



DIGITAL RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

SOMALIA
COUNTRY REPORT

2024



Executive Summary

This report examines Somalia's digital rights landscape through a comprehensive, multi-methodological approach. The analysis integrates desk reviews and a human rights-based assessment using The Score Index, a framework developed by Paradigm Initiative and guided by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) principles.¹²³³ Somalia's total on the score index is at 25 out of 60, which reflects the significant gaps in digital rights protection, highlighting areas for urgent attention and improvement, particularly in internet access and data protection. This score provides a clear indication of the challenges Somalia faces in ensuring equitable digital rights for its citizens. The methodology evaluates Somalia's performance across critical areas such as internet access, freedom of expression, data protection, censorship, and digital inclusion while referencing verifiable incidents and trends supported by relevant sources.

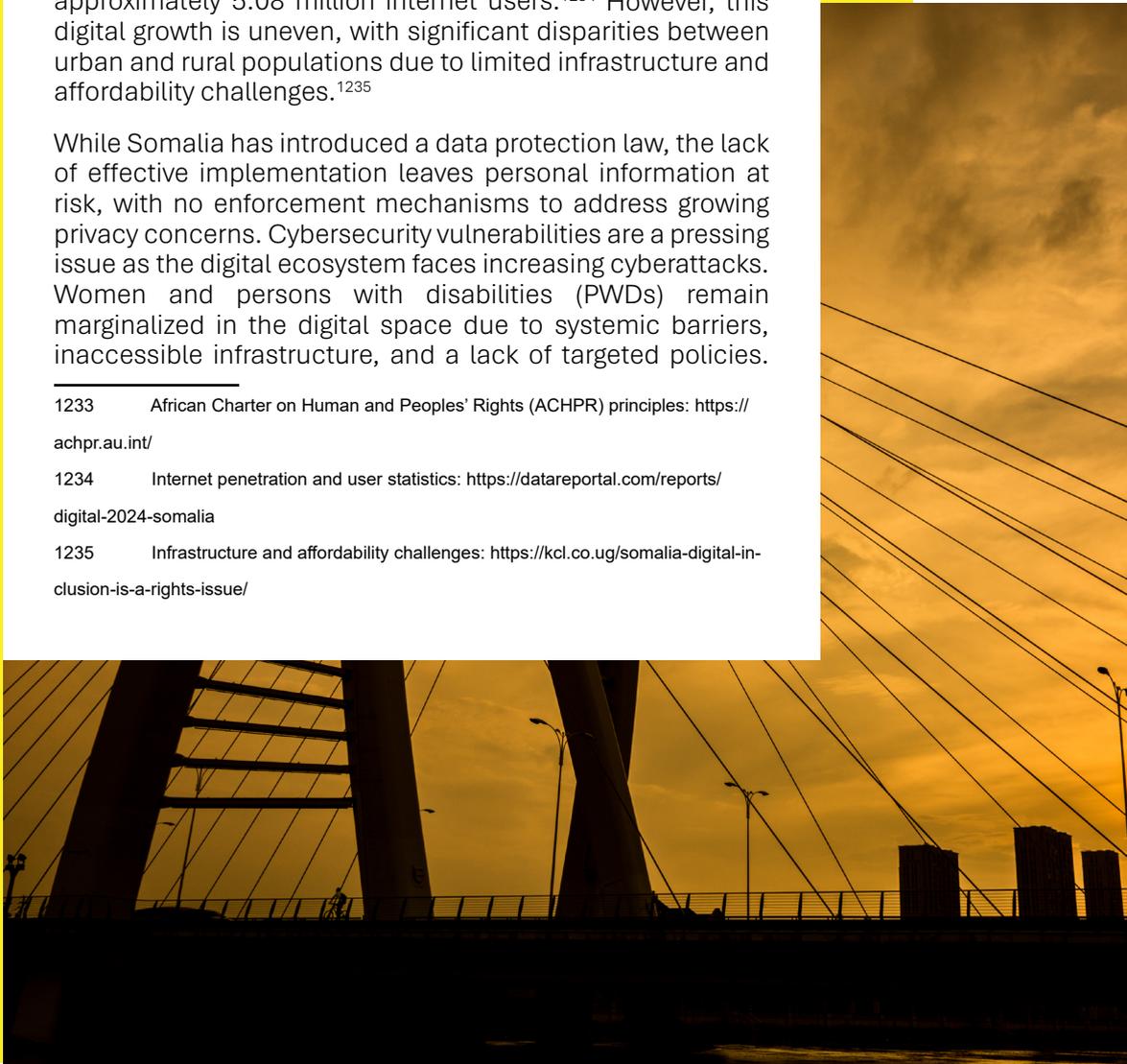
Emerging from decades of political instability, Somalia is undergoing a digital transformation mainly driven by private-sector innovation, particularly in mobile telecommunications. Mobile money services have expanded financial inclusion, making Somalia heavily reliant on mobile-based payment systems for daily economic activities. As of January 2024, the internet penetration rate in Somalia stood at 27.6%, with approximately 5.08 million internet users.¹²³⁴ However, this digital growth is uneven, with significant disparities between urban and rural populations due to limited infrastructure and affordability challenges.¹²³⁵

While Somalia has introduced a data protection law, the lack of effective implementation leaves personal information at risk, with no enforcement mechanisms to address growing privacy concerns. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities are a pressing issue as the digital ecosystem faces increasing cyberattacks. Women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) remain marginalized in the digital space due to systemic barriers, inaccessible infrastructure, and a lack of targeted policies.

1233 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) principles: <https://achpr.au.int/>

1234 Internet penetration and user statistics: <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-somalia>

1235 Infrastructure and affordability challenges: <https://kcl.co.ug/somalia-digital-inclusion-is-a-rights-issue/>



Furthermore, gender disparities and literacy gaps hinder meaningful participation in the digital economy.

The report examines Somalia's opportunity to harness its youthful population to drive digital inclusion and innovation. Addressing infrastructure gaps, enforcing existing laws, and ensuring equitable access to technology are critical steps toward creating a resilient, rights-respecting digital landscape in Somalia.

This report examines Somalia's digital rights and inclusion landscape, highlighting critical issues and offering actionable solutions. Key areas explored include data protection, where ineffective implementation leaves personal data vulnerable. Cybersecurity, with the country's digital ecosystem exposed to increasing threats and gender disparities, where systemic barriers hinder equitable participation in the digital economy. Additionally, the report addresses the gap in connectivity, digital access, infrastructure, and civil society's role.

Introduction

In the Horn of Africa, Somalia has an estimated population of 19 million.¹²³⁶ With over 75% of the population under 30 years old, the country boasts one of the youngest demographics in Africa, making it fertile ground for digital innovation.¹²³⁷ However, Somalia is classified as one of the least developed countries (LDCs) by the United Nations,¹²³⁸ and a Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC), grappling with significant challenges such as conflict, limited infrastructure, and poverty. The economy relies heavily on agriculture, livestock, and remittances, while international support is crucial for its recovery. Despite these obstacles, there are signs of growth.¹²³⁹

The country has shown remarkable resilience, rebuilding from decades of civil war and institutional collapse. The telecommunications sector has been a critical pillar of this recovery, with companies like Hormuud, Golis, and Somtel spearheading connectivity and financial inclusion initiatives. Yet, infrastructure, affordability, and digital literacy disparities impede widespread digital adoption.

1236 Population estimate: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/somalia>

1237 UNDP Article on International Youth Day 2024: <https://www.undp.org/somalia/news/celebrating-international-youth-day-2024-empowering-somali-youth-through-digital-innovation>

1238 Somalia is classified as a Least Developed Country (LDC) by the United Nations: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category-somalia.html>

1239 Somalia's economic outlook: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/somalia/overview>

Internet Access

Somalia's internet landscape is defined by a mix of rapid growth and considerable challenges. The country enjoys some of the most affordable internet in Africa, with 1GB of mobile data priced as low as USD 0.50.¹²⁴⁰ This affordability has fostered a digital revolution in urban areas, where more people can access mobile internet and digital services. For instance, in early 2024, social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok have seen growing engagement, with Facebook's reach touching 13% of the total population and TikTok reaching 57% of local internet users in 2024.¹²⁴¹ This has allowed Somali citizens to engage in political discourse, express opinions, and participate in the global economy, mainly through digital entrepreneurship and e-commerce.¹²⁴²

However, these advancements are offset by disruptions that affect internet access, particularly during political unrest and technical failures. Submarine cable damage also led to weeks of internet outages, which severely disrupted business operations and daily communication.¹²⁴³ Internet disruptions in Somalia are often politically motivated, with several instances occurring during politically sensitive periods. For example, in August 2023, the Ministry of Communications and Technology ordered the shutdown of social media platforms like TikTok and Telegram, citing security concerns and the fight against terrorism.¹²⁴⁴ Later, in December 2024, clashes between federal troops and regional forces over a local election dispute in Raskamboni were accompanied by a telecommunications blackout, further illustrating the government's use of internet shutdowns to control the flow of information during politically sensitive events.¹²⁴⁵ These actions demonstrate how internet disruptions are employed as a tool to manage security and political tensions in the country.

Freedom of Expression in Somalia

Somalia's media landscape is fraught with challenges that impede freedom of expression, including gendered disinformation, criminalisation of false news, sedition laws, restrictions on media freedoms, and online gender-based violence. These issues are exacerbated by political instability, weak legal frameworks, and societal norms that disproportionately affect women.¹²⁴⁶

The Penal Code, enacted in 1964, includes numerous articles restricting freedom of expression and media freedom.¹²⁴⁷ One provision, Article 164, grants judges discretionary powers to impose security measures on individuals deemed a "danger to society." This provision has been used to arrest and detain journalists and activists, leading to widespread self-censorship and threatening independent journalism.

In 2024, the media environment in Somalia remained perilous, with journalists facing significant risks, including arbitrary arrests, harassment, and threats to their digital security. One notable incident involved the abduction of journalist Abduqadir Mohamed Nur, a reporter for Risaala Media, by Somali security agents.¹²⁴⁸ He was detained on October 19, 2024, after his phone and laptop were seized, heightening concerns about the vulnerability of journalists and their digital devices in the country. This act put his personal and professional data at risk, particularly regarding the sensitive information on his devices. The arrest raised serious questions about press freedom and the safety of journalists in the digital age, especially as they rely on digital tools for their work.

Additionally, the criminalisation of "false news" continues to be a significant challenge for journalists

1240 Affordable mobile data pricing: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1272681/price-for-mobile-data-in-somalia/>

1241 Social media engagement statistics: <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-somalia>

1242 Economic transformation: https://hiiraan.com/news4/2023/Apr/190629/internet_in_somalia_how_internet_access_is_transforming_somalia_s_economy.aspx

1243 Submarine cable damage and outages: <https://som-isoc.org/internet-access-disruptions-and-what-to-do-about-it/>

1244 TikTok and Telegram shutdown: <https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-orders-tiktok-telegram-shut-down/7233001.html>

1245 Telecommunications blackout during clashes: <https://apnews.com/article/somalia-federal-forces-jubbaland-fighting-ee-77a6fa38e4acdf281a26c28e74570a>

1246 "The Somali Penal Code neither includes a definition of torture, nor criminalises" (Reliefweb, November 2022) <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-patterns-unlawful-killings-torture-and-other-ill-treatment>

1247 Penal code provisions: <https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/1964/en/72335>

1248 Abduction of journalist Abduqadir Mohamed Nur: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/oct/19/somali-security-agents-abduct-journalist-abduqadir-mohamed-nur-press-freedom-risaala-media->

in Somalia. On the same note, journalist Alinur Salaad was detained in July 2024 for criticising the military in his reporting, which generated considerable public and media attention.¹²⁴⁹ His detention was a clear indication of the government's increasing pressure on journalists, particularly those who challenge the state or report on sensitive issues. These incidents reflect the broader trend of increasing threats to journalists in Somalia, where digital tools and online platforms have become both a powerful resource for reporting and a potential vulnerability when those devices are confiscated or misused by state actors.

Women in Somalia are particularly vulnerable to online gender-based violence, including harassment, threats, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. These acts are intended to silence women and discourage them from participating in online spaces. The lack of specific legal protections against online gender-based violence makes the issue worse, leaving victims without adequate recourse. The federal Parliament failed to pass the sexual offenses and female genital mutilation bills.¹²⁵⁰ Despite these challenges, there are initiatives aimed at improving the situation. Somalia's only all-women news team, Bilan, has been recognised for its courageous reporting, winning the 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award.¹²⁵¹ This highlights the potential for positive change when women's voices are amplified in the media

Data Protection and Privacy

Somalia's data protection and privacy landscape is still in its infancy, with significant gaps in legislation, enforcement, and infrastructure, leaving individuals vulnerable to data misuse. In March 2023, Somalia enacted the Data Protection Act, establishing a comprehensive legal framework for personal data processing.¹²⁵² The Data Protection Act aims to protect data subjects from risks arising from data processing, promote secure data handling practices, and ensure fair and lawful processing of personal data. The Data Protection Act led to the creation of the Data Protection Authority (DPA), an independent body responsible for overseeing compliance with data protection laws.¹²⁵³ The Authority has the mandate to conduct investigations, handle complaints, and enforce regulations to safeguard individuals' privacy rights. The introduction of the Data Protection Act was a positive step, as it established legal principles around consent, accountability, and data security.

However, without a strong enforcement mechanism, the DPA's ability to regulate private and public sector data handlers is significantly curtailed. Additionally, public awareness of the law remains low, with many Somali citizens unaware of their rights and responsibilities regarding personal data.

Cybercrime is another growing concern in Somalia. The lack of comprehensive cybercrime laws leaves sectors like mobile banking and e-commerce vulnerable to fraud and hacking. To address this, the National Communications Authority (NCA) established a Cybersecurity department to guide critical infrastructure providers, businesses, and citizens on current threats.¹²⁵⁴ In 2024, Somalia also blocked websites used by Al-Shabab for propaganda and fundraising, aiming to limit the group's online influence.¹²⁵⁵ These steps highlight the urgent need for stronger legal frameworks to combat cybercrime effectively.

Somalia's anti-terrorism laws and surveillance practices highlight the challenge of balancing national security with protecting individual privacy rights.¹²⁵⁶ In Mogadishu, thousands of surveillance cameras are deployed to enhance security and counterterrorism. While these efforts are critical for public safety, they have raised concerns about privacy due to limited transparency regarding how surveillance data is collected, stored, and used.

The lack of clear oversight mechanisms and data protection measures has sparked fears of potential misuse, creating a chilling effect on freedom of expression and public trust. Moreover, businesses

1249 Detention of journalist Alinur Salaad: <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/article/somalia-journalist-alinur-salaad-detained-over-military-criticism#:~:text=Journalist%20Alinur%20Salaad%20was%20detained,significant%20public%20and%20media%20attention>

1250 Sexual and gender-based violence in Somalia: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/somalia/report-somalia/>

1251 Recognition of Bilan for press freedom: <https://www.undp.org/somalia/press-releases/somalias-only-all-women-media-team-wins-global-freedom-expression-award>

1252 Somalia Data Protection Act, 2023: <https://moca.gov.so/en/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Somalia-Data-Protection-Act-2.pdf>

1253 Data Protection Authority: <https://dpa.gov.so/>

1254 National Communications Authority: <https://nca.gov.so/>

1255 Blocking websites used by Al-Shabab: <https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-says-it-has-blocked-websites-used-by-al-shabab-7467122.html>

1256 Anti-terrorism law passage: <https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-s-lower-house-passes-historic-anti-terrorism-law/6996295.html>

installing these cameras have reportedly faced threats and attacks, further complicating the implementation of such security measures.¹²⁵⁷

Censorship and Content Moderation

Censorship and content moderation in Somalia have become increasingly contentious, with significant government actions to control digital platforms. In August 2023, the Somali government banned TikTok and Telegram, citing concerns over “horrific” content and misinformation. However, the lack of judicial oversight and transparency raised questions about these measures’ proportionality and alignment with international human rights standards.¹²⁵⁸ This approach, combined with cyberattacks targeting journalists and public figures, as reported by Somali media organizations, highlights broader governance and digital security challenges.¹²⁵⁹

Major technology platforms such as TikTok, Meta (Facebook), and Google have global content moderation policies, but their transparency reports reveal limited data specific to Somalia. This lack of information makes it difficult to assess how much the Somali government engages with these companies for content takedowns. TikTok’s transparency reports indicate global removal requests from various governments, but Somalia is not explicitly mentioned, even in the context of the 2023 ban. This highlights a lack of clarity regarding the platform’s engagement with Somali authorities. These actions disproportionately affect youth, activists, and journalists who rely on these platforms for communication and livelihood while fostering self-censorship due to fear of reprisal. Concerns about arbitrary restrictions on online freedoms persist.

As of December 2024, the Somali government’s August 2023 ban on TikTok and Telegram remains officially in place. However, enforcement has been inconsistent, and both platforms remain accessible within the country. Regarding internet shutdowns, no nationwide disruptions were reported in Somalia during 2024. Nonetheless, the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) conducted targeted digital operations, closing over 12,000 online accounts linked to extremist activities.¹²⁶⁰

Access to Information

Access to information in Somalia remains a fundamental issue for its citizens, with constitutional provisions granting the right to access information but lacking a fully operational legal framework to enforce this right. While Somalia has made some progress in areas of governance, the country still faces barriers regarding the effective implementation of laws ensuring transparency and public access to government-held information.

Somalia’s Provisional Constitution, adopted in 2012, provides some protections for the right to access information, notably under Article 18, which guarantees the freedom of expression.¹²⁶¹ This includes the right to seek, receive, and impart information. The Constitution also enshrines the rights of citizens to access information from public authorities, particularly about matters of public interest. However, the absence of a specific Access to Information Act means that the right to information, as outlined in the Constitution, lacks the detailed legal framework required to enforce it effectively.

In August 2024, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) raised significant concerns regarding Somalia’s Official Information Bill (OIB), passed by the Council of Ministers in March 2024. The bill, intended to regulate information flow within public institutions, has been criticised for containing vague and overly broad provisions that risk enabling government censorship and undermining transparency. According to the IFJ, the OIB could severely limit press freedom, restrict access to

1257 Security camera installations and associated challenges: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-security-cameras-aim-cut-al-shabaab-attacks-militants-fight-back-2024-10-24/>

1258 Ban on TikTok raises human rights concerns: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-66587786.amp>

1259 Cyberattacks on journalists and public figures: <https://hornobserver.com/articles/3046/Somali-Media-Organizations-Condemn-Coordinated-Cyberattacks-Against-Facebook-Accounts-of-Journalists-Public-Figures-and-Government-Officials>

1260 Shutdown of extremist-affiliated online accounts: https://hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Dec/199386/nisa_shuts_down_over_12_000_al_shabaab_online_accounts_in_latest_digital_crackdown.aspx

1261 Provisional Constitution of Somalia (2012): <https://constitutionnet.org/vl/item/federal-republic-somalia-provisional-constitution-adopted-august-1-2012-sep-19-2012>

vital information, and criminalise legitimate journalistic practices.¹²⁶² The core issues are the Bill's lack of clarity and failure to incorporate safeguards against misuse. Additionally, the absence of robust protections for journalists and citizens seeking information risks increasing self-censorship and further eroding public trust in governance.

AI and Emerging Technologies

Somalia is exploring the potential of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies across various sectors. These technologies are seen as critical tools for addressing long-standing challenges in agriculture, healthcare, education, and disaster management. However, while progress is being made, significant barriers remain to full-scale artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, including infrastructure issues and the lack of technical expertise.

The integration of AI in Somalia remains limited by the absence of a comprehensive national strategy, which is critical for addressing the opportunities and challenges associated with AI adoption. While the 2024 Somali AI Summit showcased promising developments, such as commitments to fostering innovation and capacity-building, it fell short of outlining a cohesive framework to guide the development and implementation of AI across the country.¹²⁶³ Without such a strategy, progress is fragmented and lacks the coordination necessary to address key systemic barriers. Moreover, low digital literacy hampers the creation of local AI talent and expertise. Without foundational knowledge of basic digital tools, there is little room for Somalis to advance to higher-level skills and AI development. This skill gap forces Somalia to rely heavily on external expertise for implementing and maintaining AI systems, which increases costs and limits local ownership of these technologies.

Digital Inclusion

An advancement in Somalia's digital landscape is the establishment of the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA).¹²⁶⁴ NIRA is responsible for implementing foundational identification cards that provide proof of legal identity. This system aims to issue over one million IDs, facilitating access to various services and promoting social inclusion.¹²⁶⁵ However, the implementation of this system has faced significant setbacks, the lack of adequate infrastructure has hindered the system's full rollout. Furthermore, despite the ambition of NIRA's goals, the slow pace of registration and the limited capacity of the authority has delayed its ability to achieve nationwide coverage, leaving many individuals without legal identification.

The absence of a functional Universal Service Fund (USF) raises concerns about the government's commitment to achieving universal connectivity. Without a USF, efforts to address infrastructure gaps, support digital inclusion, and ensure that underserved communities are not left behind in Somalia's digital advancement may be significantly hindered.

1262 Official Information Bill and its impact on press freedom: <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/article/somalia-official-information-bill-endangers-the-right-to-access-information>

1263 Somali AI Summit conclusions: <https://sonna.so/en/somali-ai-summit-concludes-with-promises-of-progress/>

1264 National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA): <https://nira.gov.so/>

1265 Somalia's reinstatement of national ID registration: <https://identityweek.net/somalia-reinstates-national-id-registration-after-30-years/>

Somalia Score Index

Londa 2025 Key Indicators	ACHPR Declaration (P stands for Principle)	Score	Justification
Internet Shutdowns	P38(2)	3	There have been no nationwide disruptions reported in Somalia during 2024 other than the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) conducted targeted digital operations, resulting in the closure of over 12,000 online accounts linked to extremist activities
Laws and Policies for Universal Internet Access	P37	2	There has been minimal progress in creating comprehensive national policies to ensure affordable, equitable, and meaningful access to the internet for all. This lack of well defined strategies hinders efforts to bridge the digital divide and promote universal internet connectivity.
False News Criminalization	P22(2)	2	The criminalisation of false news continues to be a significant challenge for journalists in Somalia, an indication of the government’s increasing pressure on journalists, particularly those who challenge the state or report on sensitive issues. Additionally existing laws criminalize false news, often leading to the suppression of free speech, especially for journalists and activists.
Sedition Legislation	P22(2)	2	The Penal Code includes provisions that criminalize sedition, imposing significant restrictions on freedom of expression. While these laws are intended to address threats to public order, their vague wording often leads to misuse. Furthermore, enforcement of these provisions is inconsistent, leading to arbitrary applications that undermine legal certainty and disproportionately affect individuals expressing critical or dissenting views.
Arbitrary Arrests and Harassment of Media/HRDs/ Citizens	P20(1)& (2)	2	Journalists and human rights defenders frequently face harassment, intimidation, and arrests, creating a hostile environment for those advocating for transparency and accountability. These actions undermine freedom of expression and press freedom, silencing critical voices and discouraging efforts to highlight societal injustices and human rights violations.
Data Protection Legislation	P42	4	A Data Protection Act has been introduced, signaling a step toward addressing privacy concerns. However, its implementation remains weak, with limited enforcement mechanisms in place to ensure compliance. The lack of robust oversight and accountability measures undermines the Act’s effectiveness, leaving data privacy protections inadequate and raising concerns about its ability to safeguard individuals’ rights in practice.

Online Content Removal by Government	P38 & P39(4)	2	The government has been actively involved in enforcing content takedowns, particularly in politically sensitive situations. This often involves targeting the individual who posted the content and pressuring them to delete it. Concerns have been raised regarding the adequacy of judicial oversight in these cases, raising questions about the balance between national security and freedom of expression.
Invasion of Privacy of Communications	P41	2	The lack of comprehensive data protection and surveillance laws raises concerns about the invasion of privacy, with no strong legal safeguards in place. Additionally, the closure and takedown of websites suggest active surveillance practices, further exacerbating fears of unchecked monitoring and the erosion of privacy rights.
Failure to Disclose Information on Digital Technologies	P29(3)	3	Government transparency is inconsistent, as there is a noticeable lack of systematic and proactive sharing of information. Rather than openly providing important updates or details, the government often refrains from disclosure. Article 32 of Somalia's Provisional Constitution guarantees every individual the right to access information held by the state and directs the Federal Parliament to pass a law to uphold this right. However, there is currently no legislation or policy in place to implement this provision.
AI and Emerging Technologies National Strategies	P39(6)	2	While there are emerging efforts to explore AI applications in sectors such as agriculture, Somalia has yet to develop a cohesive national strategy to guide the implementation, adoption, and regulation of AI technologies. This absence of a structured approach leaves a significant gap in ensuring the responsible and effective use of AI, addressing ethical considerations, and fostering innovation across industries. Without such a strategy, opportunities to harness AI for economic growth, public service improvement, and societal benefits may remain underutilized, and potential risks could go unmanaged.
Digital Inclusion	P37(5)	2	While they are rolling out initiatives like the National Digital ID program to enhance digital inclusion, challenges persist for persons with disabilities (PWDs), rural communities, and marginalized groups. Barriers include limited infrastructure, low internet penetration, and inaccessibility to services.
Adoption of specific child laws, policies and measures promoting children's digital safety and privacy online	P37(3)	1	There is a critical gap in government-led efforts to establish child-specific digital safety laws and policies, leaving children exposed to risks like cyberbullying, exploitation, and harmful content. While some awareness of children's digital safety exists within civil society, it has not yet been translated into concrete government action or a national framework to address these pressing issues.
Total score		27	Somalia's total score is 27 out of 60, which reflects the significant gaps in digital rights protection, highlighting areas for urgent attention and improvement, particularly in internet access and data protection. This score provides a clear indication of the challenges Somalia faces in ensuring equitable digital rights for its citizens.

Conclusion

Somalia's journey toward advancing digital rights and inclusion is one of significant promise but persistent challenges. While notable strides have been made in areas such as affordable internet access, the adoption of mobile money, and the introduction of a national digital ID system, these developments are often overshadowed by systemic issues, including weak regulatory frameworks, limited digital literacy, and the digital divide between urban and rural areas. Furthermore, concerns about freedom of expression, data privacy, and gender-based barriers continue to undermine the potential of Somalia's digital transformation.

This report highlights the urgent need for Somalia to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks to safeguard digital rights and ensure equitable access to technology. Investments in digital infrastructure, literacy programs, and policy reforms are critical to addressing existing gaps and ensuring that digitalization benefits all segments of society, particularly marginalized groups.

By embracing a human rights-based approach to digital governance, Somalia can build an inclusive and resilient digital ecosystem that fosters innovation, protects individual freedoms, and empowers its citizens to participate fully in the digital economy. Achieving this vision will require concerted efforts from the government, private sector, civil society, and international partners to create a future where technology is a tool for progress and equality.

Recommendations

Government should:

- Promote Infrastructure Investments by partnering with private entities to expand broadband infrastructure, focusing on rural and underserved areas.
- Amend the Penal Code by revising section 164, which grants judges excessive discretionary powers and defines clear boundaries to prevent the misuse of vague terminologies, such as “false news,” under Article 18 of the Provisional Constitution.
- Introduce comprehensive laws to combat online harassment, exploitation, and disinformation.
- Establish a national AI strategy to address societal challenges such as healthcare, agriculture, and disaster preparedness, ensuring inclusivity and ethical implementation.
- Implement child-specific digital safety policies to combat online risks like cyberbullying, exploitation, and harmful content.
- Ensure the Universal Service Fund is active, transparent, and effectively utilized to address connectivity gaps and promote equitable internet access.
- Design ICT tools and platforms that are inclusive, catering to persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.

Private Sector should

- Technology companies like Meta, TikTok, and Google should provide Somalia-specific transparency reports and adopt fair content moderation practices that align with local cultural contexts.
- Invest in local ICT projects, particularly those related to education, digital literacy, and small business support.
- Work with civil society to monitor online censorship, promote ethical content moderation, and hold authorities accountable for misuse of digital platforms.
- Facilitate local innovation by supporting hackathons, AI incubators, and partnerships with Somali professionals to foster technological advancements.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Media should:

- Conduct targeted digital literacy programs for women, youth, and marginalized groups,

focusing on safe and ethical internet use.

- Raise awareness about online risks and foster responsible internet use, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- Monitor government and private sector practices related to digital inclusion and report publicly on gaps or misuse to drive accountability.
- Collaborate with private companies to develop affordable and inclusive digital tools, ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

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