Disinformation Ecosystems in Somalia: The Role of Social Media Platforms in the Spread of Misinformation

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Abstract

This study examines the growing challenge of disinformation in Somalia, focusing on the role of social media platforms in the creation and dissemination of misleading or false information. In the context of Somalia's ongoing political instability and conflict, social media has become a key source of news and information, but it also serves as a breeding ground for disinformation. This study explores the various types of misinformation circulating in Somalia, including political, security-related, health, and economic misinformation, and analyzes their impacts on public trust, societal cohesion, and stability. By mapping the disinformation ecosystem, the study identifies key factors such as extremist groups and examines the mechanisms through which misinformation spreads, particularly on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. It also evaluates existing countermeasures, such as the "Disinformation Lab" and community-based initiatives aimed at promoting media literacy and combating fake news. This study will therefore employ qualitative research techniques to understand the disinformation landscape and the effectiveness of current countermeasures. The findings highlight the urgent need for a multi-pronged approach to addressing disinformation, which includes improving media literacy, strengthening fact-checking capabilities, enhancing social media regulation, and fostering collaboration among local and international stakeholders. Ultimately, this study underscores the critical role of information integrity in Somalia's political, economic and social stability.

Introduction

Somalia presents a complex and dynamic socio-political environment marked by protracted conflicts, persistent political instability, and a rapidly evolving media landscape. In this context, the proliferation of digital communication technologies, particularly social media platforms, has become increasingly significant. While these platforms offer avenues for social connection, information sharing, and political discourse, they also present a fertile ground for the spread of disinformation, which can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and further destabilize the nation (Mohamed, et all, 2025). The ease with which false or misleading information can be created and disseminated through these channels poses a substantial threat to public understanding, trust in institutions, and overall societal well-being. The increasing reliance of the Somali population on social media as a primary source of news and information further amplifies this challenge (Dahir, et all, 2024). This report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the disinformation ecosystem in Somalia, with a specific focus on the role played by social media platforms in its creation and dissemination. By examining the existing research, prevalent platforms, mechanisms of spread, types of misinformation, underlying drivers, ongoing countermeasures, and illustrative case studies, this report seeks to offer a nuanced understanding of this critical issue.

Mapping the Disinformation Landscape in Somalia

A growing body of academic research and reports from news agencies and non-governmental organizations has begun to shed light on the issue of disinformation in Somalia. Scholarly articles have explored various facets, including the development of natural language processing tools like SomBERTa to detect fake news and toxic content in the Somali language (Mohamed, et all, 2025). This research underscores the prevalence of harmful content on social media and the challenges associated with automated detection due to the linguistic characteristics of Somali, often categorized as a low-resource language (Mohamed, et all, 2025). The development of SomBERTa, a transformer-based monolingual Somali language model,

signifies an important step towards addressing this gap by outperforming existing multilingual models in identifying fake news and toxic content.

Other academic investigations have focused on the impact of fake news on public trust in journalism, particularly within Mogadishu. These studies highlight the increasing role of online platforms, such as social media interactions and blogging, in disseminating information and shaping public discourse. While blogs have emerged as a significant medium for sharing ideas and analyses, they also pose threats to the credibility of traditional journalism if they become sources of unverified information (Chonka, 2022). Furthermore, research has examined how social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter have transformed the way the Somalia Civil War is perceived both domestically and internationally (Ali, 2024). These platforms, while offering tools for advocacy and community building, also enable the spread of misinformation and propaganda, often complicating the understanding of the conflict for both local residents and international observers.

The geographical focus of existing research varies, with some studies concentrating on specific regions like Mogadishu, the capital, where the impact of fake news on journalism has been analyzed (Chonka, 2022). Other research has extended to areas like Somaliland, examining the use of social media by young people and the associated risks of misinformation and online harms. This regional variation suggests that the dynamics and impact of disinformation may differ across the country, influenced by local socio-political contexts. Notably, research has also addressed the issue of COVID-19 vaccine disinformation in Somalia, investigating its impact on public health and vaccine receptivity. These studies reveal a high overall demand for vaccines despite considerable exposure to misinformation, indicating that trust in certain authorities, such as government health officials, can play a crucial role in overcoming the negative influence of false information strategies (International Medical Corps, 2021).

Reports from news agencies and NGOs further corroborate these academic findings, providing real-world examples of disinformation trends and specific incidents. Concerns have been raised about the potential of false information spread via social media to endanger Somalia's political stability, particularly during electoral processes (VOA, 2021). Extremist groups like Al-Shabaab are consistently identified as key actors in disseminating propaganda and disinformation through various online platforms (The Sentinel Project, 2021). In response to this growing challenge, initiatives such as the "Disinformation Lab" launched by the Federation of Somali Journalists aim to equip media workers with the skills to detect and counter fake

news (Gilroy, 2024). Similarly, community-based projects like "Runtu Waa Nabad" focus on fostering misinformation literacy and verifying rumors at the local level. These efforts highlight a growing awareness of the problem and the need for multi-faceted approaches to address it.

Social Media Usage in Somalia

Social media platforms have become integral to the information ecosystem in Somalia, with several platforms enjoying widespread popularity. Among the most widely used are Facebook, Twitter (now X), YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. Messaging applications like WhatsApp and Telegram also play a significant role in how information is shared and consumed (The Sentinel Project, 2021). Research indicates that Facebook is particularly dominant among young urban Somalis, serving as a primary platform for social interaction and information access. However, platforms like Telegram and WhatsApp have also gained prominence, especially among extremist groups, due to their encrypted nature and the challenges they present for content moderation. This preference for encrypted platforms by malicious actors poses a considerable obstacle to efforts aimed at monitoring and countering the spread of disinformation.

The accessibility of social media in Somalia is largely facilitated by the affordability and widespread availability of mobile internet services. Compared to many other countries in Africa, Somalia boasts relatively low mobile data costs, making it easier for a larger segment of the population to connect online using their mobile phones (Aarslew, et all, 2023). This widespread access has democratized information consumption but has also broadened the reach and impact of online manipulation and disinformation campaigns.

For many Somalis, social media platforms have become a primary source of news and information, especially in regions where access to traditional media outlets like newspapers and broadcast channels is limited. The speed and convenience of social media allow individuals to stay informed about current events and participate in online discussions. Furthermore, social media plays a crucial role in connecting Somalis within the country and those in the diaspora, fostering a sense of transnational community and facilitating the exchange of information across borders (Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2023). This reliance on social media for news, however, presents inherent risks, particularly in a context where media literacy levels may be low, making individuals more susceptible to believing and sharing unverified or false information.

The Anatomy of Misinformation: Creation and Dissemination

The open and accessible nature of social media platforms in Somalia enables the effortless creation and dissemination of content by virtually anyone with an account (Mohamed, et all, 2025). Unlike traditional media, which typically involves editorial oversight and fact-checking processes, social media allows users to share information, regardless of its accuracy or potential harm, with minimal restrictions. This lack of regulation and robust content moderation mechanisms within the Somali context further exacerbates the problem (VOA, 2023).

Misinformation spreads through various mechanisms on social media, often amplified by user interactions such as likes, comments, and shares. Online communities and networks also play a significant role in the rapid dissemination of false narratives, as individuals tend to share information within their trusted circles, regardless of its veracity. Various groups and individuals strategically leverage social media to distort facts, spread propaganda, and advance their agendas (Ali, 2024). Notably, actors like Al-Shabaab employ sophisticated, tiered online networks comprising core opinion setters who create original content and amplifier accounts that repost and disseminate this content across multiple platforms (Modern Diplomacy, 2024). This coordinated approach helps to amplify their messages and create an echo chamber effect.

Disinformation actors in Somalia have demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt and circumvent content moderation efforts implemented by social media platforms. When accounts or websites spreading misinformation are taken down, these actors often quickly create new ones, sometimes within hours, and may also migrate to less moderated or fringe platforms to maintain their online presence (CGTN Africa, 2021). This constant adaptation necessitates continuous monitoring and the development of more effective counter-strategies.

A concerning tactic involves the creation of online news sources that deliberately mimic the appearance and style of legitimate media outlets. Entities such as Shahada News, Somalimemo, and Calamada produce content that promotes insurgent agendas while also reporting on broader Somali, regional, and global issues to project an image of journalistic credibility (Leyland, et all, 2023). This deceptive approach makes it increasingly challenging for the public to distinguish between authentic news and carefully crafted disinformation.

Varieties of Misinformation and Their Societal Impact

The types of misinformation prevalent in Somalia are diverse and reflect the complex socio-political landscape of the country. These can broadly be categorized into political, security-related, health, social/cultural, and economic misinformation. Each category carries significant potential to negatively impact Somali society.

Type of Misinformation	Examples	Potential Societal Impact
Political	Propaganda about elections, false claims about political candidates, fabricated government statements	Undermines democratic processes, incites political violence, erodes trust in government and electoral institutions
Security-Related	Exaggerated claims of terrorist group victories, false reports of attacks, manipulated videos of violence	Creates panic and fear, erodes public confidence in security forces, can incite further violence and instability
Health	False rumors about disease outbreaks (e.g., COVID-19), conspiracy theories about vaccines, promotion of unproven or harmful remedies	Leads to vaccine hesitancy, hinders public health efforts, endangers lives, spreads misinformation about health practices
Economic	Online scams promising unrealistic financial rewards, false information about economic opportunities, misleading financial advice	Leads to financial losses for individuals, increases economic hardship, erodes trust in online platforms and financial institutions

Political misinformation often surfaces during election periods, with propaganda and biased news targeting rival candidates and political figures. False claims about government actions and policies can also erode public trust (CGTN Africa, 2021). This type of misinformation can significantly undermine democratic processes, incite political violence, and foster a climate of distrust in state institutions.

Security-related misinformation is frequently disseminated by extremist groups like Al-Shabaab, who exaggerate their operational impact and influence, spread fear through violent content, and make false claims about territorial control (The Sentinel Project, 2021). This can create widespread panic, erode public confidence in security forces, and potentially incite further violence and instability.

Health misinformation, particularly concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, has been prevalent in Somalia strategies (International Medical Corps, 2021). False rumors, conspiracy theories, and the promotion of harmful remedies can lead to vaccine hesitancy, hinder public health efforts, and endanger the lives of individuals who believe and act on this misinformation.

Social and cultural misinformation includes hate speech and content that incites hostility and biased views, often targeting specific clans or social groups. False claims related to social norms and values can also be used to manipulate public opinion and exacerbate existing social divisions (Terry & Rai, 2024). This type of misinformation can fuel discrimination, undermine social cohesion, and even incite real-world violence.

Economic misinformation often takes the form of online scams and fraudulent schemes that exploit the vulnerability of individuals seeking economic opportunities (Aarslew, et all, 2023). Misleading information about potential financial gains can lead to significant financial losses for those who fall victim to these schemes, further contributing to economic hardship.

The cumulative impact of these various forms of misinformation on Somali society is substantial. It leads to an erosion of public trust in media and institutions, influences public opinion and political and social outcomes, and can incite violence and conflict (Dahir, et all, 2024). Misinformation can also damage individuals' reputations, undermine crucial public health efforts, and pose a significant threat to overall political stability and security. The sheer volume and often contradictory nature of misinformation can also lead to confusion and a sense of paralysis among citizens, making it difficult for them to discern truth from falsehood (UNDP, n.d.).

Drivers of Disinformation: Political, Social, and Economic Factors

Several interconnected political, social, and economic factors contribute to the creation and spread of disinformation in Somalia. The ongoing political instability and conflicts within the

country create a fertile environment where misinformation can easily take root and spread (Ozawa, et all, 2024). Disinformation is often used as a tool for political advantage, particularly during elections, where false narratives can be employed to attack opponents and sway public opinion. Accusations of operating disinformation campaigns are frequently exchanged between the government and opposition factions, highlighting the politicized nature of the information landscape (VOA, 2021). Furthermore, there are concerns that government efforts to counter disinformation may sometimes be used as a pretext to control information and suppress dissenting voices (Terry & Rai, 2024). The highly polarized political climate makes it easier for various actors to weaponized information and manipulate public sentiment.

Social factors also play a significant role in driving disinformation. Somalia's clan-based social structure can be exploited, with disinformation sometimes used to exacerbate existing clan divisions and conflicts (Rahimi & Watkins, 2024). Low literacy rates across the population make many individuals more susceptible to believing and sharing misinformation, as they may lack the critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility of online content (Ali, 2024). A breakdown of trust in traditional media and established institutions can also lead people to rely more heavily on unverified sources on social media, increasing their exposure to false information. Extremist groups effectively manipulate broader themes like nationalism to further their agendas through disinformation. (Ali, 2024). The very nature of social media, particularly its role in shaping perceptions of ongoing conflicts, can inadvertently contribute to the spread of misinformation and potentially escalate tensions. Pre-existing social vulnerabilities are often targeted and amplified by those seeking to spread false narratives.

Economic factors also contribute to the disinformation ecosystem. Widespread poverty and a lack of economic opportunities can make individuals more vulnerable to online scams and economic misinformation promising quick financial gains (Aarslew, et all, 2023). The relatively low cost of mobile data in Somalia facilitates widespread aces to social media, which, while beneficial in many ways, also increases the population's exposure to disinformation.

Countering the Tide: Initiatives and Efforts

Journalists and media organizations have launched initiatives like the "Disinformation Lab" by the Federation of Somali Journalists. This lab aims to equip journalists with the necessary skills and knowledge to detect and flag fake news, particularly during sensitive periods like elections. Efforts are also being made to promote responsible reporting and enhance fact-checking

capabilities within the media fraternity (Gilroy, 2024). Training programs focused on digital tools and verification techniques are crucial components of these efforts.

Community-based initiatives like "Runtu Waa Nabad" utilize mobile phone-based information services to enable citizens to report rumors anonymously, which are then verified by the project team. The initiative also engages community ambassadors who monitor misinformation at the local level and disseminate accurate information. Community health workers, supported by international organizations, have also played a vital role in dispelling myths and misinformation related to health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic through direct engagement and the use of mobile hotlines (Anadolu Agency, 2022).

The Somali government has also undertaken efforts to counter disinformation, particularly that originating from extremist groups. Government agencies, such as the National Intelligence and Security Agency, work to identify and alert tech companies to remove extremist content from their platforms (The Sentinel Project, 2021). The government has also secured court orders to shut down websites and social media accounts affiliated with these groups (CGTN Africa, 2021). Plans are in place to boost public awareness campaigns about fake news through state media channels (Gilroy, 2024). Discussions are also ongoing regarding the potential development of social media laws and regulations to address the issue Furthermore; the government has announced offensives against misinformation and incitement of violence.

Case Studies of Significant Misinformation Events

Several significant misinformation events in Somalia highlight the tangible impact of false information spread through social media platforms. During election periods, misleading or outright false propaganda about rival candidates is frequently disseminated, often with the aim of undermining their credibility and jeopardizing political stability (VOA, 2021). This can erode public trust in the electoral process and potentially incite unrest.

Al-Shabaab, a prominent extremist group, consistently employs social media and online platforms to conduct extensive disinformation campaigns (Ali, 2024). They often exaggerate their operational successes, misrepresent the actions of the Somali government, and disseminate propaganda disguised as legitimate news content. Despite government efforts to shut down their online presence, Al-Shabaab has demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt and quickly re-establish their communication channels (CGTN Africa, 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic witnessed a surge of misinformation in Somalia, with numerous false rumors circulating about the virus's origins, spread, and prevention (Africa Defense Forum, 2024). Conspiracy theories about vaccines and the promotion of unproven or harmful remedies also spread rapidly, impacting vaccine uptake and hindering public health efforts to control the pandemic

The sharing of graphic videos depicting violence on social media platforms has also emerged as a significant concern. Such content, often related to the ongoing conflict, can desensitize viewers to violence, spread fear and hatred, and potentially contribute to a climate of impunity. For instance, incidents of killings and torture have been recorded and shared online, sparking outrage but also potentially normalizing such acts through repeated exposure (Ali, 2024).

These case studies underscore the diverse and harmful ways in which misinformation can manifest and impact various aspects of life in Somalia, ranging from political processes and security to public health and social norms.

Challenges and Opportunities in Addressing Disinformation

Addressing disinformation in Somalia presents a multitude of challenges. Low levels of trust in institutions and limited control over the flow of information create an environment where false narratives can easily take hold strategies (International Medical Corps, 2021). The Somali language, being a low-resource language in the context of artificial intelligence, poses limitations on the development and effectiveness of automated tools for content moderation and fact-checking. The increasing use of encrypted messaging apps by disinformation actors further complicates efforts to monitor and counter the spread of harmful content (The Sentinel Project, 2021).
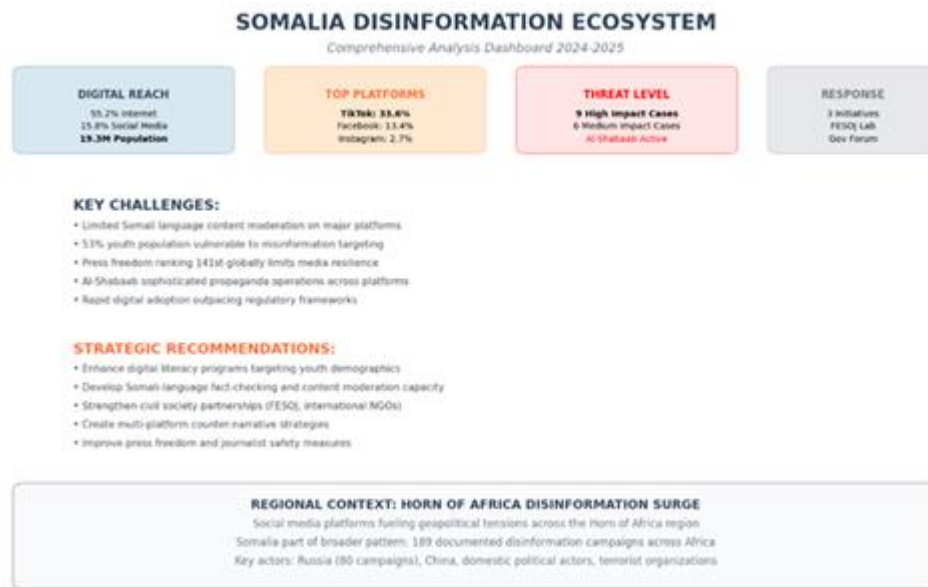
Balancing the fundamental right to freedom of expression with the necessity of curbing harmful disinformation remains a critical challenge (Rahimi & Watkins, 2024). The rapid evolution of disinformation tactics and the adaptability of those who spread it require continuous innovation in countermeasures. The sheer volume of information circulating online makes it exceedingly difficult for fact-checkers and content moderators to keep pace (UND, n.d.). The complex socio-political dynamics and ongoing conflicts within Somalia further exacerbate the problem, creating a volatile information environment (Dahir, et all, 2024). Additionally, there is a risk that government initiatives aimed at combating disinformation could be misused to restrict legitimate speech and critical reporting (Horn Observer, 2024).

Despite these considerable challenges, there are also emerging opportunities to address disinformation in Somalia. There is a growing awareness of the issue among journalists, civil society organizations, and government bodies, leading to increased attention and resources being directed towards finding solutions (The Sentinel Project, 2021). The development of Somali language AI models like SomBERTa offers a promising avenue for enhancing the detection of fake news and toxic content (Mohamed, et all, 2025). Community-based initiatives focused on promoting misinformation literacy and verifying rumors at the grassroots level are also gaining traction (Africa Defense Forum, 2024). The potential for collaboration between local actors, international organizations, and technology companies holds significant promise for developing more effective strategies (International Medical Corps, 2021). The relatively low cost of mobile data in Somalia presents an opportunity to reach a large segment of the population with counter-disinformation messages and media literacy campaigns. Furthermore, the transnational nature of social media can be leveraged to engage the Somali diaspora in efforts to counter misinformation both within their communities abroad and back in Somalia.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach to examine the disinformation ecosystem in Somalia, focusing on the role of social media platforms in the creation and dissemination of false or misleading information. The research utilizes in content analysis, and case studies to explore the types of misinformation circulating in Somalia, including political, security-related, health, and economic misinformation. Ad ditionally, the study evaluates existing countermeasures, such as the "Disinformation Lab" and community-based initiatives, assessing their effectiveness in combating fake news and promoting media literacy. The study also incorporates secondary data from academic studies, reports from news agencies, and non-governmental organizations, providing a comprehensive understanding of the disinformation landscape.

Analyses

SOMALIA DISINFORMATION ECOSYSTEM
Comprehensive Analysis Dashboard 2024-2025

DIGITAL REACH	TOP PLATFORMS	THREAT LEVEL	RESPONSE
55.2% Internet	TikTok: 33.6%	9 High Impact Cases	3 Initiatives
15.8% Social Media	Facebook: 13.4%	6 Medium Impact Cases	FESOJ Lab
19.3M Population	Instagram: 2.7%	Al-Shabaab Active	Gov Forum

KEY CHALLENGES:
• Limited Somali language content moderation on major platforms
• 53% youth population vulnerable to misinformation targeting
• Press freedom ranking 141st globally limits media resilience
• Al-Shabaab sophisticated propaganda operations across platforms
• Rapid digital adoption outpacing regulatory frameworks

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Enhance digital literacy programs targeting youth demographics
• Develop Somali-language fact-checking and content moderation capacity
• Strengthen civil society partnerships (FESOJ, international NGOs)
• Create multi-platform counter-narrative strategies
• Improve press freedom and journalist safety measures

REGIONAL CONTEXT: HORN OF AFRICA DISINFORMATION SURGE
Social media platforms fueling geopolitical tensions across the Horn of Africa region
Somalia part of broader pattern: 189 documented disinformation campaigns across Africa
Key actors: Russia (80 campaigns), China, domestic political actors, terrorist organizations
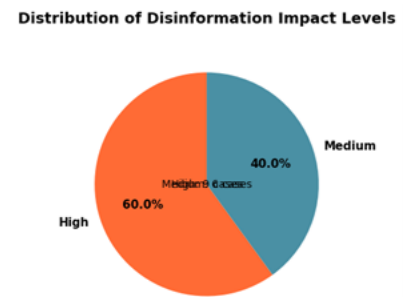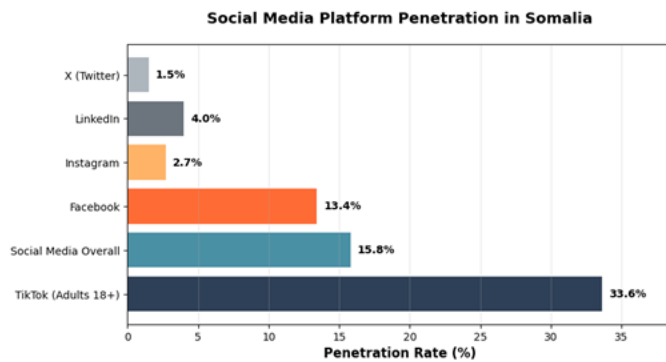
The data clearly shows that Somalia's disinformation ecosystem is characterized by rapid digital growth, complex threats, and emerging but still limited countermeasures. This situation requires urgent, coordinated action between the government, civil society, and international partners.

Somalia's digital landscape is rapidly expanding, with internet penetration at 55.2% and social media usage at 15.8% among a population of 19.3 million. This makes the country particularly vulnerable to disinformation on dominant platforms like TikTok (33.6%) and Facebook (13.4%). Key challenges include limited content moderation in Somali, a young population highly exposed to disinformation (53%), low press freedom (ranked 141st globally), and the complex propaganda operations of Al-Shabaab. Despite three response initiatives, including FESOJ and government forums, regulatory frameworks lag behind digital adoption. Strategic recommendations highlight the need to enhance youth-focused digital literacy, build verification capacity in Somali, support civil society partnerships, and strengthen journalist safety. Regionally, Somalia is part of a broader disinformation surge in the Horn of Africa, driven by actors like Russia, China, and extremist groups, with 189 documented campaigns across the continent.

Somalia Disinformation Ecosystem - Detailed Analysis
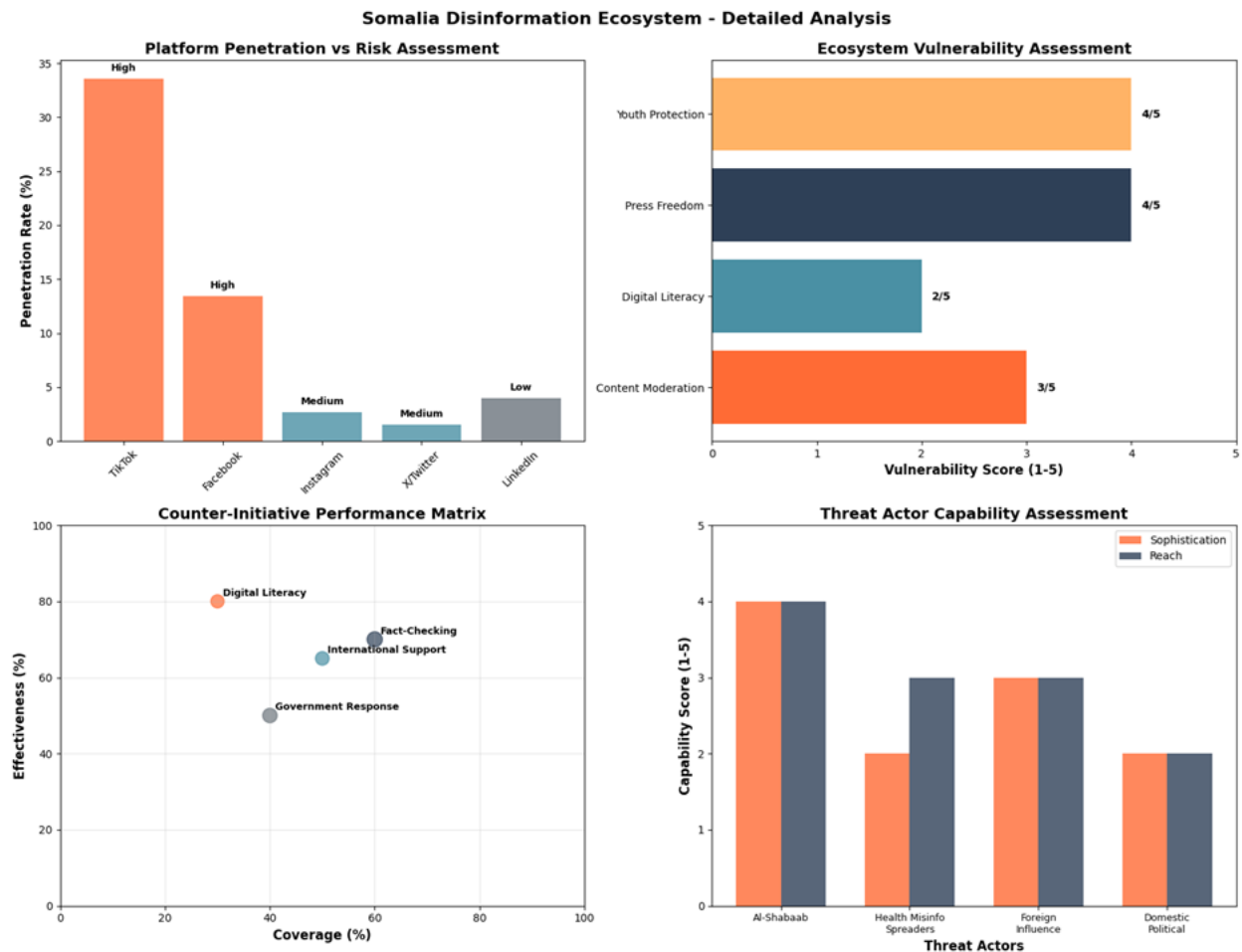
The analysis of Somalia's disinformation ecosystem highlights that TikTok and Facebook are the dominant platforms, with high penetration rates, posing significant risks for the spread of disinformation. Youth protection and press freedom are highly vulnerable, both scoring 4/5, while digital literacy and content moderation are areas with moderate vulnerabilities, offering opportunities for improvement. The effectiveness of countermeasures, especially digital literacy initiatives, is promising, with a high effectiveness score of around 80%. However, efforts like fact-checking and government responses show lower coverage and effectiveness, indicating the need for more comprehensive strategies.

The "Threat Actor Capability Assessment" indicates that Al-Shabaab is the most sophisticated and influential threat actor, with a high capability score, followed by health misinformation spreaders and foreign influence. These groups pose significant challenges to countering disinformation, given their advanced tactics and broad reach. Domestic political actors, on the other hand, show a lower threat capability. This underscores the need for focused efforts on improving digital literacy, press freedom, and content moderation, while also addressing the capabilities of high-impact actors like Al-Shabaab.

Social Media Platform Penetration in Somalia

X (Twitter) — 1.5%
LinkedIn — 4.0%
Instagram — 2.7%
Facebook — 13.4%
Social Media Overall — 15.8%
TikTok (Adults 18+) — 33.6%

Penetration Rate (%)

Distribution of Disinformation Impact Levels

Medium 40.0%
Medium Cases
High 60.0%

The data presented offers an insightful examination of social media penetration and the distribution of disinformation impact levels in Somalia. The left graph clearly indicates the dominance of TikTok, with the platform having the highest penetration rate at 33.6%, followed by Facebook at 13.4%. The overall social media penetration rate stands at 15.8%, illustrating a significant but varied reach across platforms. Notably, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn show minimal engagement, with penetration rates of 1.5% and 4.0%, respectively, reflecting limited social media usage among Somali users on these platforms.

In the right graph, the distribution of disinformation impact levels reveals that 60% of disinformation cases have a high impact, which underscores the serious consequences of misinformation in Somalia. This highlights the urgency for strategic interventions to address the spread of false information. The remaining 40% are categorized as medium impact, pointing to a more balanced concern, though still substantial. The combination of high social media penetration, especially on platforms like TikTok and Facebook, alongside the significant impact of disinformation, calls for robust public awareness campaigns, improved digital literacy programs, and enhanced content moderation systems. Such measures are critical in mitigating the harmful effects of misinformation in the Somali context.

Discussion and Conclusion

The analysis presented in this report underscores the pervasive nature of disinformation within Somalia's information ecosystem, with social media platforms serving as key channels for its creation and rapid spread. Various types of misinformation, ranging from political and security-related to health and economic, pose significant threats to the country's political stability, social cohesion, and public well-being. These threats are driven by a complex interplay of political instability, social divisions, economic vulnerabilities, and external influences.

Addressing this challenge requires a sustained and coordinated effort involving multiple stakeholders. While various initiatives are underway by journalists, community groups, the government, and international partners, significant challenges remain in effectively countering the tide of disinformation. However, emerging opportunities in technology, community engagement, and international collaboration offer pathways to build a more resilient information ecosystem. Ultimately, safeguarding Somalia from the harmful effects of disinformation will necessitate a comprehensive strategy that enhances media literacy, strengthens fact-checking capabilities, improves content moderation, develops clear policies, fosters collaboration, addresses root causes, and effectively engages the Somali diaspora. The future stability and development of Somalia are intrinsically linked to the integrity of its information environment.

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