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Somalia's Security

Research, Analysis and
Forward Thinking



RESTORE SOMALIA
FOUNDATION

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The conflict in Somalia is close to 30 years old and has evolved into a complicated quagmire (Purge of State leaders and development of pseudo-clan fiefdoms commanded by warlords and terrorists) with multi-layered stakeholders with conflicting interests. Civilian deaths, displacement, social economic effects, and depression are all negative consequences of war.

Current Context

- Absence of security sectors synergies and failing to implement the 2017 London agreed National Security Architecture.
- Due to varying degrees of political and clan affiliation in the security sector, security forces are extremely fragmented at federal and regional level hence negatively impacting achievements on post conflict trajectory aimed for stabilizing the country.
- Absence of cooperation between federal government security and the newly mandated African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) that emboldened increased capability of AS in planning and executing operations successfully in the country.

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- Politicization of security sector command and control appointments.
- Federal government undermined the National Security Council resulting in failure to collaborate with federal Member States on the security front.
- The conflict in Somalia is now close to three decades and has evolved into more complex quagmire (Purge of State leaders and formation pseudo-clan fiefdoms led by warlords and terrorist) that evolved into multi-layered stakeholders with different interest complicating the situation further.
- High cost of civilian fatalities, displacement, social economic effect and depression are few but among the many negative results from these conflicts.
- Key outcome of May 2017 London conference was an agreed National Security Architecture and deliverance of a Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) with appropriate International support to restore sustainable security in the country.
- The main four Strands of CAS were aimed at creating synergy with the intent of security sector reform and stabilization.
 - Strand one – Enabling effective AMISOM operation.
 - Strand two - Accelerating the development of Somali National Security Institutions and forces (Defence, Internal Security and Justice).
 - Strand three - Stabilization (Community Recovery and Extension of State Authorities/Accountability).
 - Strand four - Countering and preventing violence extremism (C/PVE).

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- Wider disconnect among National & International stakeholders that lacked a harmonized approach and strategy towards stabilization initiatives.
- Shortcomings of FGS Ministry of Interior on the lead on stabilization programmes, district council formations, creation of jobs for youth and development of communities.
- Al-shabaab continues to destabilize progress on areas under the control of government forces through hit and run operations.
- Government and AMISOM forces gain control of new areas but absence of other important components such as immediate establishment of local administration, police and delivery of social services compromised the legitimacy of the government that resulted in withdrawal of forces from liberated areas.

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Challenges

- *Al-Shabaab continues to threaten and target journalists in government-controlled areas and bans independent media from reporting in areas it controls.*
- *Increase in Al Shabaab economic generation capabilities and delivery of justice for communities puts the government on the back foot with communities.*
- *Limited resources on the part of the FGS to engage key stakeholders such as regional member states to further efforts towards stabilization, delivery of services and economic development across the country.*
- *Limited or no adherence to the provisional constitution by the different actors thus jeopardizing implementation of law and order in the country.*
- *Limited awareness and consultations with communities on how to support and engage with the government authorities during operations to liberate villages.*

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Way forward

- *The Federal Government to create conducive environment for defectors of al-Shabaab and contributes to change in attitude through different methods, therefore there is a need to expand and increase to reach wider targets.*
- *Empowering government forces to counter terror attacks whereas ensuring no civilian abuse at all in all operation.*
- *Support victims of terrorism to win the heart and minds of the civilians.*
- *Proactively support and complete stabilization through coordination among stakeholders to deny Al-shabaab vacuum to operate and entice communities.*
- *Map out re-current conflict drivers to accelerate stabilization processes and minimize civilian abuses.*
- *Initiate an integrated stabilization approach that effectively combines multitude of military, reconciliation, service delivery and negotiation with armed groups.*

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Continuation - Way forward

- *Mobilizing religious leaders including recruitment of individuals with better understanding of the proper Islamic Religion doctrines into the forces.*
- *Mobilizing women groups and youth groups to understand the dangers of joining and affiliations with AS as they are main target for recruitment into violent extremism.*
- *Increased support to the Government initiatives by community leaders.*
- *Implementation of efficient policy on high/small calibre defector programmes.*
- *Creation of employment and social programmes for population at risk including youths that are enticed by offers of incentives from Al Shabaab.*
- *Engaging musicians and poets to deliver the right message as Somalis are generally adept to music and poetry in communication on social issues.*
- *Target the Somali Diaspora youth from being lured into joining the extremist Jihadist cause in their homeland and in the countries they reside.*

Restore Somalia Foundation (RSF) utilizes community resources, conducts research, campaigns for change, and supports and shares study results for implementation in order to provide attainable answers to the challenges faced by the Somali people. Using research-based solutions and mediations, promote the rule of law, good governance, and state-building. Additionally, empower the people through education, workshops, and conferences. Establish legitimacy through democratic processes in order to construct trust and peace as a leading civic society. RSF supports advocacy and reconciliation through dialogue. The initiatives are built on the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals.

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