

**CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE BUILDING IN SOMALIA CASE STUDY
MOGADISHU SOMALIA**

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ABSTRACT

"Civil Society and the State Building in Somalia" is an article that explores the relationship between civil society and state building in Somalia. The paper argues that the role of civil society is critical in the process of state-building, especially in contexts where the state has failed or collapsed, as is the case in Somalia. Drawing on empirical data, the authors analyze the role of civil society in the reconstruction and reconstitution of the Somali state since the collapse of the Siad Barre regime in 1991. They identify three primary functions of civil society in state-building: service delivery, community mobilization, and advocacy. The article also highlights the challenges and constraints facing civil society in Somalia, such as insecurity, lack of resources, and political fragmentation. Despite these challenges, the authors argue that civil society has played a crucial role in rebuilding the Somali state and that its continued engagement is necessary for sustainable state-building in Somalia. The article concludes by calling for more incredible support and recognition of the role of civil society in state-building efforts in Somalia and beyond.

Keywords: Civil Society, State Building, Role of Civil Society for State -Building.

1. INTRODUCTION

Somalia is a country that has experienced conflict and instability for several decades. The collapse of the Siad Barre regime in 1991 plunged the country into anarchy, which has persisted for over two decades. The international community has made several attempts to support state-building efforts in Somalia, including establishing a Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004 and the subsequent formation of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in 2012. However, the state-building process in Somalia remains fragile and faces several challenges. (Abdi, H. A., & Musse, I. M. (2016).

This article examines civil society's role in Somalia's state-building process. The paper argues that civil society can play a critical role in state building, particularly in contexts where the state has failed or collapsed. Civil society can help in the reconstruction and reconstitution of the state by providing essential services, mobilizing communities, and advocating for the rights and needs of citizens.

The article draws on empirical data to analyze the role of civil society in rebuilding the Somali state since the collapse of the Siad Barre regime. The paper identifies three primary functions of civil society in state-building: service delivery, community mobilization, and advocacy. The article also highlights the challenges and constraints facing civil society in Somalia, such as insecurity, lack of resources, and political fragmentation.

Despite the challenges facing civil society in Somalia, the article argues that civil society has played a crucial role in rebuilding the Somali state. The paper calls for more significant support and recognition of the role of civil society in state-building efforts in Somalia and beyond. The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of continued engagement of civil society in the state-building process for sustainable development and peace in Somalia.

Background.

The collapse of the Siad Barre regime in 1991 plunged Somalia into anarchy, which has persisted for over two decades. The ensuing conflict has resulted in the displacement of millions of Somalis, the loss of lives, and the destruction of the country's infrastructure. The international community has made several attempts to support state-building efforts in Somalia, including establishing the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004 and the subsequent formation of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in 2012.

The state-building process in Somalia has been challenging due to various factors, including the weak capacity of the state institutions, political instability, and insecurity. The state institutions are still nascent and have limited control over the country's territories. The security situation in Somalia is fragile, with multiple armed groups, including Al-Shabaab, which have conducted numerous attacks against the state and civilians. (Abdi, H. A., & Musse, I. M. (2016).

In this context, civil society has emerged as a critical actor in the state-building process in Somalia. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have provided essential services, such as healthcare and education, to communities affected by the conflict. They have also mobilized communities to participate in peace-building efforts and advocated for the rights and needs of citizens. (Ahmed, A. G. (2015).

The international community has recognized civil society's role in Somalia's state-building process. The New Deal for Engagement in the Fragile States, a global framework for aid effectiveness in fragile and conflict-affected states, recognizes the importance of civil society in the state-building process. The framework emphasizes the need for inclusive and participatory approaches to state-building, with the engagement of civil society and other stakeholders. (McCauley, L., & Gaouette, N. (2019).

Despite the critical role that civil society plays in the state-building process, CSOs in Somalia face several challenges and constraints. The security situation in the country limits the mobility and activities of CSOs, and the lack of resources hinders their effectiveness. Somalia's political fragmentation also challenges civil society engagement, with different actors often pursuing divergent interests.

Another factor hindering civil society's engagement in the state-building process in Somalia is the limited recognition and support from the government and international actors. The government has been accused of co-opting civil society organizations, and international actors have often focused on working with the government rather than engaging with civil society. (Cilliers, J., & Mkhonta, T. (2019).

Despite the challenges and constraints, civil society in Somalia has played a critical role in the state-building process. For instance, without a functioning education system, civil society organizations have established community schools that educate thousands of children nationwide. (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2019).

In addition, civil society organizations have mobilized communities to participate in peace-building and reconciliation efforts, contributing to establishing local governance structures and peace agreements. (Ahmed, A. G. (2015).

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of civil society in the state-building process in Somalia. The Federal Government of Somalia has made efforts to engage civil society in the country's development agenda, and international actors have also increased their support for civil society initiatives. (Nabaddoon, M. N., & Yusuf, A. H. (2017).

In conclusion, civil society plays a critical role in the state-building process in Somalia, particularly in contexts where the state has failed or collapsed. Civil society can help in the reconstruction and reconstitution of the state by providing essential services, mobilizing communities, and advocating for the rights and needs of citizens. Despite the challenges and constraints facing civil society in Somalia, it has played a crucial role in rebuilding the Somali state, and its continued engagement is necessary for sustainable state-building in Somalia.

Problem Statement

The state-building process in Somalia has been fraught with challenges, marked by prolonged political instability, fragile governance structures, and persistent conflict. As international efforts converge to strengthen the Somali state, civil society organizations (CSOs) have emerged as pivotal actors in shaping the trajectory of state-building. However, the complexities surrounding civil society engagement in Somalia's state-building journey still need to be explored.

According to Ahmed (2015), the Somali government's limited capacity to provide essential services, ensure security, and foster democratic governance underscores civil society's role in bridging the governance gap. Nevertheless, the myriad obstacles civil society actors face—including security threats, resource scarcities, and political intricacies—complicate their ability to contribute to the state-building process effectively.

Further compounding the issue, the influence of civil society on democratic institutions, peace-building, and social development in Somalia remains underexamined. The delicate interplay between civil society organizations and the government introduces the challenge of finding common ground amidst competing interests and varying capacities. Moreover, the imperative to address gender disparities and the inclusion of marginalized groups within civil society initiatives adds a layer of intricacy to the equation.

In light of these complexities, a comprehensive investigation into the role of civil society in Somalia's state-building is imperative. This study explores critical questions concerning the extent, limitations, and consequences of civil society's involvement in state-building efforts. By doing so, it seeks to provide insights into the potential of civil society to foster accountable governance, facilitate conflict resolution, and drive inclusive development in Somalia's challenging context.

Objectives of the Study

General Objective:

To examine the role of civil society in the state-building process in Somalia and its impact on democratic governance, peace, and development.

Specific Objectives:

1. To assess the contributions of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Somalia's state-building efforts
2. To analyze the challenges and constraints faced by civil society organizations in Somalia
3. To evaluate the impact of civil society's engagement on democratic governance in Somalia
4. To examine the relationship between civil society's activities and peace-building in Somalia

Research question:

1. **How have civil society organizations (CSOs) contributed to the state-building efforts in Somalia?**
2. **What challenges and constraints do civil society organizations (CSOs) face in Somalia?**
3. **How has the involvement and active participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Somalia?**
4. **What is the relationship between civil society organizations (CSOs) activities in Somalia and peace-building?**

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on civil society and state-building in Somalia emphasizes the critical role that civil society organizations (CSOs) play in the reconstruction and reconstitution of the state. The literature highlights the importance of civil society in providing essential services, mobilizing communities, and advocating for the rights and needs of citizens.

One strand of the literature focuses on the role of CSOs in providing essential services, such as healthcare and education, in contexts where the state has failed or collapsed. For instance, a study by Ahmed et al. (2017) shows that community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have established schools and health centers in areas where there is limited or no access to essential services. The study argues that providing critical services by CSOs contributes to the reconstruction of the state and the establishment of social cohesion. (Nabaddoon, M. N., & Yusuf, A. H. (2017).

The intricate process of state-building in post-conflict environments has highlighted the indispensable role of civil society organizations (CSOs) indispensable role in fostering accountable governance, promoting peace, and driving sustainable development. The Somali context, characterized by decades of conflict, political instability, and weak state institutions, underscores the critical importance of civil society's contributions to the state-building endeavor. This literature review provides an overview of key themes and perspectives related to the role of civil society in state-building in Somalia.

The Role of Civil Society in Filling Governance Gaps:

Ahmed (2015) emphasizes that civil society has been instrumental in filling governance gaps left by the struggling Somali government. With limited capacity to provide essential services and maintain security, CSOs have stepped in to bridge the deficit, providing healthcare, education, and critical services to marginalized communities. This engagement aligns with the literature's consensus on civil society's potential to deliver vital services where the state falls short (Nabaddoon & Yusuf, 2017).

The state-building process in Somalia has been characterized by persistent challenges arising from conflict, political instability, and weak governance structures. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have emerged as critical actors in bridging the governance gaps left by the government's limited capacity to provide essential services and ensure security (Ahmed, 2015).

Ahmed (2015) underscores that CSOs are essential in addressing the vacuum created by state fragility. As the Somali government grapples with issues such as inadequate infrastructure, limited access to healthcare, and educational disparities, CSOs step in to provide vital services to communities. These services range from medical clinics to educational programs, filling the gaps in areas where the state's reach is limited.

For instance, CSOs like CARE International have been involved in health interventions, delivering healthcare services to vulnerable populations, and thus contributing to addressing health-related governance gaps (Ali, 2017). Moreover, the Somali Women's Development Centre (SWDC) has focused on education and advocacy, promoting women's empowerment and fostering grassroots initiatives to improve access to education (Ali, 2017).

CSOs, as non-governmental actors, often exhibit a skill that allows them to adapt quickly to the dynamic needs of communities. Their ability to target specific areas of governance gaps ensures that marginalized populations are not left behind in the state-building process. The inherent flexibility of CSOs enables them to operate at the grassroots level, addressing immediate challenges and contributing to a more comprehensive state-building effort.

Contributions to Democratic Governance and Accountability:

The advocacy efforts of civil society organizations play a pivotal role in promoting democratic governance and accountability in Somalia. Organizations like the Somali Women's Development Centre (SWDC) have demonstrated their ability to influence policy discussions and advocate for gender-sensitive policies (Ali, 2017). By engaging in oversight activities and advocating for transparency, CSOs hold government institutions accountable, contributing to developing responsive and responsible governance.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Somalia are pivotal in advocating for democratic governance and promoting accountability within the state-building process. These organizations act as watchdogs, ensuring that government institutions uphold the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and citizen participation.

Ahmed (2015) emphasizes that CSOs engage in advocacy and lobbying to influence policy discussions and decisions. This advocacy extends to pressing for democratic reforms and institutional changes, prioritizing citizen interests. Organizations such as the Somali Women's Development Centre (SWDC) have advocated for gender-sensitive policies to ensure that the government's actions align with the needs and rights of women and marginalized groups (Ali, 2017).

CSOs also play a vital role in monitoring government activities and holding public officials accountable for their actions. By engaging in oversight activities, conducting audits, and scrutinizing policies, CSOs create a culture of accountability within the government (Nabaddoon & Yusuf, 2017). These efforts have the potential to strengthen democratic governance by ensuring that decision-makers are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people.

Moreover, CSOs are crucial in fostering an informed citizenry. Through public awareness campaigns, community dialogues, and civic education programs, these organizations empower

citizens to understand their rights, engage in the democratic process, and actively participate in governance (Ibrahim, 2016). In this way, civil society contributes to creating an engaged and informed population that plays an active role in shaping the direction of the state-building process.

Peace-building and Reconciliation Efforts:

In the realm of peace-building and reconciliation, civil society's impact has been substantial. Women's organizations, such as the Somali Women's Association (SWA), have been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to mediate conflicts and build social cohesion (Hassan, 2018). CSOs have played a role in establishing local governance structures that facilitate conflict resolution and foster reconciliation at the community level (Briscoe, 2017).

Another strand of the literature emphasizes the role of CSOs in mobilizing communities for peace-building and reconciliation efforts. CSOs have been involved in organizing community dialogues, peace conferences, and reconciliation ceremonies, which have contributed to the establishment of local governance structures and peace agreements. For instance, a study by Ali (2016) shows that women's organizations have played a critical role in peace-building and reconciliation efforts in Somalia, particularly in establishing local governance structures.

The literature also highlights the importance of advocacy by CSOs in the state-building process. CSOs have advocated for the rights and needs of citizens, including women, youth, and marginalized groups. CSOs have also been involved in monitoring and evaluating the performance of state institutions, contributing to establishing accountability mechanisms. For instance, a study by Ahmed et al. (2019) shows that CSOs in Somalia have been involved in advocating for the inclusion of women in the political process and establishing gender-sensitive policies and programs. (Cilliers, J., & Mkhonta, T. (2019).

Despite the critical role of CSOs in the state-building process, the literature also identifies several challenges and constraints facing civil society in Somalia. These include the limited recognition and support from the government and international actors, the security situation in the country, and the need for more resources. The literature emphasizes the need for greater recognition and support for the role of civil society in the state-building process, as well as the need for inclusive and participatory approaches to state-building, with the engagement of civil society and other stakeholders.

The literature also highlights the importance of building partnerships and networks among civil society organizations in Somalia. Studies have shown that collaboration and coordination among CSOs can enhance their effectiveness and impact the state-building process. For instance, a study by Ismail (2015) argues that partnerships among CSOs can lead to sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise and developing shared goals and strategies. (McCauley, L., & Gaouette, N. (2019). In addition, the literature emphasizes the importance of capacity building for civil society in Somalia. Capacity-building initiatives can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of CSOs, particularly in organizational management, financial management, and program implementation. The literature also highlights the need for more significant investment in local civil society organizations rather than relying on external actors and organizations.

Another critical aspect of the literature on civil society and state-building in Somalia is the role of international actors. The literature argues that international actors have a vital role in supporting and strengthening civil society in Somalia, particularly in providing resources, technical assistance, and advocacy support. However, the literature also highlights the need for

international actors to adopt more inclusive and participatory approaches to state-building, with greater engagement of civil society and other stakeholders.

Challenges and Limitations:

Despite their critical contributions, civil society organizations in Somalia grapple with numerous challenges. As Schneider (2017) highlighted, security concerns have inhibited the operational reach of CSOs in conflict-affected areas. Limited resources, often reliant on unpredictable external funding, hinder the sustainability of their initiatives (McCauley & Gaouette, 2019). Moreover, the relationship between the Somali government and civil society remains complex, with tensions arising from differing priorities and expectations (Cilliers & Mkhonta, 2019).

Finally, the literature highlights the need for a more nuanced understanding of civil society in Somalia. Studies have shown that civil society in Somalia is diverse, complex, and dynamic, with different forms and manifestations across other regions and contexts. A better understanding of the diversity and complexity of civil society in Somalia can inform more effective strategies for engaging with and strengthening civil society in the state-building process.

In conclusion, the literature on civil society and state-building in Somalia emphasizes the critical role that civil society organizations play in the reconstruction and reconstitution of the state. Despite the challenges and constraints facing civil society in Somalia, its continued engagement is necessary for sustainable state-building. The literature highlights the importance of partnerships, capacity building, greater recognition and support from the government and international actors, and the need for more inclusive and participatory approaches to state-building.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in studying civil society and state-building in Somalia involved a comprehensive review of existing literature. This included academic articles, reports, and policy documents from various sources, including international organizations, civil society organizations, and government agencies. The literature review was conducted to identify the key issues, challenges, and opportunities facing civil society in the state-building process in Somalia, with a particular focus on Mogadishu.

The study also involved interviews with key informants, including representatives from civil society organizations, government officials, and international actors. The interviews were conducted to gather first-hand information on the activities, challenges, and opportunities facing civil society organizations in Mogadishu. The interviews also provided insights into stakeholders' perceptions and attitudes toward civil society's role in the state-building process.

The study used a qualitative research approach, which allowed for an in-depth exploration of the experiences and perspectives of different stakeholders. The data collected from the literature review and interviews were analyzed thematically to identify the key emerging themes and patterns.

The study was also guided by a theoretical framework drawing on political science, sociology, and development studies concepts and theories. The theoretical framework was used to conduct the data analysis and provide a broader context for understanding the role of civil society in the state-building process in Somalia.

Overall, the methodology used in studying civil society and state-building in Somalia was designed to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the complex and dynamic relationship between civil society and the state in Somalia.

Civil Society

Civil society refers to the organizations and institutions in the community that are separate from the government and the private sector. Civil society organizations include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), professional associations, and other groups. These organizations play a critical role in advocating for the interests of citizens, promoting democracy, and contributing to social and economic development.

Civil society organizations can be involved in various activities, such as providing social services, promoting human rights, monitoring government activities, and engaging in advocacy and lobbying. They can also build community resilience, foster social cohesion, and encourage conflict resolution and peace-building.

In many countries, civil society organizations face challenges such as limited resources, restrictive government policies, and social and cultural barriers. However, they continue to play a vital role in promoting democratic governance and social and economic development, particularly in countries where the state is weak or in conflict and instability.

How can civil society participate in state-building in Somalia?

Civil society can participate in state-building in Somalia in various ways. Some of the key ways in which civil society can contribute to state-building in Somalia are:

1. Promoting civic education: Civil society organizations can be crucial in promoting civic education among the Somali population. This can include educating citizens on their rights and responsibilities and promoting civic engagement and participation in the political process.
2. Advocating for good governance: Civil society organizations can advocate for good governance practices and promote transparency and accountability in government institutions. This can help to build trust between citizens and the state and ensure that public resources are used for the benefit of all Somalis.
3. Social services: Civil society organizations can provide critical social services in areas where the state cannot. This can include giving marginalized communities healthcare, education, and other essential services.
4. Building peace and reconciliation: Civil society organizations can be crucial in promoting peace and reconciliation in Somalia. This can involve working with communities affected by conflict, promoting intercommunal dialogue, and supporting efforts to address the root causes.
5. Monitoring human rights: Civil society organizations can monitor human rights violations and hold the state accountable for human rights abuses. This can help to ensure that the state upholds the rule of law and respects the human rights of all Somalis.
6. Strengthening institutions: Civil society organizations can work to strengthen government institutions and systems, particularly in areas such as public finance management, justice, and security.

7. Supporting democratic processes: Civil society organizations can support democratic processes such as elections, political party development, and free and independent media development.
8. Promoting gender equality: Civil society organizations can work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Somalia, including advocating for laws and policies that protect women's rights and providing support and services to women affected by violence.
9. Engaging with the Somali diaspora: Civil society organizations can engage with the Somali diaspora to promote their involvement in state-building efforts in Somalia. This can include supporting diaspora-led development initiatives and promoting investment and other forms of engagement.
10. Building partnerships: Civil society organizations can partner with other stakeholders, including the government, the private sector, and international organizations, to promote state-building in Somalia. These partnerships can help to mobilize resources and coordinate efforts to address critical challenges.

To effectively participate in state building in Somalia, civil society organizations must be supported with resources, including funding and technical support. They must also operate in a conducive environment that respects the rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

Content analysis.

Content analysis is essential to the methodology used to study Somalia's civil society and state-building. The content analysis involved a systematic and comprehensive literature review, including academic articles, reports, and policy documents.

The content analysis was used to identify the key themes, issues, and challenges facing civil society organizations in the state-building process in Somalia. This involved carefully examining the language and discourse used in the literature to identify the underlying assumptions, values, and perspectives that shaped the discussion. (Mohamed, A. I. (2018).

The content analysis also helped identify gaps and limitations in the literature on civil society and state-building in Somalia. This allowed the study to identify areas where further research and analysis were needed to deepen our understanding of the role of civil society in the state-building process. (Briscoe, I. (2017).

Overall, the content analysis was essential in studying civil society and state-building in Somalia, providing a rigorous and systematic approach to analyzing the existing literature on the topic. The content analysis helped identify the key themes and issues that emerged from the literature and gaps and limitations in the current research. This provided a strong foundation for the study and helped ensure the findings were grounded in a comprehensive analysis of the existing literature.

Ethics analysis.

Ethics analysis is an essential consideration in any research study, including the study of civil society and state-building in Somalia. The study was guided by ethical principles and guidelines to ensure that the rights and welfare of participants were protected and that the study was conducted ethically and responsibly.

One of the key ethical considerations in the study was the need to obtain informed consent from all participants. This involved providing participants with information about the study, including its purpose, methods, and potential risks and benefits. Participants were allowed to ask questions and decide whether to participate in the study. (Briscoe, I. (2017).

Another ethical consideration in the study was the need to protect the privacy and confidentiality of participants. This involved ensuring that all data collected during the study was kept confidential and secure. Identifying information such as names and contact information was removed from the data, and only authorized researchers had access to the data. (Ali, M. A. (2017).

The study also adhered to principles of fairness and respect for participants. This involved treating all participants with respect and dignity and ensuring that their views and perspectives were represented accurately in the study. The study also sought to ensure that the benefits of the research were shared with participants and that they were not exploited for the benefit of others. Somalia's civil society and state-building study was conducted ethically and responsibly, guided by informed consent, privacy and confidentiality, fairness, and participant respect. These ethical considerations were essential to ensuring that the study was conducted in a manner that was respectful of the rights and welfare of participants and that the study's findings were trustworthy and reliable.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The study of civil society and state-building in Somalia revealed that civil society organizations play a crucial role in the state-building process in Somalia. Despite the challenging environment and limited resources, civil society organizations have contributed to the development of democratic institutions, the promotion of human rights, and the provision of essential services to communities.

Findings:

1. **Role in Governance Gap Bridging:** Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Somalia have been instrumental in filling governance gaps left by the struggling state. CSOs have stepped in to provide essential services, including healthcare and education, in areas with limited government capacity (Ahmed, 2015). This role demonstrates civil society's responsiveness to community needs and its potential to alleviate the impact of state fragility.
2. **Advocacy for Democratic Governance:** CSOs advocate for democratic governance and transparency. Organizations like the Somali Women's Development Centre (SWDC) have effectively influenced policy discussions and advocated for gender-sensitive policies (Ali, 2017). Through their efforts, CSOs contribute to creating accountable institutions that prioritize citizens' interests.
3. **Contributions to Peace-building:** Civil society's contributions to peace-building are evident through their conflict mediation and community reconciliation efforts. Women's organizations, such as the Somali Women's Association (SWA), have been actively engaged in grassroots peace initiatives (Hassan, 2018). By fostering dialogues and promoting social cohesion, CSOs help to address the deep-rooted conflicts in Somalia.
4. **Challenges Faced by CSOs:** Despite their significant contributions, CSOs face several challenges. Security concerns limit their operational reach, particularly in conflict-affected

areas (Schneider, 2017). The reliance on external funding, often unpredictable, poses sustainability challenges for CSO initiatives (McCauley & Gaouette, 2019). The complex relationship with the government, marked by differing priorities, adds further obstacles (Cilliers & Mkhonta, 2019).

5. **Gender Equality and Inclusion:** Civil society's role in advancing gender equality and inclusion is evident, but challenges persist. CSOs advocate for women's participation in decision-making and politics (Hilowle, 2018). However, gender disparities endure, requiring more comprehensive strategies for enhancing women's empowerment and inclusive development.

Discussion:

The findings highlight the crucial role of civil society organizations in state-building efforts in Somalia. Through bridging governance gaps, advocating for democratic governance, and contributing to peace-building, CSOs address critical challenges the state's fragility poses. Nevertheless, their challenges, including security risks and funding uncertainties, underscore the need for a supportive environment that recognizes their contributions (Cilliers & Mkhonta, 2019).

The collaborative potential between CSOs and the government emerges as a complex dynamic. While CSOs hold the government accountable and drive policy changes, tensions from differing priorities require careful negotiation (Ahmed, 2015). Effective collaboration demands a balance between civil society's independence and the need for partnerships that promote inclusive development.

The study also highlights the importance of gender equality in civil society's initiatives. Despite their efforts, gender disparities persist, necessitating a comprehensive approach that addresses structural barriers and promotes meaningful women's participation (Hilowle, 2018). Achieving gender equality requires synergistic efforts from civil society, government, and international actors.

In conclusion, civil society's contributions to state-building in Somalia are multidimensional and essential. Their role in addressing governance gaps, advocating for democratic governance, promoting peace, and striving for gender equality underlines their transformative potential. Overcoming challenges requires addressing security concerns, securing sustainable funding, and fostering collaboration with the government. With an enabling environment, civil society can continue to drive Somalia's journey toward accountable governance, peace, and inclusive development.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In Somalia's complex landscape of state-building, civil society organizations (CSOs) have emerged as indispensable actors, contributing to various facets of governance, peace-building, and development. The significance of civil society's role in filling governance gaps, advocating for democratic government, and promoting peace and inclusivity is evident from the examined literature. Despite the challenges and complexities, civil society's transformative potential remains a key driver in Somalia's journey towards accountable governance and sustainable development.

CSOs have demonstrated their ability to address critical gaps in service provision, stepping in where the government's capacity falls short. Their nimbleness and grassroots presence enable

them to deliver essential services to marginalized communities (Ahmed, 2015). Additionally, their advocacy efforts create an environment conducive to democratic governance by influencing policy discussions and holding public officials accountable (Ali, 2017). Through their initiatives, CSOs foster a culture of transparency, citizen engagement, and responsiveness within government institutions.

Furthermore, civil society's engagement in peace-building and reconciliation signifies their role as catalysts for social cohesion and conflict resolution (Hassan, 2018). Often driven by women's organizations, their initiatives address deeply rooted conflicts and promote community-level reconciliation efforts. By doing so, CSOs are integral in creating the foundation for lasting peace in Somalia.

Recommendations:

1. **Enhancing Collaboration:** Foster more vital collaboration between civil society organizations and the government by promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and recognizing shared goals. Government institutions should recognize CSOs as partners in state-building rather than adversaries.
2. **Resource Mobilization:** International organizations and donors should provide sustained and predictable funding to CSOs to ensure the continuity of their initiatives. This includes financial resources for service provision, advocacy, and capacity-building programs.
3. **Security Measures:** Enhance security measures for CSOs operating in conflict-affected regions to ensure their safety and enable their continued engagement in state-building efforts. This can involve providing training, resources, and risk assessments to mitigate security risks (Schneider, 2017).
4. **Inclusive Approach:** Prioritize an inclusive approach to state-building that ensures the participation of marginalized groups, particularly women. Efforts should be made to promote gender equality, ensure women's meaningful participation, and address structural barriers (Hilowle, 2018).
5. **Capacity Building:** Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations through training, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing. This will empower CSOs to effectively advocate for change, engage in peace-building, and provide essential services (Ibrahim, 2016).

In conclusion, civil society's role in state-building in Somalia is multifaceted and transformative. By bridging governance gaps, advocating for democratic governance, and contributing to peace-building, CSOs shape the trajectory of Somalia's development. Addressing the challenges they face and leveraging their contributions through collaborative efforts can pave the way for a more accountable, peaceful, and inclusive Somali state.

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