

Community Safety & Security Analysis Bossasso District

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**. Its 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 info@ocvp.org



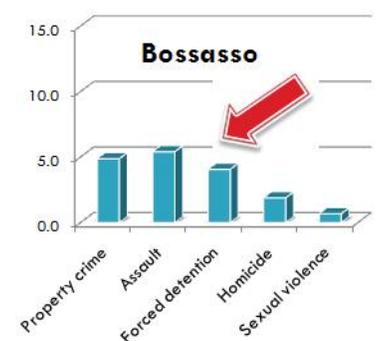
Bossasso District Safety Committee

HIGHLIGHT– highest priority type of violence in Bossasso

“Unknown killings” refer to a type of assault not motivated by traditional revenge or honour issues. The perpetrators and motives behind these killings are not declared, with people even fearful of discussing the topic. The profile of most victims suggests that there is a political dimension to this, linked either to the growth of militant political Islamic groups or to more routine inter-party (and inter-clan) rivalries.¹ According to members of the local authority focus group, the assassins are directed by phone, and are generally young men with no previous relationship to the victims who are hired by outsiders.

Other characteristics of violence in Bossasso

Another major form of insecurity is **piracy**. Bossasso is the centre of piracy activity both off its shore and within its city limits. Piracy crosses ethnic and clan lines, it has a profound impact on the everyday life and the economy. So does **theft**, which is both opportunistic and armed and for which more and more IDP women became the victims. **Violence against women** also became rampant and it happens in either in the form of social and economical negligence or in the form of domestic violence and rape. Inter-clan revenge killing are the greatest concern or rural communities. **Human trafficking** is also seen as serious threat, whereby illegal immigration occurs on boat to Yemen or on land. **Child trafficking** and organ trade is a new phenomenon, whereby street and IDP children are drugged, kidnapped and killed for their organs.



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¹ Victims have included court officials, politicians and parliamentarians, elders, religious leaders and civil society organisers among others.

Bosasso at glance

Geography and demography

The district of Bosasso is located to the north of Puntland State of Somalia (PSoS). Bosasso District is dominated by the port town of Bosasso. Located on the Gulf of Aden, Bosasso is Somalia’s commercial centre and one of Somalia’s most important ports. The district spans approximately 36,000 square kilometers comprised of the town itself and some 50 small outlying villages.

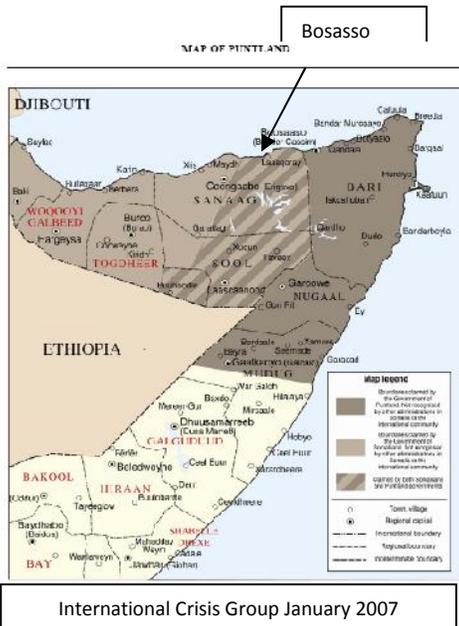
Population

200,000²

IDPs between 28,000³ and 50,000

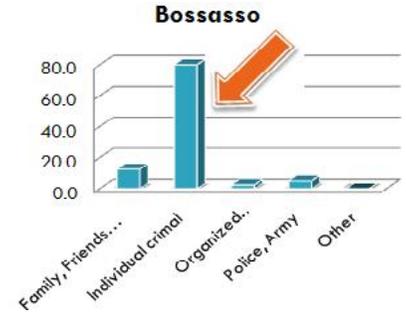
Major clan

Majerten



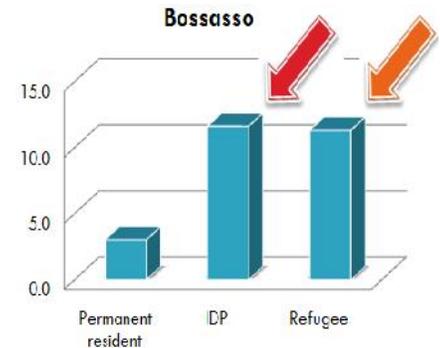
Main perpetrators

Men aged between 18 and 25 are at major risk of becoming both victims and perpetrators of emerging forms of organised crime. Individual criminals are the most people that commit assault in Bosasso at a rate of 76/80. This is showed by the below graph.



Victims of crime and violence

IDPs and refugees are among the most vulnerable groups of victims in Bosasso at a rate of 8/10 because of their low economic standing and poor access to security services and infrastructure. Despite this, relations between IDP and host communities seem remarkably good.



Instruments of insecurity

Assassinations are carried out by using pistol and AK47s. Firearms and hand grenades are available for purchase at the market. It is also possible to rent weapons even with payment in kind such as Traditional weapons are such as swords and knives used at killings over resources and familial disputes.

Local capacities for peace

The police, community-police liaison groups, religious leaders, traditional elders, the government, womens’ associations, youth groups, the courts and the business administration were named as potential capacities for peace. It was stated that recent state-wide restructuring of public administration and accompanying spending cuts have curbed corruption and helped to improve security.

About this Info Sheet

The information contained in this factsheet was gathered through focus groups discussions conducted in Bosasso 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 Bosasso by partners.

² UNDP uses a figure of 120,000, which dates back to 2005. Bosasso Urban Household Economic Study: A special report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, FEWS NET/USAID, Somalia, October 2009, p. 11. Another study conducted by Progressive Interventions for the UNDP and ILO in the same year estimated a population almost twice as large at 200,000. Territorial Diagnosis and Institutional Mapping, Bosasso-Galkayo Corridor, UNDP, ILO & PI, July 2005, p. 73.

³ Puntland helps IDPs integrate, learn skills, IRIN, 27 May 2010,

