

The Observatory of Conflict and Violence Prevention (OCVP) is nonpolitical, neutral Somali institution, which is independent of governments and civil society; it has been set up in June 2009.

The main goal of the Observatory is to **improve the effectiveness of community safety interventions by advancing learning and evidence-based programming**. It mandates include:

I. Training and peace education

Gather or develop – based on latest findings and lessons learned – context-specific formal training modules for actors at district and national level responsible for implementing responses to insecurity.

II. Research and analysis

Professionalize and institutionalize data collection and analysis on safety and security, and distil findings in a format appropriate for various target audiences.

III. Knowledge management

Review and standardize lessons learned and knowledge management products and methodologies, and actively disseminate findings.

IV. Institutional development

Establish national and international partnerships with universities, academic and research institutions, internships and exchange programs developed with the ultimate aim of knowledge sharing and capacity building within community safety and security.

For more information, please contact

Mr. Omar Sheikh, Observatory
Manager

omarissa@ocvp.org



Community Safety & Security Analysis Burao District



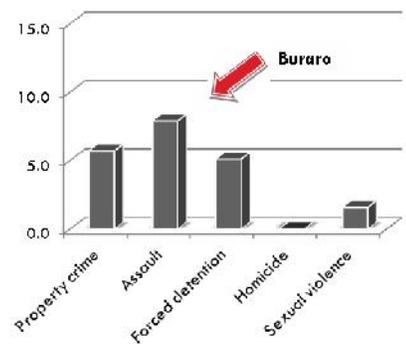
Burao District Safety Committee

HIGHLIGHT – highest priority type of violence in Burao

Violence against women ranked highest in the on the list of concerns making it a priority. Violence against women is divided into two types; **Domestic violence** and **sexual violence “Rape”**; domestic violence is thought to be common, mainly inflicted on wives by husbands and contributing to divorce and family breakdown. In cases where the marriage is cross-clan, violence against the woman can easily trigger support from her clan group. **Rape** can similarly draw in the clan. These generally take place at night or during the early evening in poorly lit areas such as river banks where women may be carrying out errands. Unfortunately when perpetrators are identified, many cases are settled out of court through the intervention of clan elders.

Other characteristics of violence in Burao

Property crime that manifests in **muggings and burglaries** are common in urban Burao, directed mainly against women for mobile phones and money. **Land disputes** were identified as another major cause of violent conflict among families and clans as shown in graph as well. This was purely a rural phenomenon in the past, but increasing urbanization has apparently introduced competition for land in the city. **Revenge killings** are occurring within and across clans, triggered by disputes over **compensation payments** in which a wronged party does not receive timely or adequate payment. **Livestock theft** is seen as a threat to security in the rural areas, this occurs mainly after periods of draughts when those who lost their animals attempt to restock themselves by raiding others. Another aspect of domestic violence in Burao is **child abuse and neglect**. **Attacks by politicized Islamic groups** is also one form of insecurity threat to Somaliland from the **radical Al Shabaab group**, which have continually sought to destabilize the territory as an extension of their campaign in south central Somalia.



Burao at glance

Burao is Somaliland’s second biggest town. It serves as the capital of Somaliland’s central Togdheer region. The town of Burao is well located (South of Ethiopia, East Sool region and within distance of the northern port of Berbera). The district is heavily reliant on the livestock industry, camels, sheep and goats are exported from there to the Middle East, particularly to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Yemen. On any given day at Burao-Yiroowe market, as many as 10,000 heads of sheep and goats may be sold for export.

Population

400,000 IDPs between 26,000 and 50,000¹

Major clans

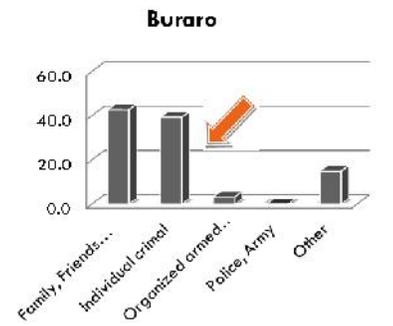
Habar Jeclo and Habar Yonis



Main perpetrators

Most perpetrators of both of violent crime and clan-sponsored violence are considered to be **young men**, particularly males of 15-20 years, which operate individually. The other major groups of perpetrators are **adult men (aged 20 – 40)**. This social group is less implicated in petty urban crime but more likely to engage in livestock theft and violence associated with land disputes.

The above graph shows that in Burao there are few organized crime groups and most criminals operate individually.

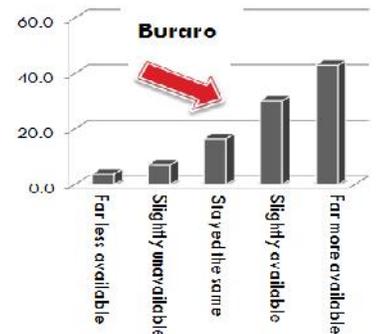


Victims of crime and violence

People, particularly **women** that are permanent residents are the main victims of crime and violence at rate of 8/10, though otherwise the apparent victims of crime and insecurity were also said to play a role in fomenting clan-based conflict, especially where they are directly involved as in cases of domestic violence and divorce.

Instruments of insecurity

In Burao, there is a special market for small arms sales known as “Cir-toogte”, which is literally means sky shooter. At the market weapons are available for the public. The existence of such market significantly contributes to the increase of the availability of small arms in the past year. Besides of small arms other common weapons that are used for conflicts include daggers, knives and clubs. The graph indicates the availability of small arms over the last 12 months, at rate of 30/40.



Local capacities for peace

The police, religious leaders, traditional elders, private sector, civil society, courts and the business administration are carrying the most potential for peace. It is important to note that **‘civilian security committees’** are increasingly being formed in crime hotspots (October, Kenya, Sha’ab area, German Institute, Hodan and Kandahar) and many villages.

About this Info Sheet

The information contained in this factsheet was gathered through focus groups discussions conducted in Burao with the ultimate aim of gaining a comprehensive understanding of community safety issues in the district. Seven focus group discussions were held with IDPs, youth, elders, women, religious leaders, local authorities and residents from the rural areas. This information was complemented by a Crime and Victimization Survey carried out in Burao by partners.

¹ Community Mapping of Burco, HornPeace, 2010