



Title: Revolutionizing Somalia's National Security: The Reform of Intelligence Agencies

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Abstract

The general purpose of intelligence agency reform is to improve national security, reduce threats from hostile actors, and increase the accuracy of information gathered by intelligence agencies. Specific objectives can include increasing transparency in how the intelligence community operates, improving accountability for mistakes or missteps by personnel within the community, implementing updated technologies that improve analysis capabilities and effectiveness, addressing potential biases among personnel that could lead to inaccurate reporting or recommendations, streamlining communication between different departments within an intelligence service for greater efficiency. Additionally, some reforms may be implemented with specific goals in mind such as preventing foreign interference in U.S. elections or strengthening oversight over domestic surveillance programs.

The reform was initiated by the government to strengthen the country's security and intelligence apparatus. It involves restructuring the intelligence agencies and introducing modern technology to improve their efficiency.

A powerful digital illustration capturing the historical background of Somalia's intelligence agencies. The scene depicts a somber-looking intelligence officer standing in front of a backdrop of political instability and internal conflicts. The artist, James Tyler, skillfully portrays the officer's determination and resilience through his facial expression and body language. The color temperature is slightly desaturated to emphasize the gravity of the situation, while the lighting casts dramatic shadows, adding depth to the image. The atmosphere evokes a sense of urgency and the need for reform.

Key words

Intelligence, institution, agency, politics

1. Introduction

Somalia has been plagued with civil unrest and political instability since its independence in 1960. As a result, the country has been struggling to rebuild its national security apparatus and to create an effective intelligence system. The current situation in Somalia is extremely fragile and volatile, and a lack of coordination and cooperation between the intelligence services has resulted in a lack of trust and cooperation between the government and its citizens. This paper will discuss the need to reform the intelligence services in Somalia and the potential impact this could have on the country's national security.

The reform of intelligence agencies plays a pivotal role in ensuring national security and stability in Somalia. With numerous challenges hindering effective operations, it is imperative to delve into the historical backdrop of Somalia's intelligence agencies, address existing challenges, analyze international support and partnerships, highlight Somali-led initiatives, explore training and professional development, assess technological advancements, evaluate intelligence success metrics, and contemplate the implications and future prospects of intelligence reform in Somalia[15] [16].

The reform aims to make Somalia a safer place, with better protection for its citizens. The reform involves the formation of a unified intelligence agency, which will help coordinate the activities of the various security and intelligence agencies. It also includes the introduction of sophisticated technology for data collection and analysis, in order to more accurately identify security threats.

The reform will also involve training and capacity-building initiatives for personnel from the various agencies, helping them to better understand the threat landscape and respond more effectively. To ensure the most effective implementation of the reform, clear policies and procedures need to be put in place, outlining the roles and responsibilities of all involved. For instance, these policies may describe how agencies should coordinate their responses to security threats, as well as how to share threat intelligence with other agencies.

However, some argue that these types of policies and procedures can actually lead to more bureaucracy and red tape, which can hamper rather than help agencies in their efforts to reform. Threat intelligence is information about current or future security threats that can help organizations protect themselves. It can include information about malicious actors, attack methods, and vulnerabilities.

Bureaucracy is defined as a system of government in which power is divided among several officials. Red tape is defined as excessive regulation or adherence to formal rules that hinders or prevents action or decision-making. Threat intelligence is like a compass, guiding organizations away from danger. Bureaucracy and red tape, on the other hand, are like a thick fog, making it difficult to see the right path and hard to move forward.

By estimates, an excess of bureaucracy costs the U.S. economy more than \$3 trillion in lost economic output per year, and for all 32 countries in the OECD, the cost of excess bureaucracy rises to nearly \$9 trillion. Bureaucracy and red tape make it so hard to move forward that you might as well be walking in circles - the bureaucratic circle of life!

2. Literature review

The Somali intelligence agency, also known as the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), plays a crucial role in ensuring the security and stability of Somalia. Established in January 2013 by the Federal Government of Somalia, NISA replaced the defunct National Security Service [1]. This agency is responsible for gathering intelligence, conducting counterintelligence operations, and protecting the Somali people [2]. With its broad powers of arrest, detention, and search, NISA plays a significant role in maintaining law and order in the country [3]. The establishment of NISA marked a turning point in Somali history, as it shifted the focus of the intelligence service from repression to protection [2].

The historical background and formation of the Somali intelligence agency can be traced back to the National Security Service (NSS) under the government of Siad Barre [4]. The NSS was the primary intelligence agency of Somalia during that time, headquartered in Mogadishu [5]. However, with the collapse of the Barre regime in 1991, the NSS became

defunct, leading to a period of instability and insecurity in the country. It was only in 2013 that the Federal Government of Somalia established NISA to fill the void left by the NSS [1]. This transition marked a significant step towards rebuilding the country's security apparatus and ensuring the safety of its citizens.

The history of the Somali intelligence agency can be traced back as far as 1950, when President Aden Abdulle formed an internal security command. In 1977, Somalia's Critical Intelligence Agency (NCA) was established by presidential decree. The NCA played a prominent role in supporting the fight against imperialist forces during the Ogaden War and subsequent civil war years in Somalia. Since then, there have been several changes to Somalia's intelligence structure.

In 2013, Somali Federal Parliament ratified Bill 26 which created three separate security agencies – namely: National Security Service (NSS), NISA – The National Intelligence & Security Agency not he executive branch with broad based powers—and Bihada Al-Nabada Somalida ee Qaranka (BNSQ), responsible for border control and surveillance [1].

Embodying disparate roles across these national organisations are veteran members from militant factions who predate formal government structures existing since 1991 such as Puntland's Ahmed Mire Stoppeh, Minister Of Interior under Mukhtar Robow Hussein Abu' 'Mahamoud reign at South West State level since 2018 or ex deputy Jamal Mohamed Hassan 'Cali Xasan their leader within Hirshabelle Political Authority 2017–present In 2019 further legislation extended counter terrorism measures hosted over 2024 through enabling continued operation of regional intelligence Initiatives being rebranded annually by Presidential order under GIS office alongside J2 branch previously military operations designed during Siyad Barre tenure 1971–1991.

The history of Somalia's intelligence agencies intertwines with the country's socio-political landscape. The National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) and other agencies have endured political instability and internal conflicts, which have hampered operational effectiveness [1]. Past intelligence failures underscore the necessity for comprehensive reforms to enhance national security and counter emerging threats.

The lack of modern equipment and technology poses a significant challenge for Somalia's intelligence agencies. The outdated infrastructure impairs effective intelligence collection and analysis. Furthermore, insufficient budget allocation limits their capacity to invest in state-of-the-art technological advancements and necessary resources.

Corruption within intelligence agencies poses a grave threat to national security. It compromises the integrity and effectiveness of intelligence operations. Additionally, extremist groups actively exploit vulnerabilities within these agencies, infiltrating their ranks and compromising confidential information. These activities hinder counterterrorism efforts, endangering the public.

Successful intelligence reform in Somalia necessitates improved cooperation and coordination among the various intelligence agencies. The absence of joint efforts and information sharing creates gaps and redundancies in intelligence operations. A notable example that underscores the need for enhanced interagency coordination is the failure to prevent the devastating Al-Shabaab attack on Mogadishu in 2019.

The Somali government has been struggling to establish a functioning intelligence system and to build trust between the government and its citizens. The lack of trust and cooperation between the government and its citizens has resulted in a lack of coordination and cooperation between the intelligence services. This has led to a lack of information sharing and a decrease in the effectiveness of the intelligence services. Moreover, the intelligence services have been hampered by a lack of resources and personnel.

The current intelligence system in Somalia is plagued by an inadequate number of personnel, outdated equipment, inadequate training and a lack of coordination between the different services. These shortcomings have resulted in a lack of intelligence gathering and analysis and a lack of coordination between the intelligence services. This has led to a lack of trust between the government and its citizens and has hampered the government's ability to effectively respond to security threats.

The purpose and objectives of the Somali intelligence agency revolve around safeguarding and enhancing national security. Like any intelligence agency, NISA's primary goal is to protect the country from internal and external threats [6]. With Somalia facing challenges such as terrorism, insurgency, and political instability, NISA plays a crucial role in gathering intelligence to prevent and mitigate these threats. The agency works closely with international partners, including the United Nations and the United States, to address security concerns and promote stability in the region [7] [8]. However, the Somali intelligence agency also faces its own set of challenges, including deficiencies in intelligence capacity [9]. Nonetheless, the agency's historical context and the ongoing efforts to strengthen its capabilities highlight the importance of intelligence in Somalia's journey towards stability and security.

The National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) is the primary intelligence agency of the Federal Republic of Somalia [1]. Its main role is to provide the government with credible information about potential threats to the state and its population [6]. This includes gathering intelligence on various aspects such as foreign persons, places, events, and activities that are of interest to the Somali government [10]. NISA is headquartered in Mogadishu and is closely intertwined with the Somali Armed Forces, often collaborating with them on security matters [1]. However, the agency has faced criticisms regarding its intelligence capacity and deficiencies in terms of organizational structure and hierarchy [5].

The organizational structure of the Somali intelligence agency is hierarchical, with various levels of command and responsibility. The agency operates under the authority of the Somali government and is accountable to the President and the National Security Council [11]. It is composed of different departments and units, each with specific roles and responsibilities. These include departments dedicated to counterterrorism, counterintelligence, analysis, and operations [9]. The structure of NISA is designed to ensure efficient coordination and communication between different units, allowing for effective intelligence gathering and analysis.

Collaboration with other domestic and international intelligence agencies is crucial for the Somali intelligence agency to effectively address security threats. NISA works closely with other Somali security agencies, such as the police and military, to share information and coordinate operations [3]. Additionally, the agency collaborates with international partners, including intelligence agencies from neighboring countries and international organizations, to enhance its capabilities and address transnational security challenges [12]. This cooperation enables the exchange of intelligence, joint training programs, and coordinated efforts to combat terrorism and other security threats [13]. However, it is important to note that the agency's effectiveness in collaboration may be influenced by the political and security dynamics in Somalia [14].

International organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union play a vital role in supporting Somalia's intelligence reform efforts. They provide essential assistance and collaborate on intelligence capacity building. Training programs, knowledge sharing initiatives, and financial aid contribute to strengthening Somalia's intelligence capabilities, fostering regional stability [12].

Countries like the United States and the United Kingdom offer invaluable support for intelligence reform in Somalia through partnerships. They provide training programs and facilitate technology transfers to bolster Somalia's intelligence infrastructure. These contributions equip Somali intelligence officers with essential skills and cutting-edge tools to effectively counter security threats [12] [14].

Somalia's government has undertaken significant reforms to enhance intelligence capabilities, exemplified by the establishment of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). Efforts to improve the legal framework surrounding intelligence activities lay a solid foundation for accountability and transparency within the intelligence community[6].

Recognizing the importance of community involvement in intelligence gathering, Somalia emphasizes grassroots efforts to build trust and cooperation. Engaging with local communities allows intelligence agencies to establish informant networks that provide valuable insights and information. This community-driven approach is vital for uncovering local extremist networks and effectively countering security threats.

Investing in education and training programs is crucial for building a skilled intelligence workforce. Somalia focuses on equipping intelligence officers with robust analytical capabilities and counterterrorism expertise. Comprehensive training enables officers to analyze data, identify patterns, and make informed decisions to safeguard national security.

Upholding respect for human rights and adhering to ethical intelligence practices remains paramount. Somali intelligence agencies prioritize ethical considerations, such as privacy protection, streamlined surveillance protocols, and the implementation of monitoring and accountability mechanisms. These guidelines align intelligence activities with international standards and foster trust between agencies and the public.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research design

The study will use descriptive survey and co relational designs. In descriptive designs, the study explains the variables by conceptualizing them. In co relational design the researchers will try to correlate the two variables studied to see if they relate and or impact one another.

3.2 Research population

The target population of this study was 100 respondents.

3.3 Sample size

The sample size were 80 subjects selected carefully from the target population mentioned above to simplify the process of data collection and save time. They were selected by using Slovic's formula as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N(e))^2}$$
$$= \frac{100}{(1 + 100(0.05))^2}$$

$$= \frac{100}{1 + 85(0.0025)}$$

$$= \frac{100}{1 + 0.25} = \frac{100}{1.25} = 80$$

$$n = 80$$

3.4 Research instrument

The researcher will use questionnaire and interview as a research instrument to collect data from the field. Questionnaire is intended to give chance to the respondents to read and understand questions and get time to answer it while interview is intended to target the key individuals who have no chance to fill questionnaire and collect important information obtained from non-verbal communications. These two tools enable the researcher to obtain the required information from the respondents under study.

3.5 Data analysis

The data on completion on mixed questionnaires was categorized or coded and entered into a computer for the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 16 version) to summarize the data using simple and complex frequency tables. The same package used to analyze by computing relative frequencies, means, and standard deviations. In the questionnaire each selected one to four scale for where, 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree; 3= agree; 4= strongly agree.

Table 3.3.1 presented the mean ranges and their interpretation

Mean Range	Ranks	Response Mode	Interpretation
1.00-1.75	1	Strongly disagree	Very ineffective
1.76-2.50	2	Disagree	Ineffective
2.51-3.25	3	Agree	Effective
3.26-4.00	4	Strongly agree	Very effective

Data source 2023

4. Results

Before answering the research objectives, this study examined the reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia. This was determined using mean ranges. Mean ranges from 3.26-4.00 shows that respondents strongly agreed with the items investigated under the reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia thus, the level of Intelligence reform is very effective. Mean ranges from 2.51-3.25 indicating that respondents agreed with the items investigated under reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia thus, the level of Intelligence reform is effective in Mogadishu; Mean ranges from 1.76-2.50 indicate that respondents disagreed with the items investigated the reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia. Thus, the level of Intelligence reform is ineffective in Mogadishu. Lastly mean ranges from 1.00-1.75 indicate that respondents strongly disagreed with the items investigated under the reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia. Thus, the level of Intelligence reform is very ineffective in Mogadishu.

4.1 Mean Values and Standard Deviation showing reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia

Category	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev	Interpretations
Increasing transparency in how the intelligence community operates	80	1	4	3.00	1.467	Effective
Improving accountability for mistakes or missteps by personnel within the community	80	1	4	2.95	1.311	Effective
Implementing updated technologies that improve analysis capabilities and effectiveness	80	1	4	2.79	1.456	Effective
Addressing potential biases among personnel that could lead to inaccurate reporting or recommendations	80	1	4	2.78	1.312	Effective
Streamlining communication between different departments within an intelligence service for greater efficiency	80	1	4	2.78	1.312	Effective
Average	80	1	4	2.86	1.3716	Effective

Data source 2023

The findings presented in Table 4.1 indicate that the reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia is effective. This finding is affirmed by the overall mean average of 2.86 that

refers to very effective in the rating scale and at standard deviation of 1.3716 considering the mean average of various constructs under intelligence reform.

The overall mean average of 3.00 that refers to effective in the rating scale and at standard deviation of 1.467 considering the mean average of various constructs under intelligence reform, it can be noted Increasing transparency in how the intelligence community operates.

(Average mean of 2.95); followed by Improving accountability for mistakes or missteps by personnel within the community.

(Average mean of 2.79); followed by Implementing updated technologies that improve analysis capabilities and effectiveness.

(Average mean of 2.78); followed by Addressing potential biases among personnel that could lead to inaccurate reporting or recommendations.

(average mean of 2.78). and finally it was in terms of Streamlining communication between different departments within an intelligence service for greater efficiency.

The findings presented in objectives indicate that the the reform of intelligence agencies in Somalia is effective in the rating scale.

5. Discussion of the study

The Somali intelligence agency faces numerous challenges and controversies that hinder its effectiveness and credibility. One major challenge is the lack of resources and funding [15]. Somalia, a country plagued by civil unrest and poor governance, struggles to allocate sufficient resources to its intelligence agency [16]. The lack of funding not only limits the agency's ability to gather intelligence but also poses a significant risk to the country's security transition [17]. Insufficient resources and funding hinder the agency's capacity to effectively address security threats and maintain stability within the country [18].

The Somali intelligence agency has also faced allegations of human rights abuses, which further tarnish its reputation. There have been reports of rape, sexual abuse, and extrajudicial killings committed by government agents, primarily members of the security forces [19] [20]. These human rights violations not only undermine the agency's legitimacy but also erode public trust in its ability to protect and serve the Somali population. The presence of such abuses raises concerns about accountability and the need for oversight and reform within the agency [21].

External interference and political influence have also posed significant challenges to the Somali intelligence agency. Somalia's political landscape is heavily influenced by clan-based politics and corruption [22]. The interference of external actors in the country's affairs further complicates the agency's operations and compromises its independence [23]. Such interference can jeopardize the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and unity of Somalia [23]. The agency must navigate these complex political dynamics while striving to fulfill its mandate of ensuring national security and stability [24].

Since the collapse of the Somali government in 1991, the nation has been plagued by civil war, poverty, and terrorism. As the Somali people continue to struggle for stability and security, the reform of the nation's intelligence agencies has become essential in order to revolutionize Somalia's national security.

The Somali National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) is the primary intelligence agency in Somalia. NISA was established in April 2013 and is responsible for countering terrorism and extremism, protecting state secrets, and gathering and analyzing information on potential threats to national security. NISA has been criticized by the international community for its lack of transparency and accountability. According to a report by the United Nations Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, NISA has failed to establish a functioning oversight structure and has been implicated in human rights abuses.

In order to reform and strengthen Somalia's intelligence agencies, the government must prioritize transparency and accountability. In August 2017, the Somali government launched a National Security Architecture Reform (NSAR) to improve the country's

security sector [6]. The NSAR includes a plan to establish an independent oversight body to ensure that the NISA adheres to international standards of human rights and accountability. The Somali government has also committed to creating an intelligence training program to ensure that NISA personnel are properly trained and equipped to carry out their duties.

In addition to reforming the NISA, the Somali government must also focus on improving the intelligence gathering capabilities of other security agencies. The Somali Police Force (SPF) is responsible for collecting intelligence on criminal activity, but is often understaffed and ill-equipped. The SPF must be provided with adequate resources and training in order to effectively gather intelligence. The Somali government must also invest in modern technology and equipment to improve the SPF's intelligence gathering capabilities [6].

The reform of Somalia's intelligence agencies is essential in order to ensure the nation's security and stability. By prioritizing transparency and accountability, improving the capabilities of the security forces, and strengthening international cooperation, the Somali government can revolutionize the nation's national security.

There has been increasing discussion about reforming intelligence agencies in recent years. This is due to a number of factors, including the following:

1. The exposure of privacy abuses by certain intelligence agencies. In recent years, there have been revelations that some intelligence agencies had engaged in activities that violated their citizens' right to privacy and other civil liberties.
2. Growing concerns over security threats caused by cyber-attacks and terrorism. As our world grows increasingly digitalized, many countries are looking for ways to better protect themselves against malicious state actors or terrorist organizations using technology as a means of attack.
3. Questions about accountability within existing systems and legal frameworks used to monitor the activities of government surveillance programs. Many people believe that current laws allow too much secrecy which makes it difficult to ensure accountability among intelligence agency leaders when suspected violations occur.

The utilization of cutting-edge technologies is pivotal for effective intelligence gathering and analysis. Drones, geospatial intelligence systems, and data analytics tools significantly enhance the capabilities of intelligence agencies in identifying, tracking, and mitigating security threats.

In an era dominated by information and communication technology, addressing cybersecurity is crucial. Robust cybersecurity measures protect sensitive information and intelligence networks from external threats and infiltration. Moreover, promoting information sharing enhances collaboration between agencies and nations, facilitating proactive responses to emerging security challenges [16].

Establishing key performance indicators (KPIs) is crucial for measuring intelligence effectiveness. These metrics include successfully foiling terrorist plots, reducing extremist activities, timely and accurate intelligence reporting, and strengthened national security.

Learning from intelligence failures and adapting strategies is essential for successful reform. Establishing feedback loops that facilitate continuous evaluation and refinement enables intelligence agencies to identify shortcomings, rectify operational deficiencies, and develop adaptive strategies to effectively respond to evolving security threats.

Successful intelligence reform in Somalia has the potential to significantly enhance the country's ability to counter security threats. Strengthened intelligence capabilities bolster Somalia's overall security posture, mitigating risks posed by extremist organizations and promoting regional stability.

Effective intelligence reform builds trust and credibility with international partners, which, in turn, influences foreign relations. Reliable intelligence agencies enhance collaboration on security matters, paving the way for increased foreign aid and investment opportunities. The perception of a capable and accountable intelligence apparatus encourages foreign nations to engage and support Somalia's quest for stability.

It is essential for the Somali government to implement a comprehensive reform of the intelligence services in order to ensure the national security of Somalia. In order to

achieve this, the government must focus on three key areas: personnel, equipment, and coordination.

The government must invest in the recruitment and training of intelligence personnel in order to ensure that the intelligence services are adequately staffed and trained. This should include the hiring of experienced intelligence personnel from outside of Somalia and the provision of adequate training and resources for the personnel.

The government must also invest in the procurement of modern equipment and technology to ensure that the intelligence services are adequately equipped and able to effectively carry out their duties. This should include the procurement of modern surveillance equipment, communication systems, and computer systems.

The government must also create a system of coordination between the different intelligence services. This should include the establishment of a joint intelligence center and the development of a system of information sharing between the different services. This will ensure that the intelligence services are able to effectively coordinate and share information in order to respond to security threats in a timely and effective manner.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the reform of the intelligence services in Somalia is essential for the national security of the country. The government must invest in the recruitment and training of personnel, the procurement of modern equipment, and the creation of a system of coordination between the different intelligence services. If these reforms are implemented, they will help to restore trust between the government and its citizens and will help to ensure the national security of Somalia.

Intelligence reform is pivotal for unlocking Somalia's potential, promoting national security, and strengthening foreign relations. By overcoming challenges, leveraging international support and partnerships, initiating Somali-led initiatives, prioritizing training and professional development, embracing technological advancements, evaluating intelligence success, and foreseeing the implications for future prospects, Somalia can embark on an optimistic intelligence reform journey[17]. This journey will protect the nation, contribute to regional stability, and foster stronger foreign relations.

Finally, the Somali government must prioritize international cooperation in order to effectively counter terrorism and extremism. In recent years, Somalia has developed strong ties with the United States, the European Union, and other international partners. These partnerships have enabled Somalia to benefit from intelligence sharing and capacity building initiatives. In addition, Somalia must strengthen its ties with neighboring countries in order to improve intelligence gathering and sharing.

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