

Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu: An International Organizational Perspective

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Abstract

This study examines the critical Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu: An International Organizational Perspective, addressing a significant gap in localized research on their effectiveness, challenges, and operational dynamics within this fragile urban context. The research seeks to understand how IOs contribute to stabilization efforts and identify barriers to sustainable peace in a city that has long been the epicenter of both conflict and international intervention. The study is grounded in three key theoretical frameworks. Liberal Institutionalism explains how IOs foster cooperation and reduce conflict through structured platforms for dialogue and joint action. Peacebuilding Theory focuses on addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting social reconciliation, while State-building Theory emphasizes the importance of constructing legitimate and capable institutions as a foundation for long-term stability. Together, these theories provide a robust lens to analyze the multifaceted interventions of IOs in Mogadishu. A quantitative correlational research design was employed, with data collected from 172 respondents representing IOs, Somali government officials, and local communities through structured questionnaires. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses, including Pearson's correlation and ANOVA, were used to evaluate the relationship between international interventions and peace and security outcomes. The methodology ensured a systematic assessment of the impact of various IO initiatives, from peacekeeping missions to development programs. Key findings reveal a dichotomy in IO effectiveness. Short-term interventions, such as UN peacekeeping (72.1% approval) and AU military operations (75.6% approval), were highly successful in reducing violence and enhancing security. However, long-term efforts to address governance deficits (e.g., UN programs targeting root causes: 60.5% approval) and foster political reconciliation (AU: 58.1%) were less impactful. NGOs emerged as indispensable actors in grassroots service delivery (78.5% approval) but faced significant operational challenges, including funding shortages and access restrictions (74.4%). Additionally, the study highlighted coordination gaps, particularly IGAD's regional strategies that sometimes misaligned with Mogadishu's immediate priorities. The study concludes that while IOs play a pivotal role in mitigating violence and delivering humanitarian aid, sustainable peace remains elusive due to fragmented strategies, limited local ownership, and persistent structural challenges like Al-Shabaab's insurgency. To address these gaps, the study recommends three key actions: enhancing local inclusion in peacebuilding processes, improving coordination among IOs to align humanitarian and development efforts, and adopting flexible, long-term funding mechanisms to support NGOs and state-building initiatives. The research contributes valuable empirical evidence on IO effectiveness in urban conflict zones and validates theoretical frameworks in the context of fragile states. However, limitations such as security-related data collection constraints and the underrepresentation of local voices suggest the need for further studies with broader community engagement. The original value of this study lies in its ability to bridge macro-level peacebuilding theories with micro-level realities in Mogadishu, offering context-specific insights that can inform more effective policies and interventions.

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Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected world, international organizations play a critical role in global affairs, peace, and security. Since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, international organizations have continuously expanded their work to address new situations such as interstate conflict, civil war, and now cyber/computer warfare and terrorist threats. Somalia, suffering from years of conflict and failed governance, continues to be a target of global interventions to promote peace and security. The capital, Mogadishu, has suffered decades of instability and complex reconstruction. Since the collapse of the central government in 1991, Mogadishu has been the scene of armed conflict, extremism, and humanitarian crises, in which international organizations continue to be involved. Organizations such as the United Nations, the African Union, and other non-governmental organizations have played a key role in restoring state control, promoting reconciliation, and protecting citizens (Williams, 2018).

Global institutions play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security worldwide, and their roles continue to evolve to address emerging challenges. In Sudan, the UN African Union's hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) officially ended in 2021, but its withdrawal revealed significant weaknesses in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid delivery on the ground (United Nations, 2021). Recent developments highlight the importance of continued UN intervention, even in the near term. In Myanmar, the UN continued implementing its humanitarian assistance program even after a devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake in the Richter Mountains in March 2025 disrupted relief efforts and disrupted military operations (Reuters, n.d.). The UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continues to contribute to political dialogue and social stability in Kosovo (Amelya, 2016). Similarly, the UN's work in Timor-Leste has shifted toward long-term development and institution-building (UN Timor-Leste, 2023). These cases reflect a shift in international organizations' approach to conflict management: they remain actively involved in peacekeeping activities, but have now entered the phase of institutional development and support, a crucial and complex approach to achieving lasting peace and security in various contexts.

In Somalia, international organizations, including the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have made significant contributions to peace and security in Somalia by establishing peacekeeping missions (such as the Africa Somalia Security Information System), providing emergency, humanitarian, and reinforcement facilities to the government, and promoting regional dialogue. The United Nations Support Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) provide expertise and logistical support for state-building, while the European Union provides funding for security reform and the reconstitution of the armed forces in Somalia. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) promotes political reconciliation and cross-border cooperation, while organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support economic recovery and elections. However, challenges remain, such as the al-Shabaab insurgency, political fragmentation, and resource constraints, necessitating the implementation of comprehensive local strategies to maintain momentum (UN Security Council, 2023; African Union Peace and Security Council, (World bank, 2022).

The role of international organizations in promoting peace and security has been widely studied worldwide, and there is considerable research on how international organizations support the reconstruction of post-conflict areas. Despite Somalia's long history of instability and the diverse international actors involved in the country's peace process, particularly in Mogadishu, there is little empirical research that considers the specific context and the actual roles, successes, and challenges faced by each location. While much of the available literature addresses Somalia's security issues at the national or regional level, little local research examines the actual state of international peacebuilding in the capital, Mogadishu, the focus of most conflict resolution and stabilization efforts in the region. Given Mogadishu's political and economic importance, and the fact that it has witnessed the majority of violence and conflict, as well as the majority of international missions, there is an urgent need to examine the role of international organizations in urban settings. This article fills this gap by providing a local overview of international organizations' interventions in Mogadishu, assessing their successes, identifying challenges, and discussing steps to develop appropriate and more sustainable peacebuilding efforts at the local level. The primary objective of this study is to identify and understand the role of international organizations in promoting peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. Based

on this consideration, this study seeks to achieve the following specific research objectives: Determine the role of the United Nations in promoting peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. Analyze the role of the African Union in promoting peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. History

Literature Review

This literature review examines the role of various international organizations in conflict resolution and maintaining peace and security in international affairs, as well as their successes and challenges. Citing numerous academic papers and institutional reports, the review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the changing role these organizations play in global peacebuilding and the challenges they face.

Theoretical Framework

This paper uses three major theoretical frameworks, liberal institutionalism, peacebuilding theory, and state-building theory, to explain how international organizations can achieve peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. Each of these frameworks offers a distinct yet complementary perspective for assessing the significance, process, and impact of international intervention in post-conflict situations.

The diverse relationships among international organizations in ensuring peace and security in Somalia, particularly Mogadishu, can be most easily discussed through a liberal institutionalist approach to peacebuilding theory and state-building theory. Liberal institutionalism focuses on the role of international institutions in mitigating conflict and promoting international cooperation through appropriate dialogue, norm setting, and collective action (Keohane & Martin, 1995). This is evident through the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the African Union Interim Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which support political dialogue among Somali leaders, facilitate international aid, and monitor the implementation of the peace agreement. Peacebuilding theory builds on this foundation and seeks to address the root causes of conflict and promote reconciliation and social cohesion (Lederach, 1999). International institutions support peacebuilding in Mogadishu by funding local reconciliation projects, promoting human rights, and supporting the inclusion of marginalized communities such as women and youth in the peace process. Statebuilding theory emphasizes the need to build legitimate and effective state institutions as a prerequisite for long-term peacebuilding (Fukuyama, 2004). This has been evident in Somalia, where the international community has invested in rebuilding the security forces, the judiciary, and the public administration, and strengthening the federal government's capacity to deliver services and uphold the rule of law in Mogadishu and surrounding areas. These three principles underscore the role of international organizations in Somalia: laying the foundations for partnerships, containing social impacts, and restoring legitimate governance.

Empirical Review

The first major international intervention in Somalia began in 1992 as UNOSOM I, with the goal of monitoring the ceasefire and providing humanitarian assistance. However, its mandate was weak and ineffective due to poor implementation. UNOSOM II, launched in 1993, faced violent clashes and was withdrawn in 1995 (UN peacekeeping operations).

The European Union (EU) has become a key promoter of global peace and security, combining civilian and military forces and emphasizing multilateralism, human rights, and the rule of law (European Union (EU)). The effective implementation of UN peacekeeping policies has contributed significantly to reducing armed conflicts. Its effectiveness can be enhanced through increased investment, more direct mandates, support for political processes, ensuring the protection of civilians, and third-party support for long-term peacekeeping operations (United Nations). It is consistently found that larger peacekeeping forces, especially those with stronger mandates and the authority to use force, have a greater impact on reducing conflict. (Presse, n.d.)

Furthermore, the role of international organizations, especially the United Nations (UN), is mentioned. The United Nations (UN) has played a significant role in maintaining peace and security on the African continent. Its involvement in Africa, for example, the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Egypt in 1956 (during the Suez Crisis), set a precedent for the organization's increased activity in the region (Guéhenno, 2018). In the second half of the 20th century, especially after the Cold War, frequent civil wars and state collapse in Africa led to more decisive and comprehensive interventions, such as the United Nations Assistance Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNAC) in the 1960s and the UN peacekeeping mission during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. These operations have exposed the inadequacy of peacekeeping forces in

preventing large-scale violence (Peter & de Coning, 2022). In the context of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the EU is working to combat terrorism in Somalia, counter radicalization and the growth of extremist organizations such as Al-Shabaab, develop counter-extremism measures, and facilitate information exchange (Jansky, 2023). EU activities in Somalia from 2014 to 2021 were conducted within the framework of the Somali Pact, which embraces the principles of the New Deal in cooperation with fragile states. In recent years, the EU has invested €1.8 billion in peacebuilding, statebuilding, and development activities.

The EU's presence was further strengthened by the relocation of the EU Delegation to Mogadishu in 2017 and the launch of a €100 million budget support program (International Pfaffern) in 2018. Furthermore, the study also examined the EU's role in promoting regional integration, sustainable development, and conflict resolution in Somalia. A qualitative research methodology and document review tools were used to understand the EU's effectiveness (Kangdim et al., 2022). The results show that the EU finances the African Union Mission in Somalia, promotes political dialogue, stimulates economic growth in the region, and supports humanitarian aid. Furthermore, it contributes to the development of agriculture, clean water, sanitation, renewable energy, and climate action (Hassan, 2023). However, most scholars warn that despite tactical successes, the EU's long-term strategic impact remains limited due to the fragility of local governance systems and the more complex nature of conflict resolution in Africa (Hassan, 2023).

Similarly, the African Union (AU) has been involved in mediating the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region. In 2022, the AU appointed former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as its High Representative for the Horn of Africa. Obasanjo has also acted as a mediator in the conflict between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), as well as regional and international powers (Gebresenbet and Tariku, 2023). Since its establishment in 2011 and the NATO intervention in Libya, the AU has been committed to promoting national reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction. The AU established a High-Level Special Commission on Libya and has emphasized the need for an African approach to the issue. Despite the dominant position of Western countries in the Libyan situation, the AU has not taken active steps to promote negotiations between the warring parties. (De Waal, 2019). In his second study, Tchi (2022) focuses on the African peace and security framework, the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (UN-AU) and its effectiveness (or lack thereof). He analyses the composition, voting practices and statistics of the A3 member states and attempts to find a link between the deteriorating security situation and the strategic cooperation between the two organizations.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has played a key role in promoting peace and stability in Somalia through various interventions. In 2023, IGAD hosted the African Union Assistance and Stabilization Mission (AUSOM) Summit, which discussed the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and the challenges they face. IGAD also implemented a security sector project, under which IGAD member states Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia cooperated in countering terrorism and violent extremism, improving border security, and strengthening operations and information exchange (IGAD, 2016). The Mediation Support Unit actively participated in the conflict resolution process, trained Sudanese negotiators, and assisted in organizing intergovernmental meetings, which effectively maintained regional stability (IGAD). IGAD also actively promoted debt relief for Somalia and implemented several initiatives to support the country's economic recovery by 2023. (IGAD). Thanks to these tireless efforts, IGAD remains a pillar of support in Somalia's journey towards sustainable peace and stability.

IGAD has played a key role in the path of political dialogue and cooperation in Somalia. In September 2024, the IGAD Secretary-General held high-level discussions with the Federal Government of Somalia in Mogadishu, underlining the organization's strong commitment to peace in Somalia. (IGAD, no date-b). In Somalia, IGAD has played a key role in supporting regional political dialogue and cooperation. In September 2024, the IGAD Secretary-General made a high-level visit to Mogadishu to reaffirm IGAD's commitment to supporting peace in Somalia. (IGAD, n.d.-b).

Research Methodology

This chapter describes the research methodology used to evaluate the role of international organizations in promoting peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. The study uses quantitative and correlational analysis designs to examine the relationship between international interventions (independent variables) and peace and security outcomes (dependent variables). The research design includes questionnaires and the target population includes UN, AU, EU, IGAD, NGO actors, Somali

officials, and local actors. The methodology ensures the validity, reliability, and applicability of the study findings through a systematic data collection and analysis process. The study used convenience sampling to recruit participants from each organization, resulting in 172 participants from a target population of approximately 300. Primary data was collected from questionnaires and archival documents, while secondary data recorded complication rates based on ACLED and UN/OCHA reports. Descriptive and comparative methods such as Pearson correlation test, correlation coefficient test, t-test, and ANOVA were used for statistical analysis. The questionnaire was then pilot tested on 10 participants and tested for reliability and validity using alpha and Cronbach coefficients. The study strictly adhered to ethical standards regarding informed consent, privacy, and voluntary participation. However, potential flaws in policing protocols in Mogadishu could have prevented on-site visits and provided inaccurate or misleading data from the agencies involved. Nevertheless, this methodology provides a solid basis for assessing the contribution of international organizations to the stability of Mogadishu, which is crucial for decision-making and the KR process.

4.0 Results and Discussion

This section of the study analyzes new research findings that help shed light on how international organizations (the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, international counter-terrorism and human rights organizations, and NGOs) contribute to promoting peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. The findings are based on quantitative data collected through a structured questionnaire with 172 respondents. Descriptive and inferential statistical tools are used to examine the relationship between international interventions (independent variables) and peace and security outcomes (dependent variables).

Descriptive Statistics (Demographic Profile of Respondents)

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (n=172)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	102	59.3%
	Female	70	40.7%
Age Group	18–25	45	26.2%
	26–35	68	39.5%
	36–45	42	24.4%
	46+	17	9.9%
Affiliation	United Nations (UN)	30	17.4%
	African Union (AU)	28	16.3%
	European Union (EU)	25	14.5%
	IGAD	20	11.6%
	NGOs	35	20.3%
	Somali Government	18	10.5%
Years of Experience	Local Community	16	9.3%
	<1 year	22	12.8%
	1–5 years	75	43.6%
	6–10 years	50	29.1%
	>10 years	25	14.5%

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

Demographic data provide important information about the respondents who participated in the survey. A gender imbalance was observed, with the majority of respondents being male (59.3%). This gender imbalance may reflect the international organization and sector of the expatriate workforce in Mogadishu and can be used as an indicator of current labor market conditions. This is due to cultural,

social or institutional barriers that limit women's participation in these roles. However, the presence of female respondents (40.7%) provides valuable information and prevents gender bias in the results.

When looking at the age group of respondents, the majority (39.5%) were between 26 and 35 years old, indicating that middle-aged professionals formed the largest group in the survey. These age groups are characterized by sufficient experience to provide informed feedback while continuing to work in related fields or policies. The second largest age group (26.2%) was 18–25 years old, comprising early-career professionals, trainees, or youth community representatives. On the other hand, older respondents (aged 36, 45 and over 46) were underrepresented, possibly due to the physical demands of working in conventional war zones or retirement.

In terms of work experience, the majority of respondents (43.6%) reported 1–5 years of work experience, indicating a sample with a medium level of experience. This means that most participants had some experience with peace and security concepts, even if they were not in leadership positions. This finding was more insightful and meaningful for respondents with 6–10 years of experience (29.1%), and reflected strategic thinking that was based on lessons learned from interactions in Somalia over the past decade by respondents with more than 10 years of experience (14.5%). Organizational affiliation Respondents reported that NGOs (20.3%) and the United Nations (17.4%) were most visible, possibly reflecting their strong presence in peacebuilding and key humanitarian response efforts in Mogadishu. NGOs often operate at the local level, providing essential business services and interacting with local communities, while the United Nations performs important political and peacekeeping missions. Representatives from the African Union (16.3%) and the European Union (14.5%) were also present, reflecting their role in assisting the region with security and development projects. Representatives from the Somali government (10.5%) and local communities (9.3%) were slightly underrepresented. This may reflect communication problems or poor integration into the international coordination system. Overall, the demographics show that respondents were diverse but unevenly distributed, with the most significant proportions being members of middle management of international organizations. While this provides important information about the role of these factors, future studies that interview larger numbers of local residents, especially women and those who have worked in Somalia for longer periods of time, would be useful to explore their voices in greater depth.

Section 2: To determine the role of United Nations (UN) in Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia

Table 2: Respondents' Perceptions of the UN's Role

Statement	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Agreement Level (≥ 4.0)
The UN's peacekeeping missions (e.g., UNSOM) have reduced violence.	4.2	0.78	72.1%
The UN's humanitarian aid has improved community stability.	4.0	0.85	68.6%
The UN supports effective dialogue between Somali stakeholders.	3.9	0.91	65.1%
The UN's programs address root causes of conflict (e.g., poverty, governance).	3.7	0.88	60.5%

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

The UN's role in stabilizing Somalia is multifaceted, and its impact varies significantly depending on the area of operation. Respondents expressed optimism about the effectiveness of some UN initiatives, both during peak and trough periods.

Peacekeeping is well-intentioned (mean score 4.2, 72.1% approval rate). The UN Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia (UNSO) has achieved notable success in reducing violence, with support from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and direct engagement with Somali security forces. This positive result likely reflects the clear impact of peacekeeping in providing safe haven for civilians and keeping armed groups at a safe distance. The very low standard deviation (0.78) and the fact that most respondents reported similar positive effects indicate widespread agreement on this positive impact, regardless of the respondent's level of affiliation or experience with the organization. Humanitarian programs were rated somewhat positively (4.0/5), but the percentage of positive responses was low (68.6%), and the rating was fairly low. However, UN-supported emergency food assistance, medical services, and shelter provision play an important role in stabilizing vulnerable communities. However,

the wide standard deviation of 0.85 indicates that experiences vary across regions. This may be due to difficulties in providing assistance to remote areas due to the intensity of the conflict or the inadequacy of services provided. In some cases, assistance took too long or did not fully satisfy the local population, which may have led some participants to rate it low.

The party's process to promote UN mediation and dialogue received a moderately positive rating (mean score of 3.9, 65.1% positive responses). Although the process was said to have succeeded in bringing the parties to the negotiating table, the complex political environment in Somalia, where dialogue mechanisms often fail or little progress is made in implementing agreements, may have led some participants to refrain from evaluating it. This mixed perception indicates the highest standard deviation of 0.91 among the measured items, reflecting significant variation in perceptions of UN-mediated dialogue across individual cases and media coverage areas in Mogadishu. Programs addressing the root causes of conflict received the lowest scores (mean 3.7, 60.5% approval rate). This means that while UN development efforts, such as governance reform, poverty reduction, and institution building, are recognized, their security impact is not as immediate or measurable as humanitarian assistance. Complicating factors may include the length of these programs, the difficulty of gaining local ownership, or the complex dynamics of the conditions that led to the conflict in Somalia.

One important trend highlighted by this evidence is that the UN is perceived as more successful in operational interventions that achieve more direct, immediate, and tangible results, such as long-term development and political cooperation. Interventions in areas where such engagement is more challenging, such as long-term development and political cooperation, are more difficult. This may reflect the structural issues that need to be addressed in crisis situations, as well as potential weaknesses in program design and implementation. These figures also suggest that the UN needs to improve its performance. Given the differences between the two functions, integrating short-term stabilization activities into long-term peacebuilding programs would enhance these efforts. Furthermore, strengthening communication between various UN agencies and local partners would increase the effectiveness of interventions aimed at addressing root causes. These disparate responses indicate that the UN presence does not benefit all sectors/stakeholders, nor are all actors equally affected, pointing to an urgent need to adapt the operating environment across Mogadishu.

Section 3: To investigate the role of African Union (AU) in Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia

Table 3: Respondents' Perceptions of the AU's Role

Statement	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Agreement Level (≥ 4.0)
AU troops (e.g., AMISOM) have enhanced security.	4.3	0.76	75.6%
The AU promotes regional cooperation to counter terrorism.	4.1	0.82	70.9%
The AU's conflict resolution initiatives are effective.	3.8	0.79	63.4%
The AU's long-term peacebuilding strategies are sustainable.	3.6	0.84	58.1%

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

The African Union (AU) has been a critical security actor in Mogadishu, primarily through its peacekeeping mission (AMISOM, now ATMIS). The survey results reveal generally positive perceptions of the AU's contributions, though with some notable variations across different aspects of its work. The highest-rated aspect was the security enhancement provided by AU troops (mean score of 4.3, with 75.6% agreement). This strong positive assessment reflects the AU's crucial role in combatting Al-Shabaab and other armed groups, as well as its efforts to secure key government installations and population centers. The low standard deviation (0.76) suggests widespread consensus among respondents about the effectiveness of AU military operations. Many respondents likely based this evaluation on the visible improvements in security in areas where AU forces are deployed, though some may have tempered their ratings due to ongoing security challenges in certain neighborhoods.

Regional counterterrorism cooperation received similarly high marks (mean score of 4.1, 70.9% agreement). The AU has played a vital role in facilitating intelligence sharing and joint operations among East African nations. However, the slightly higher standard deviation (0.82) indicates some divergence

in views, possibly reflecting varying experiences with the practical implementation of these regional initiatives or concerns about their long-term sustainability. Conflict resolution initiatives were viewed somewhat less favorably (mean score of 3.8, 63.4% agreement). While the AU has engaged in mediation efforts between Somalia's federal government and regional states, these scores suggest room for improvement in achieving durable political solutions. The moderate standard deviation (0.79) shows that perceptions are relatively consistent, but not as uniformly positive as for security operations. Some respondents may have considered the slow progress in national reconciliation processes when providing these ratings.

The lowest scores concerned long-term peacebuilding strategies (mean score of 3.6, 58.1% agreement). This reflects challenges in transitioning from military stabilization to sustainable peacebuilding. The standard deviation of 0.84 suggests significant variation in perceptions, likely because some stakeholders see progress in certain areas (like security sector reform) while others remain concerned about weak governance institutions and persistent drivers of conflict. These findings highlight the AU's effectiveness as a security provider but suggest the need for greater emphasis on political solutions and post-conflict recovery. The transition from AMISOM to ATMIS represents an opportunity to address these gaps by strengthening the mission's civilian components and enhancing coordination with Somali authorities and local communities. The variance in responses also underscores the complex security environment in Mogadishu, where the AU's impact may be more visible in some districts than others. Future efforts might benefit from more robust community engagement and clearer pathways for local ownership of peace processes.

Section 4: To explore the role of European Union (EU) in Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia

Table 4: Respondents' Perceptions of the EU's Role

Statement	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Agreement Level (≥ 4.0)
EU funding supports critical peacebuilding projects.	4.0	0.81	69.8%
The EU's development programs reduce youth radicalization.	3.7	0.87	61.6%
EU training for Somali security forces improves local capacity.	3.9	0.83	67.4%
The EU collaborates well with local NGOs and government.	4.1	0.77	71.5%

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

The survey results indicate that the EU plays a significant role in supporting Somalia's stability through various channels. The EU's financial support for key peace initiatives was strongly supported by respondents. This support supported disarmament programs, local government initiatives, and infrastructure reconstruction. While the relatively low standard deviation (0.81) indicates widespread agreement on the importance of EU funding, some respondents may have considered implementation issues or reporting obligations in their assessments. Youth-focused development programs (mean score: 3.7, support score: 61.6%)

The EU-supported youth vocational training and employment program in Mogadishu received a moderately positive score. This is believed to be due to the long-term nature of the intervention, making it difficult to assess its immediate impact on security.

Capacity building in the security sector (average: 3.9, 67.4% agreement). Respondents did not dispute that the EU has made significant investments in training and equipping Somali security forces, particularly in funding the EUCAP Somalia mission and the Somali National Police. While positive evaluations indicated significant improvements in professional standards and skills, they also highlighted areas for improvement such as accountability mechanisms and transferable, sustainable skills. These evaluations were fairly consistent across all participants, as evidenced by the standard deviation of 0.83.

Implementation of partnerships with local stakeholders (average: 4.1, 71.5% agreement). This partnership strategy between the EU, Somali authorities and civil society organisations received the highest rating. Participants particularly appreciated the EU's focus on local ownership and the flexible financing of key peacebuilding efforts. The strong performance in this area (with a low standard

deviation of 0.77) reflects the importance of the relationship dimension in international engagement and Somali interlocutors' positive attitudes towards EU involvement. These results show that the EU has emerged as a unique institution that is not only a security provider, but also a leader in development and capacity building. The results indicate that the EU's technical and financial contributions are valuable, but there is a need to strengthen links between EU programmes to further enhance their contribution to peace and security. The mixed and partly negative, but mostly positive responses highlight the challenges of translating European resources and expertise into sustainable local results in Mogadishu's unstable security environment. Future programmes could focus more on contextual flexibility and monitoring long-term results.

Section 5: To explore the role of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia

Table 5: Respondents' Perceptions of IGAD's Role

Statement	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Agreement Level (≥ 4.0)
IGAD's mediation efforts have resolved clan conflicts.	3.8	0.80	64.0%
IGAD's early warning systems prevent violence escalation.	3.9	0.85	66.3%
IGAD's policies align with Somalia's peace priorities.	3.7	0.89	60.5%
IGAD coordinates effectively with other international organizations.	4.0	0.78	69.2%

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

The Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) has become the main regional peace and security organization in Somalia, especially in Mogadishu, with mixed but positive results. IGAD is a regional organization of eight East African countries that offers particular strength in conflict resolution, as it has cultural and local expertise that is rarely understood by international actors. The role of IGAD in mediating inter-tribal conflicts was rated semi-successful in the survey, with an average score of 3.8. The organization has been particularly successful in resolving conflicts within pastoral groups in the Banadir region near Mogadishu, where it has used both traditional conflict resolution techniques and modern mediation techniques. IGAD's usual intervention has been to bring together tribal and religious leaders as neutral authorities and continue negotiations on issues of shared resources or political representation. However, the impact was uneven: some mediation agreements lasted for years, while others failed within a few years if economic issues were not at the heart of the conflict. The standard deviation of 0.80 indicates that sensitivity is highly related to respondents' direct experience in mediation.

The IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) is one of the most advanced monitoring systems in Africa, with an average score of 3.9. The system combines satellite imagery, market price dynamics and human intelligence to predict the likelihood of conflict. In Mogadishu, CEWARN has been effective in preventing several violent incidents, such as the one that occurred in 2022 when clashes broke out between militia groups in the Daniel district. However, the system was hampered by lengthy response procedures and bureaucracy, which prevented rapid preventive actions from being taken in response to alerts. The standard deviation of 0.85, although not particularly high, suggests that the system is capable of being used by technical staff, but practitioners often question the usefulness of such a system in high-traffic areas that security services often encounter.

The weakest aspect of IGAD's performance (mean score of 3.7) is the extent to which work in this area reflects the priorities of the peacekeeping system in Mogadishu. This score reflects internal conflict within IGAD, a regional organization that acts as an ally of Somalia and includes eight regimes with conflicting interests. For example, Mogadishu may be interested in urban security sector reform, but IGAD's regional mission focuses on cross-border counter-terrorism. This conflict means that IGAD must promote the localization of hyper-local stability concerns in Mogadishu. The highest and lowest scores (0.78) relate to IGAD's coordination with other international actors, with an average score of 4.0. The organization serves as the main coordinating body for the peace efforts in Mogadishu and AMISOM, with heads of UN and donor agencies meeting weekly at the organization's headquarters. The IGAD Working Group on Technical Issues has achieved tangible results, and IGAD has achieved tangible

results in implementing processes such as arms transfers and internal displacement. This level of coordination makes IGAD a key facilitator between Somalia and international actors.

To provide better assistance, IGAD needs to make three key changes. First, establish a rapid response unit based on the African Union's preparedness model to translate early warnings into rapid action. Second, establish permanent liaison offices in selected areas of Mogadishu to improve monitoring of regional operations and coordination. Finally, the establishment of an independent advisory and development office would help ensure that regional plans are aligned with the Mogadishu security strategy and do not lose the value of the broader IGAD regional framework. Overall, the findings of the study portray IGAD as an organization with high continental expertise and credibility. Whether it succeeds in this role may determine its future effectiveness: whether it is a focused peacebuilding actor, with a significant presence in the region and in Mogadishu.

Section 6: To discover the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Promoting Peace and Security in Mogadishu, Somalia

Table 6: Respondents' Perceptions of NGOs' Role

Statement	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Agreement Level (≥ 4.0)
NGOs provide essential services (e.g., healthcare, education).	4.4	0.72	78.5%
NGO-led community dialogues foster reconciliation.	4.0	0.81	70.3%
NGOs advocate for marginalized groups (e.g., women, IDPs).	3.9	0.83	67.4%
NGOs face challenges (e.g., access, funding) that limit their impact.	4.2	0.75	74.4%

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other nonprofits play an increasingly important role in the complex peace and security situation in Mogadishu, where international organizations and governments often lack easy access. The results of this survey highlight the unique value of NGOs in providing aid and the key barriers that impede their full potential. NGOs performed well in providing essential services in conflict areas (4.4%), and a significant proportion of respondents (78.5%) agreed with the question about NGO involvement. This is demonstrated by the fact that NGOs are able to continue their work in dangerous areas, such as Danile and Hodan districts, thanks to their extensive community networks. Other important organizations, such as the Somali Red Crescent Society and Mercy Corps, have introduced new mobile clinics that provide health services but also collect security data on the ground. The low standard deviation of 0.72 indicates that all participants, both government officials and the community, have a good understanding of the role of NGOs in service delivery. This recognition is said to have given NGOs a unique status not only as service providers but also as partners.

The NGO-led Dialogue 4.0 has been successful and is proving effective in promoting local change. Groups like the Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) have brought together ex-soldiers and community fighters for tea. These informal arrangements can be more effective than formal ones, especially in the suburbs of Mogadishu. The standard deviation of 0.81 indicates a similar but somewhat different experience, perhaps reflecting the fact that not all NGOs are service providers, but neither are they conflict resolution providers. However, the 70.3% agreement highlights that many stakeholders view NGOs as peacemakers. NGOs scored 3.9 for supporting vulnerable groups, but this was one of the lowest scores in the program. Agencies such as Save the Children and the Elman Peace Centre, along with women-led peacekeepers, played a key role in strengthening the voice of displaced people in Mogadishu. However, the standard deviation of 0.83 demonstrates that this work is more implementation-oriented, especially when it comes to political advocacy. Other respondents noted that NGO work sometimes runs counter to established authorities and therefore has a smaller short-term impact but is significant in the long term.

Interestingly, the challenges faced by NGOs are severe, with 4.2% and 74.4% of respondents, respectively, agreeing that the barriers are significant and limit their impact. The security situation in Mogadishu forces NGOs to work in specific conditions, where a lack of employment opportunities and bureaucracy prevent them from relocating due to the presence of the army. Financial instability is also

a major concern, and many respondents say it's important to find ways to cut programs as donor priorities shift. The standard deviation of 0.75 indicates a broad understanding of these constraints across all respondent types.

Discussion

The findings in this article demonstrate the significant and diverse contributions of international organizations to peace and security in Mogadishu, Somalia. The United Nations (UN) has been very successful in peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance, and the responses of the respondents clearly indicate that the UN is working hard to reduce violence and stabilize societies. However, initiatives to address the root causes of the conflict, including poverty and poor governance, have been less effective, leaving a gap between short-term and long-term actions. Similarly, the African Union (AU) has been very successful in regional cooperation on military stabilization and counter-terrorism, but has struggled to sustain peace projects and achieve political reconciliation. The European Union (EU) has played a key role in providing financial support and advocacy, but has had little impact on immediate security outcomes. Meanwhile, the regional mediation efforts of IGAD have been valuable, although their approach has sometimes conflicted with Mogadishu's interests. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a key role in service delivery and social reconciliation, but their effectiveness has been limited by factors such as lack of funding and limited access.

A recurring theme in the data is the tension between short-term and long-term outcomes. International organizations have proven more effective in direct, immediate interventions, such as peacebuilding and emergency relief. But they are less effective in supporting institutional reform and social empowerment. Another key issue is the inadequate linkage between the mandates of international agencies and the needs of the Mogadishu community. For example, IGAD's regional security concerns are not a top priority for local actors, who are interested in urban stability and new governance systems. These findings highlight the challenges peacebuilding efforts face in a fragile country like Somalia.

Conclusion

The article concludes that the role of international organizations in reducing conflict and strengthening security in Mogadishu has been critical, but only partially, due to the uneven distribution of contributions across operational areas. While positive changes have been measured through military and humanitarian interventions, long-term peace has yet to be achieved due to challenges posed by political disintegration, weak governance, and the ongoing al-Shabaab threat. The use of external actors to ensure security and development also raises concerns about lack of local ownership and stability. The AU peacekeeping mission successfully recaptured some rebel-held areas, but the transfer to the Somali army proved difficult and chaotic. Similarly, UN humanitarian programs provide significant assistance but often fail to address the structural causes of violence.

These findings suggest that current methods, while useful, need to be improved to achieve long-term stability. A change in direction requires a local approach that integrates international intervention strategies with the concerns of the Somali people. Effective partnerships between international organizations, the Somali government, and civil society can bridge the gap between top-down and bottom-up approaches to peacebuilding. Overall, achieving sustainable peace in Mogadishu requires a balanced approach to security/governance/development policies, with a strong emphasis on local ownership and the development of sustainable institutions.

Recommendations

To increase the effectiveness of peace and security interventions in Mogadishu, this study makes several recommendations. First, international organizations should focus on coordination to avoid duplication of efforts and to achieve strategic cooperation. For example, common data sharing and conflict analysis mechanisms can improve early warning systems and thus enhance responsiveness. Second, local institutions should be given high priority in training, especially in areas such as security reform, strengthening the judicial system, and strengthening administration. The EU's training programs for the security forces in Somalia provide a model that can be greatly expanded and adapted to suit other contexts.

It is imperative that the Somali government strengthens ties with civil society and local organizations. These organizations have demonstrated their ability to provide services and resolve conflicts at the local level, becoming useful partners in peacebuilding. Moreover, increasing

transparency and accountability in government will likely strengthen public confidence and create a favorable environment for growth. In the meantime, donors and international partners must commit to flexible, long-term financing that will help pay for long-term projects rather than short-term solutions. Monitoring and evaluation strategies, as well as investment, will help evaluate the true effectiveness of interventions based on outcomes beyond mere quantitative measurement.

Finally, this study highlights the importance of a context-sensitive approach that takes into account the specific challenges that Mogadishu faces. For example, youth employment and education programs have the potential to reduce violence, while efforts to empower women and marginalized groups will promote just peacebuilding strategies. By matching external assistance to local needs and capabilities, stakeholders can move closer to achieving sustainable peace in Mogadishu.

Contributions of the Study

Theoretical Contributions

This article extends the theoretical understanding of peacebuilding and international relations. It affirms a liberal institutionalist perspective and examines the existence of platforms for dialogue and engagement between international organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union in Somalia. These findings contribute to the concept of peacebuilding and highlight the need to combat violence in the short term and social divisions in the long term, demonstrating the effectiveness of reconciliation projects. The article further highlights the importance of state-building theories in identifying the challenges faced in building effective government institutions in post-conflict settings. Applying these theories to the Mogadishu context allows the research to shed light on the strengths and potential of ideologies.

Empirical Contributions

This research empirically examines the role of strong regionalism, focusing on research in Mogadishu. It provides quantitative and qualitative data on the success of international efforts. For example, the study measured attitudes towards the perceived role of the United Nations (e.g. 72.1% support peacekeeping operations) and reported on specific challenges faced by NGOs (e.g. 74.4% have called for budget cuts). The results of these studies provide policymakers and practitioners with an evidence-based platform for developing their own practices. The study also supports more comprehensive research on peacekeeping operations in Africa and post-conflict reconstruction by comparing the Mogadishu experience with that of other regions.

Practical Recommendations

In practice, the study provides valuable recommendations for improving peace and stability initiatives in Mogadishu, highlighting good practices such as the EU's partnership with regional NGOs and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mediation mechanism, which could be refocused or expanded. It also highlights political constraints, such as competing priorities and uncertain funding, that stakeholders need to overcome to maximise the effectiveness of the programme. We hope that this unique study, which combines academic and practical approaches, will contribute to more responsible and sustainable interventions in Somalia and similar contexts. Recommendations for future research

There are several ways in which future research can extend this research. First, parallel studies in the context of Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia, such as Puntland and Somaliland, could provide contextual factors that could be used to determine the success of peacebuilding. Second, longitudinal studies examining the impact of international interventions over a decade or more could provide more information about their sustainability and long-term impacts. Third, expanding the reach of local participation, especially among women, youth, and vulnerable groups, could help to understand other overlooked components of peace and security.

Furthermore, a detailed analysis of the potential of new technologies (e.g. digital media for monitoring court proceedings, mobile social engagement, etc.) could become a new research topic in this area. Finally, political science, economics, and sociology can provide a comprehensive overview of the relationship between security, development, and governance in post-conflict societies across disciplines. Filling these gaps will allow future research to identify realistic approaches to peacebuilding in Mogadishu and beyond.

Study Limitations

While this study provides valuable insights, it also has some limitations. First, the mobility of security forces in the Mogadishu area is difficult, limiting access to information on high-risk issues and hindering access to information from key actors. Second, the use of organizational reports and interviewee perspectives may be biased or subjective. This is especially true for sensitive topics such as corruption or systemic failures. Third, the use of quantitative survey measures, such as measures of acceptability, does not account for the qualitative complexity of community perceptions of peace initiatives.

Another limitation is that the study sample did not include certain groups of people, such as Somali government officials and local authorities. Their limited involvement may have biased the results from the perspective of international actors.

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Author Contribution

Credit:

Dr. **Abdifatah Afyare** was responsible for conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, investigation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review. **Abdihakim Omar Abdullahi** was responsible for project administration, resources, software, focused on Visualization, & editing, supervision, validation, visualization. **Abdullahi Ilyas Osman** was responsible for formal analysis, methodology

Potential conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest. No financial, personal, or professional relationships influenced the results or interpretation of the study. This transparency ensured the reliability and objectivity of the research and increased the validity of the results.

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Ethical Approval

Individual participants in the study gave their informed permission in compliance with ethical approval standards. Participants received thorough information about the purpose of the study, the goals of the research, and how the data will be used. Given the circumstances of the study, the ethical committee deemed the verbal consent recorded to be adequate. In accordance with ethical research norms, participants were guaranteed the confidentiality of their answers and their anonymity.

Data Availability Statement

The corresponding author may provide the data supporting the study's conclusions upon request. Due to ethical and privacy concerns, the data are not publicly accessible.

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