

Original Article

Urban Growth and Challenges of Local Government Administration in Somalia; Case Study Benadir Region

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Abstract: Somalia's urban growth, particularly in the Benadir region, has intensified over the past decades with driving forces such as population inflow, economic opportunities, and post-conflict rehabilitation. This study analyzes challenges encountered by Somalia's Benadir local government administration, such as urban growth and challenges they experience owing to reasons such as weak infrastructure, lack of finance, and inefficient systems of governance. This rapid urbanisation, however, presents significant challenges to local government management, such as inadequate infrastructure, poor urban planning, limitations on resources, and governance challenges. This study investigates the impact of urban development on local government functioning in the Benadir region, with an emphasis on how municipal governments manage urban services such as housing, waste management, public health, and security under the conditions of limited financial and human resources. The research also emphasizes the demand for better infrastructure, more effective institutional frameworks, and better policies of local governance to manage urban growth effectively. By facilitating sustainable urban development, policy concepts consist of decentralizing resources, developing capability, and establishing strategic partnerships with foreign entities.

The research applied qualitative methods to approach, analysing secondary data acquired from kinds of literature of local government officials and leaders and data collected from policy documents and urban development reports.

The findings show a gap between rates of urban growth and administrative capacity, leading to such governance challenges as informal settlements, poor public services, and undermined institutional arrangements. Strategic urban planning, enhanced mobilisation of resources, and building capacity are recommended by the report to strengthen local government administration and promote sustainable urban development in the Benadir region. These results contribute to the broader debate on urban governance in post-conflict environments, offering policy implications for Somalia and other developing nations experiencing rapid urbanisation.

Keywords: Urban Growth, Local Government Administration, Benadir Region, Somalia Urbanization Challenges, Post-Conflict Urbanization.

I. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization in the Banaadir region, particularly in Mogadishu, is a key element of regional development programs. Local authorities have been central to the management of growth, emphasizing infrastructure development, service provision, and urban planning. Urbanisation is a global phenomenon reshaping cities and cultures, presenting possibilities and challenges for sustainable development. In developing countries, rapid urban growth often outpaces the capacity of local authorities to provide basic public services, leading to complex governance issues (UN-Habitat, 2019). Somalia, particularly the Benadir region encompassing the capital city of Mogadishu, exemplifies this trend. Benadir, being the political and economic hub of the country, has experienced significant population growth due to rural-urban migration, the return of diaspora communities, and internal displacement due to war and environmental degradation (Osman, 2019). The rapid and uncontrolled urban expansion of Benadir, even though it is strategically located, poses significant challenges to local government administration. Challenges also cover a lack of infrastructure, shortages in housing, inefficient waste management, and limited access to public services such as healthcare, education, and security (Dirie, 2018). Additionally, governance challenges such as weak institutional structures, few funds, and political turmoil hinder effective urban management. Consequently, slums and informal settlements are spreading, exacerbating socio-economic imbalances and urban poverty (UN-Habitat, n.d.). This study examines the impact of urbanization on local government administration in the Benadir region, exploring how municipal authorities respond to these challenges with the purpose of delivering public services and maintaining social order. This study uses Benadir as a case study to explain the governance dynamics of post-conflict urban settings and thus contribute to policy conversation on sustainable urban growth in Somalia and other rapidly urbanizing nations (Somali Public Agenda, 2021).

A) Research Problem



This study is directed by the following research questions;

- i. What are the main obstacles encountered by local government agencies in overseeing urban expansion in the Benaadir region?
- ii. In what ways do governance frameworks and resource limitations influence the provision of public services?
- iii. What techniques might improve urban planning and local government administration in swiftly expanding cities such as Mogadishu?

Though challenges persist, the local government has significantly contributed to rebuilding, promoting urbanization, and enhancing the living conditions of the inhabitants.

Urban Planning and Land Management Mogadishu and the rest of Banaadir have become more urbanized, with the need for more organized urban planning and land management policies being enforced by the local governments. The government's efforts to legalize land ownership and formalize informal settlements have assisted in controlling the region's growing population and housing needs. Ibrahim and Ali (2022) assert that the local government has adopted land-use plans and zoning regulations to control urban sprawl and facilitate the construction of vital infrastructure. These interventions have assisted in enhancing urban planning, curbing land ownership disputes, and enhancing access to basic amenities.

Infrastructure construction and delivery. Urbanization in the Banaadir region has required significant improvements in infrastructure, much of which has been driven by the local government. Roads, bridges, and services such as water and electricity are key areas of focus in regional development projects. The local government has collaborated with international donors and non-governmental organizations to construct and maintain key infrastructure for the growing urban population in the region. This will assist in having improved infrastructure that has not only promoted mobility and communication within the city, but also supported economic activities, which are vital for the growth of the region. In addition, public services like health, education, and waste collection have been expanded to drive urban growth. The services become readily available to citizens of the cities as local authorities increase their capability, enhancing living standards. According to Ali (2020), the establishment of new schools and healthcare facilities in Mogadishu has been central to addressing the needs of an increasing population despite persisting challenges in service delivery and resource allocation.

Economic development and employment creation The local government has also contributed to urban economic growth with policies focused on employment generation and private sector growth.

As Mogadishu bounces back from decades of war, the local government has promoted small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and encouraged investments in the construction, retail, and services sectors. Warsame (2020) highlighted that the urban expansion of Banaadir has generated many job opportunities, including construction and trade, thus lowering poverty and driving economic development. In addition, public-private partnerships have assisted in revitalizing commercial areas and markets, positioning the region as a business center in Somalia. Housing and slums.

One of the greatest impediments to urban expansion in Banaadir is the spread of slums, as rural migrants and displaced persons move to cities in search of improved opportunities. The government has had to contend with poor housing and the expansion of slums. In reaction, initiatives to enhance housing standards and offer affordable housing have been initiated, though they have been affected by a lack of resources. As per Hassan and Ibrahim (2021), the efforts of the government to legalize informal settlements and provide basic amenities such as clean water and sanitation have improved the living conditions of some of the city's most marginalized communities. Environmental Sustainability and Urban Resilience. With urbanization ongoing in the Banaadir region, the local government is focusing on the need for environmental sustainability and resilience. The impact of climate change, including flooding and water shortage, is increasingly evident in urban areas. The city government has centered its efforts on initiatives to support sustainable city development, including afforestation programs and improved waste management systems. Ibrahim (2022) explained that these environmental programs are crucial to helping Banaadir's urban development not lead to long-term environmental degradation. Thus, local government development of urban areas within the Banaadir region has been central to regional development plans. Local government has also recorded success in addressing the challenges of urbanization, including rapid population growth, by implementing interventions such as planning urban areas, improving infrastructure, economic development, and environmental management. Nevertheless, additional support from both national and global stakeholders will continue to be essential in responding to the persistent challenges, such as housing inadequacies and squatter settlements.

By focusing on the function of local government in nation-building in the Benaadir region of Mogadishu, Somalia. The word "Local Government" simply indicates that the local people control their own affairs. It is founded on the concept that local residents are better suited to address local problems and requirements than central or state administrations. Local affairs are administered by representatives elected by the people of the locality on a regular basis through local government institutions. Although they enjoy autonomy in their operations, this does not mean that they are not subject to legal constraints. The central

and state governments are free to dictate the limitations within which a local government must operate, and they reserve the ability to give directives from time to time (Siddiqui et al., 2018). Globally, the history of local government began with England and has gradually changed and evolved since the Middle Ages. The concept of local government in England dates back to Anglo-Saxon England (c700-1066), and the majority of the contemporary structure is developed from this period.

Particularly in the manner in which urban and countryside are managed independently. The tremendous increase in population and change in community distribution propelled the Industrial Revolution, necessitating similar dramatic reform in local administration in England, which was achieved gradually throughout the nineteenth century. Much of the twentieth century was spent searching for an idealized system of local government. The most significant alteration during that time was the Local Government Act of 1972, which resulted in a consistent two-tier system of districts and counties in 1972. (David, 1994.) In Africa, In Africa, local government has been defined as the government administrated by locally elected bodies charged with the administrative issues and executive duties in such matters concerning the special district or place in Nigeria. At the political level, local government involves participation in the administering process at the grassroots level, this implies the power and authority level of government to a local community with an interest in their own performance. So therefore, the administrative level of local government in Nigeria is a government of grass-roots administration that is close to the citizens and handles many issues originating from its local community with the purpose of meeting specific grass-root demands of the people (Eboh, 2010). In Somalia and other countries that have embraced the federal system, local government is the third tier of government that exercises jurisdiction granted by particular acts of parliament and the constitution, and elected representatives are local government councilors and chairmen. The elected representatives use their mandated authority for executive power by making policies and providing services to the public they lead (Salah, 2015).

The Somali constitution has given its recognition in articles 48 (a) and (b) describe that the structure of the state in the federal system consists of two levels of government, the federal government level and the federal member states level, which is composed of the federal member state level and local government (Somalian Constitution, 2012). Regionalization is a normative notion with several interpretations. The most recent definition is that regional-building programs are those in which dysfunctional or unstable or "failed states" or economies are given assistance in the development of governmental infrastructure, civil society, dispute resolution mechanisms, and economic assistance in order to increase stability. Regional building often suggests that someone or something does the building intentionally (Ahmed & Khan, 2024). However, to the best of our knowledge, the function of local government in regional development in the Benadir region of Mogadishu, Somalia, appears to be uncertain. As a result, this study will look into the role of local government in nation-building in Somalia's Benadir region, located in Mogadishu.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Urbanisation represents a significant global transformation that carries profound socio-economic and environmental consequences. In developing nations, the process of rapid urbanization often results in the formation of spontaneous settlements, a lack of infrastructure, and increased requirements for public services (UN-Habitat, 2019).

Academics argue that Africa's, especially Somalia's, high rate of urbanisation surpasses the capacity of local governments to provide essential services such as housing, sanitation, and transport (Dirie, 2018). In Somalia, in the Benadir region, urban development is driven by forces including rural-urban migration, the return of diaspora, and internal displacement due to conflicts and climate change (Osman, 2019). The interaction of these forces contributes to the expansion of informal settlements, increasing urban poverty and socio-economic inequalities (UN-Habitat, n.d.). Local authorities in fast-growing cities face many challenges, including limited financial resources, weak institutional mechanisms, and inadequate human capacity (Somali Public Agenda, 2021).

Political instability and lack of governance in the Benadir area worsen the challenges, affecting the delivery of public services such as waste management, public health, and security (Dirie, 2018). Evidence shows that inadequate strategic urban planning and lack of regulatory enforcement enhance challenges in urban governance, leading to sprawling urbanization and environmental degradation (UN-Habitat, 2019). In addition, local governments experience difficulties in raising revenue due to the fact that tax systems are often underdeveloped or poorly implemented (Somali Public Agenda, 2021). Effective urban governance requires solid institutional frameworks and transparent decision-making processes.

In the context of post-conflict like Somalia, frameworks of governance are often characterized by fragmentation, and there is a significant absence of coordination among local and national governments (Osman, 2019). The fragmentation hinders the implementation of urban policies and affects the provision of public services. The Benadir municipal government is faced with challenges in controlling land use, zoning laws, and infrastructure development due to overlapping jurisdiction and political disputes (Dirie, 2018). It is argued by researchers that improving institutional capacity and promoting good governance practices are essential for attaining sustainable urban development (UN-Habitat, n.d.). Strategic urban planning is required to address

accelerated urbanization and support sustainable development. According to studies, the use of integrated methods of urban planning, including stakeholder participation and evidence-informed policymaking, can enhance the efficiency of local government administration (UN-Habitat, 2019). Urban planning in the Benadir area is hindered by a lack of adequate data systems, technical skills shortage, and political meddling (Somali Public Agenda, 2021). Capacity-building initiatives, enhanced resource mobilisation, and international cooperation are recommended by researchers to support urban planning and governance in Somalia (UN-Habitat, n.d.). This contribution posits that the issue of sustainable national development in a country is extremely intertwined with developments in the local government system and that the best way to approach the overall development of the state is to concentrate on the development of its local government segments. (Idike, 2014.) Local Government's Role in Regional Construction and Development The study looked at the genuine meaning of regional construction in Nigeria, and an academic appraisal of past researchers on the subject was requested. It was discovered that local government could accelerate regional building/development by fostering peace and harmony, providing agricultural subsidies, scholarships, commercial services, local transportation, resource mobilization, efficient use of allocation, and curbing restiveness at the grassroots. (Idike, 2014.)

Local government as a catalyst for transformation in regional development This study investigates the function of local government as a true tool for nation-building, as well as democracy as a catalyst for rural development and how the local government may stimulate economic development in the country. In Nigeria, survey methods were used to generate data for this project, and we discovered that the constitution did not do enough to qualify the local government as the country's third-tier government, so we proposed a constitutional amendment to correct the anomaly and strengthen it for national development.

A) Gaps in the Literature and Research Justification

Despite growing research on urbanisation and governance challenges in Somalia, notable gaps remain in comprehending the relationship between rapid urban growth and local government administration, especially in the Benadir region. Research on urbanisation in Somalia predominantly addresses humanitarian concerns, post-conflict reconstruction, and security challenges (UN-Habitat, 2019). Despite their significance, there has been insufficient focus on the governance dynamics that affect public service delivery, urban planning, and institutional capacity at the municipal level. One key lacuna in the literature is a lack of empirical studies concerning the effects of urban expansion on the administrative roles and governance systems of post-conflict local governments. Existing studies often provide descriptive accounts instead of undertaking a comprehensive investigation into the issue of challenges faced by municipal authorities in urban growth management (Dirie, 2018). Further, there is limited research on the impact of political instability, resource constraints, and institutional fragmentation on governance in Somalia's urban areas (Osman, 2019). This provides a critical knowledge gap on the ability of local governments to respond effectively to fast-paced urbanisation in complex socio-political settings.

Moreover, despite the significant amount of literature on African city informal settlements and urban poverty, research focused on the patterns of informal urbanisation in Mogadishu and the impact on local governance is rare (UN-Habitat, n.d.). The rapid growth of informal settlements is being witnessed across the Benadir region due to population influx and poor housing policies. The regulatory mechanisms for integrating these informal spaces into the formal urban plan are poorly documented. This research seeks to explore the effects of informal urbanisation on public service provision, land use planning, and social fairness in the Benadir region.

The lack of extensive investigation into strategic urban planning methods that can augment sustainable development in the unique political and cultural environment of Somalia is another lacuna. The universality of international urban governance models that emphasize participatory planning and evidence-based policy-making is not adequately explored for their application in Somalia, mainly because there are limited studies at the local level (Somali Public Agenda, 2021). This study fills the current gap by exploring context-specific urban planning measures that can strengthen local government administration and promote inclusive urban development in Benadir.

Lastly, the literature lacks intensive policy analysis of decentralisation and intergovernmental coordination in terms of urban governance in Somalia. Decentralisation of taxation and public services to local authorities is vital for efficient urban management, yet political dynamics and challenges of decentralisation in Benadir are not well understood (Somali Public Agenda, 2021). This research examines the impacts of decentralisation on local government capacity, the distribution of resources, and public accountability, making policy suggestions to inform governance reforms in Somalia.

B) Rationale for Research:

Addressing these gaps is essential for multiple reasons. Understanding the governance challenges associated with rapid urbanisation is crucial for developing effective urban policies that improve public service delivery and promote socio-economic development. The findings of this study will enhance the discourse on urban governance in post-conflict contexts, offering insights for other rapidly urbanising nations encountering analogous challenges. The research provides practical implications for

urban planners, policymakers, and international development agencies engaged in promoting sustainable urban development in Somalia.

This research examines the Benadir region as a case study, offering insights into the urban governance dynamics in Mogadishu and contributing to theoretical knowledge and practical solutions for urban management in post-conflict settings. Additionally, the impact of local governance systems on sustainable tourism in Albania. Data was gathered through questionnaires and interviews with local government staff and specialists, providing insight into the concept of sustainable tourism development. We selected 40 towns to conduct interviews with in order to acquire knowledge of current tourist plans and strategies being implemented by local government officials. The kinds of literature consulted were diverse in several topics, including tourism plans and sustainable development, and revealed that the government is responsible for the country's social and economic development. The government, through laws, programs, plans, and strategies, encouraged people to choose tools in many economic branches and to walk in sustainable development without fear of the future.

Tourism is one of the economic sectors that are considered to be supportive of sustainable development. However, tourism cannot expand in chaos without a strategy or a plan approved by specialists who work in many areas of public administration in the government. While the major or central government is occupied with macro-problems and macro-policies, local government is the nearest community and knows better than anybody about their personnel and natural resources. (Klodiana Gorica 1, Dorina Kripa 2, Engjellushe Zenelaj 3, 2012).

Local Government and Rural Infrastructural Delivery in Nigeria This paper assessed the level of rural infrastructure at the grassroots level with a view to identifying the problems militating infrastructural development. The paper relied on both primary and secondary data to source its data, and the paper submitted that for genuine development to take place in rural areas, necessary infrastructure must be put in place (Lawal, 2014). According to Spolaore, E. (2022), who studied the role of nation-building, this paper investigated the role of community homogeneity in regional building. The survey method was used in the study. Nations stay together when citizens share enough values and preferences and can communicate with one another. Homogeneity among people can be achieved through education, the teaching of a single language, the construction of infrastructure for easier movement, as well as brute force, such as the prohibition of local cultures or genocide. Democracies and dictatorships have different incentives when it comes to determining how much and how to homogenize the population (Spolaore, E. (2022)). **Local government's role in social service delivery in Nigeria** This research examines the role of local government in social service delivery, and the study used a survey method of data gathering. The government exists essentially to provide services that make life worthwhile. As a result, local governments are established as the third tier of government in order to bring government closer to the people at the grassroots and alter rural life. One way of bringing government closer to the people at the grassroots is through the delivery of services in a satisfactory, timely, effective, and adequate manner. It argues that the constitutional mandate of local governments in terms of "function performance" has not been translated into reality (Ata-Agboni et al., 2023). **National development in Nigeria: concerns, challenges, and prospects.** The purpose of this study is to analyze the difficulties impacting national development and ideas for achieving sustainable development. The paper used secondary data as sources of information and concluded that faithful implementation of the development plan, commitment on the part of leaders, and the absence of corruption are required to achieve sustainable development in a country (Tolu Lawal, 2011).

The impact of obstacles to local government administration in Nigeria The study examined the lessons that may be learned from comparative municipal government studies from nations such as the United States of America, France, India, and the United Kingdom. And discovered that the barriers to efficient service delivery include excessive participation by state governments, structure, corruption, over-politicization of administration, and staffing, which were not found to be the case in other systems. The study determined that the difficulties are institutional and attitudinal in character, but they may be solved if the federal and state governments show political will. It advocated a democratized multilayer local government structure, a legislative framework to check excessive involvement by the state government, human resource capacity building, and accountable leadership (DO Alao, KO Osakede, TY Owolabi, 2015). **The Role of Local Government in a Contemporary Victorian Community with Objectives** This thesis studied the role of Victorian local government from a community perspective, using a qualitative research method for data collecting. The dissertation discovered that local government is closest to the people and has the capacity to improve residents' quality of life while also providing chances for public engagement and participation in major topics and fields. Local government is said to have six roles: democratic, governance, service provision, community building, advocacy, and community planning in community services. (Dale, 2008)

C) Challenges of Local Government Administration in Benaadir

- i. Benadir regional administration of local government is confronted with a myriad of challenges due the accelerated urbanization, political instability, and socio-economic issues. Benadir, being the most populated region in Somalia and comprising the capital city of Mogadishu, is the country's political, economic, and cultural center. Nevertheless, the high rate of population increase and uncontrolled urban growth have overwhelmed the ability of local authorities to deliver

core public services, resulting in important governance issues. The section addresses the most prominent challenges of local government administration in Benadir, such as constraints in resources, poor infrastructure, political instability, and poor institutional frameworks. The Banaadir zone, whose capital is Somalia's Mogadishu, has faced critical challenges in governance and regional development due to years of violence and political instability. The regional authority tasked with the reconstruction of the zone has numerous challenges ranging from a lack of sufficient resources to security threats.

- ii. i. **Weak Institutional Frameworks and Capacity Shortfalls:** Perhaps the most serious problem is the institutional capacity shortfall of the local government. The protracted civil war in Somalia undermined government institutions, and local authorities were left with inadequate technical and managerial expertise. As noted by Mohamed (2021), most government agencies in the Banaadir region are devoid of the necessary training, equipment, and systems for effective public service delivery. This shortfall undermines their ability to undertake and maintain long-term development projects.
- iii. Local government institutions in Benadir experience serious capacity constraints in terms of scarce human resources, shortage of technical skills, and disarticulated governance systems.
- iv. Most local government institutions do not possess the required administrative and technical capacities to properly plan, coordinate, and deliver urban policies (Dirie, 2018). Such institutional frailty is compounded by duplicated mandates and conflicting jurisdictions between local and national government authorities (Somali Public Agenda, 2021). The absence of policy harmonization and coordination impedes effective urban management, resulting in ineffective public service provision and regulatory implementation. In addition, capacity development programs are scarce, impacting professional growth for municipal officials and civil servants. This capacity deficit hinders strategic urban planning, resource mobilization, and sustainable development program implementation. ii. **Political instability and insecurity:** Security is one of the main hindrances to regional growth in Banaadir. The presence of extremist elements, Al-Shabaab in particular, continues to erode peace and stability. Ahmed & Khan (2024) argued that the continued threat of terrorism hinders the government's ability to implement development projects while also deterring potential investors. Political factionalism within Somalia's broken administration erodes efforts to come up with a coherent strategy for regional reconstruction.
- v. iii.
- vi. Political instability and insecurity are major issues impacting local governance in Benadir.
- vii. The area has witnessed extended conflict, political power struggles, and clan tensions, which weaken the functionality of local government institutions (Osman, 2019). Political interference in local administration tends to result in constant leadership changes, interfering with governance continuity and strategic planning. Moreover, the occurrence of extremist outfits, including Al-Shabaab, presents security threats that contribute to public security, service delivery, and indigenous economic activities (UN-Habitat, 2019). Security issues further influence the local government officials' mobility and deter community participation, restricting participatory governance mechanisms. The unstable political climate also deters private investment as well as multilateral development assistance, undermining the sustainable urban growth of the area.
- iv.
- viii. **Insufficient Finance and Restraints:** Regional governments in the Banaadir area are persistently under-financed.
- ix. The absence of a stable revenue source is an impediment to the capacity of regional governments to provide essential services like education, healthcare, and the development of infrastructure. Warsame (2019) noted that global benefactors often bypass regional governments and go to non-government organizations, further exacerbating the budget deficit for regional development initiatives. This financial instability results in dependence on foreign assistance, which is not reliable and not adequate for sustainable growth. One of the major challenges for local government administration in Benadir is the lack of financial resources. Municipal revenue collection is limited by a weak taxation system, widespread informality in the economy, and inadequate fiscal decentralisation (Somali Public Agenda, 2021). Local authorities have the power to raise revenues through taxes and fees; still, their fiscal resources often fall short of funding the growing demands for public goods and services such as waste collection, health services, education, and infrastructure creation (Dirie, 2018). Besides, foreign donations and aid flows often lack regularity and tend to be used for specific initiatives, thus reducing the budget room of local governments. Corruption and poor financial governance exacerbate constraints on resources. Lack of transparency and accountability in public budget management erodes public trust and hampers the ability of the local government to mobilize resources effectively (Osman, 2019). The consequence is that local authorities are not able to maintain vital urban services, which leads to poor living conditions, especially in informal settlements.
- x. **Corruption, Poor Governance and Social-Economic Challenges:** Corruption, according to Bolatito & Ibrahim (2014), has been recognised as a challenge facing effective local government administration. This continues to be a big concern for Banaadir's municipal government. Mismanagement of cash and resources, frequently motivated by political patronage, has hampered efforts to rehabilitate the region successfully. According to Ismail and Ali (2020), corruption in the public sector erodes faith in government institutions, inhibiting civic involvement and the formation of transparent governance systems. This environment promotes inefficiency and slows regional development.

The socio-economic scenario in Benadir is marked by large poverty pockets, unemployment, and social injustices. The high population growth rate through urbanization has created heavy demands for employment, housing, education, and health, overloading local government administration (UN-Habitat, n.d.). Informal sector activities occupy a large percentage of the urban economy, making taxation and public services revenue mobilization difficult (Somali Public Agenda, 2021).

Furthermore, the spread of informal settlements has led to social exclusion, poor housing conditions, and increased public health risks. The absence of social safety nets and inclusive urban policies aggravates socio-economic disparities, which results in social tensions and insecurity (Osman, 2019) [5]. It needs a multi-dimensional response that incorporates economic development, social inclusion, and urban governance reforms.

Lack of infrastructure: The Banaadir region continues to experience the destruction of infrastructure brought about by the civil war. Roads, schools, hospitals, and government buildings are still in a state of disrepair, hindering the provision of public services. With competing demands and scarce resources, the local government is unable to prioritize and effectively manage infrastructure projects. Farah and Hassan (2021) described the manner in which a lack of fundamental infrastructure represses economic development and the standard of life for inhabitants in the region. The urban growth in Benadir has occurred swiftly and unplanned, causing grave infrastructure shortages. Roads, sanitation facilities, water supply, and drainage systems cannot accommodate the increase in population (UN-Habitat, 2019). Informal settlements have mushroomed, and these lack basic utilities and public amenities. This uncontrolled city growth is caused in part by the lack of an all-around urban planning model and inadequate application of zoning control (UN-Habitat, n.d.). The inadequacy of planning has further been responsible for ecological issues such as flooding, dumping of refuse, and contamination. Inadequate waste disposal structures have caused risks to public health, and dysfunctional drainage networks render communities prone to climate disaster risks (Dirie, 2018). These concerns underscore the imperative for strategic urban planning and infrastructure investment for increased urban resilience and sustainable urban growth.

D) Overview of Challenges and Implications for Urban Governance

Banaadir's local administration in Somalia has significant developmental challenges. Inadequate institutional capacity, instability, inadequate financial resources, corruption, and insufficient infrastructure hinder effective government and regional development. These challenges will require a mix of domestic reforms, more international support, and stable political conditions in the long term. The causes of governance difficulties in local government administration are interrelated, multifaceted, and deeply embedded in the socio-political environment of the region. Resource scarcity, poor infrastructure, political instability, weak institutional frameworks, and socio-economic disparities together weaken effective urban governance. They lead to unsustainable development, restrict public service delivery, and worsen urban poverty and inequality. In order to resolve these challenges, strategic urban planning, capacity development, and governance reforms are required. The improvement of institutional frameworks, public financial management, and participatory governance can enhance urban management and the delivery of services. Moreover, international development cooperation and public-private partnerships are also very important in infrastructure development and economic growth.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a secondary qualitative approach to analyze the problems of local government administration in addressing urban expansion in the Benadir region of Somalia. The approach methodology integrates qualitative secondary data from available literature, government reports, policy papers, and urban development plans specific to the Benadir region. Sources encompass publications by UN-Habitat, Somali Public Agenda, and academic journals on urbanization and local governance in Somalia. This information sets the context and complements the examination of historical patterns of urban development and policy measures that provide in-depth insight into the governance processes and urbanization issues faced by city governments. By using a case study approach is used to examine the Benadir region as it represents a critical example of rapid urbanization in a post-conflict context. The study method allows for an in-depth analysis of the governance challenges specific to the region, enabling the exploration of complex socio-political and economic dynamics influencing local government administration by adopting an explanatory design to understand the causes and effects of urban growth on public service delivery, infrastructure development, and institutional governance.

IV. FINDINGS

The findings from the study on urban growth and the challenges of local government administration in the Benadir region of Somalia discuss the implications of rapid urbanization on governance, infrastructure, and social services, linking them to theoretical frameworks and existing literature on the Benadir region, particularly in Mogadishu which has experienced rapid urbanization due to several factors such as internal displacement, economic opportunities, and relative stability compared to other parts of Somalia. The key findings related to urban growth include the following;

a) Population Boom and Urbanization: Mogadishu's population has increased enormously, resulting in rampant urban sprawl. Invasive settlements have expanded, causing land-use disputes and environmental degradation.

b) Economic Impetus of Urbanization: Expansion of the informal economy, real estate investment, and trade activities have fueled urban growth. This concurs with Dirie's (2015) findings on the economic draw factors impacting urban migration in Somalia.

c) Social and Demographic Changes: The migration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has altered the social landscape, heightening the need for shelter, healthcare, and education.

d) Infrastructure and Service Delivery: The infrastructure issues witnessed in Benadir are in line with urbanization trends in other African megacities. The lack of public services underscores the importance of integrated urban planning and investment in infrastructure development. Public-private partnerships may be considered to fill the gap in service delivery. Urban expansion in Benadir has put pressure on existing infrastructure and social services, resulting in:

1) Housing Shortages and Informal Settlements: Rapid population growth has outpaced the supply of affordable housing, resulting in the proliferation of informal settlements.

2) Inadequate Public Services: There is a significant gap in the provision of water, sanitation, healthcare, and education services, particularly in IDP camps.

3) Traffic Congestion and Urban Mobility Issues: The lack of organized public transport systems has led to traffic congestion and safety concerns.

4) Strategic Responses and Policy Implications: Local authorities in Benadir have put in place different strategies to counter urban growth issues, such as:

- **Community-Based Urban Planning:** Incorporating local communities into urban planning activities has enhanced public involvement and approval of urban policies.
- **Partnerships with International Organizations:** International agency partnerships have offered technical assistance and financial resources for urban development initiatives.
- **Incremental Land Reforms:** Attempts are being made to legalize land tenure systems in order to minimize conflict and enhance urban governance. Such strategic reactions suggest a step towards participatory urban management. They are, however, hampered by institutional weakness and political uncertainty. The empowerment of local government structures and reinforcement of capacity-building programs are key to sustainable urban management in Benadir.

A) Synthesis of Findings:

The findings reveal that urban growth in the Benadir region is driven by socio-economic factors but is challenged by institutional weaknesses, political instability, and inadequate infrastructure. The local government's capacity to manage urbanization is constrained by limited resources, corruption, and governance inefficiencies. This study contributes to the understanding of urbanization challenges in post-conflict settings, highlighting the need for comprehensive urban policies and governance reforms. It also underscores the importance of international collaboration and community participation in urban planning. The urban growth patterns observed in Benadir reflect broader trends in post-conflict urbanization seen in other African cities. The rapid population increase poses governance challenges, particularly in urban planning and service delivery. The absence of a comprehensive urban policy has exacerbated the informal settlement issue, indicating a need for strategic urban management frameworks.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS

According to the results of this research on urbanization and local government administration issues in the Benadir region, the following recommendations are put forward to the policy makers:

1. Develop institutional capacity and training. To foster urban growth, the Banaadir local government needs to keep investing in institutional capacity. This involves providing ongoing training and professional development to government administrators and officials. Ismail and Abdi (2022) support prioritizing urban planning, financial management, and service delivery to ensure that local government institutions are equipped to serve an expanding urban population. Enhanced technical capacity would allow for improved management of urban infrastructure projects and enhance the efficiency of public services. Local government institutions require capacity development if they are to effectively manage urban growth and deliver public services. This is achievable to offer local government staff in urban planning, financial management, and public administration training courses such as technical assistance. Property taxes, business licenses, and other sources of local revenues enhance the ability of local government to generate finances. Implement anti-corruption mechanisms in order to aid responsibility and transparency in the local government.

2. Promote Sustainable Urban Planning. Urban development in the Banaadir region must be properly planned to avoid uncontrolled expansion, which can result in overcrowding, informal settlements, and inadequate infrastructure. A key proposal

is that local governments create and execute comprehensive urban planning frameworks that stress sustainability and inclusivity. According to Mohamed and Farah (2023), the local government should engage in long-term planning that includes housing, transportation, sanitation, and environmental management to achieve balanced growth. Involving communities in urban planning can also result in more fair outcomes and increased public trust in the government.

By evolving a comprehensive urban policy formulation, the policymakers should create thorough urban plans including fast urbanization's effects on public services, infrastructure, and housing as well as on infrastructure. These laws should adopt the use of zoning rules to stop informal communities and slow down urban growth. Provide well-defined land ownership policies to reduce property disputes. Affordable Housing Initiatives: Particularly for low-income families and internally displaced people (IDPs), support public-private alliances to provide choices for reasonably priced homes. Urban design should include environmental sustainability to help offset the negative impacts of urban expansion on resources.

3. Improve revenue generation and financial autonomy. Local governments in the Banaadir region continue to face significant financial constraints when it comes to supporting urban growth. One significant idea is for the local government to diversify its revenue streams. According to Warsame (2021), the local government should prioritize enhancing tax-collecting procedures, fostering public-private partnerships, and supporting investment in urban infrastructure. Enhanced financial autonomy will allow the local government to better manage resources and minimize its dependency on external donors, resulting in more sustainable development in the long run.

4. Invest in Infrastructure and Public Services. In order to ensure the Banaadir region's long-term and equitable growth, investments in urban infrastructure and public services must be prioritized. This includes increasing access to essential amenities including water, power, healthcare, and education. According to Ali and Yusuf (2022), local governments should interact with foreign development partners to gain money and technical help for large-scale infrastructure projects, including road networks and housing complexes. Improved infrastructure will boost economic growth, improve citizens' quality of life, and ensure the region's ability to accommodate growing urbanization.

By development of Infrastructure and Public Service Provision will help fast urbanization policymakers to give infrastructure development a top priority. Important places of concentration that are in peculiar, underprivileged informal communities should be provided with access to water, sanitation, healthcare, and educational services. The Local government create a combined public transit system to help ease urban mobility and alleviate traffic congestion, also by investing in digital infrastructure to augment service delivery efficiency and assist e-governance projects.

5. Strengthen governance and anti-corruption measures. Good governance is a prerequisite for effective urban expansion, and combating corruption is critical to ensure that public resources are spent efficiently. Strengthening governance systems within local governments, such as boosting openness and accountability, will aid in the development of confidence and investment. Ismail and Hassan (2021) claim that implementing anti-corruption reforms, such as frequent audits and the formation of oversight bodies, will boost public trust in local government institutions and produce an atmosphere conducive to urban growth.

6. Encourage public-private partnerships. To boost urban expansion, local government administration in the Banaadir region should strengthen ties with the business sector. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can be an effective way to alleviate infrastructure gaps and offer public services more efficiently. Farah (2023) believes that local governments may supplement governmental programs by leveraging private investment in areas such as housing, energy, and transportation. This collaboration can also serve to create job opportunities and increase economic activity, both of which are necessary for the long-term growth of cities.

Policymakers should encourage participatory governance by means of sustainable urban management to guarantee local communities in urban planning decisions to improve public acceptance and support of urban plans via means of decision-making to foster governmental-private partnerships that help governmental authorities, business sector players, and civil society organizations to work together for efficient urban development.

7. Regional and International Collaboration: Given the complexity of urbanization challenges, regional and international cooperation is crucial for policymakers;

- a) **Collaborate with International Organizations:** Leverage technical expertise and financial resources from international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, and African Development Bank.
- b) **Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices:** Participate in international forums and exchange programs to learn from successful urban management practices in other countries.
- c) **Cross-Border Urban Planning:** Coordinate with neighboring regions for integrated regional development planning, especially in transportation and environmental conservation

VI. CONCLUSION

This research investigated urban expansion and the difficulties faced by local government administration in the Benadir area of Somalia. It disclosed that fast urbanization is propelled by socio-economic variables, including economic opportunity and internal displacement. This increase has resulted in considerable issues, such as informal settlements, insufficient

infrastructure, and overburdened public services. Local government officials encounter institutional deficiencies, political instability, and corruption, which impede efficient urban governance. Notwithstanding these hurdles, strategic measures like community-oriented urban planning and collaborations with international organizations have shown promise in tackling urbanization concerns.

The research enhances comprehension of urbanization dynamics in post-conflict environments and underscores the need for holistic urban strategies, capacity development, and participatory governance. Executing the proposed measures would augment local government administration, foster sustainable urban growth, and elevate the quality of life for inhabitants in the Benadir area.

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