

**THE ROLE OF CLAN LEADERS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF SOMALILAND'S
PEACE AND SECURITY: A CASE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
HARGEISA SOMALILAND**

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**A Research Report Submitted to the Faculty of Social Sciences in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of a Bachelor's Degree of in
International Relations and Diplomatic Studies at The Unity University**

JULY, 2025

Declaration

I, **Khalid Hussein Abdisalaam**, declare that this is my own original work and it has not been submitted or presented to any other institution, for a similar or any other award.

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Certification

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Date: -----

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Definition of The Terms

- **Xeer** is the traditional, unwritten system of customary law used by Somali communities, based on collective agreements among clans, and administered by clan elders to regulate social relations, resolve disputes, and maintain order.
- **Guurti**: In Somaliland, the Guurti (also known as the House of Elders or Council of Elders) is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament. It consists of 82 members, primarily representing traditional leaders and clan elders. It plays a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability, mediating conflicts, and has specific legislative responsibilities concerning laws related to religion, traditions, and security.
- **Shir**: A Shir (plural: *Shirarka*) refers to a traditional Somali community assembly or gathering. These meetings are crucial for decision-making, conflict resolution, and discussing major economic, political, and social policies at the community or clan level, often involving representatives from various societal segments.
- **Shari'a**: Shari'a (also spelled Sharī'ah or Shariah) is the body of Islamic religious law derived from the Quran and Hadith. In the Somali context, it is understood as divine law that forms the basis of justice and social welfare, applied alongside customary law (*xeer*) and civil law, particularly in family matters and commercial disputes

Abbreviations and Acronyms

- **WHO** World Health Organization
- **MIA** Ministry of Internal Affairs
- **UNDP** United Nations Development Programmed
- **FST** Fragile States Theory

Abstract

This study examined the pivotal role of clan leaders in maintaining peace and security in Somaliland, with a particular focus on their interactions with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Hargeisa. Somaliland, a self-declared independent region in the Horn of Africa, depended significantly on clan-based structures for social and political organization. Clan leaders, who held substantial influence within their communities, were found to play a critical role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and the overall stability of the region. The findings shed light on the complex relationship between traditional clan structures and state institutions, highlighting the need for integration of both elements in sustaining peace.

Specifically, this study explored the vital role of clan leaders in maintaining peace and security in Somaliland, focusing on their influence on local security policies, mechanisms for conflict resolution, and collaboration with government institutions. Findings revealed that the majority of respondents viewed clan leaders as key figures in shaping security, primarily through mediation, traditional dispute systems like *xeer*, and active participation in peace committees and government forums. The study concluded that strong collaboration between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs enhanced local stability. It recommended strengthening these partnerships through training and formal frameworks, and highlighted the importance of integrating traditional and formal justice systems for effective governance and lasting peace. Moreover, the study identified the challenges faced by clan leaders and the government in their joint efforts to maintain security, offering valuable insights into the role of non-state actors in peacebuilding in post-conflict settings.

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Chapter One: Introduction

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the research, the research questions, and the significance of the study, the scope of the study, and the justification for the research. The primary aim of this study was to analyze the collaborative dynamics between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs in promoting peace and security in Somaliland.

1.1 Background of the Study

Global Context: The integration of traditional leadership within formal governance structures has garnered significant attention worldwide as a key strategy for enhancing stability and peace, particularly in post-conflict and developing nations. Traditional authorities played a vital role in mediating disputes, promoting social cohesion, and addressing local needs when state institutions exhibited limited capacity or legitimacy. For instance, traditional leaders functioned effectively in resource management and conflict resolution (United Nations Development Programme, 2018; World Bank, 2020).

Regional Context: The Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia, was characterized by a complex interplay of ethnic groups and clan systems that significantly shaped political dynamics. Clan structures had historically played a role in governance, with clan leaders often viewed as custodians of local customs and authorities within their communities. Persistent conflicts and political instability in the region had further entrenched clan leadership in governance and conflict resolution, as these leaders were seen as more legitimate and accessible than distant state authorities (Lewis, 2019).

Somaliland Context: Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991, marking a pivotal moment in governance within the region. Unlike southern Somalia, which continued to experience conflict, Somaliland established a relatively stable political environment. This stability could largely be attributed to the active involvement of clan leaders, who had mediated disputes and fostered social cohesion through traditional mechanisms. Clan identities remained central to social

organization and political power, impacting local governance and resource distribution (Bradbury, 2018).

The Ministry of Internal Affairs: The Ministry of Internal Affairs in Somaliland was responsible for law enforcement, public order maintenance, and national security policy implementation. In the process of formalizing governance structures, the ministry played a critical role in establishing state authority. The relationship between the Ministry and clan leaders was complex; while clan leaders exerted considerable influence within their communities, they also played a crucial role in security initiatives. Acting as intermediaries, clan leaders facilitated communication between the government and local populations, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of governmental policies.

In conclusion, clan leaders were integral to maintaining peace and security in Somaliland, where their traditional authority enabled them to mediate conflicts and foster social cohesion. Their collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs created a bridge between formal governance and traditional systems, facilitating the implementation of effective local security policies and promoting stability in a region that had maintained relative peace in comparison to southern Somalia.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The integration of traditional leadership into formal governance structures was critical for achieving peace; however, the most effective approach for this integration remained ambiguous (Ismail, A. (2021). In the Horn of Africa, clan structures were fundamental to governance, yet their coexistence with formal state mechanisms frequently posed challenges. This was particularly evident in Somaliland, where clan leaders played an essential role in maintaining security. Despite this, the Ministry of Internal Affairs often struggled to collaborate effectively with clan leaders. Layered complexities arose regarding the best ways to integrate clan leadership into formal governance frameworks to enhance peace and security. Thus, this study aimed to examine the collaborative dynamics between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 Main Objective of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to analyze the role of clan leaders in enhancing security and maintaining peace in Somaliland at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- I. To examine how clan leaders influenced local security policies in selected regions of Somaliland.
- II. To analyze the mechanisms employed by clan leaders in conflict resolution.
- III. How effective have the collaborative peace efforts between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs been in achieving their objectives?

1.4 Research Questions

The study **aimed** to address the following research questions:

1. how clan leaders influenced local security policies in selected regions of Somaliland.
2. What mechanisms employed by clan leaders use in conflict resolution?
3. What opportunities existed for strengthening the role of clan leaders in promoting security and peace within the region?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study was poised to contribute to several critical areas:

1. **Enhancing Knowledge of Clan Dynamics:** The research improved understanding of the interactions between clan leaders and formal governance structures in Somaliland, revealing the role these leaders played in security and peace efforts. This understanding was crucial for recognizing the importance of local governance structures in regions where state institutions might be underdeveloped.
2. **Informing Policy Implications:** The findings will serve as a resource for policymakers, particularly within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, aiding in the design of effective security policies and peace initiatives that leveraged local authority and community trust. Such

integration of traditional leadership into formal governance frameworks could enhance the legitimacy of state institutions (Shooting & Omar, 2019).

3. **Strengthening Institutional Development:** By highlighting successful collaboration strategies between clan leaders and government institutions, the study contributed to the development of more effective governance structures in Somaliland. This could lead to policies that were more aligned with local realities, fostering greater community resilience (Lappan, 2020).

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 Geographical Scope

This study focused on selected regions within Somaliland with prominent clan leadership and active Ministry of Internal Affairs operations. Key locations encompassed both urban centers and rural communities.

1.6.2 Time Scope

The research covered the period from March to July, marked by significant transitions in Somaliland's governance and security landscape.

1.6.3 Content Scope

The study specifically explored the interplay between traditional clan structures and modern state governance in the context of security and peace maintenance. It examined the historical context, influence mechanisms, and collaboration between clan leaders and government institutions, employing qualitative data gathered from interviews, focus groups, and case studies.

1.7 Justification

Understanding the role of clan leaders in Somaliland was vital for grasping the dynamics of security and peace in a region that had faced longstanding conflict and instability. Clan leaders were deeply entrenched in their communities and played a crucial role in mediating disputes and promoting social cohesion. As traditional authorities, their integration into formal governance could enhance peacebuilding efforts and contribute to sustainable security modalities (Abokor,

2021). Furthermore, exploring the interaction between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs shed light on how traditional authority could complement modern governance mechanisms. As such, the findings of this study had practical implications for policymakers, informing strategies aimed at leveraging clan leadership in security initiatives and enhancing the overall effectiveness of government efforts in conflict resolution.

1.8 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study summarized the dynamic interactions between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs in promoting security and peace in Somaliland. Clan leaders served as mediators and conflict resolvers within their communities, leveraging cultural legitimacy and local trust. In contrast, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was critical for enforcing policies and maintaining security, tasked with upholding state authority.

This framework emphasized collaborative efforts, highlighting joint initiatives aimed at conflict resolution and community engagement. It also recognized the potential tensions between traditional practices and formal governance structures. Expected outcomes included improved security, enhanced social cohesion, and more effective governance. Ultimately, this framework served as a foundation for examining the influence of clan leaders on security and peace, providing a structured approach to understanding their contributions within formal governance.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a comprehensive literature review on the role of clan leaders in maintaining peace and security within Somaliland. Focusing on the context of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the review critically examines existing research, theoretical frameworks, and empirical evidence regarding the influence of clan leaders on conflict resolution and community stability. By synthesizing these various elements, this chapter seeks to demonstrate the significant contributions of clan dynamics to Somaliland's overarching peace and security architecture.

2.1 Conceptual Review

Clan leaders occupy a pivotal position in Somaliland's complex socio-political landscape. Their substantial authority within communities enables them to mediate conflicts and perform critical governance functions. In a context characterized by emerging formal institutions and a developing state structure, the involvement of clan leaders in peacebuilding and governance is essential.

Clan leaders act as key intermediaries in conflict resolution, navigating intricate clan networks to address security challenges and resolve disputes. This role is particularly important in Somaliland, where traditional clan structures are woven into the social fabric. The impact of clan leaders on security dynamics aligns with the Fragile States Theory, which emphasizes the vulnerabilities faced by regions like Somaliland due to limited institutional capacity and governance challenges (Clapham, 2014). In this framework, clan leaders serve as crucial actors who bridge governance gaps and foster social resilience.

Moreover, clan leaders play a significant role in mobilizing their communities for peace initiatives. Utilizing traditional dispute resolution mechanisms grounded in customary law, they facilitate dialogue and understanding among diverse clans. This mediation not only helps to avert conflicts but also reinforces the legitimacy of clan leaders in the eyes of their constituencies. Their collaborative efforts with governmental bodies, particularly the Somaliland Ministry of Internal Affairs, improve the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts and ensure that local grievances are adequately addressed.

In essence, clan leaders are essential to maintaining peace and security in Somaliland. Since Somaliland's declaration of independence from Somalia in 1991, these leaders have acted as trusted arbiters, mediating disputes and preventing violence. They engage in partnerships with the government, offering valuable insights into local issues while building trust between communities and state authorities. Despite obstacles such as bureaucratic challenges and conflicting interests, clan leaders remain vital in fostering social cohesion and supporting peace initiatives. Recognizing their critical role and enhancing collaborative frameworks can significantly strengthen Somaliland's overall stability and governance.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study incorporates several key theories that offer insight into the complex relationships between clan leadership, social organization, and conflict resolution. These theories provide foundational perspectives for understanding how clan leaders mediate conflicts, influence social structures, and contribute to community stability and governance, particularly in the context of Somaliland.

2.2.1 Clan Dynamics and Leadership Theory

Clan Theory: This theory emphasizes the central role of kinship affiliations and clan allegiances in shaping social structures and governance. In many societies, particularly those where traditional systems are dominant, the clan functions as a core social unit. Clan leaders emerge as influential figures within this system, tasked with mediating disputes, maintaining communal order, and preserving the clan's values and traditions.

In Somaliland, where clan-based systems are deeply embedded in the social fabric, clan leaders hold considerable power. They function not only as mediators in conflicts but also as custodians of traditional norms and customs. Clan theory posits that the shared sense of identity and belonging within a clan enables its leaders to foster cooperation and resolve disputes effectively. Their authority often arises from their ability to balance the interests of their kin group while maintaining overall community stability.

For instance, clan leaders may mediate disputes between clan members or between clans, ensuring that resolutions respect both traditional values and the interests of the involved parties. By doing

so, they help maintain social order, prevent violent conflict, and support broader community cohesion. Clan leaders, through their strategic leadership, also serve as gatekeepers to local political and economic processes, ensuring that clan interests are represented within larger state frameworks.

2.2.2 Social Capital Theory

Social Capital Theory: This theory highlights the significance of networks, trust, and social relationships in fostering community resilience and collaboration. Social capital refers to the resources and benefits communities gain from social ties, trust, and cooperative behaviors. According to this theory, communities that exhibit high levels of social capital characterized by strong, trusting relationships are better able to navigate challenges such as economic hardship, political instability, or social tensions.

In the context of Somaliland, clan leaders play a crucial role in cultivating social capital. Through their leadership, they help create and strengthen social networks that enable communities to work together toward common goals. These networks foster trust among community members, encouraging collaboration and resource-sharing. For example, clan leaders can mobilize their networks to address local challenges like droughts, conflicts, or migration by facilitating cooperation and collective action. This cooperation is vital for managing community needs and preventing potential conflicts from escalating.

Furthermore, social capital nurtured by clan leaders enhances community resilience. When communities trust each other and their leaders, they are more likely to work collaboratively to resolve issues. Clan leaders, therefore, do not just manage conflicts—they create a foundation of mutual respect and solidarity that allows communities to weather external shocks and remain stable.

2.2.3 Institutional Interplay Theory

Institutional interplay theory examines the interaction between formal and informal governance structures. In Somaliland, formal institutions such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs coexist with informal governance structures, including clan leadership systems. Clan leaders often collaborate with governmental bodies to address community concerns and ensure that traditional practices

are aligned with formal state policies. This collaboration helps bridge the gap between local customs and national governance frameworks, allowing for more effective and inclusive governance.

The interplay between clan leaders and formal institutions facilitates a more holistic approach to governance. Clan leaders, with their deep understanding of local dynamics, bring valuable insights to the table when collaborating with governmental bodies. This relationship ensures that state policies are grounded in local realities, making them more relevant and effective. For example, in a situation where a local conflict arises, clan leaders may play an intermediary role between the government and the disputing parties, helping to implement government policies while respecting local customs.

Through this synergy, clan leaders help formalize certain aspects of traditional governance, such as conflict resolution practices like the *xeer* system, ensuring that they are recognized and respected by state institutions. This institutional interplay not only strengthens the legitimacy of the government but also enhances the effectiveness of governance by incorporating both formal and informal sources of authority.

2.2.4 Conflict Resolution Mechanisms Theory

Conflict resolution theory explores the various strategies and methods used to resolve disputes and restore peace. One of the key mechanisms employed by clan leaders in Somaliland is the *xeer* system, a traditional form of conflict resolution that emphasizes consensus-building and community involvement. The *xeer* system is founded on principles of restorative justice, where the focus is on repairing relationships rather than punishing offenders.

Clan leaders are central to the *xeer* system, acting as mediators who facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties. Unlike formal judicial systems, which may be seen as distant or foreign, the *xeer* system is deeply rooted in local customs and has high cultural legitimacy. Clan leaders' involvement in the process ensures that disputes are resolved in a way that aligns with traditional values, making it more acceptable and effective in maintaining peace.

The emphasis on community involvement in *xeer* also ensures that resolutions are fair and equitable. Since decisions are made with input from all parties, including elders and community

members, the process fosters a sense of collective responsibility. This inclusive approach to conflict resolution helps prevent resentment and promotes long-term social stability. Clan leaders thus play an essential role in maintaining peace by facilitating these restorative justice practices.

2.2.5 Integration and Cohesion Theory

Integration theory focuses on the processes through which diverse social or cultural groups come together to form a cohesive society. This theory is particularly relevant in a multi-ethnic and multi-clan society like Somaliland, where various clans may have different histories, interests, and cultural practices. Integration theory suggests that leaders play a vital role in fostering dialogue, understanding, and respect among diverse groups, helping to mitigate tensions and promote social cohesion.

Clan leaders in Somaliland facilitate integration by acting as intermediaries between different clans and groups. Their authority and leadership enable them to mediate cultural tensions and foster mutual respect. Clan leaders promote inclusivity by encouraging dialogue and understanding among groups that may otherwise be in conflict. This is especially important in a context where historical grievances and competition for resources can exacerbate social divisions.

By promoting integration, clan leaders contribute to a more unified and stable society. Their leadership helps create an environment where people from different clans and cultural backgrounds can coexist peacefully. This process of integration is critical to maintaining long-term peace and preventing fragmentation or the emergence of new conflicts based on cultural differences.

2.3 Empirical Review

This section examines recent research that highlights the role of clan leaders in Somaliland's peace and security landscape, with a focus on studies conducted from 2015 to the present.

2.3.1 Clan Leadership and Conflict Mediation

Recent research by Ali and Mohamud (2018) emphasizes the effectiveness of clan leaders in mediating conflicts within Somaliland. Clan leaders utilize traditional mechanisms, such as the

xeer system, which focuses on communal consensus and restorative justice. This approach often results in quicker and culturally appropriate resolutions compared to formal judicial systems, which may be perceived as disconnected from local customs. Ali and Mohamud argue that clan leaders possess an intrinsic understanding of local dynamics, enhancing their ability to effectively manage disputes and promote social harmony.

2.3.2 Social Capital and Community Resilience

A study by Ibrahim and Hanad (2019) underscores the pivotal role of social capital in enhancing community resilience, particularly during crises. Clan leaders serve as facilitators of trust and cooperation amongst community members, essential for mobilizing collective action during emergencies. Their research demonstrates that robust social networks cultivated by clan leaders enable communities to effectively mobilize resources in times of need, contributing to long-term stability.

2.3.3 Interaction with Government Institutions

Research conducted by Yusuf and Haji (2021) explores the collaborative dynamics between clan leaders and governmental institutions, revealing that these partnerships significantly improve conflict management and security policies in Somaliland. By engaging in collaborative efforts, clan leaders and government officials adeptly address community grievances, ensuring that local concerns are incorporated into broader policy frameworks. This interaction not only enhances the legitimacy of governmental institutions but also fosters greater trust within the community.

2.3.4 Role in Peacebuilding Initiatives

Studies by Kālin et al. (2021) highlight the essential role of clan leaders in peacebuilding initiatives within Somaliland. Their involvement in peace negotiations is vital for achieving sustainable outcomes, as they act as trusted mediators who bridge divides between conflicting parties. The authors assert that clan leaders advocate for inclusive processes that consider the views and needs of diverse stakeholders, thus fostering commitment to peace agreements

.

2.3.5 Resilience amidst External Pressures

Additionally, research by Abdi, Gedi, and Mohamed (2020) investigates how clan leaders foster social cohesion, enabling communities to navigate external pressures such as migration and resource competition. Their findings indicate that clan leaders play a crucial role in mediating tensions arising from demographic changes and resource scarcity, fostering dialogue and mutual understanding among diverse groups.

2.4 Research Studies: Achievements, Findings, and Gaps

Achievements: One of the key achievements in the literature on clan leadership in Somaliland is the recognition of the xeer system as a legitimate and effective mechanism for conflict resolution. This customary law framework, deeply rooted in Somali cultural traditions, has been acknowledged by scholars for its ability to maintain order and address disputes in ways that are contextually appropriate and community-driven. Another significant accomplishment is the acknowledgment of the critical role clan elders play in ensuring peace and stability. Their authority and influence allow them to resolve conflicts efficiently, often outperforming formal legal institutions in both speed and relevance. Furthermore, the literature highlights the successful collaboration between traditional leaders and governmental actors, which has contributed to inclusive policy-making and improved conflict management strategies. This demonstrates a growing acceptance of hybrid governance models in Somaliland.

Findings: The literature reveals that clan leaders in Somaliland are more than just mediators of conflict; they are central figures in fostering social cohesion and resilience within their communities. Research indicates that these leaders serve as custodians of social capital, building and maintaining trust not only within clans but also between different communities. This role becomes particularly vital during times of crisis when collective action and unity are needed most. In addition, studies show that the blending of traditional leadership with modern state institutions can enhance the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts. The capacity of clan leaders to navigate between traditional norms and modern governance structures makes them uniquely positioned to promote societal stability and inclusive development.

Gaps: Despite these valuable insights, there are several notable gaps in the existing body of research. One major shortcoming is the limited exploration of how contemporary forces such as

globalization, urbanization, and socio-economic change are affecting the authority and relevance of clan leadership. As Somaliland undergoes political and economic transformation, these factors are likely to influence traditional governance structures in significant ways. However, much of the current literature treats clan leadership as a static institution, without fully addressing how it is adapting to modern realities. This lack of analysis leaves an important dimension of Somaliland's governance landscape underexplored. Future research is therefore needed to examine how clan leaders are responding to shifting societal dynamics, especially in urban settings and among younger generations.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter outline the methodological framework that was employed to investigate the role of clan leaders in mediating peace and security within Somaliland. It included a discussion of the research design, study area, target population, determination of sample size, sampling techniques and procedures, data collection methods, ethical considerations, data analysis methods, and potential limitations of the study. By providing a clear roadmap for the research, this chapter aimed to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted a qualitative and quantitative research design that facilitated an in-depth examination of the complex interactions between clan leaders and governmental institutions in Somaliland. A qualitative approach was appropriate because it allowed the researcher to gather rich contextual information and obtain a nuanced understanding of the clan dynamics that influenced peace and security initiatives. This design enabled the researcher to explore how clan leaders mediated conflicts and collaborated with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, providing insights that might not be captured (Creswell, 2014).

3.2 Study Area

This study was conducted in selected regions of Somaliland known for active clan leadership and strong collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The primary focus was on Hargeisa, specifically Ahmed Dhagah District, one of the most densely populated and socially dynamic areas in the city. Ahmed Dhagah had been purposefully selected due to its well-established clan-based structures and a strong history of community-led mediation initiatives, often carried out in coordination with formal government institutions. This district offered a unique setting to examine the role of traditional leadership in peacebuilding and local security, particularly within an urban context where customary practices and state systems frequently intersected

3.3 Target Population

The target population for the study comprised clan leaders, officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Somaliland. Clan leaders were critical mediators in conflict resolution, possessing profound knowledge of cultural nuances and community dynamics (Bradbury, 2008). Their insights were invaluable for comprehending the traditional mediation mechanisms used in peacebuilding.

In addition, the active participation of officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs was essential, as they played a significant role in policy implementation and fostering security within the region. Their involvement offered a perspective on how traditional conflict resolution practices could be aligned with state objectives, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts (Shooting & Omar, 2019). Community members were also included to contribute diverse perspectives, revealing practical challenges faced during mediation processes and ensuring solutions reflected real-life experiences (Lappan, 2020).

3.4 Determination of the Sample Size

The sample size for this study was determined using the formula for calculating sample sizes in a finite population, expressed as follows:

Where:

- (n) = sample size
- (Z) = Z-value (e.g., 1.96 for a 95% confidence level)
- (p) = estimated proportion of the population (if unknown, use 0.5 for maximum sample size)
- (e) = margin of error (e.g., 0.05)

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{N}{1 + (Ne^2)} \\ &= \frac{45}{1 + (45 \times 0.05^2)} \\ &= \frac{45}{1 + (45 \times 0.0025)} \\ &= \frac{45}{1 + (0.1125)} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{45}{1.1125}$$

n = 41 respondents

Thus, a purposive sampling strategy was employed, targeting approximately 40 participants to ensure a robust representation of various clans and relevant stakeholders.

3.5 Sampling Techniques and Procedure

Purposive sampling was employed in this study to identify key informants, including influential clan leaders and government officials. This method was appropriate as it ensured that selected participants could provide valuable insights relevant to the research questions (Palinkas et al., 2015). Data collection was facilitated through semi-structured interviews, which provided both flexibility and depth, allowing participants to elaborate on their experiences and perspectives.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

Data was collected through a mixed-methods approach that incorporated semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. This combination allowed both individual narratives and collective insights to enrich the data set, reflecting a comprehensive view of clan-based mediation in peacebuilding (Morgan, 2018). Semi-structured interviews facilitated in-depth exploration of participants' experiences while accommodating emerging themes during discussions.

To ensure inclusivity, interviews were conducted in both Somali and English, allowing participants to express themselves in their preferred language, thereby fostering open dialogue and authentic responses. Focus group discussions complemented this by creating dynamic interactions that could reveal communal sentiments and consensus on issues related to clan mediation.

3.7 Data Analysis Methods

The analysis of collected data will follow a thematic approach, systematically coding and categorizing responses into key themes that emerge from the interviews and focus groups. Thematic analysis provides a structured method for interpreting qualitative data, enabling the

identification of patterns and significant insights related to the role of clan leaders in promoting peace and security within their communities (Braun & Clarke, 2016). This analytical framework will also highlight the complexities of clan mediation practices, revealing both the strengths and challenges faced by clan leaders in fostering social cohesion.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

To enhance the validity of the study, triangulation was utilized, integrating data from multiple sources. This included qualitative insights from interviews and focus groups, as well as relevant official documents and literature on clan dynamics in Somaliland (Yin, 2018). By cross-referencing various data sources, the research achieved a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. Reliability was assured through the implementation of standardized data collection procedures, which were meticulously documented. This rigorous approach facilitated the reproducibility of findings, allowing other researchers to verify and build upon these results, thus contributing to academic discourse on clan mediation and peacebuilding.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were critical in this research, particularly concerning participant confidentiality and informed consent. All participants received a comprehensive briefing on the study's objectives, ensuring they understood the purpose of their involvement and the voluntary nature of their participation. This transparency was crucial for building trust and fostering an environment conducive to open dialogue. Anonymity was rigorously maintained in reporting findings to protect the identities and integrity of all participants. By prioritizing ethical standards, the research not only upheld the dignity of those involved but also reinforced the credibility and integrity of the study.

3.10 Plan for Dissemination

The findings from this research were disseminated through various channels to ensure that stakeholders, including academic communities, policymakers, and local communities, had access to the insights generated. The results were prepared for publication in academic journals and presented at relevant conferences focused on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Furthermore, a summary of findings was shared with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local governance bodies to help enhance their understanding and strategies regarding clan-based mediation. By employing a multifaceted dissemination strategy, the research aimed to impact policy and practice positively.

3.11 Limitations of the Study

The study encountered several limitations, including potential biases inherent in purposive sampling, which might not fully represent the broader population of clan leaders and officials. While efforts were made to include diverse voices, it was possible that some perspectives were overlooked. Additionally, logistical challenges related to access and communication with participants in remote communities might have impacted data collection. To mitigate potential biases and enhance the validity of the findings, careful attention was given to selecting a diverse sample and openly acknowledging these limitations in the final report.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study, organized according to the research objectives and questions. Quantitative data is displayed using tables and figures, accompanied by descriptive analysis. Qualitative data are summarized thematically, with illustrative quotes to enrich the interpretation. The findings are analyzed in relation to the study's three key objectives:

- To examine how clan leaders, influence local security policies in selected regions of Somaliland.
- To analyze the mechanisms employed by clan leaders in conflict resolution.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative peace efforts between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics

A total of 41 participants responded to the structured survey. The demographic profile is summarized below.

4.1.1 Gender of the Respondents

Table 0.1.1 Gender of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	21	51.2
Female	20	48.8
Total	41	100%

Source: primary data

Interpretation:

Table 4.1.1 above indicates that the survey involved 41 respondents with a nearly equal gender distribution: 21 males (51.2%) and 20 females (48.8%). This gender balance is significant as it ensures that the perspectives of both men and women are adequately represented in the study. Such inclusivity strengthens the reliability and comprehensiveness of the findings by reflecting

diverse experiences and viewpoints. This approach aligns with best practices in demographic reporting, promoting fairness and equity in research participation.

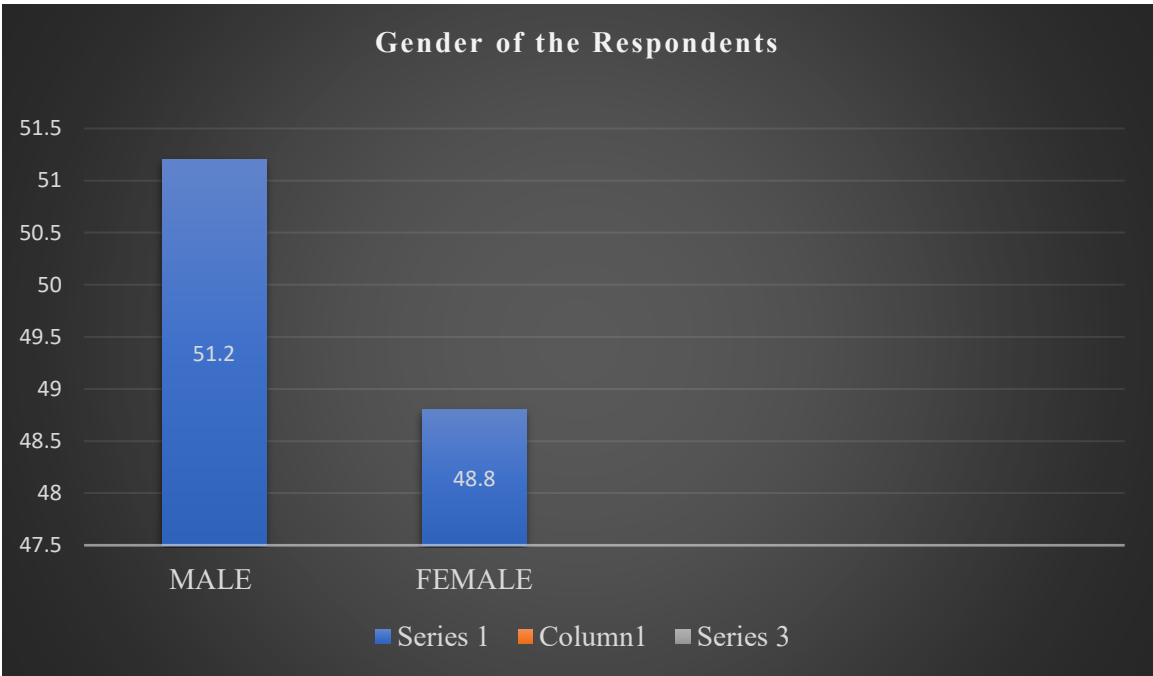


Figure 4.1.1 gender of the respondents

4.1.2: Age Range

Table 0.1.2 Age Range

	Frequency	Percent
21-25	22	53.7
25-30	14	34.1
30-40	4	9.8
40-50	1	2.4
Total	41	100%

Interpretation:

The majority of respondents (nearly 54%) fall in the 21–25 age bracket, indicating a predominantly young adult sample. Approximately one-third are 26–30, with much fewer in the older ranges only

9.8% (31–40) and 2.4% (41–50). This suggests the findings most strongly reflect the views and behaviors of younger adults.

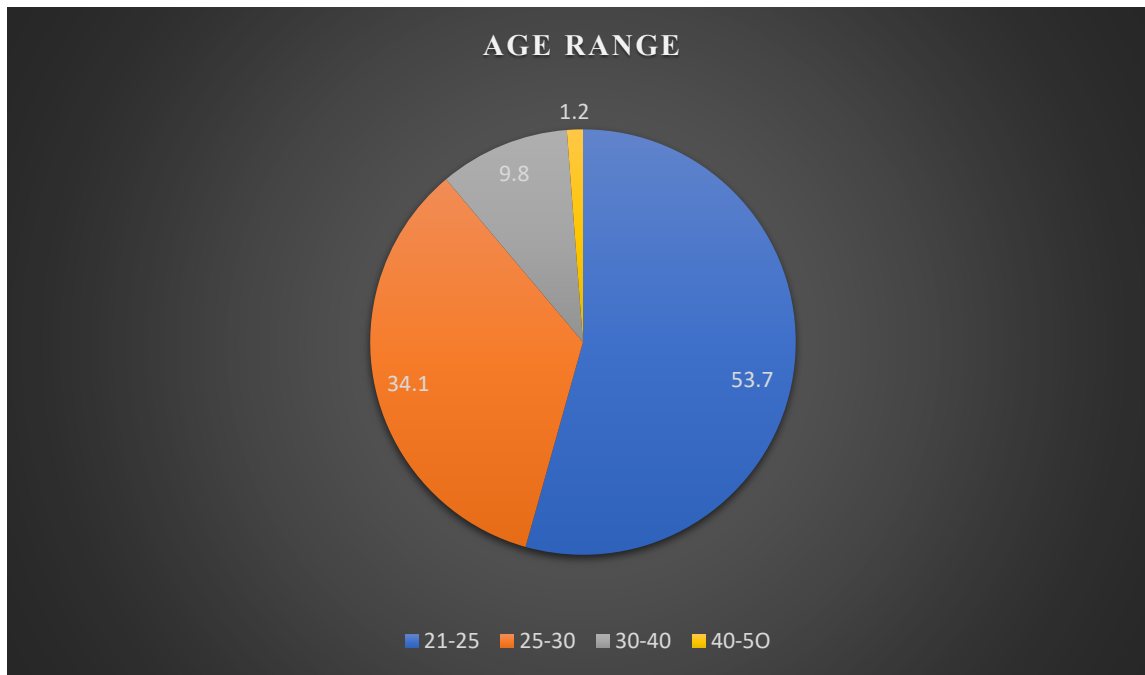


Figure 4.1.2 age range

4.1.3 Marital Status

Table 0.1.3 marital status of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Single	22	53.7
Married	14	34.1
Divorced	4	9.8
Widowed	1	2.4
Total	41	100%

Source: primary data

Interpretation: A clear majority (53.7%) of respondents are single, which aligns with the younger age spread. About one-third are married, while the remainder is split between divorced (9.8%) and

widowed (2.4%). This often correlates with typical life stages young adults are less likely to be married or widowed.

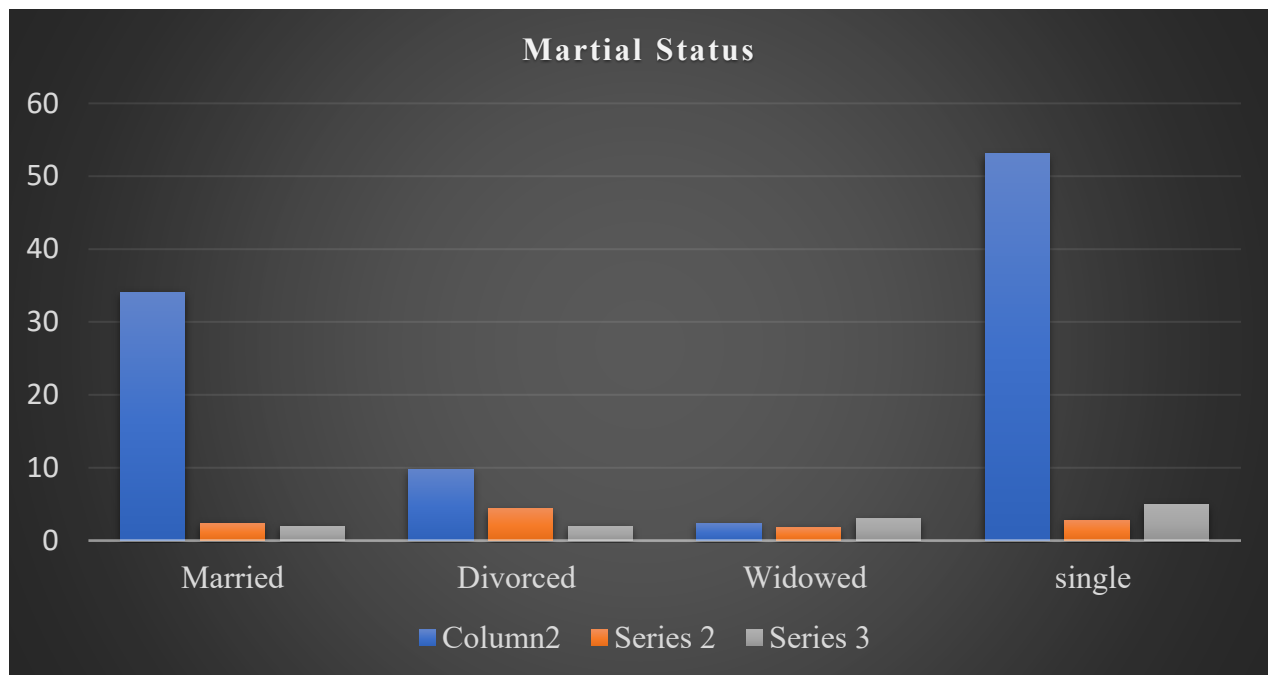


Figure 4.1.3 Marital status

4.1.4 Educational Level of the Responds

Table 0.1.4 level of education of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Secondary Level	7	17.1
Primary	11	26.8
Bachelors	22	53.7
None	1	2.4
Total	41	100%

Source: primary data

Interpretation:

The majority of respondents hold a bachelor's degree (53.7%), highlighting a relatively well educated sample. Fewer have secondary (17.1%) or primary education (26.8%), and only one respondent (2.4%) reported no formal education. This distribution may influence responses

educated individuals could have different perspectives or behaviors compared to less-educated groups.

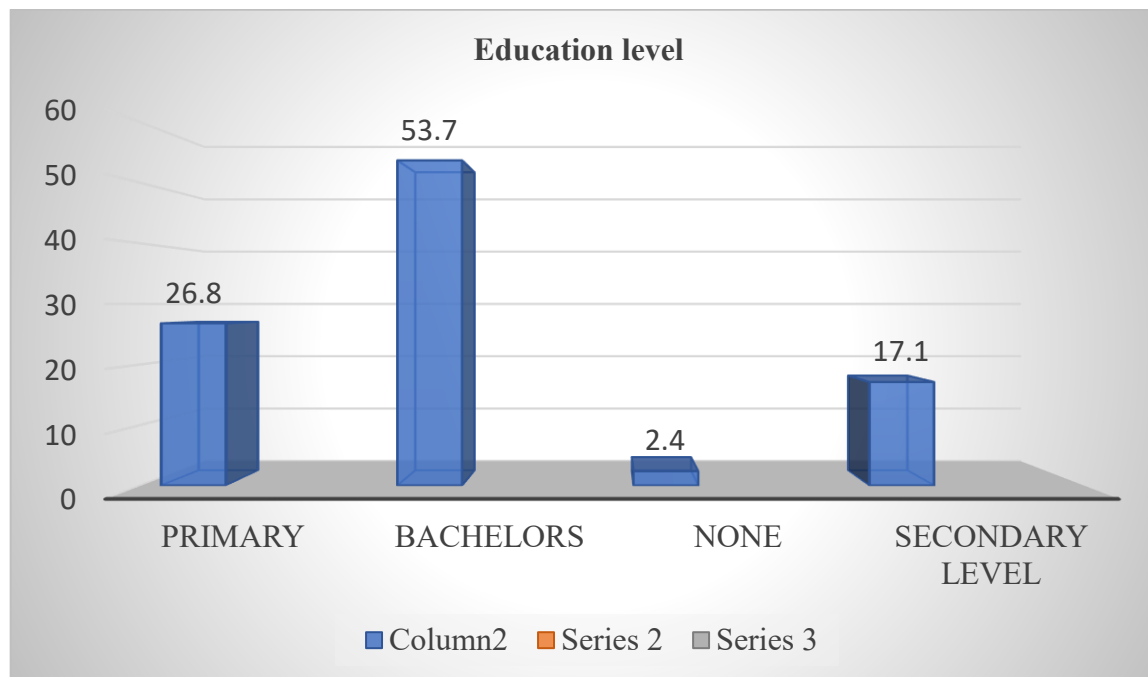


Figure 4.1.4 Educational Level

4.2 Objective:

4.2.1: Objective One: Influence of Clan Leaders On Local Security Policy

Quantitative:

Table 0.2.1 The Role of Clan Leaders in security policies

Perception	Frequency	Percentage
Very Important	25	61%
Important	14	34.1%
Neutral	2	4.9%
Less Important	0	0%
Not Important	0	0%
Total	41	100%

This table 4.2.1 demonstrates that a strong majority **95.1%** of respondent's view clan leaders as either "Very Important" or "Important" in maintaining peace in their community. Specifically,

61% rate them as very important and 34.1% see them as important. Only a small minority (4.9%) remain neutral, and none consider clan leaders to be of lesser or no importance.

Qualitative:

Institutional Mechanisms for Collaboration (41 responses)

Theme 1: Formal Structures

- **House of Elders (Guurti):** Regularly mentioned as the constitutionally recognized body incorporating clan leaders into national governance, with roles in legislation and security deliberations
- **Peace Committees and Local Councils:** Frequently cited, including district-level peace committees and regional security councils that involve both clan elders and government officials

Theme 2: Ministry-based Engagement

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs reaches out warmly by setting up “under-offices” staffed to engage clan leaders directly, and by sending out clear, respectful invitations to clan elders for regular meetings on security and development. This simple, thoughtful approach helps build trust, gives communities a genuine voice in state programs, and makes everyone feel like valuable partners in shaping their future.

Theme 3: Hybrid Consultative Platforms

- **Joint Forums and Advisory Boards:** Platforms bringing together clan elders and government representatives for collaborative discussion on security and social matters, including national development planning.
- **Peace and Reconciliation Conferences:** Reflected in historical canvassing e.g. Berbera (1992), Burma (1993) where clan elders were integral to national-level conflict settlement

Theme 4: Informal Coordination Mechanisms

- **Traditional Dispute Systems (Xeer/Shir):** Clan elders' customary courts remain operational and regularly intersect with state governance through ad-hoc consultations with officials
- **Power-Sharing through Appointments:** Some respondents highlighted that clan leaders are co-opted into government roles to ensure representation and buy in.

4.3 Objective Two: Mechanisms Employed by Clan Leaders in Conflict Resolution

Quantitative:

Table 0.3.1 Patterns (Cooperative Activities)

Activity	Frequency	Percentage
Conflict mediation	20	48.8%
Reporting security issues	3	7.3%
Attending joint meetings	2	4.9%
Sharing community intelligence	3	7.3%
Other cooperation	13	31.7%
Total	41	100%

Interpretation:

Conflict mediation tops the list (48.8%) as the main way clan leaders contribute to peace, showing that dealing with disputes is their key role. In contrast, only about 12% are involved in formal efforts like reporting security issues or sharing intelligence, which suggests they haven't been fully integrated into official government channels. The remaining 31.7% labeled as "Other" likely refers to informal but vital community activities such as outreach programs, local patrols, or providing

logistical support pointing to a broad and underappreciated range of conflict-resolution work that deserves more attention.

Clan leaders played a role in resolving recent conflicts in your area

Table 0.3.2 clan leaders played a role in resolving recent conflicts

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	32	78.05%
No	3	7.32%
No respondent	6	14.63%
Total	41	100%

Interpretation:

Table 4.2.1 reveals a strong consensus among respondents regarding the active involvement of clan leaders in resolving recent conflicts in their area. A significant majority, 32 out of 41 respondents (78.05%), confirmed that clan leaders played a role in conflict resolution, underscoring their perceived importance as key actors in maintaining local peace and security. Conversely, only 3 respondents (7.32%) indicated no such involvement, while 6 (14.63%) provided no response. This data strongly suggests that traditional clan leadership remains a fundamental and widely recognized mechanism for addressing disputes and fostering stability within the surveyed community in Hargeisa.

Figure 4.1.4 Educational Level

4.4 Objective three: Collaboration between Clan Leaders and Government Security Institutions

Quantitative:

Table 4.4.1 Impact of Clan Leaders' Engagement on Reducing Local Conflicts

Perception	Frequency	Percentage
Very good impact	31	67.%

Good impact	3	9.7%
Conflict resolution	7	22.6%
Backbone of community	0	0%
Other positive terms	0	0%
Total	41	100%

Interpretation: Most respondents (67.7%) believe clan leaders have a **very good impact** on Hargeisa's security, underscoring deep trust in their positive influence. Another **9.7%** rated the impact simply as **good**, reinforcing a broadly favorable perception. Importantly, **22.6%** emphasized their role specifically in **conflict resolution**, pointing to a valued function in preventing and managing local tensions. Together, these figures highlight that clan leaders are seen as key contributors especially in mediation and maintaining public order within Hargeisa's hybrid security system. This aligns with research showing how traditional elders, integrated into formal structures like the Guurti, serve as resilient local mediators in areas where formal policing is less present.

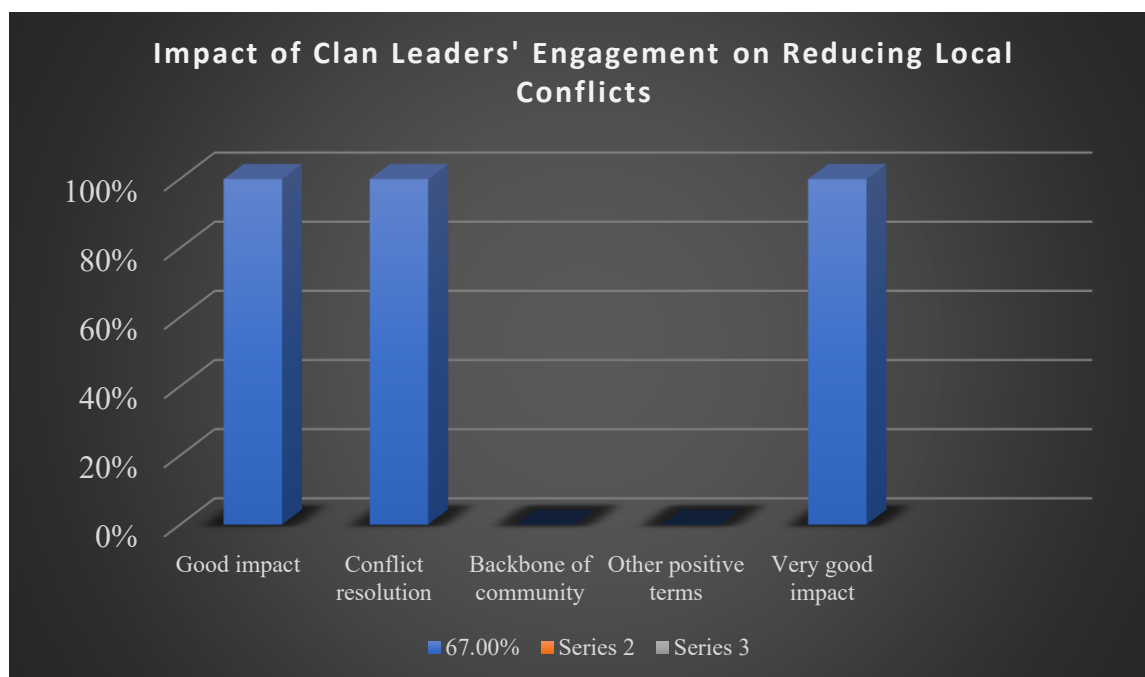


Figure 4.4.1 Impact of Clan Leaders' Engagement on Reducing Local Conflicts

4.5 Summary of findings:

Chapter Four of this study explores the roles of clan leaders in maintaining peace and security in Somaliland. The findings are based on data collected from 41 respondents and are organized around three main objectives:

1. **Influence of Clan Leaders on Local Security Policies** A significant majority (95.1%) of respondent's view clan leaders as either "Very Important" (61%) or "Important" (34.1%) in shaping local security policies. This highlights the deep trust and reliance placed on clan elders in the governance and security framework of Somaliland. Their involvement is formalized through institutions like the Guurti (House of Elders), peace committees, and local councils, which facilitate collaboration between clan leaders and government officials. These structures enable clan elders to participate in national governance, legislation, and security deliberations, reflecting their integral role in the political landscape.
2. **Mechanisms Employed by Clan Leaders in Conflict Resolution:** The study identifies various mechanisms employed by clan leaders in conflict resolution. The most prevalent activity is conflict mediation, with 48.8% of respondents acknowledging its importance. Other activities include reporting security issues (7.3%), attending joint meetings (4.9%), sharing community intelligence (7.3%), and other forms of cooperation (31.7%). These findings highlight the multifaceted approach of clan leaders in maintaining peace, encompassing both formal and informal mechanisms. Traditional dispute systems, such as Xeer (customary law) and Shir (community gatherings), remain operational and intersect with state governance through ad-hoc consultations with officials.
3. **Effectiveness of Collaborative Peace Efforts between Clan Leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.** The collaboration between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs is perceived positively, with 67.7% of respondents rating the impact as "Very good" and 9.7% as "Good." Additionally, 22.6% emphasized the role of clan leaders specifically in conflict resolution. This indicates that clan leaders are viewed as key contributors to peacebuilding efforts, particularly in mediation and maintaining public order within Somaliland's hybrid security system.

In summary, the findings underscore the pivotal role of clan leaders in the security and governance of Somaliland. Their involvement in formal institutions, engagement in diverse conflict resolution mechanisms, and effective collaboration with government entities highlight their central position in the socio-political fabric of the region. These insights contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of local security policies and the mechanisms employed by clan leaders in conflict resolution.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the key findings of the study in relation to the research objectives and relevant literature. It interprets the results, draws conclusions, and offers recommendations based on the study's findings.

5.1 Discussion of Findings

- **Objective I: Influence of Clan Leaders on Local Security Policies:** Our data shows 95.1% of respondent's view clan leaders as "Very Important" or "Important" in maintaining peace and security within their communities (Table 4.2.1). This strong consensus supports the Clan Dynamics and Leadership Theory, confirming that clan leaders, through bodies like the House of Elders (Guurti) and local councils, significantly influence local security policies [as discussed in Chapter 2.2.1]. This finding aligns with the historical and ongoing understanding of clan structures in the Horn of Africa, where clan leaders are often seen as custodians of local customs and authorities within their communities [Lewis, 2019]. The Ministry of Internal Affairs' direct engagement and "Power-Sharing through Appointments" further exemplify the Institutional Interplay Theory, demonstrating how formal and informal structures combine to create effective governance [as outlined in Chapter 2.2.3; Bradbury, 2018].
- **Objective II: Mechanisms Employed by Clan Leaders in Conflict Resolution:** conflict mediation is the primary mechanism (48.8%) clan leaders use for dispute resolution (Table 4.3.1), with 78.05% of respondents confirming their active role in recent conflicts (Table 4.3.2). This strong finding aligns with the Conflict Resolution Mechanisms Theory, underscoring the effectiveness of traditional approaches like the *xeer* system [as discussed in Chapter 2.2.4; Ali and Mohamud, 2018]. While formal reporting and intelligence sharing are less common, a significant "Other cooperation" category (31.7%) suggests a broad range of informal peace-keeping activities. This also demonstrates the practical application of Social Capital Theory, as clan leaders leverage trust and networks to foster community resilience [as described in Chapter 2.2.2; Ibrahim and Hanad, 2019].

- **Objective III: Collaboration between Clan Leaders and Government Security Institutions:** The collaboration between clan leaders and government security institutions is overwhelmingly positive, with 67.7% of respondents noting a "Very good impact" and another 9.7% a "Good impact" on Hargeisa's security (Table 4.4.1). This supports the Institutional Interplay Theory [Chapter 2.2.3; Yusuf and Haji, 2021], showing how Somaliland's hybrid security system effectively integrates traditional authority with formal structures. The Ministry's respectful outreach cultivates trust and ensures local concerns inform policy, which enhances government legitimacy [Shooting & Omar, 2019; Lappan, 2020]. This successful partnership also reflects the principles of Integration and Cohesion Theory [Chapter 2.2.5], bridging divides and fostering a more unified and stable society.

○ .

5.2 Conclusions

Based on the findings, the study concludes that:

- I. Clan leaders play a crucial role in shaping local security policies in Somaliland.
- II. Conflict mediation is the primary and most effective mechanism employed by clan leaders in dispute resolution.
- III. Collaboration between clan leaders and government security institutions is vital for enhancing local security.

5.3 Recommendations

- Strengthen the capacity of clan leaders through targeted training programs to improve their conflict resolution skills.
- Promote formal collaboration frameworks between clan leaders and government security institutions to ensure cohesive and coordinated security policies.
- Encourage the integration of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms with formal legal systems to enhance justice delivery and social cohesion.

5.4 Implications of the Study

The study highlights the essential role of clan leaders in maintaining peace and security in Somaliland. It suggests that inclusive governance, combining traditional leadership structures with

formal institutions, can strengthen local security frameworks. Policymakers and peacebuilding practitioners should consider empowering clan leaders as partners in sustainable peace efforts.

5.5 Areas for Future Research

- Examine the impact of women's participation in clan-based conflict resolution.
- Investigate the effectiveness of integrating traditional and formal legal systems in Somaliland's justice processes.
- Explore the role of youth in supporting clan leaders' initiatives for local security.

5.6 Study Limitations

- The study was conducted in selected regions of Somaliland, limiting the generalizability of the findings nationwide.
- Data relied on self-reports, which may be subject to recall bias or social desirability bias.
- The study identified correlations but did not establish causality between clan leaders' involvement and security improvements.

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Appendixes

Appendix 1: The Work Plan

Activities/weeks	Time stating	Time ending
Chapter one	6 March 2025	12 March 2025
Chapter two	19 March 2025	22 March 2025
Chapter three	25 March 2025	20 April 2025
Chapter four	20 may 2025	20 June 2025
Chapter five	20 June 2025	3 July 2025

Appendix 2: Budget

No	Activities	Item	Budget Dollar
1	Transportation	2months	30\$
2	Internet	2 months	25\$
3	Food	2 months	80\$
4	Printing	5 times	30\$
5	Prepaid	2months	14\$
			Total =179\$

Appendix 3: Consent Form for Research Participation

Introduction

Dear Participant,

I am Khalid Hussein Abdisalaam, a Bachelor's student in the Faculty of Social Science at Unity University. I am conducting a research study on "The Role of Clan Leaders in the Maintenance of Somaliland's Peace and Security", with a particular focus on their collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Hargeisa.

By participating in this study, you will contribute to understanding how clan leaders play a role in maintaining peace and security in Somaliland, especially in areas like conflict resolution, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. Your responses will be valuable for both academic and policy-related purposes.

Confidentiality:

If you agree to participate in this study, all the information you provide will be kept confidential and used only for academic purposes. Your identity will remain anonymous, and your name is not required on the questionnaire. Only the researcher and academic supervisors will have access to the data collected.

Voluntary Consent:

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to refuse to participate or to skip any question you feel uncomfortable answering. You may also withdraw from the study at any time without facing any consequences.

By signing below, you confirm that you have understood the information provided to you and that you voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Name of Respondent: _____

Signature of Respondent: _____

Date: _____

Name of Researcher: Khalid Hussein Abdisalaam

Signature of Researcher: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 4: Data Collection Tools

Section 1: Questionnaire (for General Respondents)

Instructions: Please answer the following questions honestly. Your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for academic purposes.

1. How do you perceive the role of clan leaders in maintaining peace in your community?

☐ Very Important

☐ Important

☐ Neutral

☐ Less Important

☐ Not Important

2. In what ways do clan leaders cooperate with government institutions like the Ministry of Internal Affairs? (You may select more than one)

☐ Participating in conflict mediation

☐ Reporting security issues

☐ Attending joint meetings

☐ Sharing community intelligence

☐ Others (please specify): _____

3. Have clan leaders played a role in resolving recent conflicts in your area?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain briefly: _____

4. Whom do you trust more when it comes to conflict resolution?

☐ Clan leaders

☐ Government officials

☐ Both equally

☐ Neither

5. What challenges do clan leaders face in maintaining peace and security in your community?

(Select all that apply)

☐ Lack of resources

☐ Political interference

☐ Limited authority

☐ Lack of government support

☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. What recommendations would you offer to improve collaboration between clan leaders and the Ministry of Internal Affairs?

-
-
-
-
-

Section 2: Interview Guide (for Key Informants such as Officials and Elders)

Instructions: These questions are designed to guide in-depth interviews. The interviewer may ask follow-up questions for clarification.

1. Please describe your role in promoting peace and security in your current position.
2. How would you assess the impact of clan leaders in the current security framework of Hargeisa?
3. Can you provide an example of a successful collaboration between the Ministry and clan leaders?
4. What institutional mechanisms exist to support collaboration between clan leaders and the Ministry?
5. What are the major challenges hindering effective cooperation between the two parties?

Interview Guide

- 1) Identifying Key Contributions of Clan Leaders to Peace and Security in Somaliland

- What roles do clan leaders currently play in maintaining peace and security within your community?
- Can you describe how clan leaders intervene in conflict resolution processes?
- In what ways have clan leaders contributed to the prevention or resolution of recent conflicts?
- How do local communities view the authority and legitimacy of clan leaders in security matters?
- Are there any unique cultural or traditional mechanisms used by clan leaders to ensure peace?
- What are the limitations of relying on clan leaders alone to handle security issues?

