



Benefiting from the shared experience from  
African journals (Omo)

By Khalif Bile  
SHAJ Editor-in-Chief

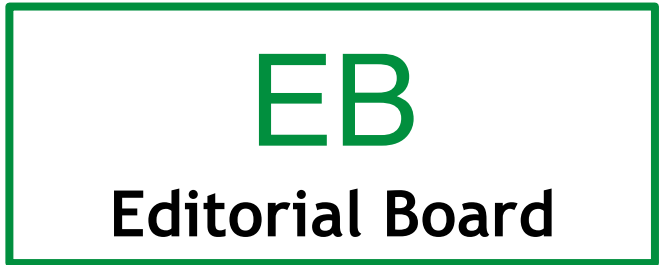


## Mission:

- A platform for knowledge sharing in fragile contexts
- A lever for building research capacity in a new generation of Somali health researchers
- A bridge across Somali academic institutions and policy makers
- A knowledge resource for health system recovery
- A voice for reconciliation and trust-building



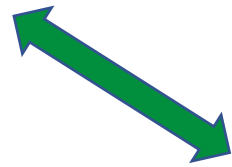
- Editorial management
- Peer-review
- Production



- Governing body for the owners
- National ambassadorship



- Scientific support and mentorship
- International ambassadorship



INAUGURAL EDITORIAL

## SOMALI HEALTH ACTION JOURNAL - A Collaborative Venture for Health Research and Development

Welcome to the Somali Health Action Journal (SHAJ), an open-access online publication. The SHAJ offers a national and international platform for knowledge sharing on key health system topics in the fragile and post-conflict context of Somali health development and other similar settings. It aims to pave the way for interaction between Somali academics and their institutions, health system professionals, policy makers and international partners, to develop local evidence-based solutions for the health problems of the population. The Journal's goals include building collaborative health research partnerships and a research culture that focuses on priority health needs. It also aims to promote research capacity building across academic health institutions and cross-university research collaborations.

The idea of this Journal evolved from a few international seminars and workshops, held in Sweden from 2014 and onwards. The participants included representatives from six Somali and five Swedish universities as well as Somali diaspora professionals. The aim was to revive a Somali-Swedish research cooperation programme which was terminated in the early 1990s due to civil unrest. Focusing on health and the challenges met in rebuilding the Somali health and health care system, the discussions pointed to the importance of public health oriented research and the crucial role of universities in building capacity for this purpose (1, 2). This led to the organization of a joint health research

training programme. The first course enabled young academics from Somali universities and health services to successfully complete and report on field projects under the guidance of Somali and Swedish mentors. In the absence of a local channel for the dissemination of research findings, so far two such reports have been published in an international journal (3, 4), and others are in progress.

While recognizing the scarcity of research publications, particularly by Somali authors dealing with Somali health problems, the parties decided to collaborate and create a platform for the dissemination of research and policy debates. During the planning process, it was agreed that the ownership of SHAJ shall rest with Somali universities. However, for practical reasons, on an interim basis the Journal will initially be hosted by the Somali-Swedish Researchers' Association, which is a Swedish based non-governmental organization. The SHAJ initiative has also been supported by the World Health Organization's country leadership.

To start with, several commissioned articles will focus on pertinent health issues and interventions in the Somali context. These articles will include reports from on-going projects on diverse issues such as mental health, female genital mutilation/cutting, strategies for post-conflict development of the health system and malaria control in Somalia. An on-going bibliometric review will assess who has published what on health

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CONTACT: Dr Khalif Bile Mohamud, [khalif.bilemohamud@gmail.com](mailto:khalif.bilemohamud@gmail.com)

This journal is based on collaboration and shared ownership between seven Somali Universities (East Africa University, University of Hargeisa, Galkayo University, Benadir University, Puntland University of Science and Technology, Amoud University, and the Somali National University). It is temporarily hosted by the Somali-Swedish Researchers' Association (SSRA, a Swedish NGO). It is closely linked to the Somali-Swedish Research Cooperation for Health (SSRCH), which, in addition to the Somali universities and SSRA, engages five Swedish universities (the Universities of Umeå, Lund, Uppsala and Dalarna as well as Karolinska Institutet), in a collaborative programme of health research and research capacity strengthening.

## GUIDELINES

# Current guidelines for malaria treatment in Somalia: evidence-based recommendations

Marian Warsame<sup>a</sup>, Ali Abdulrahman Osman<sup>b</sup>, Abdikarim Hussein Hassan<sup>c</sup>, Abdi Abdulle<sup>d</sup>, Abdikarim Muse<sup>e</sup>, Abdillahi Mohamed Hassan<sup>e</sup>, Mohamed Abdullahi Ali<sup>e</sup>, Fahmi Essa Yusuf<sup>e</sup>, Jamal Hefzullah Amran<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden, <sup>b</sup>Ministry of Health and Human Service, Mogadishu, Somalia, <sup>c</sup>Ministry of Health, Puntland, Somalia, <sup>d</sup>Ministry of Health and Development, Somaliland, <sup>e</sup>World Health Organization, Somalia

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Mental health care delivery in poor settings through trained female community health workers: A five-year intervention program in Somaliland.

Yakoub Aden Abdi<sup>a, b</sup>, Nasir Ibrahim Said<sup>a</sup> Yusuf Abdi Hared<sup>a</sup>, Ismail Ayeh<sup>a</sup> and Said Ahmed Walhad<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Amoud University College of Health Sciences, Borama, Somaliland and <sup>b</sup>Somali-Swedish Researchers' Association (SSRA), Stockholm, Sweden

## PERSPECTIVES

# Female genital mutilation (FGM) in Somaliland – why is change so slow?

Annika Johansson<sup>a</sup>, Abdirahman Osman Gaas<sup>b</sup>, Amina Mahmoud Warsame<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Somali-Swedish Researchers' Association (SSRA); <sup>b</sup>Network against Female Genital Mutilation in Somaliland (NAFIS)

## REVIEW

# Strategies for post-conflict development of the Health Systems in Somalia: lessons from selected countries

Maye Omar

Associate Professor in International Health System, Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Somaliland women's perception of stillbirth- a descriptive survey study

Malm, M-C<sup>a</sup>, Osman, F<sup>b</sup>, Ahmed Ibrahim<sup>c</sup>, A., Farah Hasan<sup>d</sup>, H., Erlandsson, K<sup>b</sup>, Kiruja, J.<sup>d</sup> & Kalucza, S<sup>e</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>Umeå University. Department of Nursing, <sup>b</sup>Dalarna University. School of Education, Health and Social Studies, <sup>c</sup>Amoud University. College of Health Science, <sup>d</sup>Hargeisa University. Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, <sup>e</sup>Umeå University. Department of Sociology, Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research

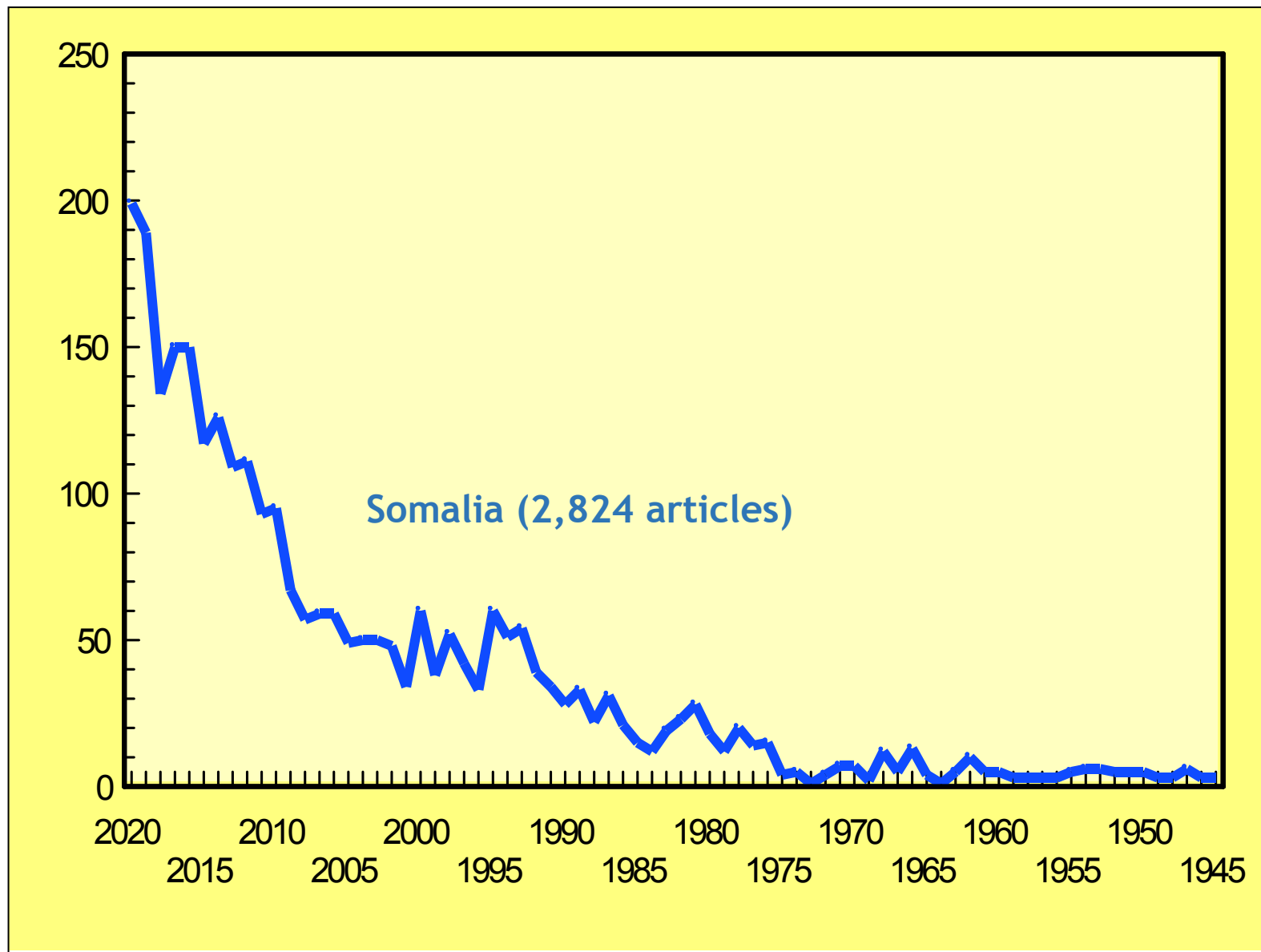
## SHORT COMMUNICATION

# Introducing evidence based public health practice through a journal club for public health officers in Somaliland

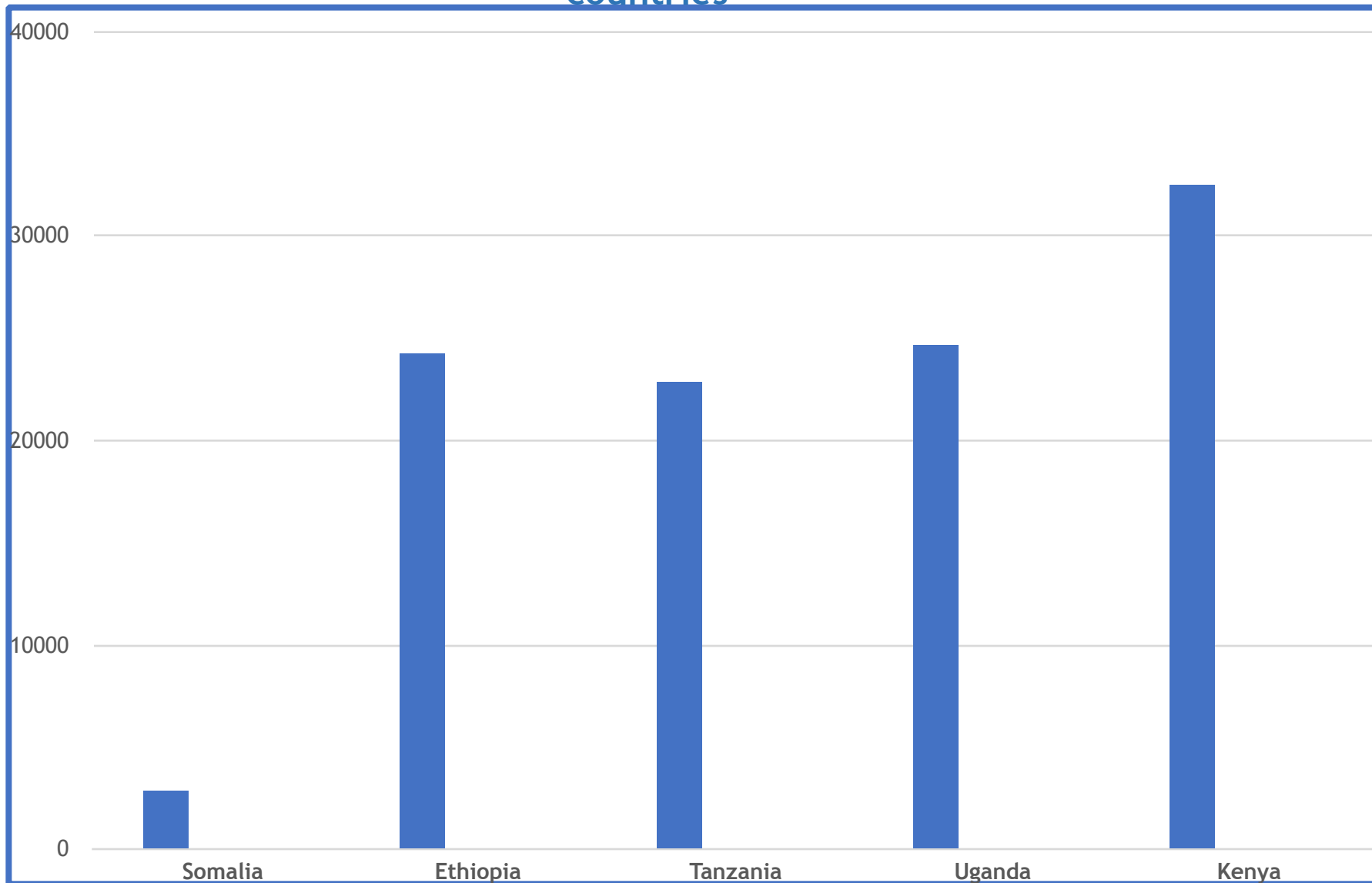
Jibril I M Handuleh<sup>a</sup>, Abdirahman A Sulleiman<sup>b</sup>, Yusuf S Yusuf<sup>c</sup>, Hayat Mohamed<sup>d</sup>, Daniel Fekadu Wolde-Giorgis<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Public Health, Amoud University, Borama, Somaliland; <sup>b</sup>The Ministry of Health, Hargeisa, Somaliland; <sup>c</sup>Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Poverty Health Action, Borama, Somaliland; <sup>d</sup>Borama Regional Hospital, Borama, Somaliland; <sup>e</sup>Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neurology, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

# WHO HAVE PUBLISHED ON SOMALI HEALTH ISSUES?: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY 1945 - 2020



## Number of publications in Web of Science 1945-2020 in some East-African countries



**Pre-independence 1945-59**

**62**

**Establishing SNU 1960-71**

**76**

**Academia emerging 1972-90**

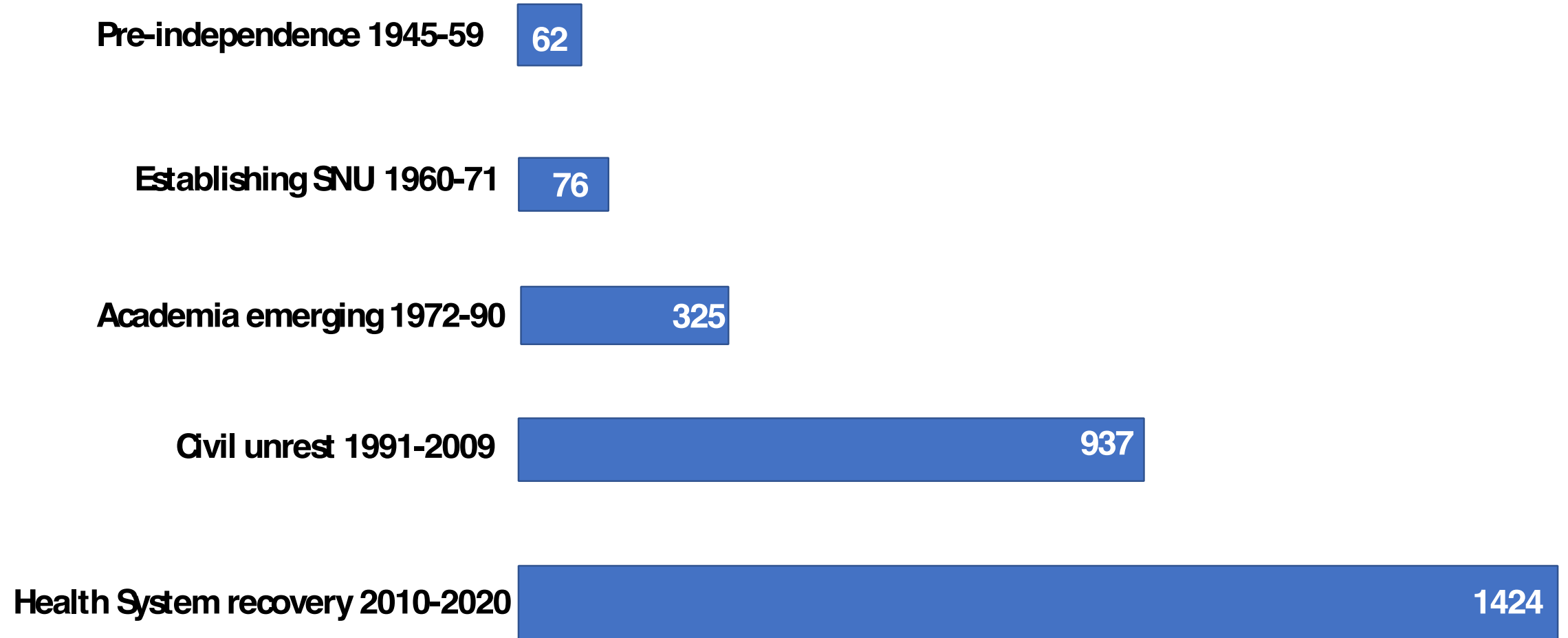
**325**

**Civil unrest 1991-2009**

**937**

**Health System recovery 2010-2020**

**1424**





## KEY FINDINGS

- During pre-independence and pre-academia, papers were authored by non-Somalis only
- During the past 20 years more than half of relevant papers were authored by non-Somalis only
- One out of three relevant papers included a Somali-affiliated author;  
1/5 Somali affiliated first authors and 1/10 Somali affiliated last authors
- Funding information was lacking for more than a third of the papers &
- Few were stated as having national funding



**The Mission: Research for Policy & Action**

**“Linking the public and private health system of service delivery with the Public and Private Medical Colleges and other Health Science Degree Programs”**