

Somalia

RISK & COMPLIANCE REPORT

DATE: January 2017

Executive Summary - Somalia	
Sanctions:	UN, EU & US Financial and Arms
FAFT list of AML Deficient Countries	No
Higher Risk Areas:	Compliance with FATF 40 + 9 Recommendations US Dept of State Money Laundering assessment Weakness in Government Legislation to combat Money Laundering Supporter of / Safe Haven for International Terrorism Not on EU White list equivalent jurisdictions Corruption Index (Transparency International & W.G.I.) World Governance Indicators (Average Score) Failed States Index (Political Issues)(Average Score)
<p>Major Investment Areas:</p> <p>Agriculture - products:</p> <p>bananas, sorghum, corn, coconuts, rice, sugarcane, mangoes, sesame seeds, beans; cattle, sheep, goats; fish</p> <p>Industries:</p> <p>a few light industries, including sugar refining, textiles, wireless communication</p> <p>Exports - commodities:</p> <p>livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, scrap metal</p> <p>Exports - partners:</p> <p>UAE 50.8%, Yemen 19%, Oman 12.8% (2012)</p> <p>Imports - commodities:</p> <p>manufactures, petroleum products, foodstuffs, construction materials, qat</p> <p>Imports - partners:</p> <p>Djibouti 27.4%, India 12%, Kenya 7.2%, Pakistan 6.5%, China 6.1%, Egypt 5%, Oman 4.6%, UAE 4.5%, Yemen 4.4% (2012)</p>	

Investment Restrictions:

Information unavailable

Contents

Section 1 - Background	4
Section 2 - Anti – Money Laundering / Terrorist Financing	6
FATF status.....	6
Compliance with FATF Recommendations.....	6
US Department of State Money Laundering assessment (INCSR)	6
Reports.....	11
International Sanctions.....	19
Bribery & Corruption.....	22
Section 3 - Economy	23
Banking.....	24
Section 4 - Government	25
Section 5 - Tax	26
Methodology and Sources	27

Section 1 - Background

Britain withdrew from British Somaliland in 1960 to allow its protectorate to join with Italian Somaliland and form the new nation of Somalia. In 1969, a coup headed by Mohamed SIAD Barre ushered in an authoritarian socialist rule characterized by the persecution, jailing, and torture of political opponents and dissidents. After the regime's collapse early in 1991, Somalia descended into turmoil, factional fighting, and anarchy. In May 1991, northern clans declared an independent Republic of Somaliland that now includes the administrative regions of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool. Although not recognized by any government, this entity has maintained a stable existence and continues efforts to establish a constitutional democracy, including holding municipal, parliamentary, and presidential elections. The regions of Bari, Nugaal, and northern Mudug comprise a neighboring semi-autonomous state of Puntland, which has been self-governing since 1998 but does not aim at independence; it has also made strides toward reconstructing a legitimate, representative government but has suffered some civil strife. Puntland disputes its border with Somaliland as it also claims portions of eastern Sool and Sanaag. Beginning in 1993, a two-year UN humanitarian effort (primarily in the south) was able to alleviate famine conditions, but when the UN withdrew in 1995, having suffered significant casualties, order still had not been restored. In 2000, the Somalia National Peace Conference (SNPC) held in Djibouti resulted in the formation of an interim government, known as the Transitional National Government (TNG). When the TNG failed to establish adequate security or governing institutions, the Government of Kenya, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), led a subsequent peace process that concluded in October 2004 with the election of Abdullahi YUSUF Ahmed as President of a second interim government, known as the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of the Somali Republic. The TFG included a 275-member parliamentary body, known as the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP). President YUSUF resigned late in 2008 while United Nations-sponsored talks between the TFG and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) were underway in Djibouti. In January 2009, following the creation of a TFG-ARS unity government, Ethiopian military forces, which had entered Somalia in December 2006 to support the TFG in the face of advances by the opposition Islamic Courts Union (ICU), withdrew from the country. The TFP was doubled in size to 550 seats with the addition of 200 ARS and 75 civil society members of parliament. The expanded parliament elected Sheikh SHARIF Sheikh Ahmed, the former ICU and ARS chairman as president in January 2009. The creation of the TFG was based on the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC), which outlined a five-year mandate leading to the establishment of a new Somali constitution and a transition to a representative government following national elections. In 2009, the TFP amended the TFC to extend TFG's mandate until 2011 and in 2011 Somali principals agreed to institute political transition by August 2012. The transition process ended in September 2012 when clan elders appointed 275 members to a new parliament replacing the TFP and the subsequent election, by parliament, of a new president.



Section 2 - Anti – Money Laundering / Terrorist Financing

FATF status

Somalia is not on the FATF List of Countries that have been identified as having strategic AML deficiencies

Compliance with FATF Recommendations

Somalia has not yet undertaken a Mutual Evaluation relating to the implementation of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards.

US Department of State Money Laundering assessment (INCSR)

Somalia was deemed a Jurisdiction of Primary Concern by the US Department of State 2016 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR).

Key Findings from the report are as follows: -

Perceived Risks:

In 2013, Somalia and the international community endorsed a New Deal Compact that outlines peace and state-building goals aimed at helping Somalia become more accountable to the people of Somalia in instituting political, financial, health, and security reforms. In 2015, the Federal Government of Somalia committed itself to a slate of reforms, including improving fiscal transparency and budgeting processes. To improve fiscal transparency and build a nascent banking sector, the Central Bank of Somalia implemented reforms, including granting interim licenses to six banks and nine money transfer organizations, installing a Treasury Single Account, and developing internal procedures for banking supervision, including on and off site inspections.

Somalia's financial system is informal, operating mostly outside of government oversight, either via the black market or unsupervised money remittance firms (hawaladars). An estimated \$1.3 billion in remittances is sent to Somalia every year, primarily by the Somali diaspora that fled the country during two decades of conflict. That amount is roughly one quarter of Somalia's gross domestic product, eclipsing all international aid to the country (projected at about \$1 billion in 2015). Most remittances are routed through financial centers in the Gulf. The World Bank estimates 40 percent of all Somalis depend on remittances for their basic needs.

With its long land borders and extensive coastline, the smuggling of currency and goods into and out of Somalia remains common, due mainly to customs and border security officials' lack of capacity to control points of entry. The UN Security Council reports piracy has declined significantly, with no large commercial vessels hijacked or held for ransom by Somali pirates in the last two years, resulting in a decrease of ransom payments.

Corruption is endemic, providing opportunities for rampant money laundering. For example, media and advocacy groups have reported that some government officials in Somalia's Jubbaland benefited from illegal charcoal exports and possibly helped to transfer profits to foreign destinations.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army (SNA) made progress clearing al-Shabaab from areas of south central Somalia. However, al-Shabaab continues to threaten Somalia and the region and raises funds through multiple sources, including public taxation and extortion of local businesses and private citizens in areas controlled by al-Shabaab; donations from Somali and non-Somali sympathizers, both inside Somalia and abroad; kidnapping for ransom; and sharing in the illicit charcoal and sugar trade in southern Somalia. Al-Shabaab also taxes charcoal production before the bags reach ports for export, and it has a stake in the market value of the cargo when it reaches its destinations in the Middle East. Al-Shabaab's revenues from the charcoal trade are declining, according to a UN report, increasing the group's focus on other revenue-generating activities. Despite the existing UN ban on the export of charcoal from Somalia, in its 2014 report, the UN Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group estimates al-Shabaab received an estimated \$7.5 – 15 million in revenue from checkpoints on illegal charcoal exports. Al-Shabaab moves some funds via cash couriers, but a significant portion reportedly passes through hawala networks and other money or value transfer services.

Do financial institutions engage in currency transactions related to international narcotics trafficking that include significant amounts of US currency; currency derived from illegal sales in the U.S.; or illegal drug sales that otherwise significantly affect the U.S.: NO

Criminalization of money laundering:

"All serious crimes" approach or "list" approach to predicate crimes: Not applicable

Are legal persons covered: criminally: Not applicable ***civilly:*** Not applicable

Know-your-customer (KYC) rules:

Enhanced due diligence procedures for PEPs: Foreign: NO ***Domestic:*** NO

KYC covered entities: None

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Number of STRs received and time frame: Not applicable

Number of CTRs received and time frame: Not applicable

STR covered entities: Not applicable

money laundering criminal Prosecutions/convictions:

Prosecutions: 0

Convictions: 0

Records exchange mechanism:

With U.S.: MLAT: NO **Other mechanism:** NO

With other governments/jurisdictions: NO

Somalia is not a member of a FATF-style regional body (FSRB).

Enforcement and implementation issues and comments:

While Somalia continues to stabilize politically, government institutions are weak and state capacity is severely constrained.

In December 2015, Somalia's parliament passed key AML/CFT legislation, an important step in establishing a functioning, regulated, and supervised financial system in Somalia. As of yearend 2015, this legislation is not yet signed into law. Somalia maintains very limited investigative and enforcement capacity related to predicate crimes. Somalia's penal code, based on the 1930 Italian penal code, does not include any provisions or penalties addressing money laundering or terrorist financing. This deficiency should be rectified once the new legislation becomes law. The key obstacles to implementing Somalia's new AML/CFT law include the federal government's limited control over parts of southern and central Somalia beyond Mogadishu; a lack of legal and financial expertise among Somalia's central bankers and Finance Ministry technocrats; pressing security threats to the government, including from al-Shabaab; a lack of capacity at all levels of government; and insufficient enforcement, policing, and investigative capacity. The Central Bank of Somalia is receiving technical assistance on the risk-based approach to supervision.

Somalia lacks a formal financial sector, with the exception of interim commercial banks. Somalia has no fully functioning government regulatory/supervisory agencies to oversee its financial sector, thereby allowing money transmitters and hawaladars to operate without any customer due diligence or suspicious transaction reporting requirements. Somalia imposes no financial record-keeping requirements. To the extent that international standards are applied in Somalia, they are self-imposed by money transmitters, hawaladars, and other businesses that must abide by those standards to do business elsewhere in the world. Most money remittance companies, for example, use commercial software which flags possible name matches between customers and the individuals and entities on the UNSCR 1267 Sanctions Committee's consolidated list. Merchant's Bank in California, one of the largest banks to service Somali money transmitters in the United States, discontinued service in 2015.

Since the collapse of the state in 1991, Somalis have relied primarily on customary and sharia legal systems to adjudicate disputes. A legal system with both civilian and military courts nominally operates under the federal government, but existing laws are difficult to enforce, given the weak capacity of judicial and law enforcement institutions and general instability.

In theory, the police reportedly are responsible for investigating financial crimes. The police lack the capacity, including financial, technical, and human resources, to investigate suspected money laundering and/or terrorism financing. No government entity is charged

with, or capable of, tracking, seizing, or freezing either the proceeds of crime or terrorist assets. Somalia has no laws requiring forfeiture of the proceeds of crime or terrorist assets. The federal government has called on interim regional governments to help stem the flow of terrorism financing, including requesting local governments to trace, freeze, and seize funds believed to be related to al-Shabaab financing.

During 2015, the government made public commitments and took limited steps to improve transparency in its public financial management to reduce endemic corruption. The government increased cooperation with the Financial Governance Committee, a body mandated to review concession and public procurement contracts at or above a value of \$5 million. The Ministry of Finance has increased its cooperation with the international donor community to implement public financial management reforms.

Somalia has observer status to the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, a FSRB. Although Somalia is not a party to either the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime or the UN Convention against Corruption, Somalia has cooperated with foreign law enforcement on investigations concerning suspected terrorists, kidnapping, and piracy and terrorist attacks committed both inside and outside Somalia. Somalia has no mechanisms in place under which to share information related to financial crimes, money laundering, and terrorism financing with other countries but has indicated an interest in collaboration. Somalia does not have a bilateral treaty with the United States concerning extradition.

Somalia should combat corruption, enhance its ability to cooperate with international partners, and take all necessary steps to become a member of an appropriate FSRB. As an urgent matter, Somalia should criminalize both money laundering and terrorism financing and sign into law the AML/CFT law passed by the Parliament. The government should work toward equipping its law enforcement and judicial authorities with the resources and capacity – staffing, budget, and training – to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. Although the government has significantly increased the amount of revenue it collects, it lacks resources necessary to effectively improve government capacity and will continue to rely heavily on donors.

Current Weaknesses in Government Legislation (2013 INCRS Comparative Tables):

According to the US State Department, Somalia does not conform with regard to the any government legislation deemed necessary to combat money laundering.

EU White list of Equivalent Jurisdictions

Somalia is not currently on the EU White list of Equivalent Jurisdictions

World Governance indicators

[To view historic Governance Indicators Ctrl + Click here and then select country](#)

Failed States Index

[To view Failed States Index Ctrl + Click here](#)

Offshore Financial Centre

Somalia is not considered to be an Offshore Financial Centre

US State Dept Narcotics Report 2011 (introduction):

Somalia is the world's quintessential failed state. A fragile transitional federal government controls only portions of the country's capital and remote pockets of some regions. That government is besieged by a classic insurgency, led by U.S.- designated foreign terrorist organization, al-Shabaab. Many ministries exist in name only, or have non-functioning, mostly unpaid staff. There is no court system to speak of, and policing is rudimentary. Any laws that do exist are currently unenforceable given the security threat to the government and its lack of capacity. The financial system in Somalia operates almost completely outside government oversight on the black market, or via international money transfer companies known as hawalas. The USG lead for Somalia, U.S. Embassy Nairobi's Somalia Unit, has no credible state partner with which to engage on drug control issues.

Somalia does not play a major role in the production, trafficking, or consumption of illicit narcotics or precursor chemicals associated with the drug trade. Somalia's narcotics financing is centred on the khat trade. Khat is a leafy plant grown regionally and chewed by Somalis, and citizens of other regional states in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as in parts of Asia. It imparts a mild amphetamine-like high, manifesting in excitement, euphoria, and suppressed appetite. Although it is a controlled substance in much of the world, khat is legal in Somalia, and has aspects of a local traditional practice. Khat is grown in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and Uganda, imported mostly by plane, and sold throughout Somalia. Most khat proceeds go back to khat transporters based outside of Somalia in cash or via money transfer companies. It is highly unlikely that khat money is laundered in Somalia because khat proceeds are not illegal and opportunities for legal investment are few given Somalia's weak economy.

There is no information related to drug-related currency transactions through Somalia's financial institutions (such as they are). To the extent Somalis are engaged in the drug trade in the United States, some of those proceeds are probably transferred to Somalia through hawalas in the form of remittances, however, informed observers speculate that the amounts are relatively small.

There is virtually no information sharing on narcotics and terrorist financing with the United States or other developed countries. There are no joint formal investigations ongoing of which we are aware Somalia does not officially encourage or sanction drug trafficking, and there is no evidence that senior officials are engaged in such activities. Somalia is not a party to the 1988 United Nations Drug Convention.

US State Dept Trafficking in Persons Report 2014 (introduction):

Somalia remains a Special Case for the twelfth consecutive year. During the reporting period, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) controlled Mogadishu, but had limited influence outside the capital city. The self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland and semi-autonomous Federal State of Puntland retained control of security and law enforcement in their respective regions. In August 2013, federal officials and Jubaland

regional leaders agreed to establish the Interim Juba Administration in southern Somalia. The FGS focused on capacity-building and securing Mogadishu and government facilities from attacks by the al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist organization al-Shabaab, which retained control of many rural areas in southern and central Somalia. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) commenced a new round of military operations in early March 2014 to recover al-Shabaab-controlled territory. The government possessed minimal capacity to investigate and prosecute most crimes, including human trafficking. In addition, officials across Somalia generally lacked an understanding of trafficking crimes, which they often conflated with smuggling. Justice was primarily provided through military courts. Civilian courts remained limited in number and capacity but functioned during the year. Many Somalis continued to rely on the traditional justice system. Due to capacity constraints, Somali authorities struggled to address human trafficking, yielding minimal results in terms of prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts in all regions.

Scope and Magnitude: Somalia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Information regarding trafficking in Somalia remains extremely difficult to obtain or verify. Victims are reportedly primarily trafficked within the country from Somalia's southern and central regions to the regions of Puntland and Somaliland in the north. In Somaliland, women act as recruiters and intermediaries to take victims to Puntland State, Djibouti, and Ethiopia for domestic servitude or sex trafficking. Somali women and girls may also endure sex trafficking in Garowe, Las Anod (Sool region), and pirate towns such as Harardheere. Pirates also use children aged 15 to 17 to carry out their illegal activities. Although pirate groups continued to decline in numbers and influence in 2013, stakeholders indicated that these criminal groups turned towards human smuggling and trafficking as alternative income sources. In Somali society, Somali Bantus and Midgaan remain marginalized and sometimes kept in servitude by more powerful Somali clan members as domestic workers, farm laborers, and herders. Due to poverty and an inability to provide care for all family members, some Somalis willingly surrender custody of their children to people with whom they share familial ties and clan linkages; some of these children may become victims of forced labor or sex trafficking. Most child laborers work within their own households or family businesses. Somalia remains a predominantly pastoral and nomadic society, with only 30 percent of children estimated to attend school. Children may be forced into labor in agriculture, domestic work, herding livestock, selling or portering khat (a mild narcotic), crushing stones, or in the construction industry.

Somalia has more than 1.1 million internally displaced persons (IDP) within its territory. "Gatekeepers" in control of some IDP camps reportedly force girls and women to provide sex acts in exchange for food and services available within the camps. At times, they charge rent or fees for otherwise-free basic services and sell the area they control within a camp to other "gatekeepers," establishing a cycle of debt for IDPs that makes them vulnerable to inherited bondage. Additionally, displaced persons in camps or congregated along coastal areas and seeking to be smuggled to nearby African countries, Europe, or the Middle East remain particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Traffickers reportedly prey on young women and children, mostly IDPs from southern and central Somalia, at marketplaces and in the streets, falsely promising them lucrative jobs outside Somalia. IDPs within these camps claimed that clan, regional, and government armed forces, as well as al-Shabaab, recruited from these camps.

Traffickers smuggle Somali women, sometimes via Djibouti, to destinations in the Middle East, including Yemen and Syria, where they frequently endure domestic servitude or forced prostitution. Somali men experience conditions of forced labor as herdsmen and workers in the Gulf states. Traffickers smuggle children to Saudi Arabia through Yemen and then force them to beg on the streets. Reports of human smuggling remain geographically widespread in Somalia, including along its long coastline. Reports suggest that traffickers use the same networks and methods as those used by smugglers. Dubious employment agencies facilitate human trafficking by targeting individuals desiring to migrate to the Gulf states or Europe for employment. Migration via Puntland and Yemen to Saudi Arabia appeared less viable in 2013 due to Saudi Arabia's strengthened border enforcement and the forced return of tens of thousands of reportedly illegal migrants. NGOs and international organizations reported that Somalis increasingly sought to move to other destinations in Africa, including Kenya and South Africa. Authorities in Somaliland reported an increase in the smuggling or kidnapping of children and unemployed university graduates, who later move through Ethiopia and Sudan and perhaps are held hostage by networks in Libya en route to Europe and other destinations in the Middle East. NGOs estimated 50 young people were smuggled out of Somaliland each month, some of whom may be trafficking victims. During the year, the Government of Tanzania investigated 14 Somali businessmen reportedly using forged documents to facilitate the smuggling of Somalis to South Africa and Europe. Members of the Somali diaspora use false offers of marriage to lure unsuspecting victims, many of whom include relatives, to Europe or the United States, where they force them into prostitution and domestic servitude.

Traffickers reportedly subject Somali children fleeing al-Shabaab and seeking refuge in Kenya to forced labor or sexual exploitation. Refugee children at the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya may also encounter exploitation in prostitution and forced labor. Trucks transporting goods from Kenya to Somalia return to Kenya with young girls and women; traffickers acquire these young girls and women and place them in brothels in Nairobi or Mombasa or send them to destinations outside Kenya. Somali traffickers known as "makhalis" control the networks, but truck drivers also exploit these girls in prostitution.

The estimated 20,000 undocumented Ethiopians in northern Somalia remain vulnerable to trafficking as they seek employment in Puntland and Somaliland to fund subsequent travel to the Middle East. Traffickers smuggle Ethiopian women through Somalia to Yemen and onward to other destinations in the Middle East, where they subsequently force them into domestic servitude and prostitution. Ethiopian children travel to Somaliland seeking employment but may end up begging on the streets or vulnerable to other forms of forced labor.

Child Soldiers: During the year, the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF), anti-Shabaab militias, and AMISOM forces continued their offensive against al-Shabaab. The Federal Government of Somalia expressed full commitment to eliminating the use of child soldiers among the ranks of the SNSF and made incremental progress on the Child Soldier National Action Plan, including signing the standard operating procedures for children separated from armed groups in February 2014. The SNSF also promulgated a Code of Conduct that, among other provisions, prohibited recruitment of anyone under 18-years-old into the military services. Nonetheless, according to UN reports, the SNSF recruited or used children during the period of April to December 2013. In addition, reports indicated that Somaliland and AMISOM forces also allegedly used children for support during the year. Most Somalis lacked

birth certificates. Without an established birth registration system, verifying claims of recruitment and use of child soldiers remained difficult, except in the most blatant circumstances involving al-Shabaab terrorists.

Throughout areas beyond state control, al-Shabaab frequently recruited children as young as 8-years-old for use by its militias through abduction or deception. This terrorist group continued forced recruitment at both Koranic schools and other educational facilities, and punished teachers and parents who refused to send their children to its training camps. Recruitment also took place in IDP and Kenya-based refugee camps. Al-Shabaab continued to use children for direct participation in hostilities and other support functions in southern and central Somalia, including for planting roadside bombs and other explosive devices, serving as human shields during incursions, carrying out assassinations, providing intelligence, portering, and working in domestic service or in raising cash crops. The UN reported al-Shabaab's recruitment, from April to September 2013, of over 178 children, including through abduction. Al-Shabaab also forcibly recruited young girls and forced them to "marry" al-Shabaab militia leaders; the girls were subsequently exploited in sexual servitude and used for logistical support and intelligence gathering.

Government Efforts: Somaliland and Puntland authorities made efforts during the reporting period to combat trafficking. Due to capacity constraints and the ongoing campaign to degrade al-Shabaab and secure Mogadishu, the FGS lacked trafficking awareness, proper training, resources, and the ability to effectively prosecute trafficking offenses, protect victims, or prevent the crime. The pre-1991 penal code (applicable at the federal and regional levels) outlaws forced labor and other forms of trafficking in persons. Article 455 prohibits and penalizes slavery, prescribing penalties of five to 20 years' imprisonment. Article 464 prohibits forced labor, prescribing penalties of six months' to five years' imprisonment. Article 457 prohibits the transferring, disposing, taking possession, or holding of a person, and prescribes penalties of three to 12 years' imprisonment. All of these penalties appear sufficiently stringent. Article 408(1) prohibits compelled prostitution of a person through violence or threats, prescribing penalties of two to six years' imprisonment, which appears sufficiently stringent but not commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. The constitution, which remains provisional until the holding of a national referendum for a permanent version, prohibits slavery, servitude, trafficking, and forced labor under Article 14. Article 29(6) prohibits the use of children in armed conflict, and Article 405 prohibits all forms of prostitution. The Somali National Police retained responsibility for investigating and enforcing such laws; however, they remained understaffed and undertrained and—representative of the challenges across the judicial system generally—lacked capacity to enforce these laws effectively in 2013. The federal government did not investigate or prosecute trafficking crimes during the reporting period.

The Puntland State administration and Somaliland possessed functioning legal systems and some law enforcement capacity. In Puntland, the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs oversaw anti-trafficking efforts, and the police force in Garowe operated an anti-trafficking unit, though it lacked proper training. Provisions under Islamic law in Puntland criminalize the murder of smuggled or trafficked persons, prescribing penalties of between one and five years' imprisonment. In March 2013, Puntland police intercepted seven girls kidnapped from south-central Somalia destined for Hargeisa, Somaliland, for unknown purposes; the police arrested the two men transporting the girls, although the resolution of this case remained unknown at the close of the reporting period.

Laws in Somaliland prohibit forced labor, involuntary servitude, and slavery. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Somaliland operated a specialized unit to respond to suspected trafficking cases, and police and immigration officers played an active role in anti-trafficking efforts. Somaliland officials made efforts to convict human smugglers—including those potentially intending to exploit migrants in forced labor or sex trafficking upon their final destination. In November 2013, Somaliland officials arrested four Somaliland military personnel for the alleged smuggling of 11 Somalis from south-central Somalia into Ethiopia. Officials did not provide additional details on this case, including whether these adults appeared destined for forced labor at their final destinations. In addition, in April 2013, a Somaliland court in Gabiley sentenced nine men, convicted of human trafficking, to between three to six months' imprisonment; although officials reported that these men participated in a network moving Somalis to Libya and other destinations, it remained unclear if the workers who were being smuggled were intended for exploitation upon arrival.

US State Dept Terrorism Report 2015

Somalia is currently identified by the US Secretary of State as a Safe Haven for International Terrorism

Overview: Security and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia continued to progress in 2015 through a combination of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) offensives, U.S. military strikes against al-Shabaab operatives, law enforcement assistance, and countering violent extremism initiatives. However, despite significant security gains, including liberating key sections of rural areas in south-central Somalia, AMISOM, the Somali National Army (SNA), and other associated militias were unable to degrade effectively al-Shabaab's ability to plan and execute attacks. Al-Shabaab leveraged clan politics and disputes to encourage distrust and noncooperation among local communities toward security forces operating in these areas. Al-Shabaab also exploited poor economic conditions to recruit new fighters. These vulnerabilities helped to undermine territorial gains that AMISOM and the SNA have achieved in the past few years.

An increasing division within the leadership of al-Shabaab was reported as some members sought to affiliate with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Despite internal divisions and increasing numbers of defections towards the end of 2015, al-Shabaab continued to conduct asymmetric attacks throughout Somalia and showed no indications of decreased operational capability. Al-Shabaab also exhibited the capacity to execute attacks against harder targets in Mogadishu, including the Mogadishu International Airport, Villa Somalia Presidential Compound, and popular hotels, and conducted a greater number of assassinations of government and security officials. Federal, local, and regional security authorities lacked sufficient capacity to prevent most al-Shabaab attacks. Somalia remained a terrorist safe haven, where members of al-Shabaab continued to plan and mount operations within Somalia and in neighboring countries, particularly in Kenya.

Somalia was an active supporter of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Specifically, Somalia participated in the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group and the Stabilization Support Working Groups. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud also attended the Leader's Summit on

Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism hosted by President Obama in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

2015 Terrorist Incidents: Al-Shabaab conducted complex suicide attacks, remote-controlled roadside bombings, ambushes, and assassinations of government personnel and military forces, security officials, and civil society leaders throughout Somalia. It also executed complex attacks in Mogadishu in a targeted campaign against Somali security forces and other government officials, government and foreign buildings, convoys, and popular gathering places for government officials, the Somali diaspora, and foreigners. Notable incidents in 2015 included:

- In March, al-Shabaab terrorists launched a complex attack against the Hotel Maka al-Mukaram in Mogadishu, detonating a vehicle-borne IED (VBIED), followed by a ground assault using small weapons and grenades. Al-Shabaab controlled the hotel for at least four hours until security agents from the National Intelligence and Security Agency's (NISA) elite paramilitary unit "Gaashaan" regained control. At least 13 people were killed, while approximately 20 others sustained injuries, according to NISA officials.
- In May, al-Shabaab terrorists launched a complex attack against the Somali Parliament compound in Mogadishu using a VBIED and a ground assault team of about seven to eight attackers armed with AK-47s. Two members of Parliament reportedly sustained injuries when the terrorists detonated the VBIED at the main gate. Security forces reportedly killed all the terrorists during the attack. Casualties included around 12 security officials from AMISOM, NISA, SNA, and the Somali Police Force (SPF). In addition, about 24 security officials and civilians sustained injuries.
- In June, al-Shabaab executed a complex attack on the popular Sahafi Hotel in Mogadishu, detonating two VBIEDs and executing a ground assault by a small group of attackers. Up to 15 individuals were reportedly killed.
- In September, al-Shabaab attacked a Ugandan AMISOM forward-operating base in Janale, Lower Shabelle region, killing between 20 and 50 Ugandan AMISOM soldiers. After breaching the gate with a VBIED and bombing a bridge to cut off a potential escape route and AMISOM reinforcements, al-Shabaab was able to enter and take over the base for a limited amount of time until AMISOM troops retook the area.
- Also in September, al-Shabaab attacked a UN convoy as it was exiting the Somali Presidential Palace in Mogadishu, killing approximately 11 people, including two soldiers and the bomber, in addition to injuring several other victims. Nobody in the UN delegation was harmed in the attack, according to the Ministry of Internal Security.

Legislation, Law Enforcement, and Border Security: The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) continued efforts to improve security in Mogadishu. It conducted security operations targeting known locations of weapons caches in private homes and businesses, but lacked counterterrorism laws and possessed limited investigative and enforcement capacity to prosecute terrorists successfully. Somalia followed an outdated penal code, last updated in 1962. Ministries responsible for drafting and submitting legislation to Parliament lacked the capacity to draft comprehensive counterterrorism laws. Due to the lack of civil judiciary capacity, the FGS tried all terrorism cases in a military court system.

There was some movement toward addressing these issues. The U.S.-trained SPF Joint Investigative Team (JIT) exhibited operational capacity to secure tactically and exploit counterterrorism-related crime scenes, as well as develop counterterrorism cases to launch prosecutions. The Attorney General's office, with support from the UK and the United States, increased the number of prosecutors to 28, eight of whom possessed specific counterterrorism case training. Puntland lacked regional counterterrorism legislation and tried all terrorism cases using its state military court.

Somali law enforcement requires additional training to build basic police investigation skills, capacity to conduct cordon and search operations, and effective police coordination with the judiciary. The United States made considerable contributions towards the development and capacity building of the law enforcement sector. The U.S.-funded SPF JIT responded to multiple terrorist incidents, during which they secured the scene, collected evidence, maintained the integrity of the evidence by following chain of custody protocols, and ensured a safe hand-over of the evidentiary materials to the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) for further processing. NISA, Somalia's lead counterterrorism organization, also began coordinating with the JIT during responses to critical incidents. While the SPF made measurable gains to manage terrorist incidents, the judicial system remained weak and underdeveloped, suffering from minimal interagency coordination and a lack of capacity and technical expertise.

Somalia has porous borders, and most countries do not recognize Somali identity documents, leaving Somalia with little to no travel document security. Somalia does not have a central or shared terrorist screening watchlist, nor does it possess biographic and biometric screening capabilities at ports of entry. There was minimal law enforcement cooperation between the federal and regional governments and U.S. law enforcement to investigate suspected terrorists, kidnappings, and other incidents of terror committed inside and outside of Somalia.

Countering the Financing of Terrorism: Somalia has observer status in the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, a Financial Action Task Force-style regional body, but in 2015 had no laws criminalizing money laundering and terrorism financing. The Central Bank of Somalia drafted a comprehensive anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism law with assistance from the World Bank. At year's end, the bill was approved by the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) and passed by the Parliament. Somalia continued efforts to formalize its nascent financial sector, and develop the Central Bank's capacity to supervise and regulate this sector, including *hawalas* (money service businesses). In 2015, Somalia did not have laws or procedures requiring the collection of data for money transfers or suspicious transaction reports, nor did it distribute the UN sanctions lists to financial services. Somalia lacks the funding and capacity to investigate and prosecute incidents of terrorism financing. The supervisory and examining section of the Central Bank began limited on- and off-site inspections and instituted procedures governing the licensing of commercial banks. However, federal authorities responsible for monitoring and regulating the financial sector suffered from limited staffing, funding, and technical expertise.

Countering Violent Extremism: The Somali government improved its al-Shabaab counter-messaging efforts. It established a new position within the Ministry of Internal Security to develop and implement countering violent extremism (CVE) strategies and promote greater community involvement to counter al-Shabaab's messaging and influence. Working with international partners, clan elders, and media experts, the Ministry began building greater

awareness among communities of the destructive nature of violent extremism. The Ministry also solicited recommendations from populations with experience with al-Shabaab to help guide the design of CVE programs. The Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs completed its Wadajir (or “A Joint Project”) Framework on local governance, which outlines for international partners future local governance initiatives intended to complement ongoing stabilization efforts in newly-recovered areas. The Framework also empowers local community groups and government by providing local control over planning and contracting decisions.

Radio Mogadishu and state-owned TV stations broadcast counter-messaging programming. The Islamic Lecture Series (ILS), an hour-long, call-in radio talk show designed to promote a moderate form of Islam, helped undercut al-Shabaab’s message of violent extremism. The Ministry of Information aired the ILS on radio stations in Abudwaq, Baidoa, Beledweyne, Bossaso, Bulo Burte, Cadaado, Galkayo, Garowe, and Mogadishu.

International and Regional Cooperation: Somalia is a member of the AU, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism, League of Arab States, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The Federal Government of Somalia expressed greater interest in increasing intelligence sharing and conducting joint operations against al-Shabaab with its Horn of Africa neighbors.

UN Security Council Resolutions

Arms

On 23 January 1992, in response to the civil war and humanitarian crisis in Somalia, the UN Security Council issued an arms embargo on the country in [Resolution 733](#).

In July 2002, [Resolution 1425](#) banned the financing of arms acquisitions and the indirect sale and supply of technical advice and military training.

In December 2006, [Resolution 1725](#) partially lifted the arms embargo.

In 2007, UN [Resolution 1744](#) partially lifted the arms embargo, to allow the supply of weapons, military equipment, and technical training and assistance intended solely for the support or use of the African Union mission to Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM's purpose is to stabilise the country, prepare for its post-conflict restoration and create the necessary security for humanitarian assistance.

The embargo was further amended in November 2008 by [UNSCR 1844](#).

You can access Security Council resolutions on the [UN website](#)

EU legislation

In December 2002, the EU adopted UN Security Resolution 733, imposing an arms embargo on Somalia. This was enforced via [Council Regulation No 147/2003](#), which was issued on 29 January 2003. The UN Resolutions have since been modified and the scope of the EU regulations have subsequently been amended as a result.

Financial

In 2005, the [United Nations](#), amongst other matters, imposed an asset freeze on persons engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Somalia, including acts that threaten the Djibouti Agreement of 18 August 2008 or the political process, or threaten the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) or African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by force; having acted in violation of the arms embargo imposed by UNSCR 733 (1992); and obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to or access to, or distribution of humanitarian assistance in, Somalia.

Current EU regulations

[26.09.2011 Council Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 956/2011](#) Amended Annex I to Regulation 356/2010

- [26.04.2010 Council Regulation \(EU\) No 356/2010](#) Implemented the travel and financial restrictions in UNSCR 1844(2008)

OFAC (US Sanctions)

On April 12, 2010, President Obama signed Executive Order 13536 (the "E.O.") declaring a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and violations of the Somalia arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. In issuing this E.O., the President invoked the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("IEEPA"), the National Emergencies Act, section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act, as amended, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code.

Effective May 5, 2010, the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") issued a set of abbreviated regulations to implement the E.O. (75 Fed. Reg. 24,394, May 5, 2010). These Somalia Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 551 (the "Regulations") were published in abbreviated form for the purpose of providing immediate guidance to the public. OFAC intends to supplement the Regulations with a more comprehensive set of regulations, which may include additional interpretive and definitional guidance and additional general licenses and statements of licensing policy.

Prohibited Transactions

The E.O. blocks the property and property interests of specific individuals and entities listed in its Annex and of specific individuals and entities determined by OFAC to have engaged in acts that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Somalia, to have obstructed the delivery of humanitarian assistance to or within Somalia, to have supplied arms or related materiel in violation of the United Nations arms embargo on Somalia, or to have provided support for any of these activities. The E.O. also includes a determination by the President that piracy threatens the peace, security or stability of Somalia. This determination provides authority to target for sanctions those who engage in or support acts of piracy off Somalia's coast, including those who provide weapons, communication devices, or small boats and other equipment to pirates. The E.O. therefore imposes targeted sanctions only; it does not impose any broad-based sanctions against the people or the country of Somalia.

Arab League

The Arab League (comprising 22 Arab member states), of which this country is a member, has approved imposing sanctions on Syria. These include: -

- * Cutting off transactions with the Syrian central bank
- * Halting funding by Arab governments for projects in Syria
- * A ban on senior Syrian officials travelling to other Arab countries
- * A freeze on assets related to President Bashar al-Assad's government

The declaration also calls on Arab central banks to monitor transfers to Syria, with the exception of remittances from Syrians abroad.

[For further information, click here](#)

The Arab League has also boycotted Israel in a systematic effort to isolate Israel economically in support of the Palestinians, however, the implementation of the boycott has varied over time among member states.

There are three tiers to the boycott. The primary boycott prohibits the importation of Israeli-origin goods and services into boycotting countries. The secondary boycott prohibits individuals, as well as private and public sector firms and organizations, in member countries from engaging in business with any entity that does business in Israel. The Arab League maintains a blacklist of such firms. The tertiary boycott prohibits any entity in a member country from doing business with a company or individual that has business dealings with U.S. or other firms on the Arab League blacklist.

Bribery & Corruption

Index	Rating (100-Good / 0-Bad)
Transparency International Corruption Index	10
World Governance Indicator – Control of Corruption	1

Section 3 - Economy

Despite the lack of effective national governance, Somalia maintains an informal economy largely based on livestock, remittance/money transfer companies, and telecommunications. Agriculture is the most important sector with livestock normally accounting for about 40% of GDP and more than 50% of export earnings. Nomads and semi-pastoralists, who are dependent upon livestock for their livelihood, make up a large portion of the population. Livestock, hides, fish, charcoal, and bananas are Somalia's principal exports, while sugar, sorghum, corn, qat, and machined goods are the principal imports. Somalia's small industrial sector, based on the processing of agricultural products, has largely been looted and the machinery sold as scrap metal. Telecommunication firms provide wireless services in most major cities and offer the lowest international call rates on the continent. Mogadishu's main market offers a variety of goods from food to electronic gadgets. Hotels continue to operate and are supported with private-security militias. Somalia's government lacks the ability to collect domestic revenue, and arrears to the IMF have continued to grow. Somalia's capital city - Mogadishu - has witnessed the development of the city's first gas stations, supermarkets, and flights between Europe (Istanbul-Mogadishu) since the collapse of central authority in 1991. This economic growth has yet to expand outside of Mogadishu, and within the city, security concerns dominate business. In the absence of a formal banking sector, money transfer/remittance services have sprouted throughout the country, handling up to \$1.6 billion in remittances annually, although international concerns over the money transfers into Somalia currently threatens these services.

Agriculture - products:

bananas, sorghum, corn, coconuts, rice, sugarcane, mangoes, sesame seeds, beans; cattle, sheep, goats; fish

Industries:

a few light industries, including sugar refining, textiles, wireless communication

Exports - commodities:

livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, scrap metal

Exports - partners:

UAE 50.8%, Yemen 19%, Oman 12.8% (2012)

Imports - commodities:

manufactures, petroleum products, foodstuffs, construction materials, qat

Imports - partners:

Djibouti 27.4%, India 12%, Kenya 7.2%, Pakistan 6.5%, China 6.1%, Egypt 5%, Oman 4.6%, UAE 4.5%, Yemen 4.4% (2012)

Banking

When the state-owned banking system collapsed, private remittance companies became the sole financial institutions providing a banking outlet to the outside world, however they operate in an unregulated market. Most banking transactions arise from foreign remittances sent to family members in Somalia internal market.

Section 4 - Government

Chiefs of State and Cabinet Members:

For the current list of Chief of State and Cabinet Members, please access the following - [Central Intelligence Agency online directory of Chiefs of State and Cabinet Members of Foreign Governments](#)

Legal system:

mixed legal system of civil law, Islamic law, and customary law (referred to as Xeer)

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AFESD, AMF, AU, CAEU (candidate), FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IGAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ITSO, ITU, LAS, NAM, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO

Section 5 - Tax

Exchange control

For further information - <http://www.somaligov.net/>

Treaty and non-treaty withholding tax rates

For further information - <http://www.somaligov.net/>

Methodology and Sources

Section 1 - General Background Report and Map

(Source: [CIA World Factbook](#))

Section 2 - Anti – Money Laundering / Terrorist Financing

	Lower Risk	Medium Risk	Higher Risk
FATF List of Countries identified with strategic AML deficiencies	Not Listed	AML Deficient but Committed	High Risk
Compliance with FATF 40 + 9 recommendations	>69% Compliant or Fully Compliant	35 – 69% Compliant or Fully Compliant	<35% Compliant or Fully Compliant
US Dept of State Money Laundering assessment (INCSR)	Monitored	Concern	Primary Concern
INCSR - Weakness in Government Legislation	<2	2-4	5-20
US Sec of State supporter of / Safe Haven for International Terrorism	No	Safe Haven for Terrorism	State Supporter of Terrorism
EU White list equivalent jurisdictions	Yes		No
International Sanctions UN Sanctions / US Sanctions / EU Sanctions	None	Arab League / Other	UN , EU or US
Corruption Index (Transparency International) Control of corruption (WGI) Global Advice Network	>69%	35 – 69%	<35%
World government Indicators (Average)	>69%	35 – 69%	<35%
Failed States Index (Average)	>69%	35 – 69%	<35%
Offshore Finance Centre	No		Yes

Section 3 - Economy

General Information on the current economic climate in the country and information on imports, exports, main industries and trading partners.

(Source: [CIA World Factbook](#))

Section 4 - Foreign Investment

Information on the openness of foreign investment into the country and the foreign investment markets.

(Source: [US State Department](#))

Section 5 - Government

Names of Government Ministers and general information on political matters.

(Source: [CIA World Factbook](#) / <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/index.html>)

Section 6 - Tax

Information on Tax Information Exchange Agreements entered into, Double Tax Agreements and Exchange Controls.

(Sources: [OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes](#) [PKF International](#))

DISCLAIMER

Part of this report contains material sourced from third party websites. This material could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. The materials in this report are provided "as is" and without warranties of any kind either expressed or implied, to the fullest extent permissible pursuant to applicable law. Neither are any warranties or representations made regarding the use of or the result of the use of the material in the report in terms of their correctness, accuracy, reliability, or otherwise. Materials in this report do not constitute financial or other professional advice.

We disclaim any responsibility for the content available on any other site reached by links to or from the website.

RESTRICTION OF LIABILITY

Although full endeavours are made to ensure that the material in this report is correct, no liability will be accepted for any damages or injury caused by, including but not limited to, inaccuracies or typographical errors within the material, Neither will liability be accepted for any damages or injury, including but not limited to, special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or the inability to use, the materials in this report. Total liability to you for all losses, damages, and causes of action (in contract, tort (including without limitation, negligence), or otherwise) will not be greater than the amount you paid for the report.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE

All Country Reports accessed and/or downloaded and/or printed from the website may not be distributed, republished, uploaded, posted, or transmitted in any way outside of your organization, without our prior consent. Restrictions in force by the websites of source information will also apply.

We prohibit caching and the framing of any Content available on the website without prior written consent.

Any questions or queries should be addressed to: -

Gary Youinou

Via our [Contact Page](#) at KnowYourCountry.com