



Ethiopians Mixed on Somaliland Recognition

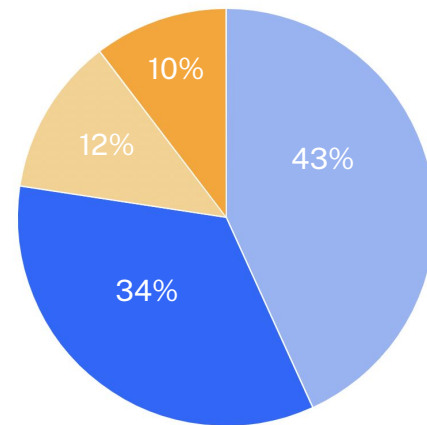
Tracking Global Events | January 16, 2024

In early January, Ethiopia and Somaliland, the breakaway region of northern Somalia, signed a memorandum of understanding that would deepen their foreign relations. Though full details of the agreement are opaque, [reports suggest](#) Ethiopia could lease a 20-kilometer stretch of Somaliland’s coastline in exchange for recognition of Somaliland’s independence. The Somali government in Mogadishu has strongly contested the draft agreement and sees it as a threat to their sovereignty. Somali officials have begun [using escalating language](#) and hinted at the potential for a military clash if Ethiopia does not abandon the plan. To better understand the thoughts of Ethiopians on this issue, Premise launched a rapid-response sentiment survey across the country.

Insights

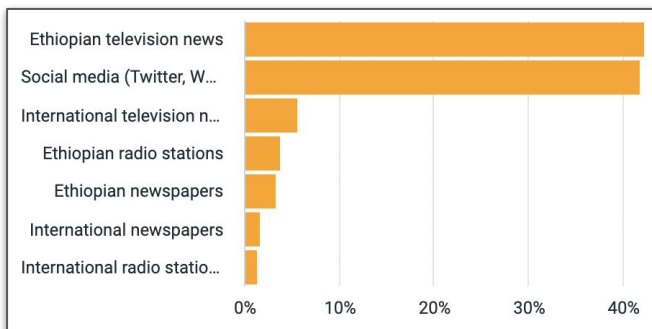
- **Conflict is high on the minds of most Ethiopians surveyed**, with 59% saying ‘an end to conflict’ is the most important issue facing their family.
- **While respondents know about the agreement (83% awareness), understanding of its details is more opaque**, understandable given the confusing nature of each government’s announcement and misinformation circulating (see chart right).
- To this point, **42% of respondents receive news about the agreement from social media**.
- **The deal’s status is also unclear for many**; 45% are unsure if the agreement was finalized, but a significant minority (35%) think it’s already been enacted.
- **The sentiment toward whether Ethiopia should finalize the agreement is mixed**: 66% believe it should be finalized. This closely aligns with the 60%-40% Yes-No split when asked if they believe Somaliland is an independent country.

To your knowledge, what is in the agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland?



- Access to commercial port and naval base, Ethiopia to recognize Somaliland
- Recognize Somaliland, access to commercial seaport
- Access to commercial seaport, no Somaliland recognition
- Ethiopia and Somaliland have only agreed to explore closer ties

Where have you received most of your news about the agreement?



*Social media includes Twitter, WhatsApp and Facebook

Methodology

Premise collected 810 responses from 11 of the country’s 12 regional states. The panel was made up of 38% female and 62% male respondents. The survey utilized convenience sampling, a type of non-probability sampling that is hyper efficient in dynamic events.

Premise in Action

Premise offers a unique ability to quickly source information from real people on the ground in hard-to-reach places. Over five million people in over 140 countries are using the Premise app on their smartphones, enabling our customers to monitor a situation over time and employ a data-driven approach to timely decision-making.