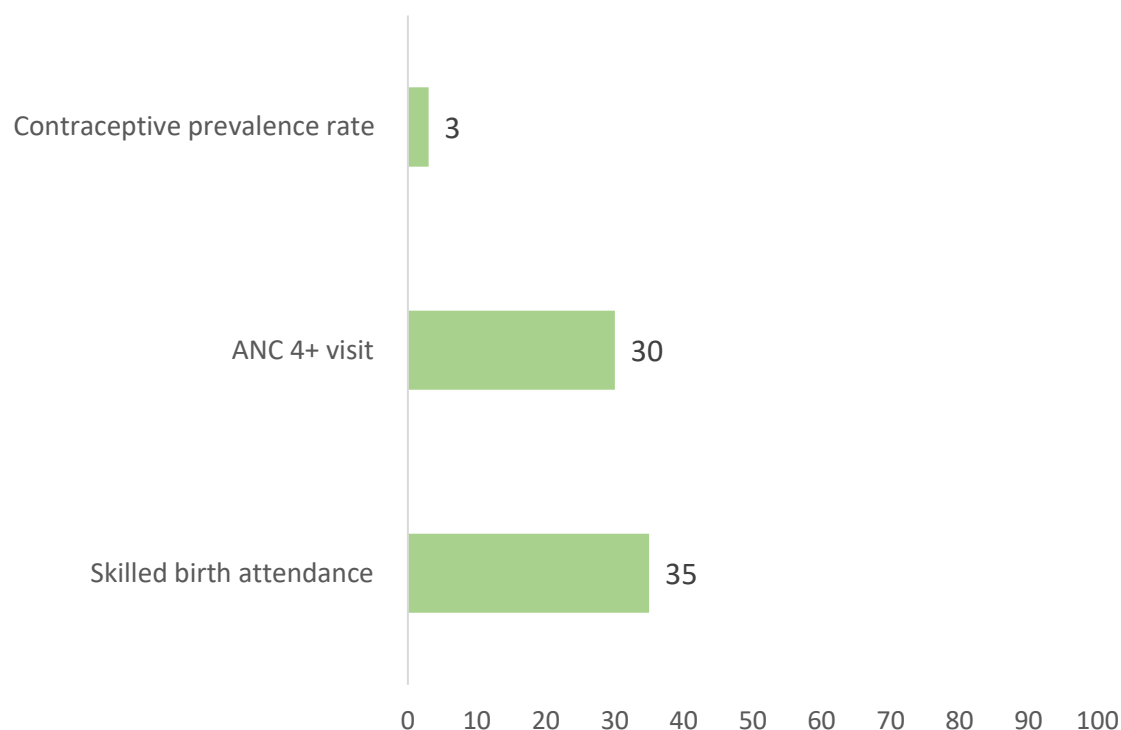
Figure 18: Percentage distribution of deaths in IDPs by sex, 2023

Percentage distribution



Sources: Somaliland Mortality Survey in IDPs, 2023

Figure 18 provides a percentage distribution of deaths by sex. The data indicate that mortality is higher for males than females, with approximately 54 percent of deaths being male compared to 46 percent female. This is likely due to biological and behavioral factors as with a life expectancy.

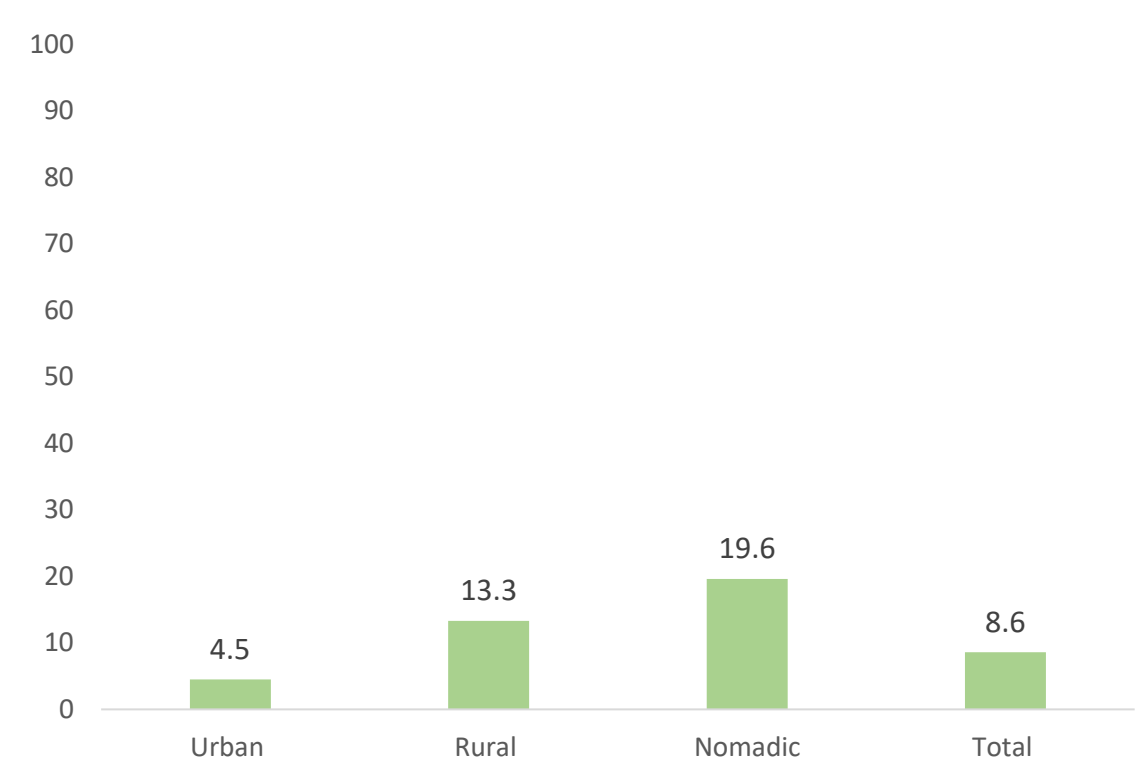
Figure 19: Utilization of Maternal health services, 2024*Percentage*

Sources: Ministry of Health Development, 2024

Figure 19 highlights significant gaps in maternal health services. Only 35 percent of births are attended by skilled health professionals, indicating that the majority of women give birth without adequate medical support. Furthermore, just 30 percent of pregnant women receive the recommended four or more antenatal care visits, which are essential for monitoring pregnancy and ensuring safe delivery. Most strikingly, the contraceptive prevalence rate is only 3 percent, suggesting extremely limited use of family planning methods. These low figures reflect serious challenges in accessing and utilizing maternal health services, underscoring the urgent need for improved healthcare infrastructure, education, and outreach to support women's health and well-being.

Figure 20: Adolescent birth rate (women aged 15–19 years), 2020

Percentage



Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

As shown by figure 20, in overall the adolescent birth rate among women aged 15 to 19 stood at 8.6 percent. The rate varied significantly across different residences. Urban areas reported the lowest rate at 4.5 percent, while rural areas had a substantially higher rate of 13.3 percent. The highest rate was observed among nomadic populations, reaching 19.6 percent. These disparities suggest that adolescent girls in rural and nomadic communities face greater challenges related to reproductive health, including limited access to education, contraception, and healthcare services.

Table 3: Maternal Mortality, 2020

Number of deaths per 100,000 livebirths and percentage

indicator	Figure
Maternal Mortality Ratio	396
Lifetime Risk of Pregnancy-related death	2.7

Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Table 3 presents the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and the lifetime risk of pregnancy-related death among women of reproductive age in Somaliland. The MMR was estimated at 396 deaths per 100,000 live births across urban, rural, and nomadic populations. In practical terms, this translates to roughly 4 maternal deaths for every 1,000 live births. The lifetime risk of pregnancy-related death was 2.7 Percent, meaning that about 1 in every 50 women is expected to die from pregnancy-related causes during their reproductive years (ages 15 to 49).

Table 4: HIV cases registered in main cities, 2024

Numbers and Percentage distribution

Main Cities	Numbers		Percentage distribution	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Borama	85	157	35.1	64.9
Hargeisa	530	799	39.9	60.1
Berbera	84	67	55.6	44.4
Burao	132	165	44.4	55.6
Gabiley	28	39	41.8	58.2
Erigavo	9	9	50.0	50.0
Ainabo	3	2	60.0	40.0
Total	871	1238	41.3	58.7

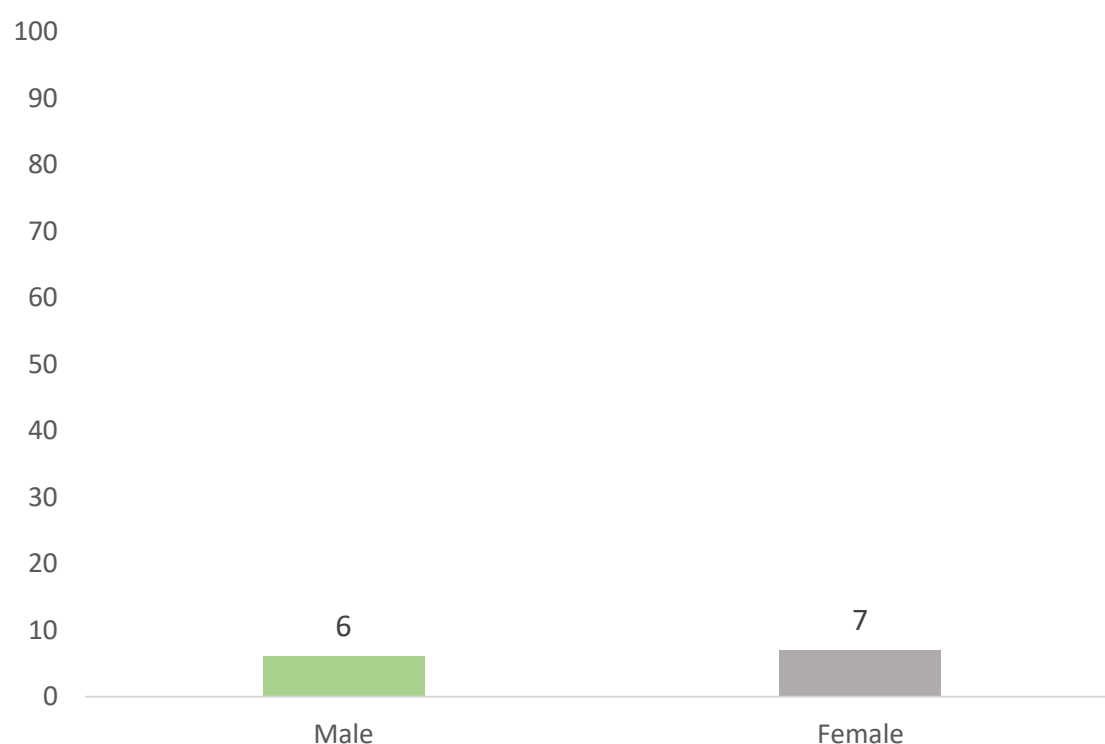
Sources: Somaliland National Aids Commission (SOLNAC), 2024

Table 4 presents the number and percentage distribution of HIV cases registered across major cities in Somaliland. Overall, women account for a larger share of HIV cases at 58.7 percent compared to men at 41.3 percent. Hargeisa, which records the highest number of cases (1,329 out of 2,109), shows a notable gender disparity, with women representing 60.1 percent and

men 39.9 percent. Similarly, Borama reflects an even wider gap, with women at 64.9 Percent and men at 35.1 percent. In Burao and Gabiley, women also outnumber men among reported cases, while in Erigavo, the distribution is balanced between genders. In contrast, Berbera (55.6 Percent for men and 44.4 percent for women) and Ainaba (60 percent for men and 40 percent for women) are the only cities where men exceed women in registered HIV cases.

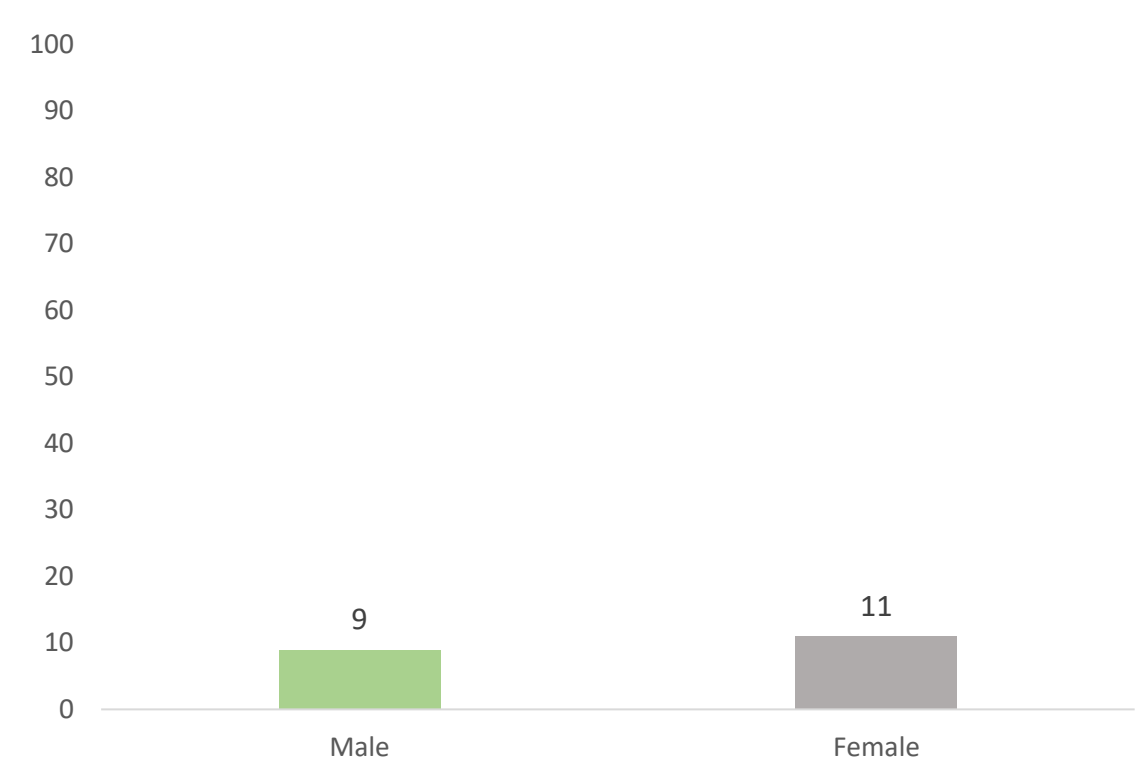
Figure 21: Chronic Illness by sex ,2022

Percentage



Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

In 2022, the prevalence of chronic illness was slightly higher among women (7 percent) compared to men (6 percent). This indicates that women are somewhat more affected by chronic illnesses than men, though the overall difference between the sexes is small.

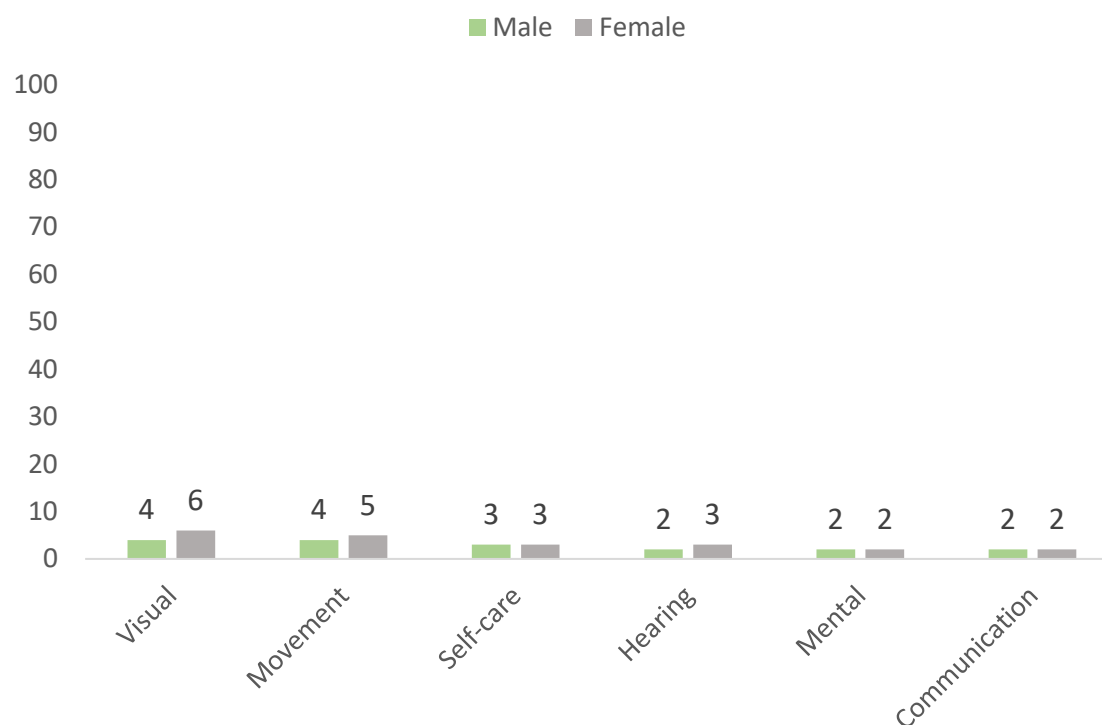
Figure 22: Disability by sex ,2022*Percentage*

Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

As shown by figure 22, disability prevalence was higher among female at 11 percent than males at 9 percent. This suggests that females are more affected by disability compared to males, with a gender gap of about 2 percentage points.

Figure 23: Type of Disability by sex ,2022

Percentage



Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

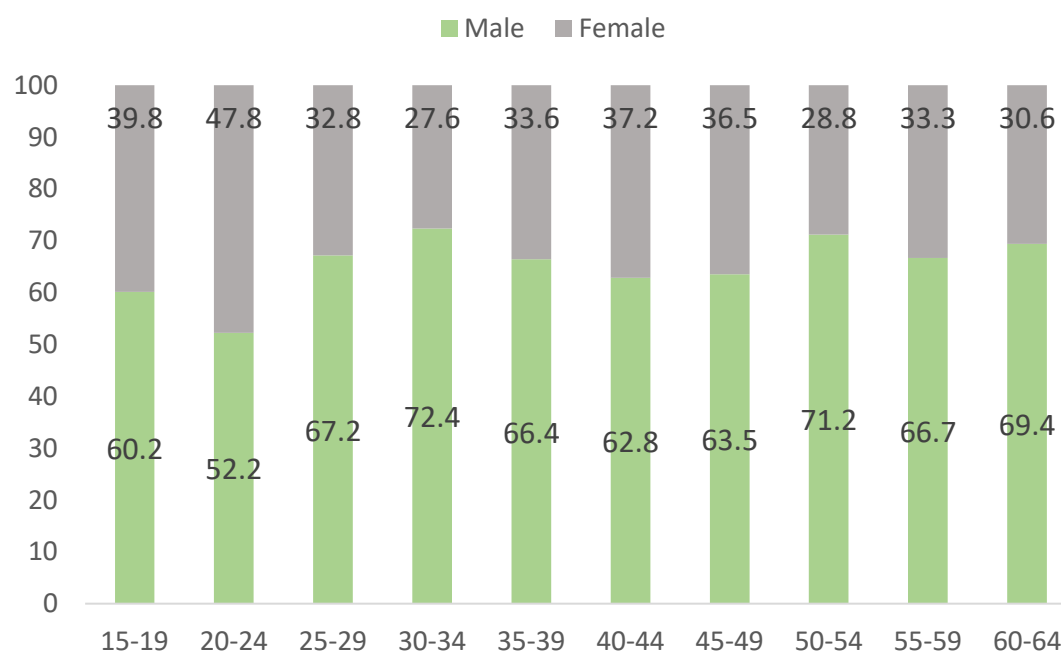
Figure 23 presents the types of disabilities by sex. Visual impairment is the most common form of disability, reported by 6 percent of females and 4 percent of males. This is followed by movement difficulties, affecting 5 percent of females and 4 percent of males. Overall, females report higher prevalence rates than males in visual, hearing, and movement-related disabilities. In contrast, mental, self-care, and communication disabilities show equal prevalence among both sexes.

Chapter 4. Employment and Economic Participation

This chapter covers Employment and economic participation are the most important indicators of gender equality and social inclusion in any society. In Somaliland, the labour market reveals notable disparities between male and female in terms of access to employment, income opportunities, and participation in key economic sectors. While males generally dominate formal employment and wage-earning activities, females are more likely to be found in informal work, unpaid family labour, and small-scale entrepreneurship often without legal protection, stable income, or access to finance and markets. These gendered patterns of economic engagement reflect broader structural and cultural factors, including limited access to education and training for females, traditional gender roles, and inadequate policy support for female economic empowerment.

Figure 24: Employed Persons by age and sex, 2022

Percentage distribution

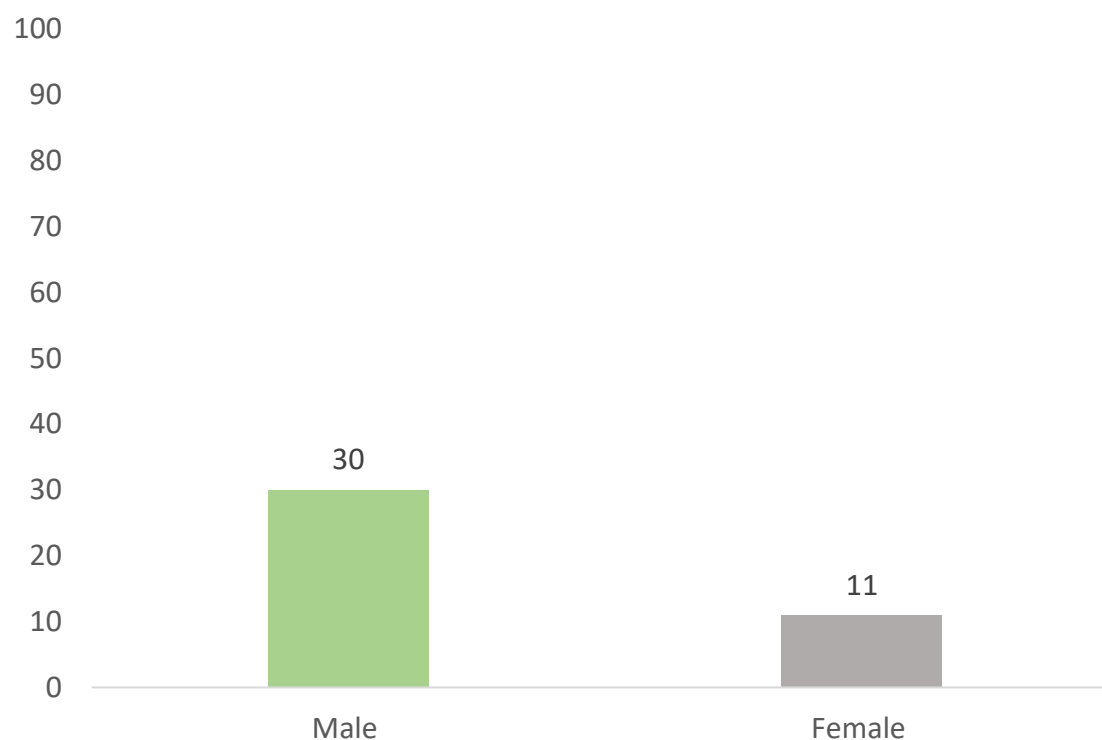


Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 24 presents the percentage distribution of employed persons by sex and age group. Across all age groups, the proportion of employed persons is consistently higher among males than females. The widest gender gap is observed in the 30 -34 age group, where 72.4 percent are male and 27.6 percent are female. In contrast, the smallest gender gap appears in the 20-24 age group, with 52.2 percent male and 47.8 percent female. Overall, the data suggests that the gender gap in employment tends to widen as age increases.

Figure 25: Employment-to-population ratio by sex, 2022

Employed individuals per 100 of working-age population



Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 25 shows a significant disparity in the employment to population ratio between males and females. The male employment to population ratio stands at 30 percent, indicating that 30 percent of the male population is employed. In contrast, the female employment to population ratio is considerably lower

at 11 percent, meaning only 11 percent of the female population is employed. This marked difference suggests that men are nearly three times more likely to be employed than women within this population.

Figure 26: Wage gap (Median monthly earnings) by sex, 2022

Average monthly income in dollar

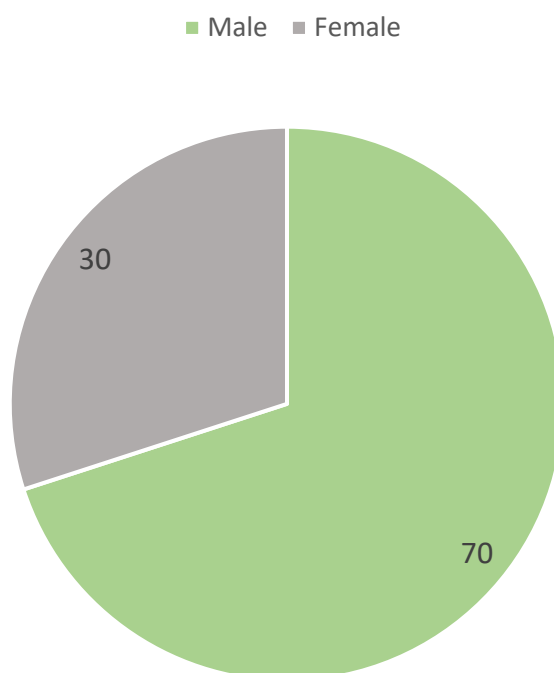


Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

There is a clear disparity in median monthly income as highlighted by figure 26. Males have a median monthly earning of \$200, compared to \$140 for females. This shows that, on average, males earn substantially more than females, reflecting a gender pay gap of \$60 per month.

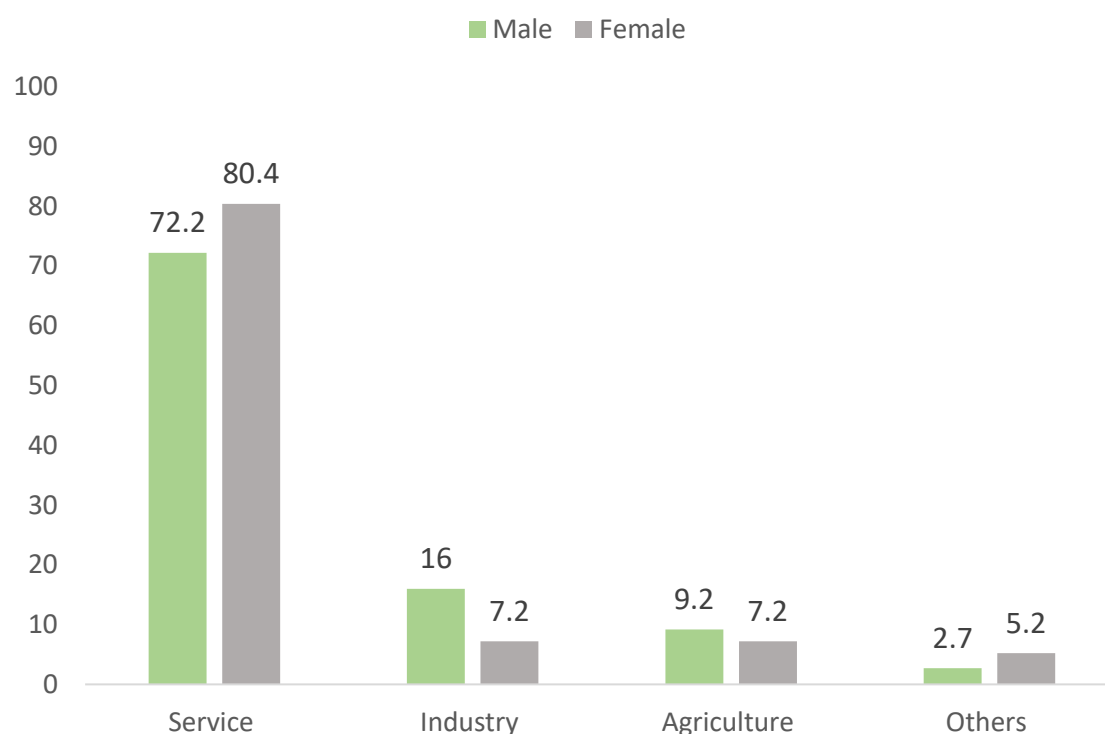
Figure 27: Proportion of permanent civil servant by Sex ,2024

Percentage distribution



Source: Civil Service Commission, 2024

Figure 27 shows a marked gender disparity in the proportion of permanent civil servants. Males account for 70 percent of these positions, while females represent only 30 percent. This means men hold more than twice as many permanent civil service roles as women, underscoring a substantial imbalance in workforce representation.

Figure 28: Proportion of employment by sector and sex, 2022*Percentage Sex distribution*

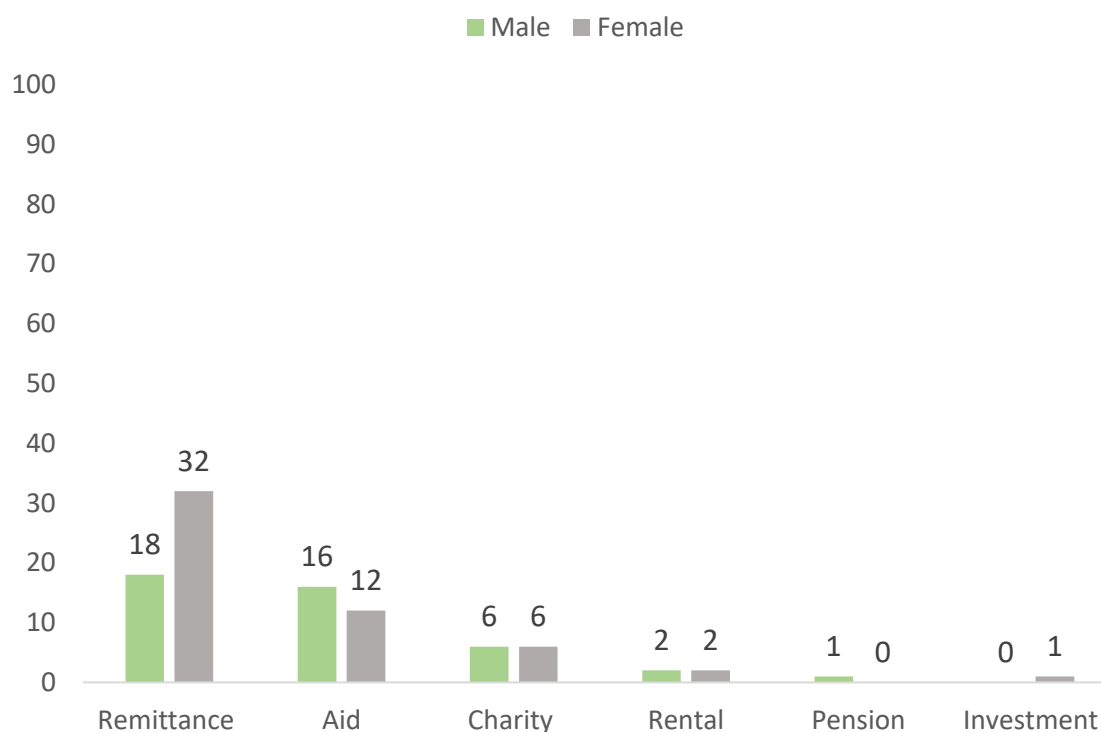
Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 28 presents the sex distribution of employed persons by sector. The majority of both men and women work in the services sector, with women having a slightly higher share at 80.4 percent compared to men at 72.2 percent. Men are more represented in industry at 16 percent than women at 7.2 percent. Employment in agriculture is low for both sexes, though slightly higher among men at 9.2 percent compared to women at 7.2 percent. In sectors not classified elsewhere, women have a higher share at 5.2 Percent than men with 2.7 percent.



Table 29: Source of non labour income by sex,2022

Percentage



Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

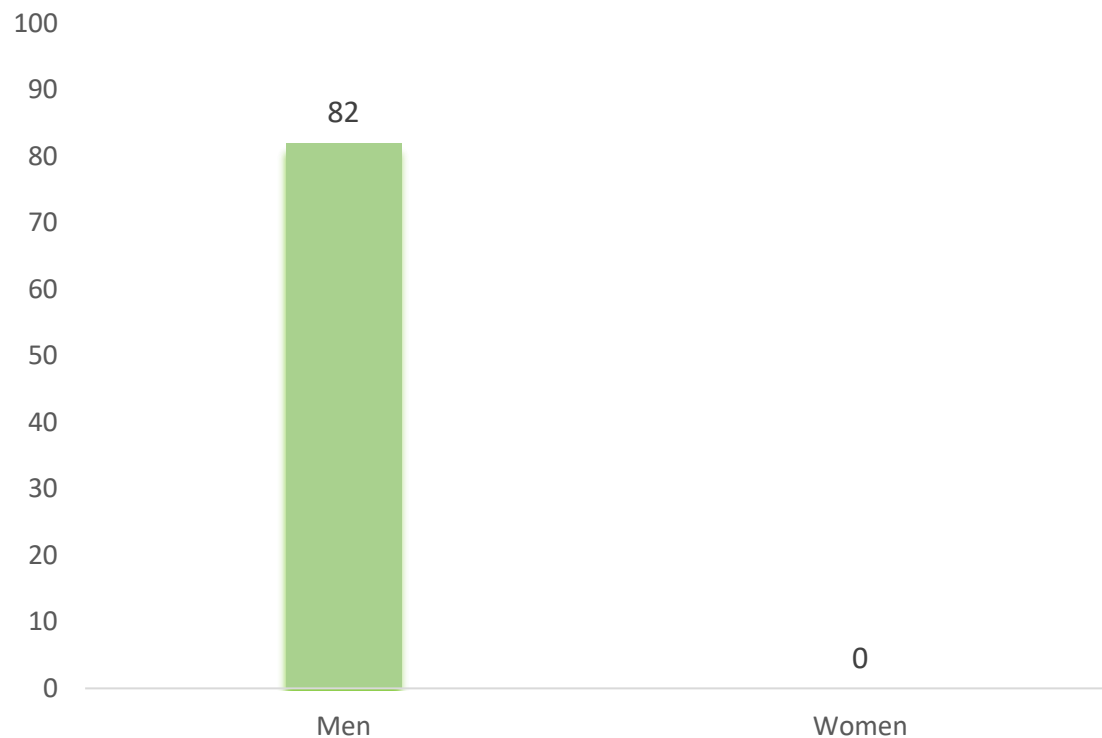
Table 29 highlights distinct gender patterns in sources of non-labour income. Remittances are the most significant source, with 32 percent of women relying on them compared to 18 percent of men. In contrast, men are more likely to receive income from aid with 16 percent than women with 12 percent. Other sources such as charity, rentals, pensions, and investments are not common in Somaliland, with little variation observed between the sexes.



Chapter 5: Leadership and political participation

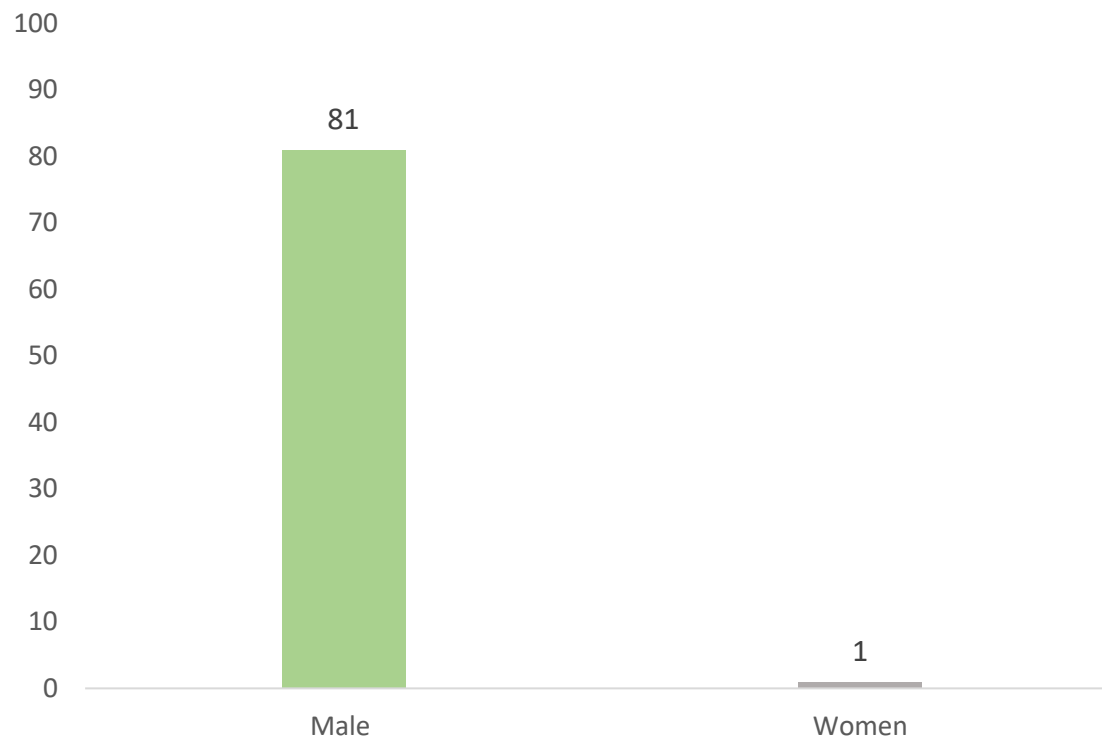
Women's leadership and political participation in Somaliland remain limited, despite their active roles in community development, civil society, and the informal economy. Cultural norms, traditional clan structures, and limited access to political networks have contributed to the underrepresentation of women in elected positions and decision-making bodies. While there have been incremental gains through advocacy by women's organizations and support from development partners, women continue to face structural and societal barriers that hinder equal participation. Expanding opportunities for women in leadership will require targeted policies, gender-sensitive electoral reforms, and sustained public awareness to foster a more inclusive political environment.

This chapter examines women's political participation in Somaliland, analyzing representation in ministerial posts, general directors, representative in houses of representatives, local councils and governors.

Figure 30: Members for House of elders by sex, 2024*Number*

Source: House of Elders ,2024

Figure 30 shows that house of Elders is exclusively male. The chart clearly indicates that 100 percent of the members of the House of Elders are men. This demonstrates a complete absence of female representation in this governing body.

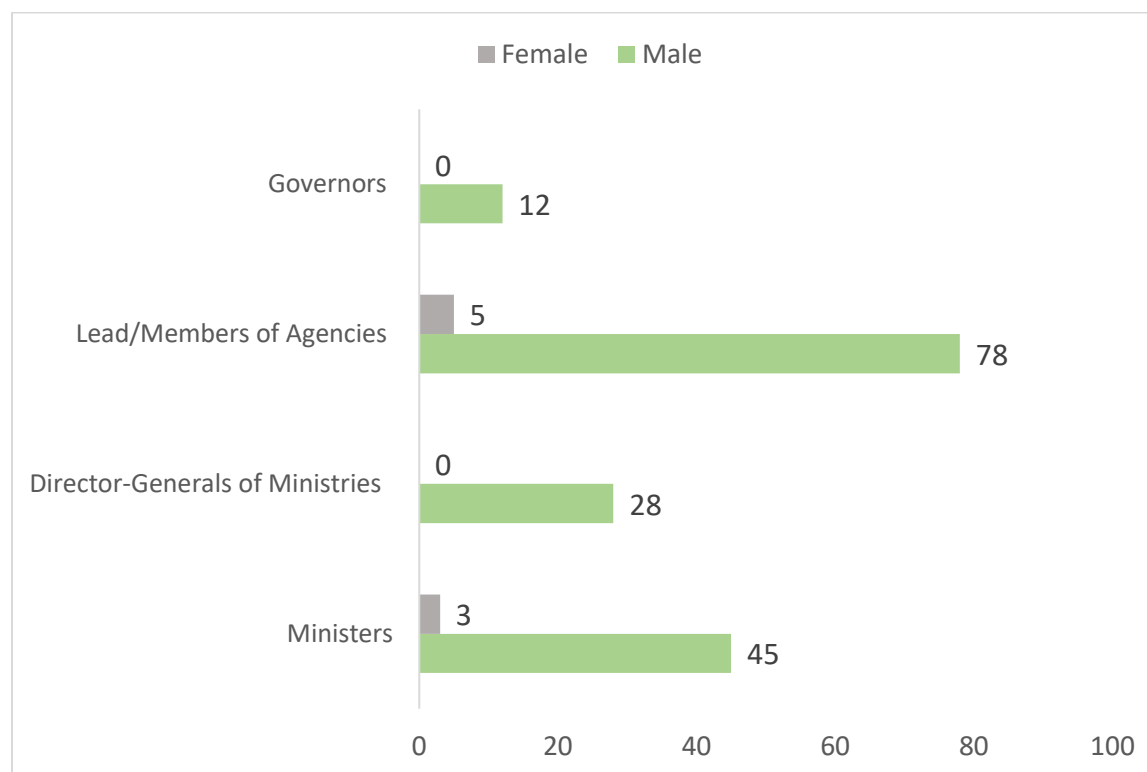
Figure 31: Members for House of Representatives by sex, 2024*Number*

Source: House of Representatives, 2024

Figure 31 reveals a striking gender disparity within the Somaliland's House of Representatives. Out of 82 total members, an overwhelming 81 are men, leaving just a single seat occupied by a woman. This imbalance underscores the severe underrepresentation of women in this legislative body and raises important questions about gender inclusivity and equitable political participation.

Figure 32: Number of men and women in decision-making roles in public Institutions ,2025

Number

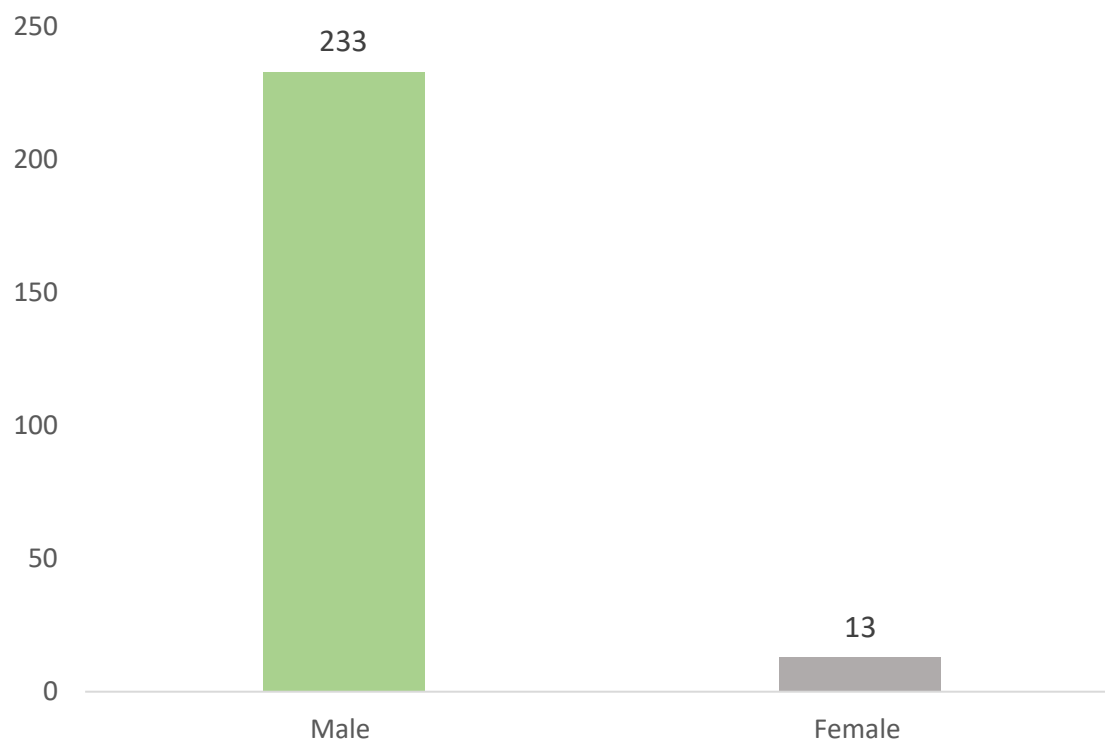


Source: Presidential office, 2025

Figure 32 presents the distribution of men and women in key decision-making positions within public institutions, including ministries, director generals, agencies, and governorships. The data reveals a pronounced gender imbalance and persistent gender gap in leadership across public institutions. Women are significantly underrepresented in all categories, with some sectors such as director generals and governors completely lacking female participation. These figures point to systemic barriers that may hinder women's access to high-level decision-making roles and emphasize the need for targeted policies to promote gender equity in public leadership.

Figure 33: Candidates of Somaliland house of representatives' election by sex, 2021

Number

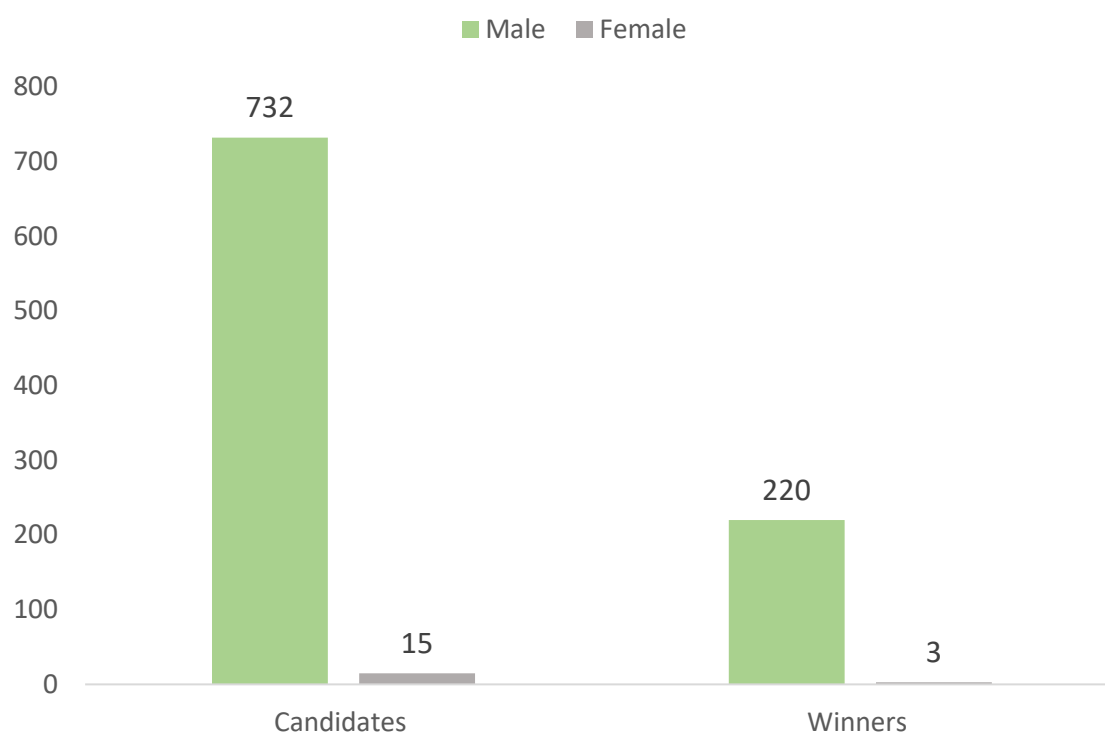


Source: Somaliland Non-State Actors forum (SONSAF), 2021

Figure 33 illustrates the gender composition of candidates in the Somaliland House of Representatives election, revealing a significant disparity. Out of 246 candidates, only 13 were women equivalent to roughly 5 Percent of the total. This limited female presence in the candidate pool highlights a deep imbalance in gender representation and may partly explain why no women were elected to the House. When so few women are positioned to compete, their chances of success are inherently reduced. This underrepresentation underscores the broader structural and societal barriers that women face in entering and succeeding in electoral politics. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring a more inclusive and equitable democratic process in Somaliland.

Figure 34: Candidates and Winners of Somaliland local council by sex, 2021

Number



Source: Somaliland Non-State Actors forum (SONSAF), 2021

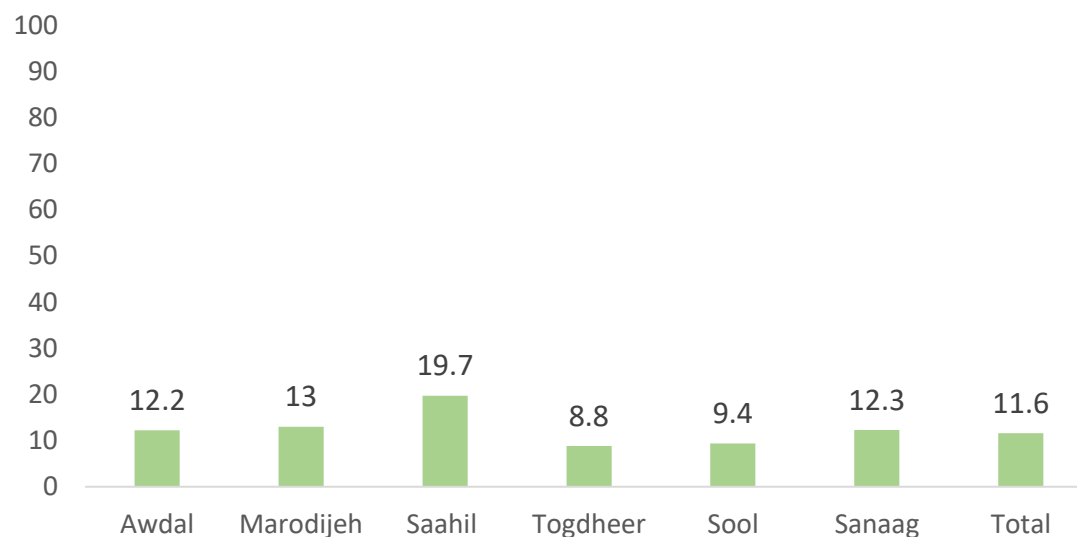
Figure 34 presents the gender breakdown of candidates and winners in Somaliland's local council elections. Out of a total of 747 candidates, 732 were men and only 15 were women, meaning women made up just 2 Percent of the candidate pool. Among the 223 individuals elected, 220 were men and only 3 were women. This outcome reflects a significant gender imbalance both in participation and in electoral success. The extremely low number of female candidates likely contributed to the limited number of women elected, suggesting that women face considerable barriers not only in entering the political arena but also in securing leadership positions. These figures highlight the urgent need for measures that promote gender inclusivity and support women's political engagement at the local level.

Chapter 6: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender, often rooted in power imbalances and inequality. GBV remains a critical public health and human rights issue affecting women and girls, particularly those aged 15 to 49. Understanding the scope and nature of GBV requires examining key indicators such as the proportion of women who have experienced physical violence in the past year, the distribution of reported GBV cases by type and sex, and the availability of response services. This includes the number of one-stop support centers by region, the legal frameworks established to protect against GBV, and access to essential services such as healthcare, legal aid, and psychosocial support for survivors. These indicators help assess the current situation and guide effective prevention and response strategies.

Figure 35: Women aged 15–49 who experienced physical violence in the last 12 months by region, 2020

Percentage



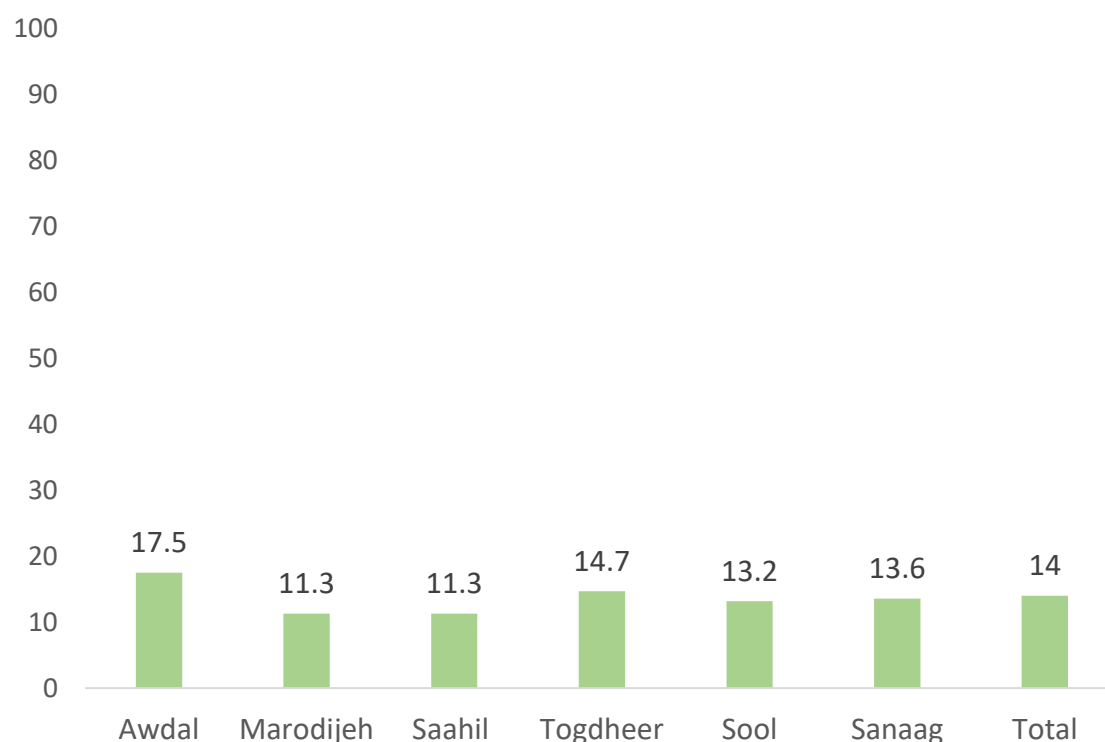
Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 35 illustrates the prevalence of physical violence experienced by women aged 15 to 49 across different regions in the past year. Nationally,

approximately 12 percent of women in this age group reported experiencing physical violence. However, the data reveals notable regional disparities. Saahil region stands out with the highest reported rate at 19.7 percent. In contrast, Togdheer region reports the lowest prevalence at 8.8 percent, suggesting relatively lower but still concerning levels of violence. The remaining regions show rates ranging from 9.4 percent to 13 percent, underscoring that physical violence against women is a widespread issue across the country. These figures highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions, particularly in high-prevalence regions, to address and prevent gender-based violence.

Figure 36: Women aged 15–49 who married by age 15 by region, 2020

Percentage



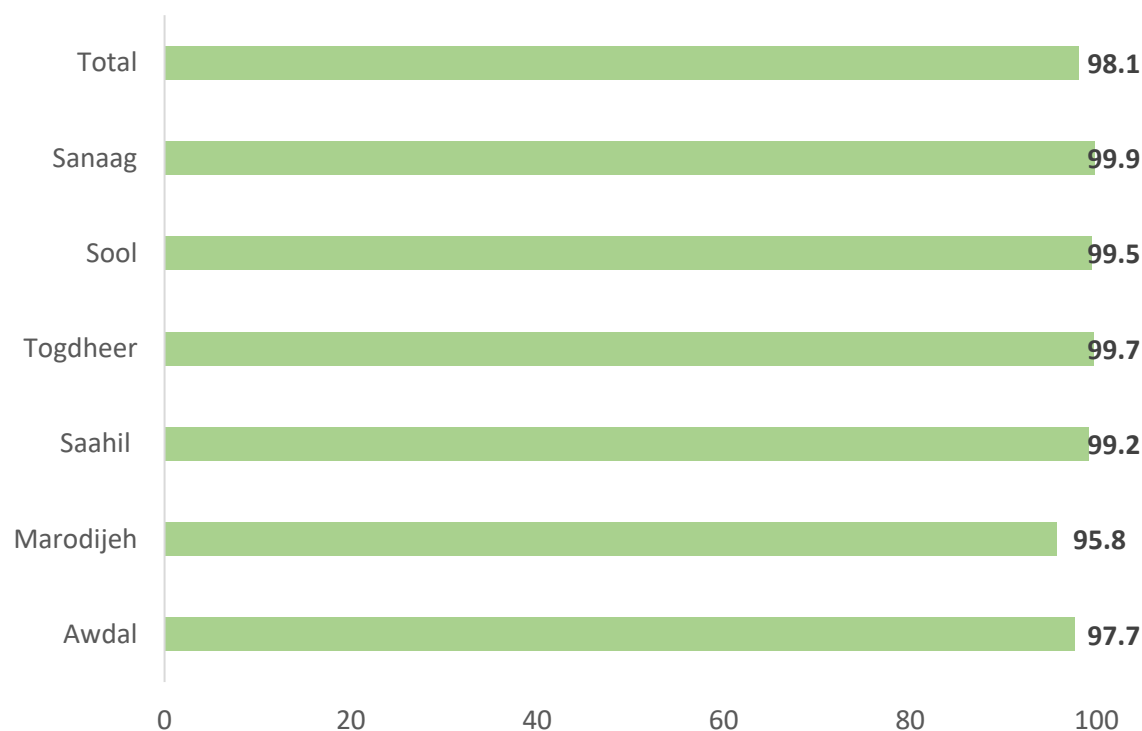
Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 36 presents the regional distribution of women aged 15–49 in Somaliland who were married by the age of 15 in 2020. The data reveals that

early marriage remains a significant issue, with considerable variation across regions. Awdal recorded the highest prevalence at 17.5 percent, followed closely by Togdheer at 14.7 percent, both exceeding the national average of 14 Percent. In contrast, Marodijeh and Saahil reported the lowest rates, each at 11.3 percent, suggesting relatively lower but still concerning levels of child marriage. Sool at 13.2 Percent and Sanaag at 13.6 Percent fell just below the national average. These figures underscore the persistent challenge of child marriage in Somaliland, particularly in regions like Awdal and Togdheer, and point to the need for region-specific strategies to address the cultural, social, and economic drivers of early marriage.

Figure 37: Women aged 15–49 undergone FGM by region, 2020

Percentage



Source: Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS), 2020

Figure 37 highlights the nearly universal prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among women aged 15 - 49 in Somaliland with overall rate

of 98.1 percent. The data reveals minimal regional variation, underscoring the deeply entrenched nature of the practice across the country. These figures reflect the widespread cultural acceptance of FGM and point to the urgent need for comprehensive, culturally sensitive interventions aimed at eliminating the practice.

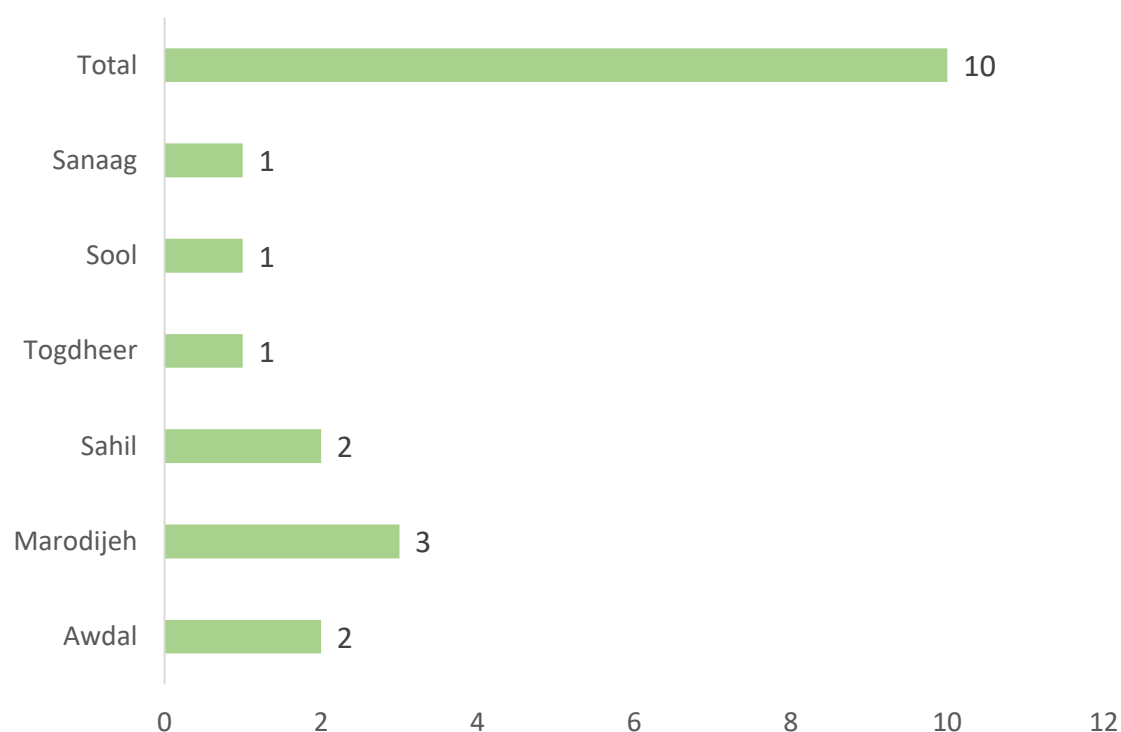
Table 5: Reported Rape cases by region, 2024

Numbers and Percentage

Region	Numbers	Percentage
Awdal	27	20
Marodijeh	43	32
Sahil	13	10
Togdher	40	30
Sool	4	3
Sanaag	8	6
Total	135	100

Source: Attorney General Office, 2024

Table 5 shows the number of reported rape cases by region. A total of 135 rape cases were reported in Somaliland in 2024. Marodijeh has the highest number with 43 cases (32 percent) followed by Togdheer and Awdal with 40 cases (30 percent) and 27 cases (20 Percent) respectively. Reported rape cases were lowest in Sool region with 4 cases (3 percent) followed by Sanaag region 8 cases (6 percent) while Sahil has a moderate count with 13 cases (10 Percent). This variation may reflect differences in population size, reporting practices, or access to justice services across region.

Figure 38: Number of one-stop GBV support centers by region, 2024*Numbers*

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, 2024

Figure 38 shows the number of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) support centers in each region. There are 10 centers in total in the country. Marodijeh has the highest number with 3 centers, followed by Awdal and Sahil, each with 2 centers. Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag each have only 1 center, indicating more limited support services in those regions. The distribution suggests that access to GBV support is uneven, with some regions having better coverage than others.

Table 6: Legal Frameworks in Place to Protect Against GBVs, 2024

Sno	Name of Law/Policy	Current Status	Summary Description
1	Penal Code / Criminal Procedure Code	In force, but outdated	Contains provisions on GBV (rape, assault), but not aligned with modern human rights norms.
2	Sexual Offences Bill (2018)	Revoked; under review for reintroduction	Intended to address various forms of sexual and gender-based violence in detail.
3	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Bill	Still a draft	Proposes criminalization of FGM; has not yet been passed into law.
4	FGM Policy	Endorsed by Cabinet; not formally adopted or implemented	Policy framework to combat FGM; lacks legal enforcement.
5	Child Rights Act (Child Protection Act)	In force	Provides legal protection for children from abuse, exploitation, and harmful practices.

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, 2024.

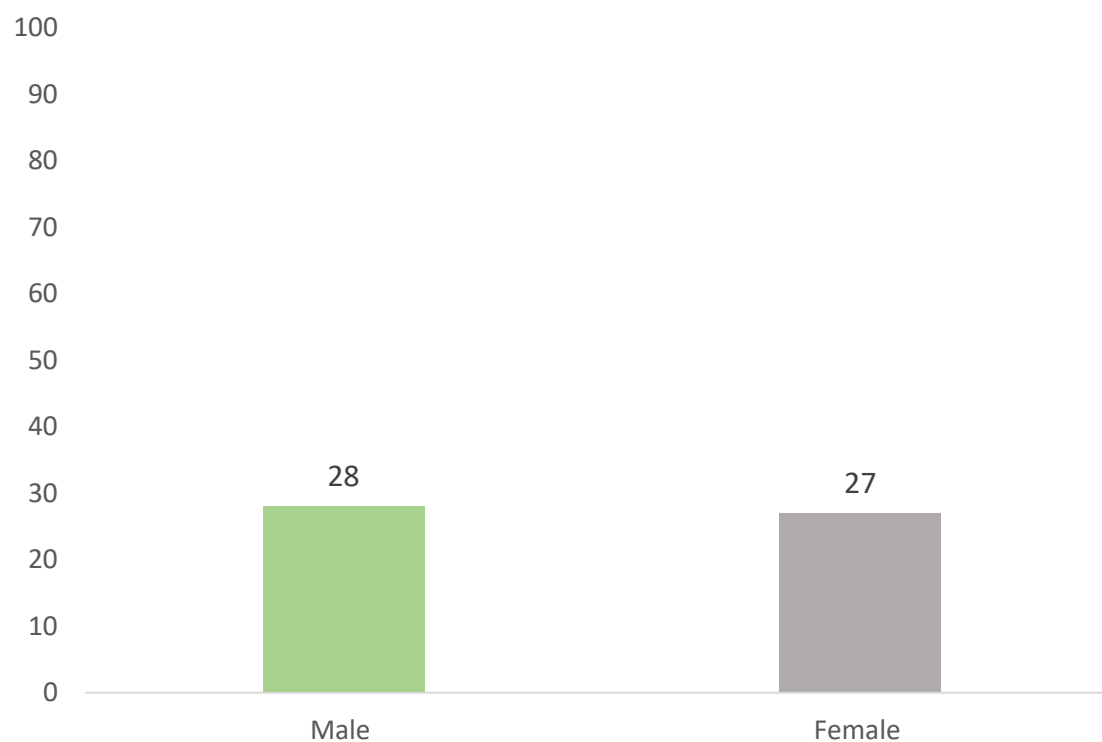
Table 6 shows that Somaliland has laws and policies addressing GBV, FGM, and child protection, but many are outdated, still in draft form, or lack enforcement, leaving significant gaps in legal protection and implementation.

Chapter 7: Access to Resource and Services

Gender disparities in access to resources and services in Somaliland remain concern and sometimes challenge, affecting women’s economic empowerment and overall well-being. This chapter provides a summary of key economic and social resources available to the population, with a focus on gender differences. It highlights disparities in land ownership, access to financial services, use of mobile phones and the internet. These indicators collectively reveal the extent of gender gaps in resource control, economic opportunities, digital connectivity, and support systems, offering important understanding into equality and inclusiveness in service delivery.

Figure 39: Land ownership by sex, 2022

Percentage



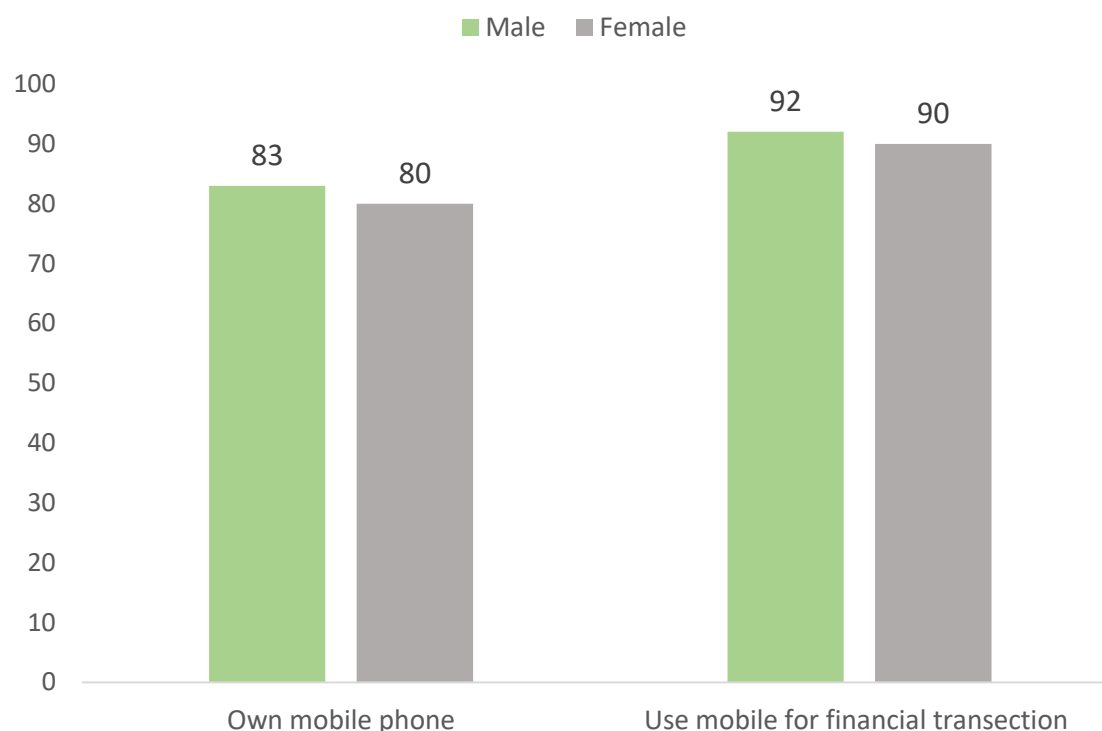
Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 39 presents data on land ownership in Somaliland, disaggregated by sex. The findings reveal a relatively balanced distribution between men and

women, with 28 percent of males and 27 percent of females reported as landowners. This near parity suggests that, unlike many other areas of economic and social participation, land ownership in Somaliland shows minimal gender disparity and a potentially positive sign for gender inclusion in property rights and economic empowerment.

Figure 40: Mobile ownership and use for financial transactions, 2022

Percentage



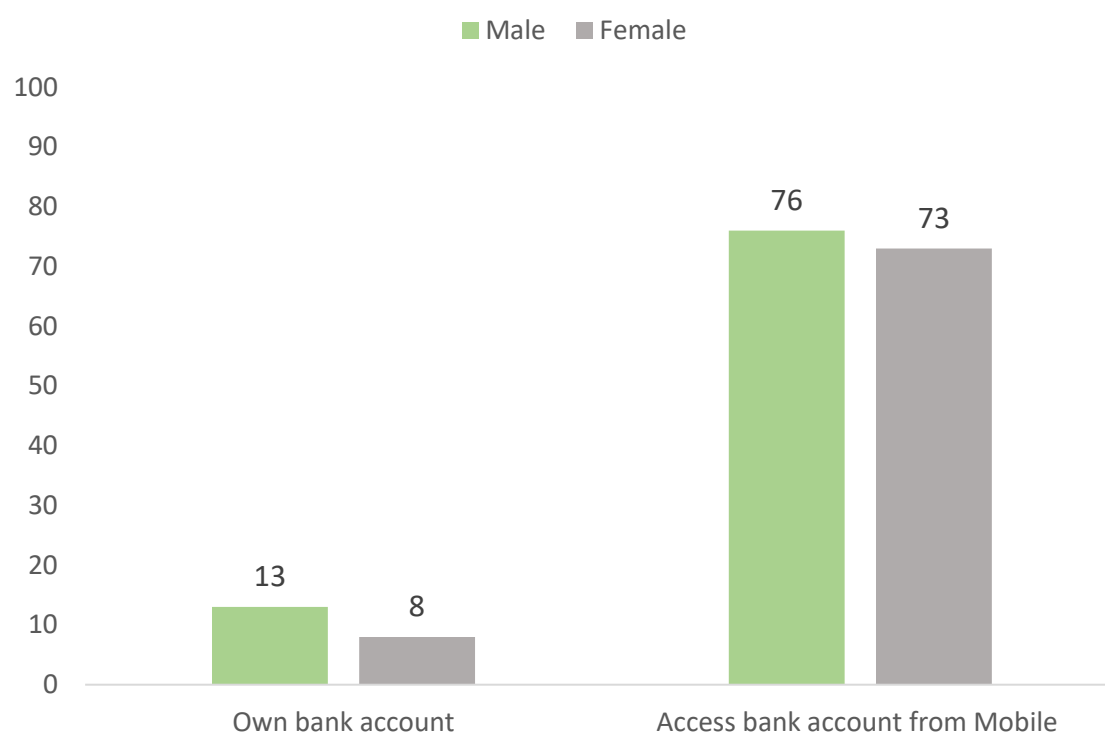
Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 40 illustrates high levels of mobile phone ownership in Somaliland, with 83 percent of males and 80 percent of females owning a device. The minimal gender gap highlights the widespread accessibility of mobile technology across both sexes. Moreover, mobile phones are not just communication tools, they play a crucial role in financial inclusion. The data shows that 92 percent of males and 90 percent of females use their phones for financial transactions, such as mobile money transfers and payments. This near parity underscores

the equitable adoption of digital financial services, suggesting that mobile technology is a powerful enabler of economic participation for both men and women.

Figure 41: Ownership of bank accounts and financial services by sex, 2022

Percentage



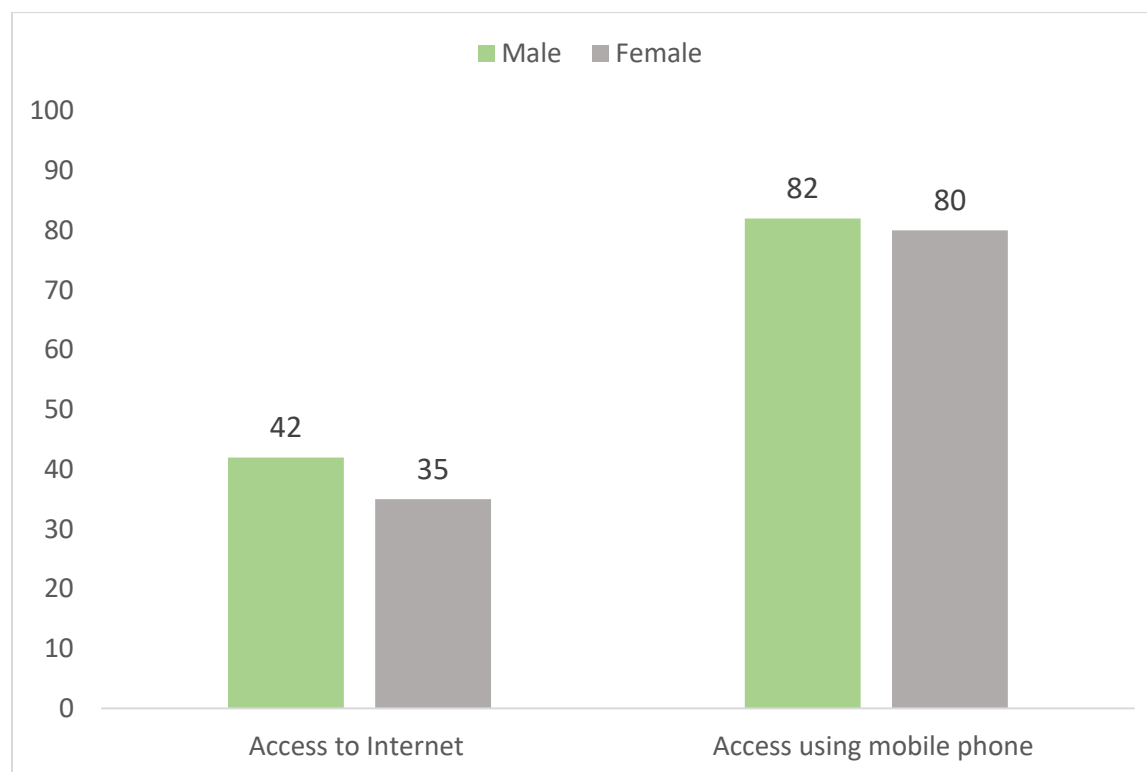
Source: Somaliland Integrated household survey, 2022

Figure 41 highlights a notable gender gap in formal banking access in Somaliland. Around 13 percent of males report owning a bank account, compared to just 8 Percent of females. This indicates that men are somewhat more likely than women to engage with traditional banking institutions. However, when it comes to accessing financial services via mobile phones, the gender divide narrows significantly. Around 76 percent of males and 73 percent of females reported being able to access banking services through mobile platforms. This suggests that mobile financial services are far more

prevalent and inclusive than formal banking, offering a more accessible alternative for both men and women.

Figure 42: Access to Internet by sex, 2022

Percentage



Source: Somaliland Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Figure 42 reveals that overall internet access in Somaliland remains relatively low, with 42 percent of males and 35 Percent of females. This reflects a gender gap in digital access, favoring men, and points to broader challenges in infrastructure, affordability, or digital literacy particularly for women. However, when focusing on mobile-based internet access, the picture shifts dramatically. Around 82 percent of males and 80 percent of females use their mobile phones to access the internet, showing near parity between genders.



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