CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISK FACTORS WITHIN CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SOMALIA

Nabila Triwulandari Arianto, Jasmine Nabila Sofie, Zsa Zsa Nurfajriah Mallu, Dina Pasya Surayya, Septyanto Galan Prakoso

Program Studi Hubungan Internasional

Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik

Universitas Sebelas Maret

Email: nabilatriwulandari@student.uns.ac.id, jasminensofie@student.uns.ac.id, zsazsanurfajriah@student.uns.ac.id, dinapasyas@student.uns.ac.id, septyantogalan@staff.uns.ac.id

ABSTRAK

Anak-anak adalah salah satu korban perdagangan manusia di Somalia. Pada tahun 2020 saja, ada sekitar 3.100 korban perdagangan anak di Somalia. Sebagian besar insiden melibatkan penculikan anak dengan berbagai alasan, termasuk kelompok bersenjata dan bahkan pekerja seks. Pandemi Covid-19 entah bagaimana memperburuk kondisi, ketika masalah perdagangan diperparah oleh faktor sosial ekonomi. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjawab pertanyaan bagaimana faktor sosial ekonomi berkontribusi terhadap tingginya angka perdagangan anak di Somalia, terutama di masa pandemi Covid-19. Penelitian ini akan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif, dan mengandalkan sumber data sekunder berupa studi literatur dengan menggunakan artikel jurnal, berita, dokumen dan arsip resmi pemerintah, serta data pelengkap lainnya. Konsep keamanan manusia dan teori kebutuhan manusia akan digunakan untuk mendukung analisis dalam penelitian ini. Selain itu, penelitian ini berupaya menjadi sumber bagi pembaca dan akademisi yang mempelajari kasus perdagangan anak, khususnya di Somalia. Studi ini menemukan bahwa prevalensi perdagangan anak di Somalia dipengaruhi iklim sosial ekonomi negara tersebut, khususnya pada masa pandemi Covid-19.

Kata Kunci: perdagangan anak, faktor sosial ekonomi, Somalia, Covid-19

ABSTRACT

Children are one of the victims of human trafficking in Somalia. In 2020 alone, there were approximately 3.100 victims of child trafficking in Somalia. Most incidents involve are child abductions for various reasons, including armed groups and even sex workers. The Covid-19 pandemic somehow made the condition worse, when the problem of trafficking amplified by the socio-economic factors. The purpose of this research is to answer the question of how socioeconomic factors contribute to Somalia's high rate of child trafficking, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research will employ a descriptive qualitative method, and rely on secondary data sources in the form of literature studies employing journal articles, news, official government documents and archives, and other supplementary data. Human security concept and human needs theory will be utilized to support the analysis on this study. In addition, this research seeks to serve as a resource for readers and academicians who study child trafficking cases, especially in Somalia. This study found that the prevalence of child trafficking in Somalia influenced by-the country's socio-economic climate, specifically during Covid-19 pandemic. Keywords: Child Trafficking, Socio-Economic Factor, Somalia, Covid-19.

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INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking was previously known in several works of literature on migration regulations. Although it has been introduced in migration regulations, today the discussion about human trafficking continues to expand and evolve with the times. According to the definition conveyed by the United Nations in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol, in article 3, the "sale of human beings" includes recruitment, transportation, shipping and transfer, reception or shelter, used with violence and coercion against the victim or by other means such as kidnapping, manipulation, deception, and abuse of power, or by being an accomplice to obtain more benefits to the higher-ups for exploitation (United Nations, 2000). The sale of human beings occurs when individuals or groups are coerced by others with the individualistic aim of gaining a large profit. This explanation also includes violence against children and women, where human trafficking is common and mostly experienced by women and children (United Nations, 2022b). Several governments that are members of the United Nations and adhere to the concept of *pacta solar servanda* have approved the Palermo Protocol. This principle states that if a country joins the United Nations, it must adhere to the regulations specified in the agreement or face repercussions (Sari et al., 2021). The Palermo Protocol, which has been in effect since December 25, 2003, aims to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and tackling human trafficking. The Palermo Protocol also promotes enhanced victim protection and assistance. It has the most effective measures to prevent human trafficking. The United Nations recognizes that it is vital for international actors to combat transnational crime as a means of preventing, resisting, and giving punishment to human traffickers (United Nations, 2000). The Palermo Protocol makes countries that are acutely ratifying the existence of the Palermo Protocol must have a role in preventing and following up on transnational crime, especially in human trafficking (Yudhatama Amran, 2022).

Somalia is a country in East Africa with an area of 637,657 square kilometers and an estimated population of 17 million (Central Intelligence Agency, 2022) . The economy in Somalia relies on agriculture, livestock, and trade and has potential for natural resources such as oil and gas (The Observatory of Economic Complexity, 2021). However, due to the prolonged conflict and instability of the country caused a slowdown in economic growth in Somalia. Conflicts between ethnic groups and clans have resulted in infrastructure deterioration, disruption in service provision, and suffering from people such as hunger and human trafficking (United Nations, 2022b). As of 2019, it is estimated that almost 70% of the population lives in poverty, leading to an impact on the lives of people in Somalia (World Bank, 2022). In fact, there are so many cases of children dropping out of school just to meet their daily needs for their families by working and that factor makes parents in Somalia demand their

children to work so that children's forced labor practices in Somalia are prevalent (United Nations, 2022b). This makes human trafficking cases, especially children and women, often occurring and there is an increase every year.

Our study on the condition of the children is also related to a condition where they state of them in Somalia cannot meet the expectations of international organizations such as ILO. The purpose of the ILO itself is to speak out for justice for workers internationally to get decent and good treatment (International Labour Organization, 2019) . The ILO also has 187 members so far (International Labor Organization, 2023), and Somalia is one of the members who agree and support the ILO as a form of an international organization that provides protection to workers internationally. In the ILO convention on K - 138 regarding the age for children to be able to work is 14 years old as written with light work, for work that is considered dangerous, the minimum age allowed to work is 18 years old (International Labour Organization, n.d.). The UNODC or United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2020 published data that concluded there were around 100,000 people who were identified as victims of human trafficking. This figure decreased by approximately 11% from the previous data recorded at about 113,000 victims in 2019 (UNODC, n.d.) . The decline, especially in cross-border trafficking, is believed to be the result of the Covid-19 pandemic that hit the world in early 2020. In the same year, it was recorded that 60% of the global human trafficking victims were women, regardless of their age (*ibid*). Based on data from the State Government of the United States, a total of 11,450 people were recorded as victims of human trafficking in the African continent in 2021. As a result of this data, the African region was recorded as having the 4th highest number of victims of human trafficking. Not only that, in the Sub-Saharan continent, including Somalia, child trafficking was recorded as the most common case of human trafficking where they are exploited into forced labor. According to the State Government of the United States, Somalia specifically has been recorded as a Special Case for 20 consecutive years. The Somali government reported around 45 victims of human trafficking in 2021, of which 9 victims were exploited in forced labor and the other 36 victims were not recorded. The data reported by the Somali government has decreased compared to 2020 when there were around 329 potential victims recorded (U.S Department of State, n.d.).

The Federal Government of Somalia or the FGS has established a law on human trafficking, which is defined in the pre-1991 criminal law on the criminal acts of labor trafficking and forms of sex trafficking. It consists of criminal laws and special laws on human trafficking, but international organizations continue to report that the Somali government has not implemented the law (U.S Department of State, n.d.)

Convention	Ratification
ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	
Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	

Figure 1. Legal Framework for Child Labor

(Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2021)

Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected many countries including Somalia. There were 4,229 cases of Covid-19 reported with 107 fatalities per November 2020 in Somalia (Samantar & Abdulahi, 2020) . It was fortunate that by the end of 2022, the COVID-19 epidemic in Somalia had steadily decreased to 7%. However, about 73% of Somalis had to shut down their business with the highest percentage come from medium business around 83% (BAREISAITE et al., 2022) . The phenomenon later leads to the increase of unemployment rate in Somalia. The youth unemployment rate in Somalia during 2020 was 35.76% and it was 1.85% higher than the previous year (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2023) . That means that the Somalis people with ages of 15–24 are unemployed yet looking for work. In addition to worsening the condition, Somalia ranked 18th among all African continents with high criminality rates. During 2021, when COVID-19 still became a pandemic, the criminality scores in Somalia were about 5.79 (Global Organized Crime Index, 2021) . The highest case was human trafficking and human smuggling that occurs in Somalia (*ibid*). Somalia faced horrible conditions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it worsened the criminality rate there.

However, there are still loopholes in Somalia's legislative system that allow for the recruitment and employment of minors under the age of 18 in armed combat and other types of child labor and traffic to another country, and therefore it has become a serious problem in transnational crime. The research aims to answer the question of how socioeconomic factors contribute to the high rate of child trafficking in Somalia, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

Human Security

Humans have a fundamental need for human security as part of their human rights. Human security comprises the capacity to Prevent and Report High-Risk Events, such as Crime Prevention and Hazard Mitigation, Conflict Management, Mediation and Negotiation, Reporting Crimes and Emergencies, Victim Assistance and Rights. It also encompasses the protection of personal life, body, and sexuality from childhood to adulthood in the home, educational institutions, and workplace (D'Addario, 2013).

In 1994, the United Nations Development Program was the organization that coined the phrase "way to go from here" to describe human security for the first time. Therefore, in its Human Development Report, the World Bank attempted to broaden the conventional understanding of security, which had previously been predicated on military balances and capabilities, to include "safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease, and repression" and "protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily life." Therefore, the concepts of economic security, food security, health security, and natural security were all included in the concept of human security. Safety for all parties involved, including the government, communities, and individuals (Dalby, 2022) Security is commonly associated with conditions where physical violence is not present. King Murray describes human security as "the state of being safe from danger; the safety... freedom from worry, concern, or fear; a sense of security or freedom from the lack of danger." But many debates arise as this concept of security does not define the whole situation and other concepts of security very well. The concept of Security for a student in a developed country is the security of their lunch today or even their pocket money, on the other hand, the security for a student in the least developed country is the security of their lives under the threatened condition with the undergoing wars (Andersen-Rodgers & Crawford, 2022).

Discussing socioeconomics is an understanding for readers in some educational research. In the book Social Economics: The New Palgrave compiled by John Eatwell, Murray Milgate, and Peter Newman which discusses the language used in the concept of "social economy" refers more to the use of economics in people's lives. More clearly this is understood as the human need in social life to classify what factors can be varied usage options visualizing social economics with "a discipline that studies the reciprocal relationship between economic science on the one hand and social philosophy, ethics, and human dignity on the other" towards social reconstruction and improvement.

Human Needs Theory

"The theory of human needs" cannot be isolated from "the theory of motivation," according to Abraham Maslow, who developed it. Maslow uses seven core ideas to comprehend humans: First, humans are whole. Second, drives and requirements cannot be classified by kind. Third, studying human ultimate aims requires studying motivation. Fourth, motivational theory must include the subconscious. Fifth, human lives his most basic human yearning. Sixth, human achieved desires typically lead to additional latent aspirations. Seventh, motivation theory must presume that motivation is continuous and other essential ideas. Maslow's motivation theory supports the need for structure as a driving factor for human motivation (Maslow, 2021) . According to Abraham Harold Maslow and Frager, we can determine that Maslow classifies the hierarchy of requirements into five fundamental levels:

1. Physiological needs

    Physical needs are the most basic and most dominant human needs. These needs are more biological in nature such as oxygen, food, water, and so on. Maslow's thinking about physical needs is strongly influenced by post-World War II conditions. At that time, humans were in such a pathetic state. One of them is being hit by hunger. Therefore, Maslow considered physical needs to be more important than anything else.

2. Safety and security

    After their physiological requirements are satisfied, humans desire a sense of security, which can take the form of a need for protection, liberation from dread, disorder, etc. This need seeks to improve the quality of human existence.

3. Love & Belonging

    After physical requirements and a sense of security have been met, humans tend to pursue the affection of others in order to be understood and understood by others. Thus, the need for affection is distinct from the need for intercourse. Maslow argued that the need for intimacy falls under the category of physical needs. This need for affection underscores the inseparability of human beings in life.

4. Self-esteem

    After the three requirements mentioned are satisfied, the instinct to be respected by others and by society emerges. Maslow divides this need into two sections, the first of which is primarily concerned with self-esteem. This is a strong need, to be able to accomplish something adequate, to have certain abilities for interacting with the outside world, and to be free and independent. While other requirements place a greater emphasis on a grant. Specifically, the desire for a particular reputation and prestige (respect or esteem from others). This need will have psychological repercussions in the form of self-esteem, value, and so on.

5. Self-actualize

This need represents the pinnacle of the utmost human desire once the afore mentioned needs have been satisfied. This self-actualization influences the improvement of psychological conditions, perceptual shifts, and the motivation to continually grow and develop. Maslow's main structure for explaining humans consists of these five hierarchies of requirements. Maslow's theoretical foundation is based on the premise that humans are motivated by several essential requirements that are universal to all species, do not change, and have genetic or instinctual origins (Muazaroh & Subaidi, 2019).

Inadequate living circumstances and material deprivation, both of which increase the likelihood of criminal behavior are two examples of the Human Needs theory's above inability to provide for its proponents anticipated outcomes (Edelman, 2019). If it is connected to the factors that lead to the prevalence of child trafficking in Somalia, then debt bondage is one of the most inhumane types of child labor that is a factor in child trafficking (Das, 2022). The practice of using human beings as things as a method of repaying debt is known as debt bondage. The person who obtains repayment of the loan could change the persons into whatever they choose, including hostages (Thévenon & Edmonds, 2019) . This contributes to the socioeconomic conditions that make child trafficking possible and the purpose of this research is to answer the question of how socioeconomic factors contribute to Somalia's high rate of child trafficking, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research will employ a descriptive qualitative method and rely on secondary data sources in the form of literature studies employing journal articles, news, official government documents and archives, and other supplementary data. Human security concept and human needs theory will be utilized to support the analysis on this study.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a type of trading and exploitation of human beings, especially women and children. According to Peters (Peters, 2015), we can determine that almost everyone agrees that selling people is a terrible crime, but there is much less agreement on what trafficking is and how to deal with it. Because so many different groups have a say in how trafficking policy is made, it was hard to write the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) because of disagreements about how to describe the crime and who should be called a victim. The law that came out of this reflects this conflict. In the end, the law described "trafficking" in a way that was broad enough to include men and women who were forced to work in all kinds of jobs, but it also favored "exploitation for forced commercial sex" in several ways. The tremendous cruelty is associated with slavery in which males,

females, and children were legally owned as property, and it is practically hard for anyone who has not lived through such horrors to really appreciate the anguish caused (Cullen-DuPont, 2019). The Global Slavery Index estimates that 40.3% of the world's population is currently living in conditions that amount to modern-day slavery. Human trafficking, in a nutshell, is the economic exploitation of human weakness. Because there are helpless individuals everywhere, human trafficking is a global problem (Sadler, 2019).

Discussing the reasons for human trafficking in Somalia. This is an issue that has been around for a long time, especially with the region being on the African continent. Since 1991 after the civil war, many conflicts have triggered human trafficking (Yusuf et al., 2019). As a result of the civil war, the government in Somalia tends to be labor-intensive, as evidenced by the age caste of the youth and those who control the government. Only people of a certain age can sit on the council and do politics. A concrete example is in the Somaliland constitution, which stated under Article 59 that candidates who can run for politics must be at least 45 years old to become a council member (The Constitution of The Republic of Somaliland, 2001). This is one of the reasons why it is difficult for young people to improve their living standards. Somalia is also still struggling with conflicts between tribes, causing other problems to arise. With the economic conflict and violence that still exist, many young people and even communities leave Somalia to seek new fortunes. According to the official website of Children and Armed Conflict under the United Nations, until 2020 after research there have been 14,856 cases of violence and trafficking of children to become mercenaries, this also happened due to other agencies such as Al-Shabaab who recruited (Vinet, 2020). This is proof that the existence of this case begins with bad governance and the difficulties experienced by the community makes them trust every individual who wants to do bad things.

Child Labor

Child labor is defined as a situation in which children are required to work without regard to the legal requirements for the existence of a minimum limitation of labor on jobs that have deprived children of their rights, potential, and childhood and that can affect one's physical, social, mental, moral, and other aspects of well-being (International Labour Organization, 2022). The existence of child workers often violates applicable laws, international conventions, or social norms. In the law on child labor, it has been stipulated that there is a ban on child labor under the age of 12 and restricting employment that is not appropriate for them. The issue of child labor is of particular concern, so it has been directed by three international conventions, the International Labor Organization (ILO) convention No. 1 (ILO) (International Labour Organization, 2022). The 1822 Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Measures for the Elimination of Misconduct of Child Labor and

Recommendation No 190 (1999) and the United Nations Convention on the Child (ILO, 1999). Hiring children as laborers is a violation of children's rights and is considered a social problem so there needs to be action in combating child labor and ensuring that children are protected, given the opportunity to spend their childhood, and get a proper education and can grow and thrive in a safe environment.

ILO continues to receive reports that there is a recruitment of children in armed conflict in Somalia which violates national law. Children in Somalia are targeted as workers by doing whatever job they can, even if the job is dangerous to themselves. As of 2021, child abduction cases in Somalia have been the highest number of child abduction cases in the world by a non-state actor with 1,116 children (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2018) . The study found that child exploitation perpetrators in Somalia forced Somalia children to beg in Saudi Arabia and Djibouti (*ibid*). As of 2021, Somalia's employment law enforcement agencies have taken action to address child exploitation cases against labor, but there are no inspections at existing workplaces, thus also hindering child labor law enforcement (*Ibid*). This is the reason why child labor is a concept in this study, because child labor in Somalia continues to occur and the Somalia government has not been able to handle it.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method based on the emphasis that description on the case will took part as the primary emphasis of this study. (Miles et al., 2020). In qualitative method, there are two types of data used in research such as primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the most basic data obtained directly from the field through respondents or informants. Secondary data is data obtained from primary data collection (Berg & Lune, 2018). Meanwhile, the research will use these two types of data. Primary data will be obtained through official documents uploaded from the Somali government website and documents from organizations involved in handling human trafficking in Somalia. Then secondary data are obtained from the literature study of several journals, articles, and other related literature sources.

RESULT

Social problems in Somalia are the driving force behind child labor, which can be seen from the poverty rates and political instability in there. It is classified that Somalia is among the underdeveloped countries in the world and is the third-highest poverty-stricken region in Africa (UNCTAD, 2022) . As of 2019, nearly 70% of the population lives in poverty, so the economic level of the population in Somalia affects everything in life (World Bank, 2022). From this point on, educational, health, and other facilities cannot be fulfilled. For example, in educational facilities due to the cost and distance to go to school, many children in Somalia are forced to drop out of school. The case of

children in Somalia does not go to school because children are required to work to meet their daily needs (Education Cluster, 2022) Not only that, but the health of the people in Somalia is not guaranteed because there is no cost to buy basic materials for daily life. So that factor makes parents in Somalia demand that their children help make a living so that child labor practices in Somalia certainly happen a lot either from parental coercion or from seeing bad family economic conditions (ibid). Parents may sometimes use their children to settle financial obligations (International Labour Organization, 2023).

The concepts and theories underlying the researcher's work are related to one another. Socioeconomic concepts like "Human Security" and "Human Needs" are frequently referenced while discussing human trafficking, child labor, and socioeconomics. Human needs for anything they want tend to always remain and continue, everyone's economic opportunities for achieving their needs vary, which paves the way for forms of crime that eventually lead to the phenomenon of human trafficking when viewed in terms of economic opportunities for traders and human security is becoming the most fundamental necessity as part of human rights is possessed. The concept of human security arises as a response to new and dangerous issues for humans and needs involving identity, peace, and others which must be met to meet the needs of security rights connected to humans (Dalby, 2022). Human security theory has seven concepts consisting of public safety, economic security, personal security, health security, food security, political security, and environmental security (Andersen-Rodgers & Crawford, 2022). When associated with the socioeconomic state of Somalia society, it is very clear that in human security theory that this factor makes humans use variations in visualization in the social economy by studying the existence of mutual relationships. Where if any of the components in human security are not fulfilled automatically humans cannot obtain complete human security either. Finally, it speaks of the abuse and exploitation of people, particularly children, for sale in Somalia due to insufficient necessities. In this study, the researcher examines those factors that eventually lead to child trafficking. The authors may conclude that the situation in Somalia occurs as a result of the country's social and economic realities.

DISCUSSION
Socio-Economic Factors

In Somalia, an estimated 7.8 million people require humanitarian aid to live (United Nations, 2022a). There are approximately 1.5 million individuals, many of them are children and newborns, with the possibility of 386,400 youngsters suffering from acute malnutrition. In September 2022, it was reported that 730 children had perished as a result of starvation. According to the Global Health Security Index, Somalia's health index comes in last with a total score of 16, while the average

worldwide score is 38.9. The GHS Index measures a country's health index using some factors or elements such as the prevent, detect, and respond categories. Somalia's health index is considered as low, according to the 2021 data they are the lowest of 195 countries, because of several problems including poverty rate, and political instability that affecting the health index of the country.
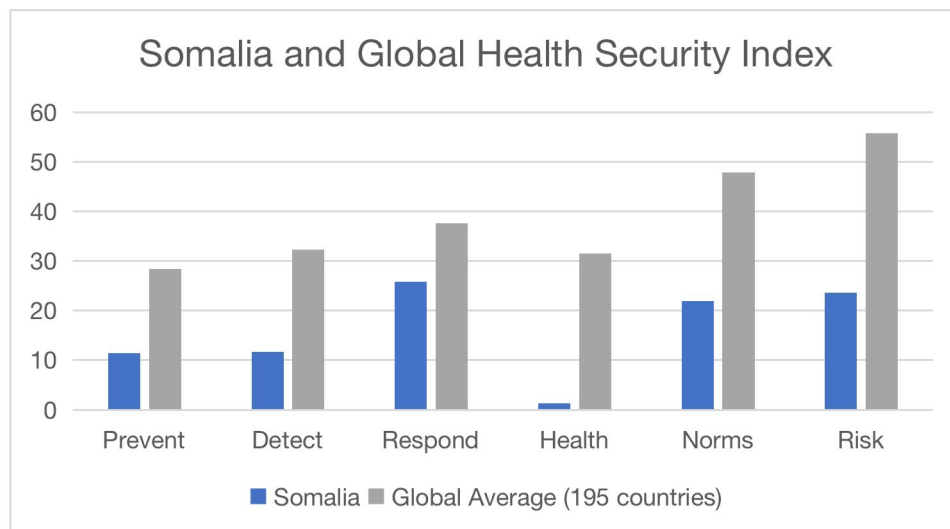

Figure 2 Comparison Between Somalia and Global Average GHS Index

(Global Health Security Index, 2021)

Based on data from modern slavery and forced labor, the vulnerability to child labor in Africa, and Somalia in particular, has reached 98% (Walk Free, 2023). One of the factors contributing to this phenomenon is rooted in the human need's theory above, which posits that individual's resort to taking on debt when they are unable to fulfill their basic requirements. Consequently, when these individuals find themselves unable to repay their debts, they may hire their children as a kind of collateral. This practice gives the debt holder unrestricted authority over the children, potentially leading to their forced labor (Guérin & Venkatasubramanian, 2020).

The Somalia people must also face the ongoing conflict between the government and its foreign backers and Al-Shabaab. The year's violence and lack of justice and responsibility for international humanitarian and human rights breaches harmed or killed hundreds. Al-Shabaab, state security forces, clan militias, and foreign and regional forces caused 76% of 428 deaths between February and May 2022 (United Nations, 2022b). Al Shabaab fought until the government prioritized national security. Al-Shabaab assaulted and hired Somalia kids engaged in illegal operations (*ibid*).

In Somalia, more than 3 million children do not go to school due poverty, long distance schooling, and other factors (UNICEF, 2022). Women's access to education in Somalia is limited to local societal conventions that provide women fewer possibilities than males. In fact, more than 72% of girls in Somalia have never received a school education (World Bank, 2021). Not only are women in

Somalia denied the right to an education, but they are also denied access to employment and other economic prospects. Because in most cases, women in Somalia are mostly married off early by their families as dowry prizes, which their families employ as an alternative source of revenue (Education Cluster, 2022). This also related with the condition that most children in Somalia cannot get access to education well due to limited financial capabilities, basic education owned by the community, and because of the situation in Somalia such as conflict and the distance that children must travel to go to school because their house far from their school (*Ibid*). As of 2021, a total of 38.3% of 5 to 14-year-olds in Somalia attend school (*Ibid*). In most cases, children from low-income families have no access to education, making it harder to get out of poverty.

No.	Educational Indicators	2018/2019
1.	**Access and Coverage Indicators**	**%**
	1.1 Primary-Grade 1 Gross Intake Rate (GIR)	**33.4**
	1.1.1 Male	35.4
	1.1.2 Female	31.4
	1.2 Primary-Grade 1 Net Intake Rate (NIR)	**19.7**
	1.2.1 Male	21
	1.2.2 Female	18.3
	1.3 Primary Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)	**23**
	1.3.1 Male	25
	1.3.2 Female	21
	1.4 Primary Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	**16.3**
	1.4.1 Male	17.6
	1.4.2 Female	14.9
	1.5 Secondary Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)	**17.2**
	1.5.1 Male	20.1
	1.5.2 Female	14.2
	1.6 Secondary Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	**11.5**
	1.6.1 Male	13.2
	1.6.2 Female	9.6

Figure 3 Education in Somalia

(Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, 2022)

According to the table, the number of children enrolled in elementary schools remains relatively big in comparison to the number of students enrolled in secondary schools. The data above also indicates that the number of women who attend school is still limited in comparison to men, implying that the possibility for women to have the right to education in Somalia is obvious. Unfortunately, some of the data found was incomplete because the Somalia government had not updated the existing data.

In 2022, according to United Nations data, Somalia is still one of the world's least developed countries. It is because, in 2021, Somalia's population reached 17,066 million people, while Somalia's GDP per capita is only around US$ 446,98 (UNCTAD, 2022). Despite this, Somalia has shown growth in its GDP, where Somalia experienced GDP growth of 2.9% compared to 2020. Somalia unfortunately has the third-highest poverty rate in the African region, with almost 70% of Somalis living below the internationally defined poverty line in 2019. This means that about 70% of Somalis live on less than $2.15 a day (World Bank, 2022).

In response to those matters, the Somali Government introduced the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9) in 2019. The main goals of this development plan are to reduce poverty and to stimulate economic growth in Somalia. This plan proceeded from 2020 to 2024. The authors found several pieces of evidence of socioeconomic status in Somalia. For example, Somalia's economy shows how underdeveloped Somalia is. Not only that, but Somalia also faced natural disasters that led the country to famine and any potential violence that occurred during such hard times. Health index, as well as gender inequality and disproportion in education, are worsening the situation in Somalia. From these findings, Somalia is in a vulnerable state, making it easy prey for human traffickers.

Political Instability

Somalia disintegrated from 1991 until 2004. The 2004–2012 transitional government was inept. Since 2012, a post-transitional government, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), has created a weak administration in Mogadishu but has failed to rebuild a monopoly on force across the nation, including a major part of the city. This internal political stability was also disrupted by the escalation of an ethnic conflict that was not dealt holistically. This conflict began with Somalia's successful independence from British, French, and Italian colonial rule in 1960. During the colonial period, the three countries partitioned their respective territories, resulting in the separation of territories at the start of independence, namely British Somaliland and Italian Somalia, which merged to form the Somali Republic. Instigators of the initial conflict in Somalia were the emergence of ethnic movements that demanded claim rights over inhabited areas (Lewis & Janzen, 2019) . The Somali conflict began with President Siad Barre's removal from power in January 1991, which led to numerous

disputes in various regions of Somalia. Siad Barre's policy, known as scientific socialism, is a theory that seeks to eliminate clannism by strengthening group-based politics, but it is manifestly ineffective (Clarke & Herbst, 1996). After decolonization, the clan war emerged and did not conclude immediately with the establishment of the Somali Republic. Therefore, this persists into the modern era and refers to unresolved armed conflict rather than new armed conflict purposes. As a result, poverty, poor health, disruptions in economic stability, starvation, and even intertribal warfare continue to color Somalia to this day (Ledesma, 2023).

The prolonged internal conflict has added to the suffering of the Somali people, which achieved its zenith in 1992, when famine struck Somalia (Ingiriis, 2018). The United Nations responded to this conflict by sending food and apparel aid to Somalia. Since the conflict in Somalia started to spread to all regions involving military elements, Somalia no longer has a central government, and none of its government infrastructure institutions function properly (Abdi et al., 2021) . Due to the prolonged political instability of the Somali Republic, Somaliland, a former British colony, proclaimed its independence in 1991. In 1998, Puntland, the northeastern portion of Somalia, also declared independence as an autonomous nation *(Ibid)*. In 2002, there were fights in almost every part of Somalia between different groups and the temporary government. In October, the Somali National Reconciliation Conference was held in Kenya. It brought together people from different tribes, the National Transitional Government (TNG), and different communities to talk about peace and stability in government. In 2005, the union of the transitional government had to deal with two groups that were at odds with each other and threatened to go to war with each other, which would have led to a lot more violence. Pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia, which threatened international shipping, continued to be caused by disagreements between different groups of people (Menkhaus, 2018) . In 2006, the Supreme Council of Islamic Court (SCIC) and the reunified Transitional Federal Government (TGF) fought a war in the country's city, Mogadishu, that killed more than 300 people, most of them civilians. Ethiopia and Eritrea were also involved in the fighting between TGF and SCIC. Ethiopia sent troops to guard TGF, and Eritrea sent military supplies to SCIC. This is meddling from other African countries; because of this, the US did its part to get rid of terrorists, make the desert more violent, and keep the area from getting worse until nowadays (Bach, 2022) . This state of chaos and instability is also one of the things we found in our study that supports the idea that people in Somalia are engage in child trafficking.

Level of Crime and Violence

When it came to violence against children and women, it was a very common issue. There are several reasons why these terrorists choose to take young children; first, young children tend to be

more difficult to trace their identities because they are still classified as minors and do not have complete identities (Rosen, 2005) ; second, food needs especially will tend to be less because if you look at the terrorist syndicate, they tend to look for soldiers who have minimal expenses (Singer, 2009); third, young children tend not to have mature thoughts about what they will choose and this is also related to their education which tends to be lower because before reaching a mature age they have been influenced by negative thoughts (Tynes, 2018); fourth, technological developments also tend to get better and make the use of weapons much easier which can then be used by children well (Bloom, 2019) . An article in the journal "Children in Violent Movements: From Child Soldiers to Terrorist Groups" describes the treatment given by armed groups in Somalia, which includes:

a. Children tend to be utilized as objects by armed groups perpetrated by both state and non-state actors. This is one proof that the increase and disappearance of child abuse and trafficking is also caused by non-state actors.

b. Children's minds are influenced by conscription or forced abductions that have existed and increased since 2014.

c. Children tend to be given doctrine about what these groups do to encourage them to become soldiers or sell children under the pretext of "martyrdom" as a way for them to know that what they are doing tends to be fighting for the cause of Islam.

d. Family coercion also tends to be a way for this group to obtain human resources because children will find it difficult to refuse and cannot choose to avoid this group's invitation.

The portrayal given is shown as a way for them as well as those in power because of the crime as "there are groups that are willing and ready to continue the campaign/increase violence" (Tynes, 2018). April 2014 in the African region saw the abduction of 276 children. Some of these victims were taken and girls were treated as sex slaves and forced into marriage, some became suicide bombers as a "path of struggle" (Horgan, Taylor, Bloom, & Winter, 2016).

According to Pavey (Pavey, 2023), the Somali National Alliance (SNA), its militias, and Al-Shabaab unlawfully recruited and used juvenile soldiers throughout the year. The Ministry of Defense's Child Protection Unit (CPU) spearheaded federal efforts to handle underage soldiers in government armies. The CPU found three underage SNA troops in 3,537 assessments between January and June. During all this time, Al-Shabaab raided schools, *madrassas*, and mosques and compelled clan leaders to recruit minors. Al-Shabaab's ideology required youngsters in training facilities to suffer rigorous physical training, weapons training, insufficient nutrition, physical punishment and forced religious teaching. The training reportedly required youngsters to punish and kill each other. The gang utilized children as human shields, suicide bombers, and roadside grenade installers. Al-Shabaab also used

kids to deliver weapons, water, food, injured and dead fighters, acquire information, and guard. According to media reports, Al-Shabaab indoctrinates and forcefully recruits youngsters in schools. Somalia utilized child soldiers between March 2021 and March 2022 (United State Department of State, 2023).

Level of Corruption

Somalia, one of the most prominent and longest-lasting failed states, faces many of the major corruption issues that plague war-torn nations, which are exacerbated by the lack of a strong, functional central government, resources, administrative capacity, leadership structures, and the ability to pay public officials (Muhammad, 2016) . Corruption in healthcare, sanitation, water, and hygiene contributes to Somalia's high illness rates (UNICEF, 2017) . The Somali National Army, the country's largest security organization, is plagued by corruption (Global Integrity, 2016) . However, security concerns were ignored owing to the other focus on this problem, which was misleading. In 2015, the UK-registered Soma Oil and Gas company paid senior civil servants in the Somali Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources over US$500,000 as part of a capacity development agreement (US Department of States, 2015) . Seeing this situation, even for the administration of natural resources, there is still corruption, so it is hard to comprehend how chaotic the nation is for future management and growth. This very uncomfortable situation motivates individuals to strive for a better standard of living, so that following the theory of human needs, humans also seek to fulfill their life needs, a process that is not always smooth, filled with obstacles that can endanger lives and begin with fraud like human trafficking and child labor. These uncomfortable conditions give rise to a constructivist view of stable and unstable world order.

Based on the factors mentioned such as the health index, education, poverty rate, political condition, crime rate, and to the level of corruption in Somalia, we can conclude that Somalia lacks in fulfilling the people decent needs. The decent needs according to the human security factor such as, the fundamental rights of the Somalis. Several of essentials human security components mentioned above are economic security, health security, food security, personal security, community security, political security, and environmental security. As well as the human needs explained above that consist of physiological needs, safety and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Somalia unfortunately on several aspects such as on the socioeconomic side, did not meet the requirements of the human security and human needs theory. It is believed that the failure to meet such requirements leads Somalia to fail to protect their people, especially children, and become the prey of child traffickers.

CONCLUSION

This study, utilizing the investigation of human security and human needs, concludes that there is evidence that child trafficking in Somalia is caused by some factors, including the lack of human security fulfillment for the Somali people, especially for a child there until they grow into adulthood and start trying to fulfill their own needs. Also, the socioeconomic factor, as evidenced by the low income of the Somali population, which depends solely on agriculture and livestock. However, the livestock and other commodities, which the population relies on, do not produce enough to meet their requirements due to Somalia's climate crisis and persistent drought. In the meantime, the ongoing conflict in Somalia has burdened the populace as well. Due to the conflict, hundreds of Somalis have been maimed and slain. Due to a dearth of funds to enroll their children in school, parents in Somalia choose not to send their children to school so that they can work to support their families. The health index in Somalia is considered low, which shows how lacks the social condition there. Well, as other factors such as political instability that saw the inability of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to reestablish control over the use of force throughout the nation, including most of the capital, the country has been highly unstable and prone to conflict in various sectors since 2012. In addition, the case of forced labor in Somalia is due to a factor in which the population in Somalia is forced into debt when it cannot meet its basic needs. When they cannot pay the debt, their children are guaranteed the debt so that the debt holder has the right to their children who have the potential to be forced laborers.

Other data like crime and violence rates showed that the Somali National Alliance (SNA), its affiliated militias, and al-Shabaab unlawfully recruited and used child fighters throughout the year. The Ministry of Defense's Child Protection Unit (CPU) leads a federal campaign to address underage combatants in the military. Three minors were detected in 3,537 SNA personnel by the CPU between January and June. According to an annex to a 2015 UN Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) report, the UK-listed company Soma Oil and Gas paid more than US$500,000 to senior civil servants in Somalia's Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources as part of a capacity building agreement in natural resources management. Those facts demonstrate Somalia's vulnerability. This vulnerability could make Somalia an easy prey for human traffickers, who exploit the helpless. The author advises a more specialized study for future academics to better solve this challenge. This is also related to the author's suggestion that stakeholders, such as strict UN, ILO, UNODC, UNCRC, and Somalia community enforcement, be more concerned with this issue and jointly fight for human rights, especially for children there.

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